

# Spyglass Monthly

“Connecting KI’s Fellowship Around the World”

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## The Floodgates of Heaven

by Dan Stolebarger

*Open the Floodgates of Heaven, Let it Rain  
Open the Floodgates of Heaven Let Him Reign*

I am currently in the air somewhere between Nashville and Spokane – I have my headphones on and I am listening to the Grace Chapel Worship Team singing “*Let it Rain!*”

As I am listening to this, I remember that my wife told me a few days ago that it was raining in Israel! You know, for our Israeli friends, rain is always good news, especially with the Galilee being at such a low level. So with the song in my ears I am singing LET IT RAIN! (By the look of the person next to me I think I may be singing too loudly! I know I sound good, but without the music I think it might be too much!)

But in all seriousness, I am always reminded of the following passage when it comes to the weather patterns in Israel.

*<sup>10</sup> For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; <sup>11</sup> but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, <sup>12</sup> a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.*

*<sup>13</sup> And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>14</sup> then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.*

*(Continues on page 11)*

## Course Highlight -

### The Book of Joel & Israeli Eschatology

The short but meaty book of Joel speaks clearly about themes such as: The Day of the Lord; the Gentile nations and their pathway to Armageddon; the Millennium; and, the role of Israel as well as an admonition to those who would seek to divide His Land.

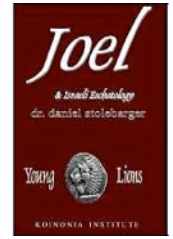
The two sessions of Israeli Eschatology reveal the scenarios of the time of the end through Jewish lenses. Topics covered include, the so-called Peace Plan as well as the Sheep and Goat judgment.

#### Overview Objectives:

- Understand how the message of Joel applies to us today and the predicament we are facing
- Examine Israel and God's plan for this Jewish nation

**Duration:** 4 Weeks  
**Instructor:** Dan Stolebarger

New Course!



**Enrollment Begins**

**FEBRUARY 1ST**

**Starting Dates**

**FEBRUARY 15TH**

**&**

**APRIL 5TH**

## Small Groups -

### Foundational Biblical Knowledge by Dan Stolebarger & Trevor Macduff

The future of the church is uncertain. Historically, our brethren have faced persecution that most of us reading this will never be able to understand. But if we take the Bible seriously, we need to understand that troubled times are coming for the true believers in Jesus Christ. Now is the time for you to raise the bar and become serious about your Christianity.

Are you ready to open your home, reach out at the office, make connections in your social life, to help fellow believers and not-yet believers understand the glorious truth revealed in scripture? Home fellowships, small groups, cell groups, whatever you call it, is simply the most effective way to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. And it is only by His strength that we will be able to endure to the end, whatever that may be.

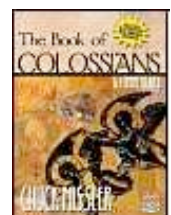
Koinonia Institute is excited to announce that we are opening up our first ever Small Group Leader training class. If you are ready to answer the call to 'make disciples of all men' then this class is for you.

*Foundational Biblical Knowledge* is an 8-week course focused on the foundational knowledge that any leader would need to be grounded and founded on the Word of God as the authority for all truth. If you are ready to be the church, look for this class next month.

Watch for details  
in next month's  
*Spyglass Monthly*

## New Class Coming in March to KI!

### The Book of Colossians by Chuck Missler



## KI in the Tri-Cities by Dan Stolebarger

This last month, I had the opportunity to visit the Tri-City, Washington area for a time of fellowship with our local KI'ers and then have a day in which we met with area Pastors as well as hosting a morning KI Introductory meeting for those interested in KI. After lunch I taught lesson one of the Bronze Spiritual Disciplines class "LIVE." The fellowship was rich!

One thing that we are seeing is the need for these face-to-face type of gatherings and look forward to doing many more of them in the future. It is a great way to answer questions, build koinonia and also to create a live venue to invite new folks to.

As the Regional Manager for the Pacific Northwest, let me know if you would like to set something up in your neck of the woods. Let us know, and we will find a time that I can come to your area.

If you are not in the Pacific Northwest but would like to arrange something in your geographical region, please email [Pat Poole](mailto:Pat.Pool@koinonia.org) for more information.



