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A View From Behind the Desk

urs is a small ministry having a big impact. I am always amazed at the calls and emails we receive from people who have been touched by the work that we do. I recently received an email from a dear friend who said, "Murray, our new next door neighbors just came by and will be back for supper and to spend the night here. We talked a mile a minute and found out he had a Catholic secretary who you prayed with to accept Jesus when you spoke at their church one time in Peachtree City. Casey has done "Jesus in the Passover" at their church and his secretary has moved to Israel to reach the Jewish people there."

I was amazed and, honestly, did not remember praying with this Catholic lady to accept the Lord! Our ministry is a ministry to the Jewish people, but, as we share the Gospel, we still have many opportunities to pray with non-Jewish people to accept Christ too. And now she is involved in reaching Jewish people for Jesus! Isn't the Lord amazing?

As the director of our ministry I am in the "spotlight" more than the rest of our staff. Casey is also busy doing ministry to the Russian Jewish community and spends most of her time "out in the trenchers". I oftentimes recount her stories and give updates on the work that she is doing. I am sure very few of you know our other staff. My wife, Alana, maintains our database. Janice Scott helps schedule services for the ministry and does a few of her own. She also helps wherever help is needed and is a great support for all of us. Janine Hoffman is our administrative assistant and has been with our ministry for several years. Her behind



Janine, ministering to an elderly Jewish man in a nursing home during one of our outreaches.

the scenes work is invaluable to me and Casey. We could not do what we do without her help and support. At the end of last year I asked Janine to give her view from behind the desk. Following are her words...

Dear faithful partners and friends,

Shalom and Happy New Year from Light of Messiah Ministries,

Most of you do not know me but I am very much aware of you. I have been working with Light of Messiah Ministries in their administrative office for over three years.

I am responsible for many things in my day-to-day activities but my very favorite tasks are the ones that involve you! I have the privilege of processing our financial support both through the mail and on line. Each week, I am blessed, amazed and encouraged by the love and support of this ministry's faithful friends. I know that these are very difficult times for all of us. However, I continue to see the openness of God's people to hear His heart's cry for the lost sheep of Israel. You are looking beyond your circumstances to the word of God when he tells us "to the Jew first", giving sacrificially to enable us to minister in the way that God directs.

ECFA

It is both an encouraging and humbling experience each time I open your envelopes. Not a week goes by when I don't get a small note, card, or letter telling me how much you love and support us, how much you pray for us and how much you love the Jewish people. I have been the recipient of some vey powerful prayers through these notes and I have had the blessing of being able to pray for some of your needs as well.

I also have the privilege of working along side some of you as volunteers as we minister together in our community. What joy it is when I finally meet with some of our prayer warriors as we take prayer walks through local Jewish neighborhoods together. Or, when we are serving our Jewish brothers and sisters by singing songs and performing dramas, joining them in dance and making meals together. Thanks to all of you who have given of your talents and time to touch God's chosen people.

Let me tell you a story of just one Jewish life you have touched through our ministry. During our summer outreach this year we spent an afternoon entertaining and loving a special group of Russian Jewish people. During our time there I was approached by one of our sweet Russian ladies who told me in broken English how very kind people are here in America, how nice we all

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A special thank you goes out to everyone who sponsored Shalom and Hanukkah baskets. It is because of you that Casey was able to bless her entire ESL classes with Rosh Hashanah baskets that included gospel literature in their native tongue. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly our supporters respond to a plea for help when we have special needs in the community we serve.

talk to Jewish people about Jesus, too!

Working from behind the desk here at Light of Messiah Ministries also gives me to the opportunity to see how God is at work among the Jewish people as I hear the stories from Murray and Casey. I get to hear, firsthand, how God is touching the lives of Jewish people, the stories of Jewish people accepting their Messiah, and the accounts of Christians who are being helped with their witness to their Jewish friends. I am oftentimes amazed at the stories of divine appointments and how the Lord is leading our staff to the right people and putting them in the right situations for His glory!

During our staff meetings we pray for all of the people to whom we are ministering and ask God for more fruit from our efforts. It excites me to know that I am a part of helping Jewish people come to know Jesus even though my role is one of help and support.

There are so many other stories that I wish could share with you about how God is using you in the lives of the Jewish people by praying for our ministry and supporting our efforts. Instead I will leave you with this. I Corinthians 12 tells us that we are the body of Christ, different parts, but we make up one body. Each part of that body is vital to the kingdom. John 4 tells us that one man sows and another reaps and



that the one who sows and the one who reaps will be glad together. We are partners, some of us sow, some of us put our hand to the plow, some of us pray without ceasing, but we ALL reap the harvest. Light of Messiah Ministries could not do what we do without you. We are all necessary in the plan that God has for His people.

Not a dollar that you give, not a prayer that you send up to heaven, not a minute of the time you spend ministering and blessing God's people will be in vain. Everyone one of you is special and a vital part of God's plan to bring in His own.

I wish that I could meet each of you personally but that does not seem likely. For now I just want to say...thank you!! May God abundantly bless and keep you throughout the coming year!

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How to Contact Us

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Passover Seder Services

For the last 15 years we have hosted a Light of Messiah Ministries Passover Seder Banquet at a local Marriott hotel. Many of you have attended our annual Passover banquets and we always looked forward to that special event. After 15 years of our Passover Banquet Celebration, we are breaking with tradition this year.

Due to the struggling economy and the high price of reservations hosting our Passover at a hotel, we have decided to host Passover Banquets at several local churches and invite you to join us. Please invite your friends, Sunday school classes, small groups, and Jewish friends who do not yet know the Lord. <u>A partial list of churches is below</u>. Please contact us or the church for more information. Reservations will be necessary. More information will follow and be posted on our web site.

Sunday March 7th Peachtree City Christian Church

Thursday March 18th Perimeter Church, Duluth

Friday March 19th Norcross First Baptist Church

Friday, March 26th First Baptist Snellville

Saturday, March 27th Atlanta Vineyard Church, Norcross



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,

