



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Ministry in Israel 2009

Casey just returned home from ministry in Israel. She spent three weeks there working with our friends in Jews for Jesus who have embarked on a five year outreach campaign called "Behold Your God Israel". Their goal over the next five years is to reach the Israeli Jewish community in every major city in Israel. Last year Casey ministered in Tel Aviv. This year she worked along side Jews for Jesus in several cities south of Tel Aviv.

During her three weeks on the streets of Israel Casey, along with the rest of the workers from Jews for Jesus and other ministries, distributed tracts, put banners up on sign posts, called Jewish people on the telephone, and talked to people on the street corners, about Jesus. Casey writes, *"We have Jewish missionaries here from all over the globe on our team. There are people from Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Australia, United States, Russia, and Ethiopia. The mix of languages and testimonies and stories are all just something incredible to behold. Together we are sharing the joy and the hardships, and it is all because of our great love for our Jewish brothers and sisters and desire for them to know their Messiah."* The fruit from the outreach was incredible. Jewish people responded to the message. **Thousands of tracts were distributed, 716 people gave their names for further contact, and fourteen Jewish people prayed to accept Jesus as Messiah right on the street!** In Israel, one does not have to search for a Jewish person to talk to. Almost everyone is Jewish!

This year was a little different than last year because along with the blessings and fruit from the ministry in Is-



rael came opposition to the work that we were doing. Its not like there was no opposition last year, but this year the opposition was much stronger and intense.

Please understand that the opposition to the proclamation of the Gospel did not come from the majority of Jewish people in Israel. Most Jewish people there either don't care, or are open to the message of Jesus. However there are those in the religious, Orthodox, community who organize to oppose the work. Their goal is to block, distract, and prevent the proclamation of the message of Jesus to the Jewish community. They believe that they are saving Jewish individuals from spiritual destruction. And so, they truly do not know what they are doing. **As we reach out here and in Israel, we pray for those who persecute us and ask God to bring them to salvation.**

We do not experience a lot of opposition to our work here in Atlanta. In a sense we fly under the radar of the Jewish community. **Our most fruitful ministry here in Atlanta comes through our relationship with the church and individual Christians.**

However, during our summer outreach season and occasionally throughout the year we literally "hit the streets" with the message of Jesus. Some may consider street ministry or tract distribution passé, old school, outdated, or ineffective. **But we always find that whether we are working with Jews for Jesus in Israel, New York, or as we did in Florida earlier this year, seeds are planted and fruit produced from our street ministry.** Jewish people are presented with the message of Jesus. **And Jews people come to the Lord!**

Opposition to the proclamation of the gospel is sometimes a result of street ministry. It can be challenging, But, opposition has its positive results as well. Let me explain.

Opposition Creates Opportunity

Just as in the Book of Act, where there is opposition there is opportunity. Throughout the outreach in Israel whenever opposition occurred an opportunity arose to tell people about Jesus. Several times crowds gathered to see what was going on. **In the course of watching an altercation Jewish people who do not yet know their Messiah were able to see and witness believers who were being challenged on account of their faith.** Conversations ensued. People saw Jesus. Workers on the outreach were encouraged to use any opposition as an opportunity to talk to people even more about Messiah. Casey describes what happened on one of their outings. This scene was repeated several times over the course of three weeks. She says, *"One of the girls on our team began to get assaulted. We called for the police. The call for police sort of scared the orthodox guys from coming to her, so she got to her*

feet, and began just preaching the gospel to the crowd....it was so powerful! I'm so proud of her!!! The crowd all began to listen to her, and the gospel was shared and most likely received even better because they had all witnessed the attack and yet, the team was still sharing Jesus and His love for them! Halleluiah! You just want to shout it out!!!!"

"Tsacki and his team also were attacked, but towards the end of their outing, so all in all, the enemy did not prevail in trying to stop us today! And, again, 3 Jewish people received Jesus today, so, wow, right? Wow."

Opposition Produces Faith

In the midst of opposition our faith is stretched and strengthened. **God uses the difficulties of opposition to focus our direction on Him.** He is the source of our strength. He is the source of comfort. He is the source of hope. He is the source of fruit for His Kingdom's sake! Throughout the Israel outreach we saw the strength of the team grow and their faith deepened.

Casey writes, "One might think, gosh....this is crazy....is it worth it? And all I can say is....if Jesus is true and He is the Messiah.....and He is the only way to God....then that means He's for everyone....and that includes the Jewish people. And Israel is a nation of Jewish people. People Jesus wept over. People He never wanted us to forget....He wants us to not forget to take the gospel back to the very people through whom the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob gave us our beloved scriptures and our Messiah, Jesus! This is an entire nation of lost people who are dearly loved by our Lord! We prayed over them this very morning, with tears and weeping....for those who have persecuted us.....because oh, they are so without hope.

Is it worth it? As Paul says in Romans 9:1-4a "I speak the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit-I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were



cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel..."

Unceasing anguish. Think about an entire nation....without hope in Jesus. Lost. Without peace. Without forgiveness. We need to have unceasing anguish over this nation. There can be no peace in Jerusalem, as so many are fond of saying "pray for the peace of Jerusalem", until Messiah brings peace to Jerusalem. And it begins in the heart of His people....the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Opposition Fosters Unity

Opposition, if viewed through a biblical lens, brings the Body together. **Through opposition and struggles we are forced to lean on one another for strength.** It forces us to lift each other up. It happened in Israel.

Casey writes, "Tonight, after everyone safely returned for stories and debriefing and postcards (we write 10 a day to thank people who are praying for us and standing with us on the outreach) we were all so encouraged by the sto-

ries of God's sustaining us, and how the gospel was not stopped. It was kind of funny though because people were sitting with ice packs and poor Igor.... red choke marks on his neck....and nobody was scared away or wanting to stop. We prayed together for those who saw us, talked to us with interest or with anger, and those who persecuted us....and it was like the Holy Spirit was just sweeping through the room and comforting us all and encouraging us all and lifting our heads.

Granted, we are tired. And wounded. Pressed but not crushed. Persecuted but not abandoned. Struck down, but not destroyed. The scriptures come to life....and it is good. Israel needs Jesus their Messiah.....and we will not be deterred from bringing Him to them. (I say that now....pray to God He sustains me tomorrow- I am so weak!!!)"

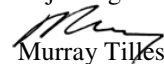
Casey and the other missionaries in Israel, along with the ministry team led by Jews for Jesus, finished strong. The Gospel was proclaimed through the opposition. Please pray for the follow up teams who are still in Israel ministering to those who were interested. **Casey's full journal can be accessed on our web site.**

Thank You!

Summer ministry and outreach is going well. We have many other upcoming events planned here in Atlanta. We are meeting with Jewish people. We are planting gospel seeds and working hard. Your prayers sustained Casey through her time in Israel. Please continue to lift us during this busy outreach time.

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,


Murray Tilles

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