

THE TRUBEKS

My family's origins go all the way back to Latvia, a country that lies near the Baltic Sea shore. They, like most Jews in the area at the time before WWII, were very connected to the Jewish community; The walk to the synagogue was a daily event, and the Rabbi was in the same image of Moses himself.

Throughout history, there were always Jews who've held to the belief that Yeshua, Jesus is the true Messiah, but they were a small minority. But in the Last Days, together with The Return to Zion - a spiritual prophecy that is coming true - the prophecy for Israel's return to their original belief, the belief of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.

My family went through a similar salvation story of sorts. My grandfather, who was an intelligent young man but also a very skeptic one; The communist ideology that was spreading throughout Russia pulled him far away from religion. Well, God moves in mysterious ways, and through my grandfather, the salvation of my family came to be.



My grandfather, while Stalin's statue stands in the background

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

From The Eyes Of My Grandfather

In 1941, when the Wehrmacht soldiers came closer to the Baltic's borders, the Jews, with their basic instinct to flee, ended up actually persuaded to stay in light of the voices and promises of the religious leadership, promising them that God watches over those who keep the commandments.

My grandfather, on the other hand, because of his skeptical view of the religious leadership of that time, was not convinced. He decided not to sit still and to enroll to the Red Army in Russia that was close by. When the Germans finally surrendered, my grandfather came back to his homeland (Latvia) only to find his own family murdered by the Nazis,

leaving not a single soul. For him, that was the final confirmation for the lies of religion, which contributed to his decision to fight the religious institute. He wholeheartedly believed in the saying - 'Religion is like a drug to the masses.' That drove him forward to study Communism while being focused and determined more than ever.

After he finished his studies with honors, he started working for the Communist explanation alignment. Very quickly he moved up the ladder, ending up as the editor of the Communist paper and of the Communist explanation books.

It's important to know that during that time, even holding on to religious books such as the Bible and the New Testament was considered a felony, and whoever took the chance risked being imprisoned for a long time in the basements of the secret police (the KGB). The numbered religious books that were found during that time were locked tight behind the safes in the KGB offices. My grandfather, because of his job, was able to get his hands on them and even take one of these rare copies for himself, in order to study them and being able to act and provide explanations against them.

The moment that Bible entered our house, a power of awakening started surging. God had other plans.

THE FIRST BELIEVERS

There are a few things to point out before we continue the story;

Two thousand years ago the first believers were mostly Jewish, "*When they [Jacob and the elders in Jerusalem] heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law."* (Acts 21: 20), and if that isn't enough, Yeshua Himself sent his disciples first and foremost to the house of Israel, and only afterward to the Gentiles (Matthew 10: 6, Acts 1: 8).

But after the destruction of the Second Temple, when the faith in Yeshua had spread among the nations (who have received the gospel but didn't want to give up on many of their customs, so they tried to fit them into the faith, thus creating a new religion - which we know today as 'Christianity,') Theodosius the First declared Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380 AD, and in 392 AD Christianity was declared as the only permitted religion.

THE STORY OF MY FATHER

My father, a 16-year-old boy, finds the Bible and the New Testament that my grandfather possessed and starts to be interested in what's written. Very quickly he finds himself falling in love with the Bible's wisdom and the full, loving picture of Yeshua. He shares his revelation with his parents, but they were shocked and horrified, trying to talk him out of it - for we know it was dangerous to believe in God during the Communist Regime. My father, on the other hand, could not ignore the revelation he had so he continued studying the Scriptures. My father found many prophecies about the Messiah that were all fulfilled in Yeshua's life.

He knew that there had to be others who believe in God, so he started searching; Visiting synagogue in old Riga, expecting to find some guidance and answers to his questions, but during that time synagogues were more like museums rather than actual praying centers (in retrospect he found out there was actually a small Messianic community that was acting underground below the surface at a low profile).

At this stage, my father decided to widen his search to scattered Churches around the city, but they were also as museums, just like the synagogues. Over a decade of searching, he was still the only one he knew that believed in God until a big spiritual awakening started to happen which he had anticipated for a long time!



Near the end of the '80s, right before Latvia's deceleration of independence, groups of Evangelicals started coming from around the world to share their faith and plant local Churches. My father connected with them quickly, while my mom also started to believe. My grandmother, who was far from the concept of faith, also came to faith - after she started visiting believer's gatherings out of curiosity. My grandfather, on the other hand, didn't come to faith but was astounded by the believer's good heart and high moral standards and decided not to object his family's faith anymore.

MY PERSONAL STORY

I remember myself as a kid - going to the synagogue on Saturdays, and the Evangelical Church on Sundays. On the one hand I felt a connection to the Jewish tradition, but on the other hand, I've always loved the image of Yeshua which, during that time, I related to the Church. I remember the moment the first Messianic-Jewish congregation was birthed in Riga and everything fell into place - The Torah, the Prophets, the Writings and the New Testament. This was an event that brought to life what I've always felt inside - that the ancient Jewish tradition and the amazing image of Yehsua do not contradict one another but instead completes one another. That is the ancient truth. Today I serve at a Messianic Congregation. It's a great privilege for me which I don't take for granted - the fact that I serve our King Messiah through biblical foundations.



ISRAEL

My family knew that when the time is right - they will move to Israel, the land that is being spoken of so many times throughout the Scriptures. Our Zionism acquired its strength through the Scriptures. For in Ezekiel 36 it's said:

*"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."
(Ezekiel 36: 24-26).*

My family fulfilled their dream of Zionism, and in the mid-'90s they came to the holy land; As a Jewish family who believes in Yeshua the Messiah King, experiencing the fulfillment of the big miracle of the Return to Zion prophecy - where all of Israel's people are coming back to be God's people on the Promised Land.