## The Yeshiva Experience by Mary Miller

January 14th, Dan Stolebarger shared a unique Bible Study experience that he first encountered on tour in Israel – Yeshiva. The night was unanimously embraced by those in attendance in the K-House auditorium!

Yeshiva means "sitting" in Hebrew, but it is so much more than that. Unlike Bible Studies, in which we sit and listen to a teacher present Scripture or Biblical concepts, Yeshiva breaks the attendees into pairs of two. The teacher then assigns a Scripture (we were assigned portions of Psalm 119) to be read aloud in each duo.

It may get a little noisy, but in the Hebraic method, that is not an issue! Something amazing happens as the Word is read aloud by so many voices. The next step is to begin to discuss with each other (still in our groups of two) what the Scripture is saying. As we talk, we begin to take the layers off the Scripture into the root of what these Words mean to each of us. After about twenty minutes, we come back together as a group.

Each group took their turn to stand as a duo, and read their portion of Scripture aloud and told the entire group what we learned or what we think about that Scripture.

As each duo is finished, the whole group provides their thoughts and Dan (in the role of the rabbi/teacher) also provides insights and backgrounds regarding that portion. It is amazing the turns that each discussion takes as the layers of Scripture are taken deeper through the discussion.

Some were laughing with delight, others crying with new insights – absolutely amazing experience. When the time was up, no one wanted to leave! We will have another Yeshiva on February 18th. If you are in the K-House neighborhood, please plan to attend!

## Latest Bronze Medallion Honorees

Pat Austin  
Steven Lowry  
Nicole Moore  
Shawn Moore  
Glen Gephart  
Pamela Brown  
Josh Karty  
Malcolm George  
Therese Kean  
Alan Crate  
Flash Wales  
William Robinson  
Mark Strong  
Young Song  
Dawn Parry  
David Seaboyer  
Paul Dreyer  
Michael B. Mangini  
David Dalton  
Lois Bridgeman  
Dean Fraser  
Jeremiah Deese  
Rhonda Hamilton  
Michelle Liga  
Scott Foster  
Joan Foster  
Tammy Brewer

## Silver Medallion Honorees

Louis Powell  
Dolores McClory

## KI Creatively Partners with Ministries, by Richard Stevens



**Pictured left to right:**  
**Dan Stolebarger, TA Pamela Beuerlein,**  
**TA Richard Stevens, TA Steven Lynch,**  
**Sharon Stolebarger and TA Alberta Ly**  
**(TA Sammye Lee not pictured).**

KI Executive Director Dan Stolebarger recently traveled to Franklin, TN to launch a new opportunity with Grace Chapel Leiper's Fork. Pastor and 2009 Strategic Perspectives conference guest speaker Steve Berger's long relationship with Chuck Missler spawned the first ever Koinonia Institute church partnership.

Beginning February 2nd, Grace Chapel will be hosting "live face-to-face" Bronze-level classes on Tuesday nights. Students will watch each week's lecture in the sanctuary and then break up into live discussion groups of four and talk through the DQ's. They will then login to studycenter.com, take the weekly quiz, post a short summary of what they learned or discussed and take the final at the end of each course.

As an added bonus, Chuck Missler and Dan Stolebarger will be streamed live from Post Falls, ID at the beginning of each course to introduce the objectives and answer questions. The benefits don't stop there; Grace Chapel KI members receive a full year membership to KI, including the ability to take additional online courses, download versions of Bronze-level classes, member discounts, etc.

Dan hosted a general KI member meeting on Thursday night, followed by a KI Grace Chapel informational meeting on Friday. Dan explained to the enthusiastic crowd what KI is all about and how the face-to-face classes at Grace Chapel will work. Saturday Sharon Stolebarger hosted a Grace Chapel TA training meeting. Sunday, Dan, Sharon, Richard Stevens, Amy Stevens and Tom Robinson manned a KI table for all three services to answer questions and process member signups. Enthusiastic new members are already asking about the possibility of Silver-level classes after completing the Bronze! For more information, visit <http://tn.kiregional.com/grace>.

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## Narrow Gate joins KI by Dan Stolebarger

On January 25th and 26th, Sharon and I had the privilege and honor to be at [Narrow Gate](#) for two days of fellowship and teaching. Narrow Gate is a Christ-centered six to eight month intense life discovery experience for young men ages 18-25.

