



Light of Messiah Ministries

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

Volume 14 Issue 10



October 2006

Shalom Basket Thoughts

Our Shalom Basket Outreach concluded a couple of weeks ago. **I hope I can find the words to express to you the incredible impact that this ministry has on the lives of Jewish people, and on the Christians who send the baskets.** Watching young people from a local church band together to assemble the baskets, seeing the look on the faces of Jewish people as they receive a gift basket from their Christian friends, and being there as God opens the door for spiritual conversations, brings joy to my heart beyond measure. **All of our staff had many opportunities to talk to Jewish people about Jesus.** Even when we just drop baskets off, we have the chance to pray for the individual or family. Ministry happens, people are touched, lives are changed. **Before I tell you my own story, read a couple of testimonies sent to our ministry via e-mail.**

From a college campus student leader:

Sept. 20, 2006

Thanks again Murray for coming Monday night. Students loved it and felt empowered. As an encouragement, here is an e-mail one of the students posted the next day:

"The baskets were a huge hit with my friends. Sarah loved the one that PF and I dropped off. Then I was supposed to drop one off at my friend Ricky's house really fast, and only stay for a few minutes, but I was there over an hour talking about our different religions. It was a great way to share my faith with her and for her to teach me about Jewish traditions and beliefs. Both Ricky and Sarah were really touched by it!"



May they find rejoicing in Messiah Jesus!

From: Jim
To: lightofmessiah@yahoo.com
Subject: Blessed Greetings
Date: Fri, 22 Sep 2006

Shalom Ya'll,

I wanted to let you know of some feedback I received today from one of the Shalom Baskets. I had a yellow light sent to the L. family, and while I do not know who delivered the basket, I was glad it was Michele's husband who talked with the delivering person.

Michele was beside herself with excitement and simply overjoyed that I had the basket sent. The L's are from Chicago and I network with Michele, and do not even know her husband's name--yet. She said her husband and the person delivering the basket had a good discussion on the difference between the husband's faith and the Messianic Faith. I just am not able to describe her excitement about the basket. It really, really touched her.

Last year they received a Hanukkah card from me, thanks to Murray's suggestion, and now the basket. Thanks for keeping us informed of when we can

do something special for our Jewish "relatives".

Not much in this life would give me greater inner joy than seeing the beauty of a Jew whose eyes have been opened to the beautiful attributes of God's Living and Fulfilled Word in them. It is just too wonderful a sight for me.

Other than Hanukkah, let me know when it may be appropriate to do something again.

May His Blessings Continue to Flow Out of the Windows upon you and yours. Jim

Murray reports:

I had the opportunity to deliver a Shalom Basket to a woman in Atlanta. The basket was sent by a friend who knew her from work. They do not presently work with each other, but have stayed in touch and developed quite a friendship. As always, before I went to the door, I prayed and asked the Lord to bless the delivery. **It was a yellow light basket, so I was cautiously optimistic that I might be able to talk to the woman about Jesus.**

I rang the doorbell and waited. Eventually I heard footsteps in the house and a young child talking, but began to wonder if anyone was going to answer. After a few minutes I saw a man coming to the door who looked to be in his late thirties, dressed casually, and wearing a smile.

When he opened the door I held the basket out and said, "Hi, Mr. Schwartz. Your wife's friend Jill wanted to wish you and Sandy a sweet, happy, and healthy New Year. I hope you enjoy it."

His eyes lit up. *"This is incredible,"* he said. *"I don't even know the person who sent it but I am sure my wife does. Thank you so much."* *"Who are you, anyway,"* he asked?

Whenever anyone asks who I am, if I have been given the ok to talk to the Jewish person about spiritual issues, that question is the open door. *"My name is Murray and I am with a ministry here in Atlanta called Light of Messiah Ministries. Our ministry helps Christians learn more about Jewish people and Jewish people learn more about what Christians are all about. I happen to be Jewish, and a believer in Jesus too!"*

"Oh," he said,, *"Well I am happy for you, if you believe it, but I am not really interested in God right now. We have a six year old son who has a terminal illness. He will not be alive much longer."*

David went on to tell me that his son is very sick and that there is no cure for the illness. **He also explained that he has never really been interested in God, though he thinks of himself as a spiritual person.** He told me that he used to work with a Christian who was always trying to "convert" him, but that he was not interested and it was a "turn off".

David and I chatted for about 15 minutes. He presented many objections to the gospel. He asked how I could believe God sent "good people to hell". He wanted to know why, if Jesus is really the Messiah, there is so much hatred, war, and sickness. **I answered his questions but discerned that David was more interested in presenting objections than hearing the answers.** As we were talking, his wife Sandy, drove up.

Sandy joined in the conversation, but her demeanor was different. *"Murray, I don't even know if I believe in God. If there is a God though, I am not mad at Him for what is happening to my son. Tell me about your ministry and what you do."* I shared my testimony with Sandy and told her how our ministry helps Jewish people.



"Murray," she asked, *"would you be willing to help us tell our four year old son about his brother's illness. We do not know how to talk to our son about death."* *"Of course,"* I said. *"I will be happy to meet with you all...and walk with you through this difficult time."* I prayed with Sandy, wished them a happy New Year, and left.

Both Sandy and her husband were thankful for the basket and for our ministry's availability to help them in their time of need. They do not go to a synagogue. Please pray for them, and for us, as we continue ministry to this special Jewish family.

As I drove away I thanked the Lord for this divine appointment. I am always amazed at how He guides us to the people He wants us to minister to. I also called and thanked Sandy's Christian friend. **She told me that she had been afraid to send a basket to her friend until this year.** I encouraged her and we prayed for her Jewish friends.

Please pray for the Jewish people who received Shalom Baskets. Pray that the gesture of friendship that was extended to them will be the catalyst for spiritual discussions. Pray that relationships will be strengthened, walls broken down, and that many Jewish people will come to know the Lord because of the work we did during the Jewish holidays this year.

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!

During the month of September we delivered over 150 gift baskets to Jewish people throughout Atlanta. We were invited into homes. We prayed with Jewish people for healing. We brought them Jesus.

Your financial support makes it possible for us to be there for people like Sandy and her husband. Your prayers give us the strength to continue our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus.

As we near the end of the year please remember how important it is to bring Jesus back to the people who gave Him to us. Thank you for your faithful support of what we do.

I hope it is not too early to ask you to be thinking about our ministry as we approach the end of the year. We need your help. Thank you so much!

Rejoicing in Him,

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

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