



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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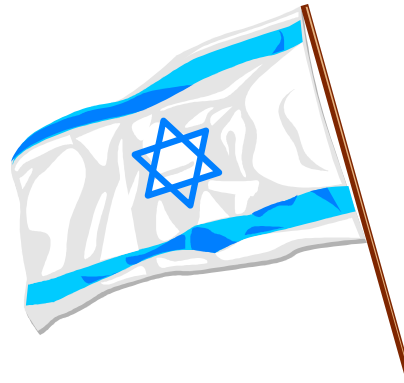
June 2008

Evangelism in Israel

I recently had lunch with a prominent pastor of a large and influential church in Atlanta. I was telling him about our ministry among the Jewish people. I mentioned that I had been to Israel to do evangelism on a couple of occasions. I also told him that our ministry was going to be co-laboring with our friends in Jews for Jesus during their five year campaign to reach every major city in Israel with the gospel. **I explained that the next few years are critical for evangelism in Israel and that the current outreach plans by Jews for Jesus are, in effect, laying the foundation for the greatest and most extensive proclamation of the gospel in Israel in 2000 years.**

After a few minutes sharing my excitement over our upcoming partnership with Jews for Jesus in Israel the pastor looked at me and said, "*Evangelism is illegal in Israel.*" "Pastor," I said, "*that is a common misconception, however, evangelism is not only legal, but protected by the government of Israel. I have been there myself to do evangelism. I have friends and even family who do evangelism in Israel. It surely isn't illegal.*" After several more minutes of conversation the pastor explained to me that he had always heard it was illegal and that his "sources" told him it was. His tour guide and others he had spoken to confirmed what he had heard. He never really believed me or understood what I was saying. "*I will have to look into it myself;*" was his last comment.

Our conversation broke my heart for several reasons. **However, the most important reason for my grief was that the pastor of a very influential church, who takes tours to Israel, would think it illegal to share the gos-**



pel there. I can only imagine how many other Christians go to Israel and are either are afraid to share the Gospel or never do because they think it illegal.

Jewish people in the land of Israel are ripe for the Gospel of Messiah. Though there is oftentimes opposition to overt proclamation of the gospel by some in the orthodox Jewish community, the sentiment of the majority of Israelis is different. Of all of the nations on the face of our planet the land of Israel and the people of Israel are central to the heart and plans of God. **We have to tell them about Jesus.**

Casey represented Light of Messiah Ministries in Israel last month as the five year Jews for Jesus evangelistic campaign was commissioned and began in Tel Aviv. She spent nearly a month there. Two weeks were spent in training and two weeks were spent on the street doing evangelism (the entire outreach lasted for six weeks, two of which were training).

All of the outreach workers in Israel were trained in Israeli culture and history, on answering questions from Israelis, and even in dealing with oppo-

sition both verbal and physical. The training was invaluable as Orthodox opposition was, at times, organized and intense. But the fruit was worth the effort.

Casey prayed with two Jewish people to accept the Lord (Sarah and Shlomo) and one Muslim man to accept the Lord (Osama). She had many other Jewish people give her information for follow-up. The missionaries distributed literature, gave away New Testaments on the street, put posters up around the city of Tel Aviv, and called Jewish people from the phone book. The ultimate goal...to bring the message of Messiah Jesus to every Jewish person in the land of Israel.

During her time there Casey and her coworkers (over 30 people participated) distributed 131,000 pieces of literature (including New Testaments), 30 Jewish people prayed to accept Jesus and 2 non-Jewish people accepted the Lord. Over 2300 Jewish people gave their names for further information and follow-up.

Outreach in Israel is not without opposition. **I have enclosed a very recent article from the Atlanta Journal Constitution which reports on some of the Jewish response from our recent efforts in the Land.** Dan Sered, the director of Jews for Jesus in Israel is a dear friend and is quoted in the article. The article gives one journalistic take on outreach in Israel and the reaction from the religious Jewish community.

Next month I have asked Casey to report on her experiences in Israel. **This month I would like to share some of my thoughts on Jewish evangelism in the land of Israel.**

Evangelism in Israel is not illegal. Israel is a free and democratic country. Free speech and exercising one's religion is allowed and encouraged. Many Christian denominations have outreach centers in the land of Israel though few of them are doing direct evangelism to the Jewish community. **Because of opposition and the political incorrectness of Jewish evangelism, many Christian organizations in Israel prefer to do humanitarian work at the expense of a direct proclamation of the gospel of Messiah Jesus.** This is tragic. However there are those doing outreach and evangelism in Israel. Messianic congregations are also active in Israel. Some do outreach, although most congregations in Israel, like churches in the United States, depend on people coming to them rather than them going out to reach the lost.

Believers who go to Israel may not only talk to others about Jesus, but should talk to others about Jesus. If you ever go to Israel you may bring Christian materials with you and distribute them to Israelis. Do not be concerned about taking tracts or New Testaments to give to people you encounter. Christians are welcome. Israel wants to maintain a good relationship with the Christian community. **If you go to Israel, please talk to my people about Jesus.**

Israel needs to be reached with the gospel. The doors are still open. The Israeli Jewish community is open to the message. Of course there are those who oppose the proclamation of the gospel in the Land, but the modern Israeli is secular and in search of answers. **Because of tensions and conflicts in the Middle East, Israelis are looking for answers.** They are looking for hope. They are looking for peace. As tensions in the Middle East increase many will turn to Jesus as the answer. **We must be in Israel pointing Jewish people to Messiah.**

We need to pray for believers in the land of Israel. Jewish people who accept Jesus do come under pressure. Jewish believers in Jesus are persecuted and even attacked. **Recently a young**



Jewish boy from a messianic family was severely injured by a package bomb that he opened at his home. Messianic congregations have come under attack from some in the Orthodox Jewish community. **A few religious legislators and politicians are trying to make the proclamation of the gospel illegal in the land and remove Jewish Christians from Israel.** The Jewish Christian community in Israel desperately need our prayers.

Pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for the gospel to be proclaimed in the land of Jesus. For 2000 years the Jewish people have been a neglected minority by Christian missions. **Israel, the center of Jewish life and culture, needs to be reached with the gospel.** Efforts are increasing in Israel and yet there is still opposition from the Jewish community and misunderstanding by Christians. **We must pray that the church will stand in support of Jewish evangelism in Israel and around the world.**

Pray that Jewish people (and Arabs) will be open to the life changing message of Jesus, the only one who can bring true peace to the Middle East.

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Most people around the world are hoping and praying for peace in the Middle East. Geopolitical solutions are being sought. Government leaders gather to work out solutions. Think tanks ponder the way to peace.

However, peace will never come until we recognize that true peace can only be realized through a relationship with God...and a relationship with God can only come through knowing the Prince of Peace...Jesus. He is the only hope for peace. He is the only solution to the problem which besets the Middle East.

We are bringing the message of Jesus to the people and country of Jesus because we know that true peace can only be found in Him.

Please pray for us, for Jews for Jesus, and for other ministries bringing Jesus to Jewish people in Israel.

Thank You!


Thank you for standing with us as we ministry along side Jews for Jesus in Israel. Please pray that those Jewish people who are accepting Jesus through our efforts will grow in their walk with Him.

We are so excited about the fruit we are seeing in the Jewish community. Our summer is filled with more outreach plans. We will be ministering throughout Atlanta, Poland, and Russia.

Thank you for loving the Jewish people. Thank you for praying. Thank you for standing with us as we bring Jesus back to the Jewish community.

As always, 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