A few weeks ago (when I was visiting Narrow Gate for the first time) I had one of the Holy Spirit tremors – in other words, I knew God was up to something and that I would be somehow involved with this ministry.

During my time with the Staff and Students, I presented "Intro to Spiritual Disciplines" live, as well as shared a bit about Israeli Eschatology. I am still not sure what the future holds, but we now have twenty-six members who are PASSIONATE about their walk and are STARVING for God!

Narrow Gate has a school of ministry connected to them and students will continue through the KI Bronze-level classes during their stay. We also hope to add an apologetics course that will be taught by two of our brothers from Narrow Gate sometime in 2010 – stay tuned!



**Narrow Gate's main lodge in**  
**Williamsport, TN**



## Do Something! by Sharon Stolebarger

One question that is asked a lot is, "Why are you so passionate about the [Israel Defense Forces \(IDF\)](#) when there are so many in the military here at home?" That is a valid question. I don't know why God has given me this passion; but He has. Do I support our military here at home? Yes, whole-heartedly as should we all. Indeed: "Lord, we pray right now for every service man and woman from every country, that YOU would have Your hand of protection upon them. In whatever situation he/she is in, may they know or come to know the reality of Your love for them!" AMEN!



IDF Logo

I recently asked Tisha Ben Netan, founder of [Exodus Ltd.](#), WHY did the soldiers get sent out so unprepared for their basic needs? She said that several years ago, due to lack of finances, the monies available to purchase the basic necessities to soldiers was cut by 30%; the soldiers just do NOT get what they need.

The weather is cold right now, both in the North and in the South. When a young man or woman begins their service in the military, their family usually has to spend around \$500-\$600 just to provide what they need to stay warm, comfortable, and safe. If a soldier's family does not have the resources to provide this, he/she simply goes without. Tisha relayed the following to me. She states,

"Thank God for the rain!!!! Rain is a blessing and it has rained a lot in the past week. The Sea of Galilee has risen by 1/2 a meter. The storms were so bad that several people and soldiers were swept away in the south by flash flood weather. My son, Yarden, called me in hysteria. He got news that his unit was headed to the south and the storms were expected to be extreme down there. He didn't have proper winter gear or even a comforter. The sleeping bag the army provides isn't warm enough for the poor soldiers. The army doesn't supply anything else! He asked me if I could rush down a warm comforter for him before the unit headed out. I got into my car and rushed him down thermals and a comforter. The next morning, he called and said that the comforter had literally saved his life. They had to set up tents in the field in the middle of the storm. Thousands of soldiers were there in the field that night from all sorts of units. Mud was all over and they worked hard to get the tents up in extreme weather, but the wind kept blowing the tents down. They were drenched. Once they got the tents up and the cots down, they were freezing. He said that comforter saved him and continues to save him. They are down in the field on the border with Gaza sleeping in tents.

I thought about all the other soldiers out there that didn't have that luxury. Many soldiers don't have a mother that can rush down and get him a comforter. Some of our soldiers are serving alone in the IDF. without a family in country. Some of our soldiers come from under-privileged families that cannot afford the extra expenses that are on the individual family to keep their child warm. We need donations now more than ever to keep our soldiers warm. It is raining and storming outside. It is snowing on Mt. Hermon and temperatures are dropping. Now more than ever, we need your donations. It doesn't cost much to keep a soldier warm. \$60 can buy a fleece jacket, blanket and thermal suit for a soldier in need. Please help us comfort our "Watchmen on the Walls", showing Christian support for the IDF."

There are various ways in which you can support the soldiers in the IDF through Exodus Ltd. [Click here to see how you can help.](#)

Another ministry, we (Dan and myself) personally support as well is the [Lone Soldier Program](#) through the Jerusalem Support Center (aka Ministry to Israel). These are soldiers (many from the USA) do not have any family in Israel and their family at home are either not involved in their lives or are unable to help them financially. The local office in Tennessee can actually send you biographies of various soldiers and you can choose which one(s) you would want to support. You can write to them and the letters will be translated for those who do not speak English. The cost is \$100 per month and 100% of these monies go to that soldier. We have simply set up an automatic payment from our bank account to Ministry to Israel. For further information, you can go to: [www.ministrytoisrael.com](http://www.ministrytoisrael.com). Also, these donations are tax deductible.

