



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

Volume 18 Issue 12

Israel Tour May 2011 online at www.lightofmessiah.org



December 2010

Visiting the Land of Israel

It is the Saturday after Thanksgiving and I was having some quiet time praying for you. I mean that. I don't know you all by name, but if you are reading this letter then you were in my prayers this morning. **I am so thankful for those who understand, even in a limited manner, the importance of Jewish ministry, the heart of God for the Jewish people, and God's love for Israel; the land and the people.** We struggle, but we survive. That land and people are a testimony to the truths, the promises, the faithfulness, and the covenants of God. What an incredible thing. And I thank God for you who read these letters, who pray for us, and who stand with our ministry.

We are going to Israel and Jordan in May of next year. It will be the first tour of which I am a part. I have been to Israel two times to do outreach. People have asked me for years to lead tours. I have never felt led in that direction. I did not want to take time away from ministry here in Atlanta. I have been before and I wanted to give my staff an opportunity to experience and learn outreach in Israel. **I do not consider our ministry a tour-leading ministry. We are an outreach ministry.** We share Jesus with Jewish people. Atlanta and the southeast is our focus. I have wanted to keep that commitment. At the same time, we have always had a presence in Israel. So I believe we have been obedient to our calling.

So why am I going now? Simply put, the doors are open, the time seems right to do something like this, and I am ready to go back. Working with Jim Reimann is a big plus. He is an accomplished author and teacher. He wrote the best-selling updated editions



of the devotionals *Streams in the Desert* and *My Utmost for His Highest*. He loves the Jewish people, understands our Jewish roots, and has been to Israel 22 times. We have become wonderful friends, and I am looking forward to working with him.

This is not going to be your typical church tour to Israel. We are certainly going to visit, and learn about, all of the biblical sites. But, I am also going to prepare everyone on the bus to know how to talk to Israelis about spiritual issues. I am sure we will have some wonderful conversations with Jewish people. Most Christians don't know how to do that. It is what I do every day!

I will also be instructing everyone on the tour how to get contacts from any Jewish people who are open to the gospel so we can have a local Israeli ministry follow up on them. We will have books to hand out and gospel tracts to give to those who are interested. No other tour does that. **Maybe God will use you to touch a Jewish person's heart.** Touring the sites and learning the Bible will be our focus. But we will keep our eyes open for

people to talk to as well!

Let me give you some other reasons why I believe going to Israel and Jordan is important for everyone who knows the Lord, if they are able...

The Bible Comes To Life

To read about places in the scriptures is one thing, to see them is another. Once you step off of the plane in Israel you begin to walk through the land of the Bible. The stories that you have heard all of a sudden come to life when you stand and look at the location where they actually occurred.

We will be visiting Caesarea (Paul's port of departure for Rome), Mt. Carmel (where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal), Megiddo, and the Valley of Armageddon. We will see Nazareth (Jesus' boyhood home) and Cana (where Jesus turned water to wine). We will visit the Mt. of Olives for a spectacular view of Holy City, travel to Masada (ancient fortress of Herod), Ein Gedi (the beautiful "Streams in the Desert" hideout of David), and visit Qumran (site of discovery of Dead Sea Scrolls and ruins of ancient Essene community). I cannot tell you the blessing of praying in Jerusalem at the Western Wall next to Temple Mount. Our itinerary is incredible.

The first time I visited Israel I was overcome with emotion as I got off of the plane and stepped onto the land of my forefathers. I wept at the Western Wall. I stood on the Mount of Olives, looked up, and thought to myself, "This is where He is going to land! There in front of me is the valley He is going to walk through. And there just ahead is the Mount where He will sit on

His throne to rule His Kingdom.”

It truly is amazing.

You Learn About a Part of the World that is Central to God's Heart and Plan

I remember looking from the city of Jerusalem and seeing Bethlehem in the distance. All of a sudden the land of the Bible became so much smaller to me. It is not a big place. From north to south Israel is only 260 miles long and 71 miles across at its widest point. It is such small place to have such impact on the world. Just like God, huh?

Israel is surrounded by other nations who are intent on her destruction. **The patriarchs lived there, the Messiah was born there, and prophetic history will culminate there.** We will stand on hills looking over Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon; the valley where Messiah and His saints will destroy the nations who gather against Israel and Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:1-13). We know Who wins! What an exciting thought!

Though Israel is a targeted land, it is also a safe land, because God is there in a special way. He has always protected the land and people of Israel to whom He made His first promises. Walking through the Old City of Jerusalem, through the Arab Quarter, and traveling the country, one truly senses the fact that Israel is special and will continue to be the focus of the world's attention.

Your Faith is Strengthened

It is impossible to go to Israel and not come back strengthened in your faith. God will meet you in Israel in a new way. You will see the biblical sites, walk where Jesus walked, interact with the people, and learn about the Bible from a different perspective. **When one tangibly interacts with the land of Israel and the people of Israel through the Word of God, it is impossible not to come away from the trip encouraged in your relationship with God.**



Traveling with me will enable you to listen in on conversations between me and Jewish people in Israel who do not yet know the Lord. You will hopefully also have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the Israeli Jewish community. It is going to be an exciting time. **You will be stretched to think, to learn, and to bring back a zeal for God and His word that translates into deeper faith when you get home.**

Once you go...you will want to go back ... again and again.

We are limiting this tour to one bus. It seats 48 people. Jim and I want to be with all of you all of the time. It will be our joy to lead you, to teach you, to answer questions, and to spend an incredible two weeks helping you to understand the Bible in the land of the Bible. Our hope is that you will leave with your faith strengthened, your love for the Lord deepened, your hunger increased, and your burden for the Jewish people and Israel magnified.

It will be a life changing trip for those of you who can join us.

How to Contact Us

**Light of Messiah Ministries
P.O. Box 501179
Atlanta, GA 31150
Phone: 770-642-4706
Fax: 770-642-0319
E-mail: lightofmessiah@yahoo.com**

www.lightofmessiah.org

Year End Giving

We could really use your financial support as we begin the new year. This year has taken a little toll on our financial bottom line. We have been good stewards and are not in any financial danger, but we have had to tap into our reserves and I want to end the year in a strong way so our complete focus can be on outreach next year. A special year end gift in support of our ministry to the Jewish people will be a blessing to us.

The Jewish people gave us Jesus. Please help us bring Jesus back to them.

Thank You!

From all of our staff ... have a blessed and Happy New Year! Thank you for loving the Jewish people. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for standing with us as we bring the message of Jesus to the Jewish community here and around the world..

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

All Donations to Light of Messiah Ministries are Tax Deductable.

You may donate online at
www.lightofmessiah.org

All gifts postmarked by December 31, 2010 will be received by January 31, 2011.