



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Jewish Ministry In Focus

**I** have spent all of my adult life talking to Jewish people about Jesus and helping Christians reach their Jewish friends with the message. I love my Jewish people. That is why I want them to know Messiah. There is a growing move in the church today to help Israel politically (a good thing) and to help Jewish people in need (especially in Israel...also a good thing). However, we need to keep our priorities straight.

**Our ministry has a single focus. We want to take Jesus back to the Jewish people.** There are many individual Jewish people now coming to know Jesus as Messiah. But the Jewish people will not accept Jesus and recognize His Messiahship, as a fully restored community, 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 hungry, take care of orphans, or build homes for the homeless.** We do not do prison ministry (unless there is a Jewish person in prison), take school supplies to underprivileged children, or clothe the naked. We do not do these things because Jewish people, for the most part, are not in need of food, clothing, or shelter. **My people only need one thing, and that is Jesus.**

Over the past several years we have expanded our ministry to the Russian Jewish community. We do help them to learn English, and at the same time tell them about their need for Jesus. **We take them to special events, hold holiday services for them, and tell them about Jesus. But again, our focus is the gospel. On her recent trip to Bela-**



**rus, Casey saw 51 Jewish people give their lives to Messiah! Amazing! God is at work. We have to stay focused.**

**We have a big job...a difficult job. It is our job to help others understand the great need for Jewish outreach when there are no visible needs within the Jewish community, especially here in America.** My people are broken without Jesus; we just can't see their brokenness. And, it is human nature to want to see the physical results of what we give. Unfortunately, this reality is becoming more of a focus of the church today in outreach and missions. **Our society is becoming more "instant gratification" motivated at an exponentially rapid rate.** Let me explain.

Many give clothes to homeless people and food to the hungry. When we do those things, especially if we give with our own hands, 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 the person or family by the look on that person or family'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, or 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.** It is difficult for us to show you pictures of Jewish individuals who we have physically clothed and fed. I can't show anyone pictures of a new home we built for a homeless Jewish family. 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 countless stories of how we feed hungry Jewish people with the Word of God and clothe (spiritually) naked Jewish people with the righteousness of Jesus. Here are only a few...**

- I can tell you that Casey has Bible studies with Russian Jewish men and women every week who are hungry to hear God's truth.
- I can tell you that two Jewish ladies accepted Jesus after Passover services this year.
- I can tell you two Jewish men accepted Jesus in North Carolina through a Christian who shared our newsletter with them.
- I can tell you about an Orthodox Jewish man with whom I had dinner who was fascinated by the prophecies of Jesus I showed him in the Old Testament.

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

in the vast array of other ministries doing political and humanitarian work. Most don't share the truth of Jesus with Jewish people at all. "All" we do is evangelism. Perhaps, people think, we do not go overseas enough. **In Jewish ministry we do not have to cross literal oceans. We have to cross oceans of misunderstanding. Even well meaning Christians misunderstand.**



Some committed believers are sending millions of dollars to a Jewish unbeliever, Yechiel Eckstein, with the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, thinking they are supporting the proclamation of the gospel to the Jewish people. **They're not.** Yechiel Eckstein is a Jewish rabbi, who does NOT believe in Jesus, and is radically opposed to sharing Jesus with Jewish people. He is not a friend of Jesus or the gospel. The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews is doing benevolent work in Israel, but is opposed to the truth of the New Testament. **One should wonder why so many Christians are giving to them?** If only a fraction of those who give to him would give to a Jewish ministry like ours we could put more missionaries on the ground.

**We want to help people remember that Jesus and the Apostle Paul did not overlook the Jewish community.** The "spiritual lostness" of Israel was their main concern. Jewish people were the focus of Jesus' efforts. He sent His disciples out beginning in Jerusalem ... because Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life in His 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 the Jew first. He communicated his great love for his people and desire to "see them saved".

**As we watch the world abandon Israel and target Jerusalem, we need to be even more intent on taking the message of Jesus to Jewish people who need to hear.** If it were not for the Jewish people we would not have what we have as Christians. Jesus said, "*Salvation is from the Jews*". We OWE it to the Jewish people to "provoke them to jealousy" and take Jesus back to them.

**I am writing this letter to passionately ask you to pray about how the Lord would have you support our ministry as we come to the end of the year, and move into next.** We are having great impact among the Jewish people in Atlanta and the southeast. We are touching Jewish people from Russia and around the world. I believe God wants us to be even more effective, more visible, and more fruitful. **We need your financial support. We need your prayers. Can you help us reach the Jewish community for Jesus?**

**As a ministry we are working very hard to "take the rough edges" off of Jewish evangelism.** We are continuing to develop strategies to get the church and individuals involved in "taking Jesus back to the Jewish people". We are expanding our efforts and refocusing on events and programs such as prayer walking and visiting local synagogues with interested Christians to engage them with the Jewish community.

Other outreaches such as our Shalom Basket outreach builds bridges of communication between Christians, their Jewish friends, and our ministry. 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 share the Good News of Messiah with 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 take Jesus to them!

## **THANK YOU!**

Please help us take Jesus back to the Jewish people. They have given us so much. They need Him. I don't ask for your special help very often. Now is the time.

**Thank you for sending us out to the Jewish community with that message of peace and salvation in Jesus.** May the Lord richly bless you!

With thanksgiving in Messiah,

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

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