So back to the original question: Why am I so passionate about Israel? Jesus said:

*"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison and come to You?" And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, **My brethren**, you did it to Me.'*" ~ Matthew 25:37-40; **bolded emphasis is mine.**

The last I heard, Jesus was a Jew; and who are His brethren? THE JEWS! I want to do it to the least of these, HIS BRETHREN!

## Member Spotlight

### Marc La Porte, a Dutch Berean by Steve Elwart, KI Host



Marc La Porte

Marc La Porte, is a network consultant with 11 years of experience working in Information Technology. He and his wife Heidi live in Amstelveen, a suburb of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with their daughter Elora Liann. Marc is Dutch, and Heidi is an American missionary. He has been a Christian for 11 years and has been leading a small group for over three years.

Though Dutch by birth and upbringing, Marc is an American by heart and English is his spiritual language. He says he is non-denominational to the core because there is only one

Body and he simply follows the Jesus from the Bible. Marc says, “Religion is for people who don’t get it, because it is the exact opposite of what Jesus taught.”

Marc comes from a non-religious upbringing and background. He thinks he has always believed in God but never had a personal relationship with Him. In November 1998, that all changed when Marc came in contact with a fellow who wanted to start a band, and being a guitarist, he thought this sounded like a great idea.



After a couple of weeks, the leader took him to an open-mic night which "happened" to be organized by “Youth With A Mission” (YWAM), and "happened" to be in a building that he passed many times before with a "JESUS LOVES YOU" sign in big fluorescent blue on the front. After the first night, the group invited him to their weekly Bible Study.

Soon thereafter, Marc met Jesus while sitting on top of a couch during a worship session. He says it was “Amazing!”. He continued with that Bible Study, and after a couple of years, began leading worship services, until he suffered from “burn-out”. The result was two years of very little God in his life, but then at the end of 2005, Marc “happened” to meet his wife and that meeting changed everything! It was an answer to a seven year long prayer.

His life has been a whirlwind the last couple of years: married after ten months, had a little girl who is two years old now, started going to the church his wife helped start, in which he has been serving now for four years in different ways, and is a pastor-in-training of a flock of over 100 souls.

It is becoming clearer to Marc, that his own personal relationship with Jesus and what flows out of that ultimately is application, application, application. Marc says that application is hardly ever done in solitude, but in fellowship and community.

About three years ago, Marc was introduced to the Koinonia House ministry (*Learn the Bible in 24 Hours, Genesis & Revelation*) through an American friend who lived in the Netherlands at the time. The combination of the technical approach and the indepth and precision of Biblical knowledge displayed by Chuck, really appealed to him. Chuck quickly became, next to Mark Driscoll and John Piper, one of Marc’s primary teachers.

Marc noticed the link to the KI on several occasions, but never did anything with it. About six months ago, he realized that he was missing structure in his Bible reading. He then spent more time investigating KI and decided to sign up to align his Bible reading with his Bible studying in a more structured approach. Marc started his first classes on July 20, 2009, received his Bronze Medallion in Dec. 09, and is now working on Silver.

(Continues on page 11)

# Making a Difference - Practicums

## Are You Pursuing the Goal to Silver? by Carol Maden

*“You know that in a race all the runners run but only one wins the prize, don't you?  
You must run in such a way that you may be victorious.” I Cor 9:24 ISV*

According to the latest KI report, there are 846 active members that have received their Bronze Medallion, and are ready to continue on in their pursuit of Silver. The color of the medallion isn't the goal, but the pursuit of wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of the Most High is the real prize that we receive when we do an in depth study of the Word of God. The Medallions are Koinonia Institutes tangible acknowledgement that you are in that quest and are accomplishing these goals.

Remember, if you are on your way to earning the Silver Medallion, that with great knowledge comes great responsibility. You are to put your faith into action and give practical application to those things you have learned by serving the Lord in various ways as the Holy Spirit leads you. So, in addition to the necessary academic classes to obtain your Silver, you must also earn 5000 K-Credits in the form of 'Practicums'.

