



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Ministry to Russian Jews

Where is God at work? Finding those places where God is moving is crucial to effective ministry. **As a ministry we are always looking to engage where the Spirit of God is actively working, joining Him in His work among the Jewish people.** Over the years we have ministered on college campuses, in nursing homes, and on the street. We have distributed tracts, called Jewish people from the telephone book, and gone door to door in Jewish neighborhoods. Of course, we continue to meet with Jewish people one on one...and are always looking to help Christians with their Jewish friends.

Over the years our ministry focus has historically been to the American Jewish community, however recently, the Lord has been expanding out work into to another area...the Russian Jewish community. **There are over 30,000 Russian Jewish people living in the metro Atlanta area. They are a group of people with many needs, the most important need being that of Jesus.** Ministering to Russian Jewish people is different than ministering to the American Jewish community. Let me tell a little bit more about what we are doing...and how Russian Jewish ministry is different...

One difference in ministering to the Russian Jewish Community is their level of openness. Having lived the majority of their lives in a communistic, atheistic society, they've been denied access to God. **When they come to a country with religious freedom they are hungry to explore faith issues.** Because they were denied access to God, they were also, for the most part, denied access to any of the religious tra-



ditions of Judaism as well. They do not have the automatic walls in place that American Jewish people do, with regards to the Messiah. And, when one begins a search for God, without those walls, one often finds Jesus. Because He promises that if we seek Him with our whole hearts, we'll find Him. **When one is so hungry for God, one almost always finds Jesus.**

We also minister to the Russian Jewish community by meeting real needs that they have because of their "foreign" status in a new land. American Jewish people do not usually have educational or material needs. However Russian immigrants often-times need English lessons and may need help with housing or careers.

By going into a community and helping meet their "felt" needs, such as English lessons and citizenship classes (a new avenue we are hoping to explore teaching) we are helping them survive in a completely new culture. All the while we are also building trust and relationships that pave the way for the gospel to be shared. We are now offering them, in addition to ESL (English as a Second

Language) classes, traditional Jewish holiday celebrations and education. We always talk about and share Jesus in these classes. **Since December, we have seen four Russian Jewish people come to faith in Jesus as Messiah.** Three accepted the Lord at Hanukkah and one at a very recent Purim celebration. We just started ESOL classes in October. So, as you can see, the Lord is bringing a harvest already.

Another difference in ministering to Russian Jews is the fact that they are overwhelmed when one comes to them with love, kindness, and patience. They are daily faced with busy fast-paced Americans in their fast-paced American lifestyle, and are often treated with impatience and even contempt. Even in their own apartment complexes they tend to be considered as a lower class. We've seen this attitude becoming more and more prevalent as issues that concern our entire nation with immigration problems increase. **When one approaches them with respect and genuinely tries to help them adapt to their new country and share the love of God and their Messiah with them, they are responsive.**

We consider Russian Jewish ministry one of those "to the least of these" kind of opportunities, to demonstrate the love of Jesus. It's an incredible opportunity to minister to a whole community of Jewish people who are willing to listen and are open to their Messiah.

We often have special outreaches when we bring our Russian Jewish contacts to a church to bless and minister to them. Casey reports on two recent outreaches where Russian Jewish people gave their lives to Jesus...

Hanukkah Outreach

In December we had a Hanukkah outreach that was attended by 59 Russians. We had loads of loving volunteers from North Lanier Baptist Church and piles of food and Hanukkah fun and games! We did a menorah presentation, with Murray giving a brief testimony and saying the candle blessings, followed by dinner. Then Bob Josey, coworker in our Russian ministry, presented Jesus in Hanukkah in a brief message, along with an invitation. This was followed by incredible music, and a slide show of the work we did in Poland.

At the end everyone, young and old, danced, sang, and played games. We also had volunteers give manicures to all of the Russian ladies. Most of these Russian Jewish immigrants don't get manicures because they are not able to afford the luxuries of life. By doing this for them, we showed them care and love they do not usually receive.

All in all, it was an afternoon full of Jesus and the chance to serve these precious people....demonstrating the gospel, not only with words....but in actions. It was a powerful time. Our Hanukkah outreach was not about men, numbers or egos....but about Jesus and about those Russian Jews who need Jesus. It was a day for us to serve.

I had one of the table hosts come to me after the event and share with me that several ladies at her table had prayed during the invitation time, to accept Jesus as Messiah! These ladies have been identified and we will be following up with them this week! How exciting is that? What a wonderful blessing!!!

Purim Outreach

We recently had our Purim celebration with mostly my ESL classes at East Club, along with a few American Jewish people. We had a children's group from North Lanier Baptist Church perform an Esther presentation and sing some wonderful songs. The gospel was presented.



Eduard, who has been attending my classes regularly and has seemed quite open in conversations, made a statement of faith after hearing the message! He declared after our program that God and the Messiah were One and he believed! Isn't that just the sweetest blessing? Several of us were just in tears at his proclamation of faith!

We are so excited about what the Lord is doing through our ministry to Russian Jewish people. It is our hope and prayer that many more will come to know their Messiah through the relationships we are developing. Please pray!

A Recent Email From a Pastor

When we lead Jewish people to the Lord or have a part in them coming to their Messiah, the story does not end. Praying to accept Jesus is a life-long journey that includes baptism and discipleship, and growing in faith.

Last year I had a part in helping a Russian couple come to know the

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Lord. I met A. at a church service when she came to a women's Bible study. We met several times and I shared my story with her. She was very open to the gospel. She invited me to meet with her husband as well. M. was more skeptical, however, still open to considering Jesus.

M. and A. came to a Passover service I conducted and shortly thereafter accepted Jesus at a local church. I just received an email from a pastor friend who was also instrumental in them coming to Jesus. Larry writes...

Murray,

I don't know if you heard that M. and A. were baptized at a local church this past Tuesday evening. It was a wonderful experience. They are loving the Lord and growing. Thanks again for your part in leading them to the Savior.

Please pray for M. and A. as they grow in their walk with Jesus.

Thank You!

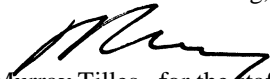
Please pray for our ministry among the Russian Jews. Please pray that those Jewish people who are accepting Jesus through our efforts will grow in their walk with Him.

We are so excited about the fruit we are seeing in the Jewish community. Please pray for more!

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