



Light of Messiah Ministries

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

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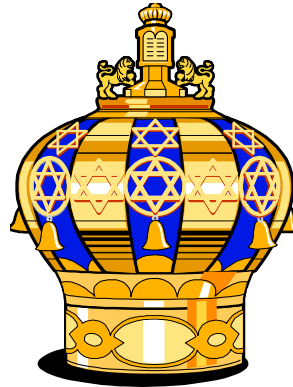
Ministering to the Elderly

Ministering to the elderly is a special part of what we do. God has opened many doors for us to bring the shalom (the peace) of Jesus to older Jewish people. Last year we reported on our nursing home ministries that are being overseen by Bert Sandler. He and his family have a big heart for the elderly. **Bert has done a great job of coordinating our ministry to the Jewish elderly of Atlanta. Every week he is meeting with several Jewish people who are in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.** Casey Grist, our office manager, has also had the opportunity to visit with a special Jewish lady.

Elderly people are always excited to see us. Most Jewish rabbis and many family members do not visit them very often. They are lonely and look forward to talking to someone. Some of them are open to spiritual issues and others just like to talk about their families or current events. **It is an important fact that our ministry is there during their twilight years to help them understand that God loves them and that Jesus truly is our Messiah.** This month I have asked Bert and Casey to share their stories of ministry to elderly Jewish people:

Bert's Story

Visiting Jewish people in nursing homes is one of my favorite aspects ministry. Not only do I get to meet with elderly Jewish people to talk to them about Jesus, but I am also able to help them during a time in life when they need encouragement. It is an aspect of ministry that I can get my whole family involved in. Sometimes I will bring my children and wife with me. The nursing



home residents really enjoy having young people around. Meeting with the residents gives us an opportunity to build relationships with them and show them our care. **Many of the residents are sick and have very little hope. It is my desire that they understand the love of God and receive the peace and hope that only Messiah Jesus can give.**

One bible study I teach at a local nursing home began about five months ago. I was initially invited to speak by the daughter of a Jewish resident. Both she and her mom know Jesus and they both have a heart for the people at the facility. I spoke to the Activity Director of the home and found out that there were nine other Jewish people at that facility. Most of the residents had never read the Bible before. We began with the book of Genesis – the Book of Beginnings. When I started I had three Jewish people attending who do not yet know the Lord, the one Jewish resident and her daughter who had invited me, along with five or six other people. It didn't take long for word to spread that I was teaching the book of Genesis and that I was bringing donuts!

The study began to grow and we added a few more people. Some new Jewish residents, Miriam, Ruth, and June began to attend. None of them were very open to the gospel at first, but they did like hearing the stories of the Creation, the Jewish Patriarchs, and God's relationship with the Jewish people. The Old Testament stories began to come alive to them. Some residents loved to talk. Others preferred to stay quiet. Even when the residents were mostly quiet, I knew that God would use His Word to touch hearts.

Studying the Passover was fun for us all. **I was able to show them how the story of the Exodus points to our need for atonement. I showed them how Jesus became our Passover Lamb.** His blood covers our lives when we apply it just as the blood of the lambs of the Israelites covered their homes during the tenth plague. We learned the lesson that listening to God would bring blessings, but not listening will bring trouble.

When we got to Genesis Chapter 21, which is the story of the binding of Isaac by his father Abraham, I felt the Lord leading in a very special way. To me, this story is one of the clearest and best pictures of the substitutionary death of our Messiah. Although they had all heard the gospel before, I knew that this was a fantastic opportunity to tie it into the Messiah Jesus. **Abraham's obedience to God and Isaac's willingness to lay on the altar spoke to us all.** Then I showed them how God provided another sacrifice. The ram that God provided to Abraham is another picture of God's provision for us.

After a few minutes I asked if anyone wanted to accept Jesus as the One who

died for their sins. Like so many times before, no one said a word. Then, Miriam looked up and said, *"I do."* Really? Miriam? And then Ruth and Olga told me that they wanted to accept Jesus as their Messiah, too! **Three Jewish ladies at the study accepted the Lord that day! I was overwhelmed! Five other ladies, including the Activities Director, wanted to accept Jesus as well.** We all prayed together. I rejoiced in my heart at the incredible way that God moved that day. Experiencing all of those ladies accepting Jesus was one of the most exiting events that has happened to me in ministry.

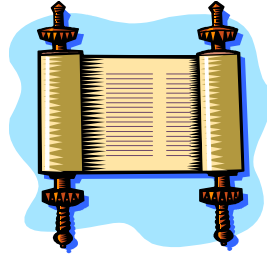
June is a Jewish woman who did not pray along with the other women. She told me that she just could not accept Jesus. Miriam and Ruth were sitting next to her as we spoke. She said, *"I am just not ready to stop being Jewish. Believing in Jesus is something Jewish people cannot do!"* Before I could say a word, Miriam turned to her and replied, *"Sweetie, of course you can believe in Jesus and be Jewish – I do."*

Please pray for these women. Pray that they will continue to grow in their faith and that the enemy will not be able to stop us from continuing to minister at this facility.



Casey's Story

Edith had quite a figure in her day. She was always in control, a career woman, decisive, and always helping others. But these days, Edith is losing control, and it has become very difficult for her. Edith is an 86 year old Jewish lady. She is homebound, unable to walk, and diabetic. She has no family. She has no Messiah to turn to.



Edith was referred to us from a Christian friend. **The first time I met Edith in person was when I was delivering her a Shalom Basket during Rosh Hashanah.** Since that time I have been seeing Edith at least once a week, tending to whatever needs I can to help her out.

I do a lot for Edith. I go grocery shopping and pick up her medications from the pharmacy. I have even soaked support hose that have adhered to wounds on legs that never seem to heal. **All the while I tell her again and again of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah who loves her and died for her.** Sometimes Edith is adamant that she was born a Jew and will die a Jew, and Jews don't believe in Jesus. Other times, she is open and tender to listen about the Messiah. Edith loves to pray with me, and she loves to talk to me on the phone, especially when she is feeling blue.

I have watched Jesus strip away her control issues layer by layer, so that she will seek Him. She is very stubborn, however. Please, join me in prayer, that when Jesus comes to take Edith home, that she will be ready and prepared to meet Him. I have grown very attached to this precious lady. I want to be with her one day in heaven, for all eternity.

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Summer Outreach

Please pray for us over the next three months. We have many outreach events planned. Pray for strength, wisdom, and fruit as we prepare to bring Jesus to the Jewish community this summer. Our Summer Harvest Outreach will run from June 23rd through July 4th.

Thank You!

If there is one thing that I hope is communicated through this letter, it is that we are involved in Jewish people's lives.

- ◆ We are involved personally.
- ◆ We are involved through families.
- ◆ We are involved through the lives of Christians who call us for help.

If there is another thing that I hope is communicated through this letter, it is that we care for our Jewish people.

- ◆ We care enough to bring the Gospel to them.
- ◆ We care enough to carry their burdens with them.
- ◆ We care enough to help Christians with their Jewish friends.

Thank you for keeping us involved in Jewish people's lives. You touch many lives through us. Whether we are on a college campus or in a nursing home, we are there. **Your prayers and financial support under gird what we do.** Thank you so much. We have a busy summer planned. Please keep us in your prayers.

Serving Him,

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