The following two examples are how KI Members are putting *feet to their faith* and receiving Practicum K-Credits. We will be highlighting more practicums in next month's Spyglass.



**Andy & Viria**

**Andy Kratzert** is serving up the “beans” of the Gospel by opening a Christian/Israel themed Coffee Shop in Costa Rica. Along with the coffee at [Hebrews Cafe](#), Andy is planning on holding Bible Studies and Christian conversation, encouragement and ministry to all whom God leads his way. Andy feels this is God's project and knows that God has some great plans for it. Andy states, “It will provide a place for people to gather and be exposed to the Gospel. Also there is an International University and a High School close by, so Andy's coffee shop will provide a place for students to gather and study.”

While running the business side of the Coffee Shop keeps them busy, Andy states that he and his wife, Viria, have been praying a lot that the Lord would help them to remember that it's His project and not to worry. “Our faith has been growing and we are learning to give the project back to the Lord and to rely on God.”



### Serving in Texas - Stephen and Charlene Seachord



**Stephen & Charlene Seachord**

In addition to devoting many years of serving the Lord behind the scenes as a volunteer at their church and ministry events, **Stephen and Charlene Seachord** got involved with the children in their community.

They are judges at the annual District History Fair in Plano, Texas, evaluating various projects, conducting personal interviews with each student, and even sharing personal thoughts and comments on special cards, for the students. This provides the students a personal contact with an adult who values and supports their basic historic research.

Stephen states, “The children are the future Sons of God. We are to become like children. How best to do this is to work with children whenever we can. This is one way I can serve the children and let them see the light coming from me. We are to serve wherever we can, and doing what I can for the children is an extra blessing.”

### The Akedah by Aaron J. Nash

Aaron Nash submitted the following paper for one of his LBU transfer classes. He has been a KI member since March 2008 and earned his Bronze in December that same year. He is a music theory and performance teacher who describes himself as an amateur composer of classical music. He lives in Trenton, Ontario, Canada.

“And it came to pass . . . that God did tempt Abraham”. So begins Genesis twenty-two, a relatively small chapter which houses one of the most memorable stories of the entire Old Testament. In Hebrew it is known as the *Akedah* or “the binding of Isaac”.

Prolix commentaries and, indeed, entire volumes have been written on the subject: in example, Søren Kierkegaard’s masterful *Fear and Trembling* (originally published in 1843). Historically speaking, the fideistic aspect of the *Akedah* has been the primary object of exegetical concentration. The episode is viewed predominantly as Abraham’s great crucible; the purpose of which, in the words of thirteenth-century Talmudist Moses ben Nahman, was to cull forth the venerable patriarch’s “righteousness from the potential to the actual” (2004, p. 496). Modern-day expositor John Walvoord, in his commentary on the passage in question, asseverates that for such a trial to be “real” it must “defy logic” (1985, p. 64). By this he does not, presumably, suggest that it must be nonlogical (in the sense that it is nonlogical to speak of a “married bachelor”); but rather that it must, at least ostensibly, challenge our conceptions of reason and rationality. The divine enjoinder to sacrifice an unwedded Isaac – “Of whom it was said, That ‘in Isaac shall thy seed be called’ ” (Heb. 11:18, quoted from Gen. 21:12) – would certainly fit this bill.

Moreover, the putative immorality of God’s solemn command – “Take now thy son . . . and offer him” – has proved to many religious thinkers a troubling paradox. After all, God expressly condemned human sacrifice (Lev. 18:21, 20:2-5). How can He thus simultaneously condone it? There are many other deontological issues to be considered. The aforementioned Kierkegaard, a brilliant nineteenth-century Christian writer, brought many of these perplexities to the fore: in example, “was it ethically defensible,” he pondered, “for Abraham to conceal his understanding from Sarah, from Eliezer, and from Isaac?” (1983, p. 82). Accordingly, Kierkegaard was led to wonder if there had not been a “teleological suspension of the ethical” (p. 55): that is, were the laws of morality momentarily suspended or, as Kierkegaard surmised, transcended for some noble and sublime end? Christians tend to brush aside these considerations, but they are not entirely unwarranted and a curt dismissal is always an inadequate repudiation.

