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What We Do....And Don't Do

've never been good at beating around the bush, so I'm not going to start now. I love my Jewish people. Please take the time to read the entire letter this month. And please listen to what's on my heart..

Our ministry has a single focus. We want to bring Jesus back to the Jewish people. When I say "back to the Jewish people" it is not as though they understand we are bringing Him "back". I am stating the fact that He came to us through the Jewish community. He is one of THEM. They gave Him to us. They just don't recognize it...yet. Of course, there are many individual Jewish people coming to know Jesus as Messiah. But, as a community the Jewish people will not accept Jesus and recognize His Messiahship until He reveals Himself in glory at His Second Coming (Zech. 12:10). Until then, we work with Jewish people one, by one, by one.

We do not feed the homeless, take care of orphans, teach English as a second language, build houses, school the unschooled, or counsel single pregnant women. We do not do prison ministry (unless there is a Jewish person in prison), take school supplies to the needy, or cloth the naked. We don't do those things because Jewish people are not in need of food, clothing, or **shelter.** Jewish people are, for the most part, well educated, financially secure, and live in nice homes. Materially, the Jewish community is well taken care of and have been blessed by God. All Jewish people need...IS JESUS.

We have a big job...a difficult job. It is our job to help people understand the great need for Jewish outreach when



Pray the Lord of the Harvest will give us more fruit from our labor.

there are no visible physical needs within the Jewish community. You see, it is human nature to want to see the physical results of what we give. Let me explain. My family has given clothes to homeless people and food to the hungry. When we give, especially if we give directly ourselves, we can see the results of our giving immediately. We receive instant gratification (even though instant gratification is not why we give...it still feels good). We know that what we have given immediately impacted that person or family by the look on the person's face, by their expression of gratitude, and by their words of thanks. If we give to a ministry who ministers to those in physical need we can see the pictures of clothed people, houses built, or inner city children having fun at a summer camp. It is all needed, beautiful, ministry. People are being touched both materially AND spiritually.

Our ministry is a little different. I can't show anyone pictures of Jewish individuals who we have physically fed or clothed. I can't show anyone pictures of a new home we built for a homeless Jewish family, or the faces of Jewish children who's lives have been touched by a summer camp we provide

for underprivileged Jewish kids. I can't because those Jewish people do not exist here in the United States (for the most part).

I can't show you pictures of us feeding the hungry with physical food...or clothing the naked with physical clothes. But, I can tell you stories of how we feed hungry Jewish people with the Word of God and clothe (spiritually) naked Jewish people with the righteousness of Jesus!

- I can tell you that Casey prayed with two Jewish people to accept Jesus last month.
- I can tell you that 13 Jewish people and 10 non-Jewish people accepted the Lord through our ministry this year.
- I can tell you about the Jewish nursing home residents who are forgotten, even by their families, that are receiving the Word of God each week at our bible studies.
- I can tell you about the Jewish woman I met recently who listened to my testimony, read Isaiah 53 for the first time, and took a testimony book.
- I can tell you about the numerous college students who have Jewish friends who are calling our ministry for help.
- I can tell you about the churches and individuals who are using our ministry as a resource.

There are times I get frustrated. I feel that ministries like ours get lost

in the vast array of other ministries sharing the gospel and doing humanitarian work at the same time. "All" we do is evangelism. Sometimes I attend missions conferences where I feel like an afterthought. Or, we are overlooked because we are a local ministry and do not "go overseas" to share the Gospel. In Jewish ministry we do not have to cross literal oceans...we have to cross oceans of misunderstanding. Jewish ministry is not the "glamorous" ministry these days. I don't know if we ever have been...really.

It is our job to help people remember that the Jewish community was not overlooked by Jesus or the Apostle **Paul.** In fact, Jewish people were the focus of Jesus' efforts. They have always had a special place in God's heart and plan. It is an unfortunate reality that the Jewish community is, today, an overlooked people group. Yet, Jesus sent His disciples out beginning in Jerusalem...because Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life in that day. He told His disciples to go to "the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel". Paul, as an "apostle to the Gentiles" always began his ministry in the synagogue, to Jewish people first, and always communicated his great love for his people and desire to "see them saved".

The church began as a Jewish movement. If it were not for the Jewish people we would not have what we have as Christians. They have given us so much. We OWE it to the Jewish people to bring Jesus back to them.

I am writing this letter to passionately ask you to pray about how the Lord would have you be involved in our ministry as we come to the end of the year. We are having a great impact among the Jewish people in Atlanta and the southeast. We want to expand our efforts to the Jewish community and through the church. I believe God wants us to be even more effective, more visible, more fruitful.

As a ministry we are working very hard to "take the rough edges" off of Jewish evangelism. We realize that most people have a difficult time shar-



ing the gospel with anyone let alone their Jewish friends, coworkers, or business associates. We recognize the fact that people are scared to talk to Jewish people about Jesus. We constantly battle the false teaching that Jewish people are not in need of Jesus to go to heaven because they are "God's Chosen People".

However, we will not be dissuaded or **discouraged.** We are developing more strategies to get the church and individual believers involved in "bringing Jesus back to the Jewish people". Some of the events and programs which we are doing such as prayer walking, visiting local synagogues with interested Christians, or cleaning a vandalized Jewish section of a cemetery, produce evangelistic fruit...it gets people involved. Other outreaches such as our Shalom Basket outreach builds bridges between Christians and their Jewish friends. Gospel sharing is fostered and encouraged. We are helping numerous believers, on an ongoing basis, share Jesus with their Jewish friends. And, of course, our staff is always meeting with Jewish people one on one, to bring the Good News of Messiah to them.

"All" we do is evangelism. I put "all" in quotation marks because, in our estimation, the most important thing we can do for anyone is bring them Jesus. We are working hard to bring Messiah Jesus back to the community, the people, He loved so much.

How to Contact Us

Light of Messiah Ministries P.O. Box 501179 Atlanta, GA 31150 Phone: 770-642-4706 Fax: 770-642-0319

E-mail: lightofmessiah@yahoo.com

Thank You!

Your prayers and financial support make it possible for us to do what we do. Can we do it without you? Well, God can! If we were silenced then the rocks would cry out! But He wants to use you to help us.

We want to thank you for blessing us. Thank you for being a part of what we do. Thank you for reaching deep to help us bring Jesus back to the Jewish people.

As we near the end of the year please remember how important our work is. Thank you for your faithful support.

You are appreciated!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,

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

All Contributions to <u>Light of Messiah</u> <u>Ministries</u> are Tax Deductible.

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All gifts <u>post-</u> <u>marked by</u> December 31, 2006 will be receipted by January 31, 2007.