



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Our Israel Initiative

Because I love Zion, because my heart yearns for Jerusalem, I cannot remain silent. I will not stop praying for her until her righteousness shines like the dawn, and her salvation blazes like a burning torch. **Isaiah 62:1 (NLT)**

Those words were spoken by the prophet Isaiah. **His yearning, and expression of the heart of God, was for the salvation of Israel.** For his Jewish people. The truth then, as it is now, is that most Jewish people in Israel and around the world live in a state of separation from God and in rebellion against His truth. Most of my people, 98%, reject Jesus as Messiah.

It would be easy to despair as I have spent over 32 years sharing Jesus with my people. Fewer respond positively to the gospel than those who reject it. Rejection is a part of ministry to the Jewish people...really to all people Jesus told us that. But God is at work. Here in Atlanta, throughout the United States, and around the world. Though my people have, for the most part, rejected Jesus, there are many coming to Him as well.

As the tide moves around the world, we want to be sensitive to that movement. **As a result, our ministry is committing itself to focusing more effort on sharing the message of Jesus in the land of Israel, a land of over 6 million Jewish people.**

Statistically, Israel is approximately 80% Jewish, and most Jewish people are secular. It shocks people when I tell them that secularism is really the primary "religion" in Israel. Many Jewish people in Israel are from other parts of the world. Immigrants. Many are from Russia and have very little religious



training at all. **The spiritual climate in Israel is dark.**

Though the three primary world religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, are represented there, those who are religious are steeped in religion, not a personal relationship with God. Still, Israel is the hub of the Jewish community and is the Jewish homeland. We need to be reaching our people there.

I had a conversation with a pastor of a large local church a few years back who insisted to me that evangelism in the land of Israel was illegal. At least that's what his tour guide told him. Many people do think that it is illegal to talk to people about Jesus in Israel. **It is not illegal to share the Gospel in Israel. Not only is it not illegal but it is necessary. We are commanded to go.**

There are several reasons why it is important to bring the message of Jesus back to the Jewish people in Israel. Let me share a few.

Israel Is Central To God's Heart And Plan

As I write international criticism of Israel is increasing. Though Islamic terrorist attacks continue, innocent Israelis are stabbed, rockets continue

to rain down from Gaza and the West Bank, Israel is portrayed by the media as the aggressors and occupiers. To this point, Israel has lost that media war, and world turns further against Israel. The battle rages.

Israel is God's land...not always a godly land. My point is not to defend all of the actions of the Israeli government. **The biblical truth is that Israel and the Jewish people have been, and will always be, the target of the world's scorn.** Few people or countries come to the aid of Israel while many gather against her.

A dear Presbyterian friend and fellow minister of the gospel to the Jewish people recently posted on Facebook...

"Israel's right to exist should be supported regardless of one's eschatology (understanding of the end times/prophesy). Why?

- 1. Israel was founded in a just manner.*
- 2. Israel is a democratic state.*
- 3. Israel has freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and free speech.*
- 4. Israel seeks justice within its borders and seeks peace with its neighbors.*
- 5. Israel is America's closest ally in the Middle East.*

God has a plan for Israel and for the Jewish people. Because he chose the Jewish people through whom to bring us salvation in the person of Messiah Jesus, He promises that He will keep His promises to the Jewish people. Those promises include protection as a people.

The Jewish people have a special place in God's heart and plan. As believers in the Messiah we know that peace will not come to the Middle East until Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom. **We know that there cannot be reconciliation between the Palestinians and the Israelis until the Prince of Peace brings His truth into the hearts of individuals.** We know that peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of God. Because of those truths we have to bring Jesus to the Israeli Jewish community.

Because Israel has a special place in God's heart and plan, we need to make sure the truth of Messiah goes back to them. They gave us Jesus. We must go to them with the message.

Israel Is An Open Land

There is one democracy in the Middle East. It is Israel. There is one hope for freedom in that area of the world. It is Israel. Because Israel is a free democracy, the proclamation of the Gospel in the land of Israel is allowed. Thank God there are missionaries throughout Israel reaching out to both the Jewish and Muslim communities.

While in Israel there are times that we run into opposition. Though most Israelis are open, there are those who oppose the message of Jesus. Most of the opposition comes from the religious. And, at times, there is hostility. Usually the police are there to make sure that no one is harmed and that the freedom of speech is protected. We thank God that Israel is a land where we can preach the message of Jesus in freedom.

Not only is Israel an open country to proclaim the message of Jesus, but Jewish people in Israel are open to the message. **During outreach in Israel it is not unusual to get the names of multitudes of Jewish people who are interested in exploring the truth of Jesus in more depth.** Maybe they are open to talking to another person. Perhaps they are interested in reading more information or even receiving a New Testament. But, Jewish people in Israel are opening to the message of Jesus.

God is at work in the hearts of Israelis. Jewish people are coming to know Je-



sus right on the streets of Israel. We are going to Israel because Jewish Israelis are open to the Gospel message!

Israel Needs The Gospel

Jesus wept over Jerusalem. He looked over the city and lamented, *"Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."* Matthew 23:37 In Matthew Chapter 10 when He sent His disciples out He said these words to them... *"Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'*" Matthew 10:5-6

Israel and Jerusalem have a special place in God's heart and plan. Though my people have historically "not been willing" God's love for them is just the same. He loved them so much that he sent Messiah redeemer to become their salvation!

Today, though some are not willing to hear the message, many are. And it

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is our obligation to sow the seed, proclaim the message, and bring the Good News to Israel in hopes of a great harvest and an impact for the Kingdom of God. We are there now. We are working alongside our friends in Jews for Jesus to proclaim the message of Messiah Jesus. He has come!

As the world continues to focus on the events in the Middle East and Israel we will be there. As the world looks at Israel with scorn we will be there. As we wait for the Messiah to return to bring His peace we will be there.

Israel Tour 2016

We are planning another tour to Israel in the fall of this year. Our tour dates are October 29th-November 8th. Our last tour of Israel was a life changing trip for those who joined us. There is nothing like learning about the Bible in the land of the Bible!

We will be visiting all of the biblical sites. Both the Old and New Testaments will come alive. We will also be experiencing and meeting the people of the land today. See Israel through Jewish eyes!

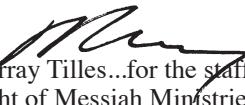
Please see the enclosed brochure as well as the information about the tour on our web site. Also please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions you might have.

Thank You!!

Our ministry is here to encourage you to pray for the Jewish people and to help them hear the message of Jesus.

As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of Messiah Jesus!

In His service,


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