These aspects of the *Akedah* have also been the catalysts of countless atheistic philippics against the God of the Old Testament. Consider, for instance, Richard Dawkins caustic objections:

A modern moralist cannot help but wonder how a child could ever recover from such psychological trauma . . . This disgraceful story is an example simultaneously of child abuse, bullying in two asymmetrical power relationships, and the first recorded use of the Nuremburg defense: “I was only obeying orders” (2006, p. 242).

Here Dawkins falls into an all-too-common error. Contrary to popular belief and artistic depiction, the Isaac of Genesis chapter twenty-two was not a young child or even an adolescent but rather a full-grown adult. In fact, scholars agree that Isaac must have been over twenty years of age. (We will revisit this point in the ensuing analysis of the text). Notwithstanding, Dawkins’ accusations of moral laxity, while admittedly jejune in character, are at least seemingly tenable.

What is wholly absent from the above protestations – from the profundity of Kierkegaard to the superficiality of Dawkins – is an awareness of what is to be the primary focus of the present paper: namely, the typological significance of the *Akedah*; which at the very least mitigates the several arraignments by introducing another dimension, so to speak. In different terms, the popular fideistic reading of Genesis chapter twenty-two, while no doubt valid and important, is also somewhat myopic and incomplete. Before we can examine these typological details critically, however, we must first take a digressive but necessary look at Abraham himself.

Abraham, as intimated above, is remembered chiefly for his unexampled faith, and rightly so. What is often forgotten is that Abraham was also a *prophet*. In fact, he was the first Biblical figure to be so dubbed, and by no less than God Himself. But what, precisely, is a prophet? By popular definition, a prophet is one who foretells, who predicts what is to come. By this classification, forecasters of all kinds – economic, meteorological, political, sociological, and so on – would also have to be considered prophets. The Biblical definition, however, tells a different story.

*(Continues on next page)*

# KI Reflection

(Continued from page 8)

In Genesis chapter twenty, Abraham – fearing for his personal safety (Gen. 20:11) – yields to dissemblance, pretending that his wife Sarah is merely his sister;<sup>1</sup> “and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah” (Gen. 20:2). Ensuingly, God enjoins Abimelech to restore to Abraham his wife Sarah: “For,” quoth God, “[Abraham] is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine” (Gen. 20:7). (Abimelech, should the reader inquire, did indeed restore Sarah to Abraham). This is the first occurrence of the term “prophet” (Heb. *nabiy'*). As any theologian knows, the first Scriptural mention of a word or phrase is of paramount importance and usually serves as an exegetical paradigm. What is perhaps most extraordinary is that there is no mention of or allusion to vaticination in the above verse. Instead the term is used in association with prayer: “For he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee”.

Moses’ brother Aaron was also deemed a “prophet” by God: “And the LORD said unto Moses, ‘See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet’ ” (Exd. 7:1). But Aaron was no more known for foretelling than Abraham was. We see, then, that the role of a prophet in the Bible is not necessarily fatidic, strictly speaking. According to English theologian E. W. Bullinger:

The essential interpretation of the word “prophet” is spokesman. So that the prophet was one who spoke FOR God, whether by way of Exhortation, Instruction, Reproof, Warning, Correction, Reprobation, or Judgment. Foretelling was only a very small part of his duties (2004, p. 305; emphasis original).

The above is evinced in Exodus chapter four where Aaron is referred to as Moses’ “spokesman” (Exd. 4:16); while in chapter seven he is called Moses’ “prophet” (Exd. 7:1). Therefore, the two terms are synonymous, inasmuch as they are here used interchangeably.

So, Abraham was a prophet, a mouthpiece of God. But did the antemosaic saint ever assume in the course of his duties a distinctly prognostic role? As will be seen, we must answer in the affirmative; with the qualification that Abraham likely did so unwittingly. But how can one foretell unawares? We know that from Scripture that God has “used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets” (Hos. 12:10). The Hebrew root here translated “similitude” is *damah* meaning “to be similar” or “to bear resemblance”. A “type” – which is an indirect, symbolic, and prefigurative form of vaticination – would fit this description admirably. It is more akin to a “similitude” than an overt prophecy. Theologian Chuck Missler refers to types as “macrocodes . . . which can substantially transcend the immediate context” (2004, p. 188; emphasis original). We can safely assume that participants involved in typological narratives are largely (if not wholly) unaware of the fact. Consequently, Abraham could have foretold events without his ever being cognizant that he was doing so.

