



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Encounter at 10,500 Feet and Other Stories

**D**ivine encounters. What makes them divine? The simple answer is God. He brings people across our path. He orchestrates a meeting. He makes it happen. We meets a person...a stranger. There is that moment in the encounter that the divine hits us. The timing. The place. The person. We think to ourselves, "Wow, God set this up." There is the realization that apart from the intervention of God, the meeting would have never happened. **God jumps in. He gives opportunity. He uses us. What an incredible thought.**



**My son Nathan and I had the opportunity to share Jesus with a Jewish woman at 10,500 feet...**

Some people might call these encounters "coincidences". **But for those of us who believe in a personal God who is actively involved in the affairs of His creation, we know better.** And what fun! To know that the God who created all things desires to be actively involved in our lives, in our families, at our workplace.

Personally, divine encounters are an affirmation. **They are God's way of reminding me that He is involved, He cares, and gives validation to the calling upon our ministry to the Jewish people.** It's like God saying to me, "*Murray, I am here, I care about you, I am actively involved in what you are doing, you have my stamp of approval, what you are doing is right and good...and I am going to help you.*" Of course I am always running into non-Jewish people who do not yet know the Lord. And I talk to them about Jesus. **But...when I unexpectedly run into that Jewish person...**

**We have recently had several divine encounters.** A few of our Jewish contacts have accepted Jesus as Lord and

Messiah. Let me tell you the stories:

### Encounter at 10,500 Feet

My son, Nathan and I went on a hiking and camping trip at the end of July. The trip had been planned for many months. Our plan was to hike the Teton Crest Trail in Wyoming with a few friends. We're talking 40 miles at elevations between 7000 and 10,500 feet...with 30 pound packs on our backs.

**Two weeks before the trip I got sick.** I had bronchitis and a stomach virus. I could not eat. **I almost cancelled the trip.**

Wyoming was beautiful. The mountains. The wild flowers. The wildlife. Breathtaking. We saw bear, moose, and little critters of all sorts. And, an occasional group of hikers who, like us, were enjoying the wilderness.

**On the third day, after about 25 miles and two night in tents, I was feeling weak and my son was also getting sick. We decided to separate from our group and hike out.** Our friends did not want to give us the keys to the van (which had been left at the end of the trail) so I figured we could hitch a ride or catch a taxi back to Jackson Hole and wait for our friends, who would join us the next day.

**Our hike out was difficult.** We had to make a 2000 foot elevation climb to the highest point on our journey...10,500 feet. Out of breath, we made it.

While catching my breath and taking in the awe inspiring sight of Grand Teton I remembered that I left my credit cards, money, and drivers license in Jackson Hole. **I had no identification and no money. I didn't know what to do.**

**It just so happened that a group of people had reached the top of the summit at the same time we did.** They were some of the few other hikers we had seen our first couple of days out. As we were talking I told everyone about our circumstances and asked if anyone had twenty dollars I could borrow to get us back to Jackson Hole where our belongings had been left before the hike. **One lady came forward.**

**Diane offered to give me a twenty.** I was incredibly grateful. While handing me the money (I had already gotten her address so that I could mail her a check once I got back to Atlanta) another one of their group asked me what I did. "Well", I said, "*I am Jewish and believe in Jesus. I am in ministry helping Jewish people learn more about Jesus and I also help Christians learn more*

about Jewish people.” Diane looked at me. “You have to be kidding”, she said. “I am Jewish, too”.

I smiled. I could not believe I was actually being given the opportunity by God to talk to a Jewish person about Jesus in the middle of the Wyoming wilderness at the second highest elevation on the Teton Crest Trail!

**I spent about 10 minutes talking to Diane about how I came to faith in Jesus as Messiah.** She told me that she goes to an orthodox Jewish synagogue. **Though she was not eager to embrace what I was telling her, she listened attentively.** She had many misunderstandings regarding being Jewish and believing in Jesus. I tried to clear up her misunderstandings and she actually thanked me for telling her my story. **We had a very positive conversation.**

As we left I looked at Nathan and said, “There is no way we could have planned that”. **We prayed for Diane and thanked God for the opportunity to tell her about her Messiah.**

#### A Marketing Maneuver

**I got a call. It was 11:15 am. A marketing company needed my help.** They were trying to find ministers who had traveled internationally and were planning on traveling internationally in the future for a marketing focus group. **Someone wanted input from ministers and I was a candidate.** The catch. The focus group began at noon.

I have done focus groups before. I did not mind. In fact I saw it as a great chance to meet other ministers and make a contact or two. But, I had to qualify. **I was asked a series of questions. I qualified. I was in.**

I drove to the office where the focus group was being held, made it just in time, and gathered together with eight other ministers from all over the Atlanta area. **None of us knew the topic of discussion.** We were called to the meeting room and the young lady who was moderating the discussion introduced herself.



*“My name is Cindy and I am the moderator of this focus group. You see the mirrors on the walls. They are two way mirrors and our clients are sitting behind them. They are interested in what you have to say. Hopefully, through the course of our time together you will be able to help them learn more about how to reach the Christian community through a new marketing campaign on which they are working. I don’t know if any of you are planning to go to Israel anytime soon, but there are people from the Israeli Department of Tourism who want to hear from you”.*

I was shocked. **Here I was, called forty five minutes before the focus group and asked to sit in a group being listened to by the Israeli Department of Tourism.** A few of the minister knew who I was. They looked at me and smiled.

**Through the course of the focus group I was able to introduce myself, share my story, and give input which hopefully showed those behind the two way mirrors a Jewish Christian’s love for the Jewish people and for Israel.** I never met or spoke to the people behind the mirrors personally, but I have to believe God took me there for a purpose.

#### How to Contact Us

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#### Recent Jewish Decisions for Jesus

**I had the opportunity to pray with a Jewish lady who was referred to me by a local church where she has been attending with her husband for several months.** Andrea called the church inquiring about baptism. She specifically asked to talk to another Jewish person who was also a believer in Jesus. Upon meeting with Andrea for the first time I realized she was not a believer in Jesus yet, but had many questions. I shared my testimony and answered her questions. After our meeting together Andrea said yes to her Messiah. I will be baptizing her soon.

**A Russian Jewish couple who I met with several times recently prayed to accept their Messiah.** Mike and Ariel have lived in the United States for many years. I did not personally pray with them to accept the Lord, but received the news from them after they made their decisions. They are growing in their faith. Please pray.

### Thank You!

**As God continues to bring fruit to us from our labor I am squeezed every month to tell you all of the stories of Jewish lives that are being touched through our work.** In fact I can’t. There are too many stories to tell! Just know we are working hard...and the Lord is blessing...

**Thank you for loving the Jewish people.** Thank you for praying. Thank you for standing with us as we bring Jesus back to the Jewish community.

**As always, your prayers and financial support make what we do possible.**

In the service of the King,

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