



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

Volume 17 Issue 5

www.lightofmessiah.org



April 2009

The Stories of Two Girls

As listened to her talk, I felt as though I was listening to myself. Me, thirty years ago. She is 19. Jewish. A college student. A new believer in Jesus. Both her mom and dad are Jewish. She is scared. Confused. **And, at the same time she glows with the brightness of someone walking with Jesus for the first time, on her honeymoon with her Messiah.** I had tried to meet with her a few times. Each visit fell through. Then it all worked out. She was sharing her story, her struggles, and asking for my counsel.

As we talked there were several times that I finished her sentences for her. She came to know Jesus through some friends in high school. I came to know Jesus through some friends in college. She tried to tell her parents that she believed in Jesus and they got mad at her. I tried to tell my parents that I believed in Jesus, and they got mad at me too. "Murray," she said, "when I first tried to tell my parents that I believed in Jesus they got mad at me so I..." "Went underground," I finished her sentence. "Yeah," she said. "I know," I told her. "I used to have to sneak out of my house just to read my Bible and pray." "Yeah," she said. "My parents took my Bible away from me." She lives at school now so she can read her Bible, pray, and go to church.

She told me her story. **She was raised in a Jewish home and always had a deep love for her Jewish identity.** During her Bat Mitzvah she felt a closeness to God, but still, she said, something was missing in her life. There was an emptiness. **Some friends in high school started talking to her about Jesus.** She read the messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. She saw Jesus in



Isaiah chapter 53. **Jesus touched her heart. She gave her life to Him.** That was a few years ago.

Now, she is in college and growing in her walk with the Lord. **But like many young Jewish people who have accepted Jesus, she is scared.** She doesn't want to hurt her parents. She has told them that she is going to church, but has yet to tell them of her faith in Jesus. She has tried to do that one time already. It didn't work. **She is tied to her family in many respects, financially, and emotionally. And she is wondering what to do.** She wants to be baptized. Should she tell them of her faith before baptism? Or wait? (I had to sneak out of my house to get baptized and didn't tell my parents until after the baptism. I was concerned that if I told them they may try to prevent the baptism in some way.)

She told me about her younger sibling who she thinks may be open to Jesus, and is asking some very significant spiritual questions. After I became a believer in Jesus, I told my brother. He was the same way. Sixteen, in high school, and asking some pretty significant spiritual questions. A

friend of his was hurt severely in a car accident. I remember the call from my brother, "Murray, I want to pray for Ed but don't know how," he said to me. I told him to just talk to God and He would hear. I told him I would pray too. **My brother came to know Jesus not very long after that. Maybe her sister will come to know the Lord too.**

And so we talked some more. **She told me about some of the other struggles in her life and how she is afraid to talk to her parents about what she is going through. She doesn't want to disappoint them.** She doesn't want to bring them any hurt or pain. And yet, she quoted to me the passage in Matthew where Jesus says that He did not come to bring peace, but a sword, and that sometimes there will be division in families because of Him. **Jesus doesn't want there to be division, but the reality is that when someone comes to know Him, they become a part of His kingdom.** And other people, even those closest to us, may not understand. So He tells us to be prepared.

I listened. And I shared my heart. **I told her how God walked with me through the most difficult times with my family.** I told her that I was disowned by my parents. Her eyes filled with tears. "I could never imagine that. I have such a close relationship with my parents, Murray. I don't think I could handle it." She asked me what happened and if everything was ok now between me and my parents. I shared with her the stories of victory. "Yeah," I said. *I have a great relationship with my parents today. They don't know Jesus yet, but we are praying for them. I have known the Lord for thirty years. God does heal relationships.* Thirty

years ago. "A long time," I thought to myself.

We sat. We talked. She cried. I listened. And, I gave my input. I told her that she was on the right track. I reminded her that God was going to give her strength and wisdom to know how and when to tell her parents of her faith. I encouraged her to do it as soon as possible, but honestly also told her to be sensitive to her circumstances and to the Holy Spirit. **I reminded her that God created the universe, and knows her situation. He is all powerful, and just as He took care of my family situation, He will take care of hers.**

We prayed together and agreed to meet again in the near future.

Our ministry not only reaches Jewish people who do not yet know the Lord, but we help Jewish people in their walk with Jesus. Jewish people have special circumstances and situations of which we are aware. We have the experience and the resources to help Jewish people who are struggling through specific family situations. **I have been there.**

Please pray for this young Jewish girl in her walk with the Lord. The people to whom we are ministering need your prayers.

A Christian Girl and Her Jewish Boyfriend

Another way we are helping believers is in their close relationships with their Jewish friends.

I am oftentimes called by Christians who are in relationship with Jewish people on a more romantic level. They may be dating a Jewish person who does not yet know the Lord, or even considering marriage. In situations like this we minister to the Christian first, and then, hopefully, to their Jewish friend. We minister to the spiritual needs of both.



Several months ago I was called by a mom concerned about her daughter who is dating a Jewish young man. After listening for a while I encouraged her to love her daughter and at the same time stand true to her convictions, **I told her to have her daughter call me.** We prayed and that was the last time we spoke.

A few weeks ago I got a call from her daughter who expressed a strong desire to meet and tell me about her Jewish friend. Their relationship has developed into a very serious one, and she wanted to know what to do. I agreed to meet with her personally, without her boyfriend first, and so we met.

She is a sweet girl who was raised in a Christian home. Like many young people, she drifted away, and has fallen in love with a Jewish young man. **Her love for him runs deep, but she also is being tugged by the Holy Spirit in her heart.** She wants to be faithful to God, but is also drawn by her earthly relationship with this man. I could see the struggle in her eyes. However, as I spoke I could also tell that she was listening and wants help.

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We talked for a couple of hours. **I was able to tell her about my many experiences with couples who had listened to my advice and others who have not.** Over the years I have had the opportunity to counsel many Christians in emotional relationships with Jewish people who do not yet know the Lord. I have also ministered to Christians who married Jewish people hoping that their Jewish spouse would accept Jesus, but never did. And the consequences follow. We talked, she listened.

I explained to her that if she loves her Jewish friend then she needs to consider the scriptures that talk about being unequally yoked with unbelievers. It is difficult for him to see Jesus in her if she is not walking strongly with the Lord. And so I challenged her in her own walk. I explained that God want her to trust Him and Him alone.

She took a book and agreed to not only read it but talk to her Jewish boyfriend about it. **We will meet again soon, hopefully next time with her Jewish boyfriend.**

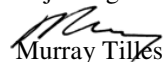
Please pray for this young Christian woman in her walk with the Lord and for her Jewish boyfriend to find Jesus.

Thank You!

Our ministry is touching the lives of many. Not only are we seeing Jewish people come to know Jesus but we are helping Jewish Christians in their unique struggles. We are also here for Christians who are in relationship with the Jewish community.

Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.

Rejoicing in Him,


Murray Tilles

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