Occasionally typological prophesies are explicated internally: in example, “as Jonas [that is, Jonah] was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Mat. 12:40). Oftentimes, however, typological subtleties are left for the attentive and studious theologian to decipher. Such is the case with Genesis chapter twenty-two. Here the typological significance, which is demonstratively Christological or Messianic in character, is salient – but only in retrospect: that is, it would have been virtually impossible for the Old Testament saint to decode.

Proceeding directly to the text, we find that “God did tempt Abraham”, saying “Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of” (Gen. 22:1-2). A better translation of the Hebrew word *nacah* (נָחַח), here rendered “tempt”, might be “proved” or “tried”.<sup>2</sup> There are several important points to be noted in verse two which introduce the type.

The so-called *Law of First Mention* has already been spoken of in relation to the term “prophet”. Here, we find the first occurrence of the word “love” (Heb. 'ahab): “Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest”. Compare also the following: “By faith Abraham, when he was tried . . . offered up his only begotten son” (Heb. 11:17). These passages bare a striking resemblance to a certain ubiquitous New Testament verse: namely, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son” (Jhn. 3:16). Thus, the Messianic character of the type is already intimated at.

[To read more, click here...](#)

## Growing Through Issachar



**Lorri Erickson**

“Computer” is not my first language (or second language for that matter!) and I knew the Issachar classes would be a challenge for me. Being technically challenged, and out of the traditional school environment for some years, the goal to complete Silver was greater than my fear of computers!

So, as I clumsily plodded along the classes, I was challenged at every corner but found incredible encouragement from the TA's along the way. Their belief in me and availability to answer the most mundane questions kept me focused.

Surprisingly, I just followed my TA's instruction and the computer worked! The Issachar team members who were involved in my completion of these classes are: Mary Miller, Ray Sarlin and Leisa Garcia. Their commitment and steadfastness in teaching me new things kept me focused. I have learned that the skills obtained from these classes have many applications in my life.

This year, 2010 is important for local elections and I now have the skills to succinctly discern relevant information and present it in a short PowerPoint presentation for local politicians and legislatures. Additional applications include Bible Study introductions and Preparedness Seminar instructions. If God is calling YOU out of your comfort zone and desire to learn new effective communication skills, then the Issachar Classes will help you develop them.

I am very grateful to KI and the Issachar team for all the blood, sweat and tears in teaching me these new skills! "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Phil. 4:13. ~ **Lorri Erickson, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

KI has been a great experience for me. There is in-depth Bible study that has encouraged my love relationship with Jesus Christ and sweet fellowship among the students and TAs. There are ways to figure out how I fit in the body of Christ, not just in this organization.

I think one of the biggest blessings is that it has taught me to be looking around at what is going on in our present situation and see what Scripture has to say about it. Discernment is the word I use to explain what the positive of our Issachar track has done for me.



**Peggy Buzby**

I no longer just take everything at face value, but I look more closely to see what the implications may have on my walk with the Lord, and how that can be used to tell others about God's plan, His love and most importantly His salvation that He offers them. Teaching me to be discerning is one of the amazing things that KI has done for me.

**Peggy Buzby, Colmar Pennsylvania**

### What is Issachar?

For Koinonia Institute, Issachar is a concept borrowed from 1 Chronicles 12:32: *...of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...* “Understanding of the times” comes directly from our study of Scripture – our Berean curriculum based upon verse by verse commentary.

- “What to do” is where we put feet to our faith and understanding – particularly through our Koinonos practicums.
- “Know” is that word in the middle that is the key to defining Issachar – the link between our understanding and our resulting actions.

What is learned within the Issachar curriculum has both a practical and a personal application in a member's life.

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<sup>15</sup> And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled. <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, <sup>17</sup> lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you. **Deuteronomy 11:10-17**

Take a moment and reread that passage. I wonder ... what is the Lord saying to you? For me, it is to earnestly serve Him with all my heart and soul, and then I need to TAKE HEED!

