

Voice for Israel Update: Nov 21st 2012

It seems that I have inherited another dog in the Land – Nina, a shepherd/Canaanite cross. She has become quite attached to us over the last couple of years; even more so, apparently, than her real owners, our former landlords. And so, when we moved to a new house in the same moshav, Nina just naturally moved right along with us. She deposited herself on our front porch, and refuses to budge!

As our ‘self-appointed’ guardian, she watches over us day and night. Such fierce loyalty and devotion I have not ever witnessed before in my life. Even if my little grandson is scampering over the play equipment in the park, Nina is right up there with him, ever on duty.

I call them ‘Mutt and Jeff’ as little Pepper and big Nina run around the village together on our daily outings☺ There is one problem area, however, in our route; and that is this one particular dog which always flies into a frenzy behind her fenced gate whenever Nina walks by. Why? I have no idea.



Nina may be female, but she has never been one to back away from a fight. In fact, I have seen her take on five wild dogs at a time – and win! So whenever we passed this gate, the two dogs would get into a noisy, thrashing, all-out rumble. Not that they could do much damage to one another, however, since the dog was contained, but it was still loud and disturbing – probably to the whole neighborhood.

One day, though, I noticed that Nina made a different choice. We walked by as usual, the dog kicked up a frenzy also as usual, but this time Nina just walked on by. She did not enter into this dog’s fury, nor did she allow herself to be provoked. She just graciously ignored the nasty fellow; and she has done so ever since.

Not an expert on dog psychology as Caesar Milan, the Dog Whisperer, I can’t tell you exactly what went on in her doggie mind, but I can tell you it made a difference. She came to a place of deciding that it just wasn’t worth her energy to engage with this ‘enemy’.

I learned a couple of valuable lessons from my friend, Nina. First of all, we don’t need to ‘get into it’ with everyone who tries to provoke us. Usually, it does no good whatsoever to get into a

quarrel with someone who seems to be just itching to pick a fight. This is just a total waste of energy.

“It is honorable for a man to stop striving; since any fool can start a quarrel.” (Proverbs 20:3)

We can choose to just ignore the ruckus, let it go and walk on by in perfect peace, not letting all that loud barking and snarling even faze us whatsoever. Lah, lah, lah..... I don't even hear you.....

The other lesson I learned from this is that our enemies may make a lot of noise and can be very intimidating but they are behind a fenced gate which is the restraining power of the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit). Even the devil himself, hasatan, was only allowed to go as far as God permitted him in the testing of Job.

“And the Lord said to Satan, **“Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.”** (Job 2:6)

One of the names of God is El Elyon, meaning God above all. He has power and dominion and authority over all the powers of darkness that threaten us. Satan may make a lot of noise, like a roaring lion and seek to devour us; but if we will make El Elyon our refuge, then no evil shall befall us.

“He who dwells in the **secret place of Elyon** shall abide under the shadow of Shaddai. I will say of Adonai, “He is my refuge and my fortress; Elohai, in Him I will trust...Because you have made, **יהוה** who is my refuge, even Elyon, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you.” (Psalm 91:1-2,9-10)

In these perilous times - of enemy attacks and missiles being fired upon this sacred Land, we place our hope and trust in these precious promises found in God's word.

The village where our extended family lives is called **Ramat Raziel**. Rama means high or lifted up; and raz means secret. El is a name for God. Therefore the meaning of Ramat Raziel is a ‘high and secret place of God’. God has provided for us a ‘secret place of Elyon’ to be a refuge for us in these troubled times.



An Israeli woman defending her child with her life

Yesterday, there was reported to have been another missile hit in the area of Tzuba, which is very close to our home, but praise Adonai, there were no casualties. Shelters have been opened and cleaned out to be ready for use in every city, town and village. Always in the back of our minds needs to be the thought, *“If the azaka (siren) sounds, where will we run for shelter?”* Sometimes there is no choice but to drop to the ground, cover our heads & pray!

But we know that the most secure shelter is that of abiding under the shadow of El Shaddai – a place of safety that is available to us all. Yeshua longs to gather us, as a mother hen gathers her chicks. **“He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge.”** (Psalm 91:4)

The other day, I was told of an 88 year old woman who, when she heard the siren, did not have the strength to run to the shelter. She said, “I’m going to sit right here in my chair.” The missile fell and destroyed everything around her; but she was left completely unharmed – without even a ringing in her ears from the blast! Such is the protective power of Almighty God!

And yet it is not a lighthearted, carefree time. Many women’s husbands and children’s fathers have been called back into military service, leaving them at home, glued to the news on radio and TV. They await Israel’s decision of whether or not to send in ground troops into Gaza, which, many fear would be near to a suicide mission for these foot soldiers.

Yesterday, at the park, we ran into a young (and very pregnant) woman, getting out of her car. She is about due to give birth, and has another little one at home besides, but her husband has been called back along with the other reservists, not knowing when (or if) he will return. I can’t imagine being in such a situation!

It is one thing to just hear of this happening in Israel; it is quite another thing altogether when the people whose lives are being threatened are our neighbors, people we live and work with, men, women and children whom we have come to know and love.

We also need to remember the innocents in Gaza who are suffering because of the stubbornness of their leadership in fighting against Israel, apple of God’s eye. Just as in ancient times, when God delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, many innocent men, women and children suffered through the Ten Plagues because of the hard heartedness of Pharaoh.

It is a tragic fact that in war, so many innocent people get caught in the crossfire; however the civilian casualties in Gaza also demonstrates the horrendous practice of Hamas in using their own people as human shields by firing their missiles from within densely populated areas.

What I am praying for today, is that the Spirit of the Living God, the Ruach Hakodesh, will so fill us with His peace and love that in these days of trouble, His overflowing peace will calm the storm and still the frightened hearts around us.

Yeshua has promised us a peace that passes all understanding – a constant, undisturbed, quiet portion of shalom. May His blanket of shalom be a protective covering for us, a barrier from all harm, a safe and comforting cocoon of peace which surrounds us at all times, even in a time of war, turmoil and unrest. May each one of us receive and rest in this precious, priceless gift of peace (shalom).

Israel has an ‘iron dome’ that intercepts many of the enemy’s missiles and rockets. I am also praying that each missile or rocket that evades the earthly iron dome, constructed by human hands, will be intercepted by God’s heavenly ‘iron dome’ over this Land.

May He give His angels charge over us to keep us in all of our ways. (Psalm 91:11)

Shalom from Israel

Love Hannah & family

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