



# Light of Messiah Ministries

.....proclaiming Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!

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## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

**O**ver the years we have received many calls from Christians concerned about their Jewish friends who are battling illnesses, some of whom are terminally ill. Unfortunately many people wait until the last minute to talk to their Jewish friends about eternal issues. **So, when someone gets sick with cancer, is in a car accident, or just comes to the end of a long life, we oftentimes get a call asking for help.** We are glad to be available and I have had many opportunities to talk to people in the hospital who are Jewish and do not yet know the Lord. Of course, talking to people when they are healthy is a better option. **But, it is never too late.** Let me tell you a story...

In January I received a call from a dear Jewish Christian friend, Robert. *"Murray, my dad is in the hospital. He has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and is not doing well. I don't think he has much time left. Will you please go and visit him and talk to him about the Lord?"*

Of course, after talking to Robert about his dad, I was more than happy to visit Richard. **I met Richard for the first time in September when I delivered a Shalom Basket to him from Robert's family.** We had a very pleasant conversation back then. Though we did not talk a lot about spiritual issues, I was able to find out what Richard believed about God and what it meant to him to be Jewish. **After delivering the Shalom Basket I left, not knowing if I would ever see Richard again.**

On my way to the hospital I prayed a lot. **Hospital visits are not easy, especially when the visit involves talking to someone who is nearing death.** I



"Chai" is the Hebrew word for "life".

have done it many times, but I always feel a little uncomfortable and nervous.

**Eternal issues are not to be taken lightly.** When asked to visit someone who is dying, I know it is my job to gently and lovingly share Jesus with them. They may be gone the next day...or the next hour. I told Robert that I was going to look for the opportunity to talk to his dad about the Lord and that I would make sure that he understood the plan of salvation. If he was not interested or asked me to stop, I would do so. However, most people who are close to dying are aware of their situation. Many are open, even wanting someone to talk to them about eternal issues.

**When I got to Richard's room he welcomed me, and invited me to sit down.** Richard was a frail, elderly, man in his early 80's. He was sitting in a chair. He had lost considerable weight since I last saw him in September. His wife, Robert's stepmother, was there as well. I said hello and began to talk to Richard. *"Richard, Robert loves you and asked me to come to visit you today to talk to you about God. He wanted me to tell you how much God loves you.*

*Richard, your body is getting weaker. May I share with you some things from the Bible?" "Yes," Richard said.*

**I spoke to Richard at length about God and God's love for him.** At one point in the conversation I was interrupted by a physical therapist who politely left. Richard's wife also posed a challenge as she asked me to leave because she thought the spiritual nature of the conversation was upsetting him. **Richard asked me to stay.**

I asked Richard, *"If you could know for sure that you will spend eternity in heaven with God would you want to know?" "That is a hard question, Murray. I don't know my answer right now. But it sure does sound nice."*

Let me allow Robert, Richard's son, to tell the rest of the story...

*I always believed for my dad. I always knew in my heart that God had sustained him through his latter years, despite many health problems, so that he might receive his Messiah. We talked to Dad about our faith through the years but he had not accepted gentle overtures from my wife, my daughter, Candice, and me. Thus, every phone call that we received from the house over the past five years was wrought with the fear that this might be the phone call that said, "I'm sorry, Robert, but your father died overnight." It gnawed at me.*

*I've had the honor to minister with Light of Messiah Ministries. My wife and I have been blessed to help lead music for several Light of Messiah Passover banquets. Murray has remained a good friend through the years. Last fall, he delivered a Shalom Basket to my father for the High Holidays.*

*It was well received. Murray reported that his talk with my dad about eternal matters went well.*

***On January 13th, my dad went into the hospital with breathing problems. His air passages were getting constricted. Despite emphysema, Dad's lungs were functioning. We were all optimistic that a few days at in the hospital and he would be better.***

***A week later, Dad was not improving. We visited on Sunday, and the Lord prompted Phyllis to have me call Murray to visit again with my dad...as soon as possible. Murray came to the hospital the next day. My dad was there with my stepmother. He welcomed Murray to talk to him. Though my stepmother, in her emotional distress, tried to intervene in the conversation, my dad insisted that he wanted to talk to Murray. My stepmother decided to leave for a little while which gave Murray the opportunity to spend some alone time with my dad. He was able to talk to Dad and help him, through the Scriptures, to understand how much God loved him and how Jesus came as the Jewish Messiah.***

***Murray called me after his visit with my dad. He was apologetic about the tension with my stepmother, but said that he had done all he could. I thanked Murray, knowing that the Lord had used him that day.***

***On Thursday, my dad was getting progressively worse. I was planning to see him late that afternoon, but when Phyllis arrived, she called me immediately. Drop what you are doing at work! It is time! Come now! My dad wanted to talk to Murray again, but I did not feel as though there was time. I felt a lot of fear on my way to the hospital, but I knew in my heart that I needed to talk to my dad. I heard a still, small, voice from God promising me that He would be there, that He would give me the words, that He would give me the strength I needed.***

***God did what He promised. When I arrived at the room, the Lord opened the door for me to spend some time***



*alone with my dad. After thanking him for the many little acts of kindness and sacrifice that demonstrated his love for me over the years, I told my dad that God loves him even more than I do. Through my tears I asked him to listen and receive God's promise of heaven, through the acceptance of Jesus into his heart.*

***With my wife Phyllis in the room as a witness, my dad extended his hand in acceptance. Over the next few, waning minutes, I sang some traditional Jewish prayers to him and another song that God put in my heart. But the most important song that could be sung, the Song of Salvation, was in my father's heart! Dad soon slipped into unconsciousness and went to be with the Lord several minutes later. My dad, Richard, went to be with his Messiah on Thursday, January 26th.***

*I love you, Dad. You'll be forever in heaven...*

**Robert's father, Richard, is with Jesus now.** We praise God for Richard's decision. Our prayer is that many more Jewish people will come to know the Lord. **If you have a Jewish friend, let us know how we can help you sensitively share Jesus with him or her. We are available for you. It's never too late!**

#### How to Contact Us

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## Passover Banquet 2006

**Our annual Passover Banquet is being held at the Marriott in Alpharetta, GA on Saturday evening, April 15th.** Come join us for an incredible evening of music, food, and learning about the Jewish roots of our faith.

Last year nearly 500 people joined us for one of our most exciting nights of the year. Make your reservations now! Last year we had a waiting list, so don't procrastinate!

**We must have your reservations by  
Monday April 10th.**

**We encourage you to bring your friends and small groups as well as your Jewish friends.** Please use the enclosed order form or call our office to make reservations at 770-642-4706.

**You may also order tickets  
online at  
[www.lightofmessiah.org](http://www.lightofmessiah.org).**

## Thank You!

**It is hard to describe the blessing and joy of knowing that we, as a ministry, are impacting so many Jewish lives for the Kingdom.** I thank God we were there for Richard.

There are many other Jewish people, like Richard, who need to hear. **Because of your prayers and financial support, we are available.**

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for supporting us financially. **Thank you for helping us to "be there" to tell Jewish people about Jesus.**

Rejoicing in Him,

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