So, let's take a Selah moment to consider what it means to Let HIM reign! The song I mentioned earlier, goes back and forth from Let it RAIN to Let HIM reign! As I reflect on this, the Holy Spirit is bringing the following thoughts to mind: Jesus is GOD and although He is my friend, He also is the One to whom I need to Fear and to bow prostrate before Him and tremble in His presence!

I recently had the blessing of talking with a young man, who lost both of his parents in a car accident at the age of 19. He gave me a definition about what it means to fear God, one that I hope I never will forget! He stated, "To Fear the Lord means that you want to live your life in such a way that you would never cause your Father to be shamed or disappointed!" Wow – I think I need to pray: "Lord Jesus, help me to live my life in such a way that I bring You joy. Father I want to exalt your Name and I want my life to draw those who do not know you to be drawn to You! Now Lord please REIGN in my life!"

Again, what does that mean to you – right now? I think we need another Selah moment. In order for Him to reign, we must humble ourselves before Him and seek His agenda, not our own. Recently, I have been meditating on Prayer and I did a study on what Jesus actually prayed for. The one thing that jumped out to me was that He prayed for HELP!

<sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." **Matthew 9:37-38**

I cannot help but think, that we need to pray this same prayer (I know at KI there is soooo much we can do; soooo many opportunities and soooo many open doors) but before we ask for helpers, we need to first let Him reign in our lives and make sure that we are giving Him all of ourselves. Only then can we pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send HELP! Amen? Amen! ~ Blessings and Shalom, Dan Stolebarger

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## Dutch Berean by Steve Elwart

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Marc believes that both the online forum style combined with self-study works really well for him. Also, he considers the people to be great, both from KI support as well as all the class participants. Awesome dialogues, great interactions and incredible encouraging words going back and forth is why he thinks KI is "Awesome!". He also wants to become more involved in KI as a TA, if time permits, and see if and how he can get the Netherlands more connected to KI.

Marc started a blog (<http://deurpost.wordpress.com/>) to have a way to gather his thoughts on the Bible and develop his preaching and communication skills. In that blog he says, "Please look around, leave your comments, read what I have to say, but always be like the Bereans, 'for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.' (Acts 17:11)."



**TWO EVENINGS WITH**  
*IDF Captain*  
**Amir Tsarfati**

**KOINONIA HOUSE, Post Falls, ID**  
Wed., Feb. 10, 2010  
**WILL ISRAEL STAND ALONE?**  
Thurs., Feb. 11, 2010  
**JESUS IN THE PASSOVER**

**TICKET INFO**

## In Loving Memory ~ Rick Carroll



Our friend Rick Carroll went to be with the Lord on December 26, 2009. Rick had been suffering with cancer during the past year. He and his family had been a regular subject of prayer for many of us.

He had been a longtime Bible Student and teacher. He had been a professional instructor and a certified Precept Bible Teacher. He was employed at a large hedge fund in Minneapolis, MN.

Rick joined KI in 2006. He was a Bronze Medallion holder and had worked as a member of the Exam Knowledge team. He was also a member of our Host team, frequently contacting new members, welcoming them to the Institute and helping them find their way around the online campus.

He led a KI-based small group in his hometown of Lakeville, MN while working toward his Silver Medallion here at KI.

His contribution to the work of the Lord and specifically to the mission of this Institute has been significant. We will miss him.

He is survived by his wife, Maureen, three daughters, three sons and seven grandchildren. He was 54.

**Memory Verse** - "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

~ Psalms 23:3 (KJV)

## Events and Links

**February**

Shevat - Adari 5770

- Feb. 1st - [New Courses Begin](#)
- Feb. 10th - [Amir Tsarfati - KHouse, Post Falls, Idaho](#)
- Feb. 11th - [Amir Tsarfati - KHouse, Post Falls, Idaho](#)
- Feb. 15th - [New Courses Begin](#)
- Feb. 18th - Young Lion's - Yeshiva, KHouse, Post Falls, Idaho
- Feb. 25-27th - [27th Annual International Prophecy Conference](#)

## New Courses Coming to KI

[The Book of Joel & Israeli Eschatology](#) - February  
[The Book of Colossians](#) - March  
[1st & 2nd Peter](#) - April  
[Foundational Biblical Knowledge](#) - April

## KI Live

[Steve Elwart - Airline Safety and Situational](#)

## KI Clothing

