



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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My Summer 2007

Casey Grist was busy this summer traveling to New York and Poland. She also led our local Atlanta outreach to the Jewish community. I asked Casey to share her stories this month:

The summer of 2007 has been one of incredible opportunity and adventure. The Lord has taken me on an exciting ride from Brooklyn, New York, all the way to Warsaw, Poland. Let me tell you about my summer of 2007.

Hasidic (Ultra Orthodox) Jewish Outreach

My summer began with a two week evangelistic effort in Brooklyn, New York, to the Hasidic Jews. Hasidic Jews (the ultra orthodox) are the most difficult Jewish sect to reach due to the fact that their community is very protected from the outside world, much like the Amish.

We had a team of 8 missionaries on the streets of Williamsburg,, Boro Park and Crown Heights, New York, all of which are suburbs of New York City. **We went into those areas dressed as conservatively as possible, trying to blend in, for the safety and anonymity of those to whom we spoke, as well as our own.**

On the very first night of our outreach in Williamsburg at about 10:30pm, on a dark street corner, I met Y, a young orthodox Jewish man in his 20's. He consented to talk to me, and I was able to share with him prophecies about the Messiah. As we spoke, Y got more and more excited at the possibility that it was true. **He was concerned that he did not have atonement for his sin,**



At the center I was able to share my faith with Jewish guests from all over the world...

and he wanted to know this Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. When he told me he wished to pray to receive Jesus as his Messiah, I confess, I was so astonished, I asked him 3 times if he was sure!!! He was sure. **We prayed there on the streets that night and Y became a part of the Kingdom.** He met with my partner and I to receive a Gospel of John in Yiddish. He gave us his contact information for further follow up. At the time of my leaving, Y's mother was refusing access to him by our team, because we had been spotted as missionaries in the area, and she wanted to keep us from him. **Pray for Y to grow despite the opposition he will face.**

The second week of our outreach, things grew considerably more difficult. We were "outed" as missionaries by the Jewish community. It became more and more impossible to find areas to speak to those interested, where they wouldn't be seen. Several of our team

were chased by local vigilante Jewish "police" and even got separated from each other. **Even though it became more dangerous, there were still so many who were open to dialogue about Jesus.** A Russian speaking lady named Mila from Crown Heights, NY prayed with one of our team members to accept her Messiah. Mark, a Jewish man we met through phone calling also prayed with one of our team to ask Jesus into his life.

Atlanta Harvest Outreach

From New York, I came home to lead our Atlanta outreach. **During the end of June we partnered with many of our supporters and friends to bring the gospel to Jewish people right here in our own city.** Our outreach started on an prayerful note. We took a team of 9 on a 6 hour prayer caravan to pray over every synagogue in the city. The time of intercession was powerful and intimate. You could feel God's heart for the Jewish people as we prayed for them.

We also brought young people to minister in in 3 nursing homes. The youth performed drama, music, and dance. They also made gospel bead bracelets for the elderly, and gave them out with the gospel message itself. **Even the Jewish residents were going through each bead one by one as the message was presented. They all loved their bracelets!** It was wonderful to see how well they responded to the excitement and energy the young people brought with them.

On two different nights we ministered to the Russian Jewish community. The first night, we ministered to 28 Russian Jewish people who do not yet

know Jesus at Stone Mountain with food, fellowship and the love of Messiah. We had 16 volunteers help us for the evening of ministry. The second night, we had 24 different Russian Jewish people in attendance with 15 volunteers. What fun events those were! **Our hope is that through this ministry we develop strong relationships with these Russians and begin regular meetings with them to study scripture.**

Our Atlanta volunteers were also given a glimpse of Jewish culture by touring the Holocaust museum in Atlanta, as well as attending a Sabbath dinner followed by Sabbath service at one of the largest orthodox synagogues in the city. A rabbi volunteered to spend time with our team afterwards to answer questions about the service and Jewish culture. Twenty six people joined us for this exciting night! The Lord certainly blessed us with many who were interested in helping, in learning, and in partnering with us in a tangible way.

Warsaw, Poland

In July I went to Poland with a team from one of our local supporting churches to work on restoring Jewish cemeteries destroyed by the Nazis. We also ministered at a local orphanage with daily Bible camp and to Jewish residents staying at a local Jewish retreat center where we were lodging.

The cemetery work was physically and emotionally exhausting. **The indescribable atrocities committed in Poland against the Jewish people are impossible to comprehend.** It's as if their very blood cries out from the tainted ground. **The Nazi's hatred of the Jews went beyond trying to wipe their physical lives off the face of the earth; they wanted to destroy even the memory of those Jews who had lived and died there by destroying the cemeteries.** They used Jewish headstones as target practice and for road paving. They dug up the bodies in hopes of finding treasures. Everywhere you looked there was nothing but destruction and neglect. We even found bones. Bones. I have never wept so



much in my entire life. The Warsaw cemetery backs up to one side of the Warsaw Ghetto. There are two mass graves in this cemetery containing, in one, the bodies of 40,000 Jewish people, and the other contains more than 100,000 bodies of Jewish people. **Our hope in working there in the cemeteries and in the orphanages was to further the gospel by bringing hope and reconciliation to this country.**

In the orphanage, our day camp team spent the week teaching songs and dance, Bible stories, and crafts, to the little forgotten children. On the last day, we shared the gospel story, with the crucifixion, and resurrection. **Thirteen of those precious children gave their lives to Jesus that day!**

In the retreat center, I was blessed to be able to share my faith with the Jewish guests staying there from all over the world. They were deeply interested in the work we were doing in the cemetery as well as the orphanage. We were able to converse, with the Lord's help, in a mixture of Polish, Russian, Yiddish and Hebrew! When we couldn't find the right word in one language, we'd switch languages until we did find the right word. I made

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some new friends that I will never forget. BetAmi, Stanislav, Enya, Leon, Tamar, Zuschia, Jutra, Henik and Paola...just to name a few. **Most of these precious people survived the Holocaust....albeit most were the only in their family to survive.** Their stories are haunting. Their search for meaning and God in life after such trauma is heartbreaking. **Many found peace during the time we were there through the words of hope we shared.**

My summer was busy, and grueling at times, but it was also fruitful beyond my wildest expectations. **Praise God for the seeds that were sown and the Jewish lives that were touched this summer.** Please pray that the many seeds that were planted will bear a bountiful harvest for His Kingdom!

2007/2008 Calendars and Shalom Baskets

You may still order Messianic calendars and Shalom Baskets at our web site www.lightofmessiah.org

Thank You!

We have had a blessed summer. We have worked hard, traveled the country and world. The Gospel of Jesus the Messiah has been proclaimed. **Jewish lives have been touched and changed.**

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