

INSPIRATION

Communication #2, May 19, 2021

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM

On May 10, 2021, rockets came from Gaza to the peaceful cities of Israel.

Ashdod became one of these cities. Day and night, warning sirens and rockets disrupted the

Just when it seemed possible to live a normal life after the pandemic, this conflict broke out. Life has changed again.

The family of Andrei and Olya Semyonovs has no bomb shelter

their apartment, making the apartment unsafe to live. The children suffered a tremendous shock from the strong sound and horrible effect of the rocket. Thank God everyone is alive.

Our Seventh-day Adventist took this family to Haifa, a little farther from the rocket attacks, but thou-



The Family of Andrei and Olya Semyonovs

peaceful life of the city's inhabitants. We have an Adventist community in this city.

A family with two children, 5 and 10 years old, moved to live in Israel about a year ago. Following the protocol regarding COVID19 they went through quarantines and vaccinations.

in their apartment. So, they have to move to a public bomb shelter near their house. For almost a week they spent days and nights with other people. On May 17 a rocket fell into their yard, causing serious damage of a neighbor's house. They have damages as well in their flat. The blast wave knocked out all the windows of



The yard where the rocket exploded

sands of residents of southern Israel remain under shelling. Please pray for peace in Israel.

Sergey Greg is the Communication Director of the Israel Field

ISRAEL UNDER HEAVY FIRE

My wife and I, we have been serving the Lord in Israel for 3 years. You hear about missiles been fired to Israel from the Gaza Strip from time to time. But they had always been fired at the southern cities of Israel, those closest to Gaza. We had always been told that these missiles are rustic, almost home-made (not too powerful, and not too accurate). But last week thousands of missiles have been launched at almost every big city in Israel. Including Tel Aviv. Last week, at about 20:00, with my wife we went out to walk our two little dogs. That day we were visiting some church members in the North. We didn't know that Hamas had threat-

news. Another, is to see it and feel it in your own skin. That night, by the grace of God, we made it back home, and we went downstairs with our neighbors to the bomb shelter.

The alarms have been going off all week. Day and night. Yesterday, right after the church service, we had another attack. This time, a missile landed 1400 meters away from our home. This time we felt the explosion louder than other times. I had never seen the destructive power of a missile firsthand. Shrapnel everywhere. Busted glass even at 100 meters from the explosion. It's something that is very hard to digest. One person died in yesterday's attack. So far, 10 people have died in Is-



One of the rockets coming from Gaza to Israel

ened to attack Tel Aviv. So the alarm went off, and we were in the middle of a street, with no shelter to hide in nearby. We just did what people near us did: we ran and knelt beside a wall. It was really breath-taking to see rockets cross the sky, and explode right in front of our eyes. One thing is to see it in the

rael. In Gaza, the number is over 120.

Our God is in control. The church members are ok. We are ok. We need your prayers, so peace may be achieved in the Middle East.

Pastor Gerardo Farias lives in Tel Aviv, leading Tel Aviv Spanish Church. He is the Prayer Ministry Coordinator for the Israel Field.

PERFECT PEACE

"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in you."

Isaiah 26: 3.

God is the source of true peace. He keeps us from turmoil. It is interesting to note that in the original text the word peace is repeated two times: "You will keep him in peace, peace...". What is the meaning of this expression?

J. Alec Motyer confirms that "Hebrew uses repetition to express superlatives or to indicate totality." (The Prophecy of Isaiah, p. 76) . For example, as Jesus used very often the expression 'Amen, Amen', we could say that Amen literally means 'So be it', and that the repetition means something so certain, that there is no place for any doubt. In the same way, 'peace peace' means 'great peace' the exceptional state of mind that nothing can come to disturb.

How to have peace in the middle of a turmoil? How to live in an undisturbed way in the midst of the rockets? It is only possible when we are close to our heavenly Father. "The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with **peace**." Psalm 29: 11.

Ellen White said, "Let the peace of God reign in your soul. Then you will have strength to bear all suffering" (My Life Today, p. 174.) May the grace of God qualifies us to go through these challenging times with His power. May He protect us from evil and help us to experience His peace in all circumstances.

*Daniel Stojanovic,
Israel Field President*