



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Corey's Memorial

**I** never knew Corey. I wish I had. The only time I got to see him was in pictures at his funeral and from his wife Nancy, whom he had just married. He seemed like a great person. Someone who I would have not only liked, but who I probably would have spent time with, gotten to know. But I never had a chance. I only knew Corey through Nancy. And I hadn't even known her for long. But I was there, our ministry was there, in a time of need. Let me tell you the story.

On December 11th I received an email:

*Dr. Don McLoud called. He has a dear Jewish friend who is terminally ill. His friend has accepted Jesus as Lord. His wife would like for someone (you) to officiate his funeral. Dr. McLoud's number is...I have spoken with Dr. McLoud and given him your cell number as well.*

I called Dr. McLoud to find out what was going on. During our conversation he related to me the story of Nancy and Corey Singer. **They had just gotten married in early August. In late August Corey was diagnosed with brain cancer.** In December Corey only had a few days to live. Corey accepted his Jewish Messiah Jesus before his wedding to Nancy and recommitted his life to the Lord just before his wedding day. But, young believer that he was, Corey had never gotten involved in church and he was also not affiliated with a synagogue. **Nancy needed my help. She had nowhere else to turn.**

I called Nancy and we spoke for a little while. She told me about how she and Corey met. It was the second marriage for both of them. She gave her life to the Lord when she was younger, but



had not been walking with Jesus. Through Corey's committing his life to Jesus, and the ordeal of his sickness, Nancy rededicated her life to the Lord. She was slowly growing in her faith. **"Murray", she said to me, "I don't know why this is happening, but I know that God is in this in some way"**. I encouraged Nancy to stay faithful and to look to the Lord for her strength. We set a time to meet.

Nancy and I met a few days later to plan Corey's memorial service. **She showed me pictures of Corey...her eyes welling with tears as she told me of her love for him and expressed grief over their shortened relationship, one in which she had so much hope.** They were both so happy to be together. To have new lives. To be growing. She told me about the fun they experienced, about his love for life and his love for others. He was in the medical profession and had given his life to help others become well. He seemed like an incredible person. I thought about how much I would have enjoyed meeting him.

**Corey did not have a lot of family**

**but Nancy and I both knew that not only were there going to be Jewish people at the memorial service, but that many of them may not know about Corey's faith.** He had not had the time to grow into a vocal witness for Jesus. He had just given his life to the Lord. **I told Nancy that my obligation to Corey, and to the Lord, was to tell people of the faith and hope that Corey had before he passed away.** Though it may come as a surprise to many people there, I had to tell others about Corey's hope in his Messiah.

**Corey passed away a few days after my meeting with Nancy.** He died peacefully with Nancy at his side. A life cut short by our timetable. But Corey's days were numbered and the Lord wanted him home.

**Funerals are not for the dead. They are for the living.** I knew that Corey's memorial service was a great opportunity to share the hope of Jesus to many. **Though it wouldn't be easy I knew what God wanted me to do.** Nancy's sister emailed her friends list after the memorial. Here are her thoughts on the memorial service...

*Dec. 22*

*Dear Friends,*

*My wonderful brother-in-law Corey Singer died last Thursday morning with my sister Nancy at his side at St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta from complications of brain cancer. He was 51.*

*The standing-room only funeral last Sunday in the light-filled chapel at Arlington Memorial Park was a testimony to Corey's remarkable life and to my sister's love for him. It was a truly*

wondrous service conducted by Murray Tilles, a Jewish believer in Jesus and director of Light of Messiah Ministries. Wearing a blue velvet yarmulke and ivory wool prayer tallit, this former Conservative Jewish man confidently and lovingly proclaimed Yeshua (Jesus) as Messiah, spoke in Hebrew and English, and sang in a chapel overflowing with friends and family.

Very thoughtful eulogies were delivered by two of Corey's friends and many other close friends served as pall-bearers. Rev. Teofil (Ted) Cocian, a St. Joseph's Hospital colleague of Corey's for nineteen years and senior pastor of First Romanian Baptist Church of Atlanta, told guests of Corey's personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and of his candid discussions with Corey before his death about the Messiah. Ted married Nancy and Corey in August which made his words particularly poignant...

As I left the memorial service I thanked the Lord for the opportunity to be there for Nancy and her family. I thanked the Lord for the chance to proclaim His truth, His hope, His comfort, to the many in attendance. I thanked the Lord that I had the opportunity, through an untimely death, to tell others about the truth of Jesus and the reality of heaven. I thanked the Lord for all of the Jewish people in attendance who may have, for the first time, heard the gospel communicated to them in a way that they could understand, from someone who was and is one of them.

I am not a pastor. I am not a rabbi. I am a missionary. But I oftentimes have the opportunity to enter into family life events just as a pastor or rabbi would. Transitions of life affect us all. It is usually during the major transitions of life that we ponder our existence, our legacies, and where we stand in relationship to eternity. **Weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, circumcision ceremonies, and funerals are opportunities for us to touch Jewish families in special ways.** We did that for Corey, Nancy, and their family.



**I have since been in touch with Nancy. She is grieving. Her heart is heavy. She misses her husband. But Nancy is also growing in her faith, going to church, attending a Bible study, and getting ministered to by some new found friends.** Corey's life touched many people. Little did he know how much his life would touch others after he went to be with his Messiah Jesus. His life touched mine.

**I never knew Corey. I wish I had. But one thing I know for sure is that I am going to see him, meet him, one day myself.** And then we will get to know each other like we could have never gotten to know each other in this lifetime because we will be together in the presence of our Messiah, worshipping Him forever.

Please pray for Nancy.

## The Sandler

Bert Sandler recently left our ministry and is moving in a new direction in his life. Bert served our ministry well and we are grateful for all that he contributed to our ministry while he was on staff. We pray God's blessings on him and his family. Please pray for them.

### How to Contact Us

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## Passover Banquet 2007

**Our annual Passover Banquet is being held at the Marriott in Alpharetta, GA on Saturday evening, April 17th.** 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 you reservations by  
Wednesday March 28th.**

**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!

**Being there for the Jewish community is what we do.** We were there for Nancy and Corey. Thank you for helping us minister to the "lost sheep of the House of Israel".

**It is our hope an prayer that, because of what we do, more Jewish people will be joining us...rejoicing with us...in heaven!**

Thank you for standing with us in our ministry so that we can bring Jesus back to the Jewish people. **Your prayers and financial support make our ministry possible.**

In the service of the King,

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