



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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At Home And...Beyond Our Borders

Though our primary emphasis is reaching the Jewish community right here in the metro Atlanta area, our outreach does extend beyond the borders of our own city. We also have the opportunity to meet with and speak to Jewish people throughout the southeast and around the United States. Occasionally we go to New York City to minister to the largest Jewish community in the country. Every so often we travel overseas to reach out to Jewish people around the world. We have made three trips to Israel to do outreach in the Jewish homeland. **This year we will be making at least one overseas trip to Poland.**

We also are beginning to see our outreach to the Russian Jewish community grow. Casey was given a burden for Russian Jewish people several years ago. She began to study Russian on her own and then the Lord opened up the opportunity for her to partner with another missionary in the Atlanta area who specializes in Russian ministry. **She has done Russian Jewish ministry on a regular basis, visiting Russian Jewish people in their homes, and recently was a part of seeing a Russian Jewish Rabbi accept his Messiah.**

This summer Casey is traveling to Poland to work with a local supporting church who has a ministry to the Polish Jewish community and asked us to help them out with this ministry.

I asked Casey to share her experiences and thoughts about outreach to both the Russian and Polish Jewish communities.

Casey writes:



Though our primary outreach is to the Jewish community of Atlanta, we also minister to Jewish people throughout the southeast and the world.

Beyond our borders, and right in our own backyard, there are Jewish people who are lost and dying without hope in the Messiah Jesus. Whether at home or abroad we have the great privilege of sharing Jesus with the Jewish people He loved so much.

Poland. What comes to mind when we think of the country of Poland? To those of us who have a Jewish mindset, we think of concentration camps. Did you know that prior to World War II there were over 3 ½ million Jewish people in Poland? It once had the largest Jewish population in the world. Today, there are only about 25,000 Jews in the entire country. **Tragically, most Polish Jews were exterminated in the Nazi concentration camps.**

Much of the Jewish population remaining in Poland are extremely orthodox. In fact, as I was preparing last year for our outreach to the ultra-

Orthodox Hasidic Jewish community in New York, I discovered that after WWII Poland was the launching site for the Hasidic movement.

In July, I will be traveling to Poland to participate in a work of reconciliation and outreach in Warsaw. We will be prayer walking, holding Bible day camps for Jewish children, working in a Holocaust cemetery that has been nearly destroyed, and holding evening coffee houses for college students. **In God's astounding way He has provided housing for our team in a Jewish retreat center in the heart of Warsaw!** I studied about this very Jewish retreat center as I prepared last year to work in New York with ultra-orthodox Jewish people! One of our required reading books was called "Boychiks in the Hood". The author traveled to Poland and stayed in the very retreat center in which I will be staying. **A year ago when preparing for our New York outreach I had no idea I was getting a glimpse of where I would be staying one year later.**

We will not be the only people staying at the retreat center. **Over 60 Jewish college students and many Jewish travelers will also be there.** Only God could arrange such a thing. **We are all very excited and hopeful that we will be able to talk to the many Jewish people who will be there about their Messiah Jesus.**

That's in July. However today and tomorrow, before and after Poland, there is our very own backyard to consider.

Atlanta has a Jewish population of over 125,000! That is 5 times the amount of Jews still living in Poland. In Atlanta, we have many ethnic Jewish

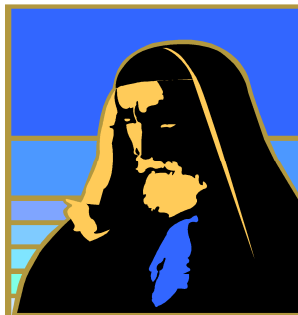
groups. I am privileged to concentrate much of my efforts within the Russian Jewish community here in Atlanta.

Russian Jews are incredibly open to the message of Jesus. Culturally, they are a close knit group. Many gather and live in apartment complexes in the Lenox area when they first arrive in the United States. They are living just at or slightly below the poverty level. They are warm and hospitable and so thankful to be in America, a land of freedom. This country offers them the freedom to believe what they choose and to speak as they feel. These freedoms were denied to them in Russia. Consequently, many are hungry to hear of the God who they have been denied access their entire lives. It is significant that when seeking to know God, they do not have the walls in place that American Jewish people traditionally have.

We are reaching the Russian community through Bible studies and weekly one-on-one visits. We are working to establish "English as a second language" (ESL) classes, as a way of offering them practical helps for survival, which then opens the door for us to also sow gospel seeds into their lives on a weekly basis.

We've seen fruit. Just prior to the end of last year, we were a part of a Russian Jewish Rabbi coming to faith in his Messiah Jesus! This rabbi is currently under a lot of pressure from his fellow rabbis, as well as his family. Yet his joy cannot be diminished. He has found Jesus! And he has fallen in love with Him!

Through a relationship established by a Shalom Basket reconnection, another Russian Jewish lady came to faith and is growing in amazing ways. When we first reestablished contact with the precious lady through a Shalom Basket delivery, she told us we could visit anytime but could not talk about God. We agreed to her terms. However, each week when we visited, she would invariably bring God into the conversation! Two years of sowing into this precious woman's



life brought forth a recognition that Jesus was the One she had been longing for her entire life.

Praise God for her faith in Him! Her entire life has changed. Her joy has been contagious and her family is changing as well! She is witnessing to her friends and family. They are so overwhelmed with the new person she has become that they listen to her. We bring her discipleship materials which she copies and then shares with her family and friends, not only in America, but in Holland, Germany, and Belarus as well! Because of one soul that has changed from death to life, the gospel is reaching beyond our borders!

As you can see, we are blessed with many occasions to share Jesus with the Jewish community. Doors are constantly opening. We receive emails daily from people who have Jewish friends who are asking questions that are spiritual in nature. We praise God for His faithfulness to us!

Please pray that Jesus will continue to give us the open door to bring His Good News to more Jewish people wherever they may be found.

How to Contact Us

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Harvest Summer Outreach

We have an amazing summer of outreach ahead of us and need you to be praying for us in advance. We will be holding our annual summer outreach here in Atlanta in June, with many opportunities for you to partner with us in practical ways! I have enclosed a list of our outreach events. Maybe a group from your church would like to join us as we reach out to, and learn more about, the Jewish community in Atlanta.

We will be once again going to share the gospel in New York City. Casey will be working with the Ultra-Orthodox in May, and I be sharing the gospel with the Jewish community in Manhattan and other boroughs in New York City in July.

As you have already read, Casey will be traveling to Warsaw, Poland in July to reach the Jewish community in that country.

Please keep these outreaches and our daily work in your prayers.

Thank You!

We have many wonderful God given opportunities to see Jewish lives being changed by the message of Messiah Jesus.

Thank you for loving the Jewish people. Thank you for praying. Thank you for standing with us to bring Jesus back to the Jewish community.

Your prayers and financial support make what we do possible.

In the service of the King,

Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries