



Light of Messiah Ministries

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

Volume 12 Issue 7 **Some of the content in this letter may be inappropriate for younger children**



July 2004

Summer Outreach-Gay Pride Parade

Summer is a busy time for our ministry. When people are out enjoying parades, parks, and baseball games, we want to be there, too. It seems that whenever we plan our summer outreach events, God goes before us to prepare the way. And, even when things do not go as we plan, somehow the Lord shows us how He is in control no matter the circumstances. **This year we had fewer people join us for our Atlanta Harvest Outreach, but from June 25th-July 4th, we were still able to distribute 15,400 tracts, get the names of over 100 people who are interested in knowing more about our ministry, and talk to 7 Jewish people who listened to a presentation of the Gospel.**

We are so excited about how God has been moving among our Jewish people. Following are two reports from our outreach at the Gay Pride Parade.

Murray Tilles
Director - Light of Messiah Ministries

This was my tenth year at the Gay Pride Parade in Atlanta. I have also ministered at Pride Parades in San Francisco and New York City. The environment is a difficult one for any believer, but our presence is necessary. We are bringing the "Light of Messiah" into a place with tremendous need. **I must admit that before going to the parade this year I was struggling with whether we were doing the right thing.** I have been so many times. I wonder about the openness of the people. Over the years, believe it or not, the environment has become more hostile and less tolerant. "Am I throwing my pearls away?", I wondered.



We arrived at the parade and began to distribute literature. Casey and I went towards Piedmont Park with four volunteers. Bert took some others north on Peachtree St. The crowds were larger than in previous years and it began to get difficult to distribute literature with people packed in so close together.

While standing on a street corner I was enthusiastically approached by a young lady who looked very excited to see me. She was waving her hands and shouted, "Hey, I need to talk to you." I looked her way and wondered what was going on. The young lady came up to me and said, "I am a new Jewish Christian. I just accepted Jesus a few weeks ago and am going to be baptized in a month. I am so excited about what God is doing in my life. I have been wanting to meet another Jewish person who knows Jesus because I have so many questions. God sent you to me today."

I was very excited to meet my new sister in the Lord. We talked for quite a while about Jesus, our families, and her special circumstances. During our conversation I asked her about her lifestyle and her faith. She told me that she was a lesbian still living that lifestyle. **She has told her parents that she is**

gay, but is afraid to tell them that she believes in Jesus! She has told her church that she believes in Jesus, but is afraid to tell them about her lifestyle! I encouraged her to tell her parents that she believes in Jesus and to tell her pastor that she is a lesbian. I also told her about the many ministries that can help her deal with all of the issues facing her as a Christian. For her protection I may not use her name, but please pray for this young Jewish lady who loves Jesus but is struggling with some very serious issues.

After talking to this young lady I knew that the Lord wanted us there even if it were only for her. I was encouraged that our ministry was available to meet the needs of the thousands of people in attendance.

Mark Grigg
Volunteer—representing the
International Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention

Sharing the Love of Jesus

Jesus told his disciples during the Passover Feast, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35) These are powerful words our Messiah gave his disciples over 2,000 years ago, and the same imperative is given to all His disciples today.

Recently, this passage became even more real to me as I served alongside Bert Sandler and other Light of Messiah Ministries workers during an outreach at Centennial Park and the Gay Parade in downtown Atlanta.

Earlier during the week, Bert conducted a training class that equipped us for street ministry. Our purpose was to distribute Jewish sensitive gospel literature, to introduce the ministry to believers and unbelievers, obtain contacts for personal follow-up by Light of Messiah staff, and to introduce Jesus as the Jewish Messiah to Jewish and Gentile unbelievers.

God led me to several divine appointments. One young man, Chris, accepted our literature after a lesbian companion "angrily" refused it and warned him not to take it. Chris wanted me to know that he believed in Jesus, but that he also believed God accepted him in his gay lifestyle. Although we had a healthy dialogue, Chris did not "change his mind." I told Chris that I knew that our encounter was a "divine appointment" because he sought me out in spite of the opposition of his friend. I encouraged him to seek out God's truth through prayer and the Word and that I was confident God would reveal the truth to him.

Another young man especially touched my heart. After a brief conversation I was sure in my heart that he knew Jesus. He also seemed to be struggling with his homosexual lifestyle. **I asked him, "Would you like to get out of your way of life?" He looked at me with a sad but hopeful gaze and said in almost a whisper, "Yes."** I looked him in the eyes and said, *"God loves you and He can help you overcome this. He will give you the power, BUT you have to make a determined decision to turn from it."* **As I looked at him I hoped and prayed that the Lord would help him win the battle and that he would truly be set free.**

I don't know if my encounter with Chris or the other people will ever result in a "life change." **However, I do know that God changed me that weekend. He gave me a chance to take the focus off me and place my focus on the object of my salvation, Jesus the Jewish Messiah! I am glad that I joined Light of Messiah Ministries for their outreach and look forward to next time!**



Shalom Baskets

Our most exciting and effective outreach is quickly approaching and this outreach involves you. Our Shalom Basket Outreach will take place the week before Rosh Hashanah (September 11th -16th). A **Shalom Basket** is a basket filled with holiday goodies for your Jewish friend. They are beautiful. You may order them through our ministry and we will deliver them for you, right to your Jewish friend's door. **We are only taking the first 150 Shalom Basket orders and will only be purchasing enough materials to make that number.** This is to ensure prompt delivery and follow-up on all of the contacts we receive. **So, get your order in soon.** Order your Shalom Baskets by calling our office (credit card orders only), order online at our web site, or send \$20.00 per basket to our P.O. Box made payable to "The Shalom Store". When ordering Shalom Baskets please give us delivery information as well as **your phone number and mailing information.** **Orders must be in by September 1st.** You may also order Jewish holiday cards from us. Just give us a call.

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
www.lightofmessiah.org

2004/2005 Calendars

We are again carrying Messianic Calendars to help you keep track of the Jewish holidays, pray for the Jewish people, and learn about the Jewish roots of our faith as believers in Jesus. This year our calendar is being printed in Israel by a messianic ministry there, so we are supporting their ministry as well. The calendars are beautifully illustrated with pictures from Israel. If you desire to celebrate the Jewish holidays in your home, or want to pray for the Jewish people, this calendar is invaluable. They make beautiful gifts as well.

Call our office to order one by phone (credit card orders), **order online** at www.lightofmessiah.org, or send **\$11.00 per calendar** to our P.O. Box made payable to **The Shalom Store**.

Thank You!

Please don't forget to continue to pray for us during our busy summer of outreach. **We are on the streets, meeting with people, answering questions, and proclaiming the message.**

We have an important ministry!

Jewish people need to hear about Jesus!

As always, thank you for keeping us out there. Thank you for standing with us through your prayers. Thank you for supporting us financially. **Thank you for loving my Jewish people enough to send the incredible message of Jesus back to them.**

We are so grateful.

Serving Him,


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