



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Visiting Death...Praying for Life

**I** decided to share excerpts from Casey's journal of her trip to Poland with you this month. **We worked with a Christian group to restore a vandalized Jewish cemetery...filled with Holocaust victims. Our trip was designed to build bridges and look for open doors to share the gospel. We did both.** Her journal is profound and riveting. This month's letter is in all black ink. You will know why as you read. I was only able to print excerpts.

To read Casey's entire journal (very worthwhile...and sobering) visit our web site.

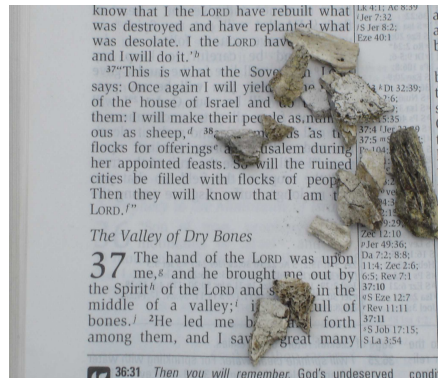
Friday, June 13, 2008

Well, I finally arrived in Poland today at 3:35pm. I left Atlanta at 6:30pm on the 12<sup>th</sup>. I've been awake for well over 24 hours now.

In the hotel, our rooms do not have bathrooms. In fact, in the entire hotel, there are only two showers...period. This presents a situation that is not pretty given there are 10 women on our team, not to mention those men who like to wash occasionally and the other guests. The Lord will have to miraculously stretch the showers!

Saturday, June 14, 2008

The Jewish community considers caring for the dead to be the highest level of mitzvot (good deeds) because the dead cannot thank you...and here, where there has been such innocent blood shed...caring for the dead takes on a whole new meaning. **The work we will be doing is a physical act...but the actual results are taking place in the heavens...righting a grievous wrong...and bringing reconciliation to the land and people so that the people themselves can become reconciled to God.**



Casey's open Bible with human bone fragments from Holocaust victims.

Sunday, June 15, 2008

This morning we held the first known worship service in this city in our small hotel in Poland.

**We finished our training and orientation today, except for the specifics according to Jewish traditions and laws regarding care of the dead.** I went through this last year so I already know, but there are only 4 of us who have been through it before so everyone needs to hear it. And frankly, as this is not a skill most of us use on a daily basis, a refresher is always a good thing.

Monday, June 16, 2008

**My entire body hurts. We worked for 7 hours in the cemetery today.** I managed to scrape my arm on a gate...cut down a small thorn tree directly onto my face (oh so painful)...and stick myself in numerous other places all over my filthy, sweaty body today. I have a cut on my upper lip, split my lower lip and scratched my face up from that thorn tree. But what hurts the most is my heart...

**As we were clearing in one section...not even in the mass grave area, we began to find bones...everywhere. In fact, in**

**one area, we found a great many bones of a tiny child.** We have to mark the area for Alex (a Jewish man we are working with) and they will be given proper reburial...but as I held those tiny little vertebrates and tiny little rib bones and tiny little leg bones...so frail and delicate...I wanted to cry and scream at the horrific injustice at the same time. **Who can do such things...steal grave markers, use them for road paving, or worse, bullet practice...who can dig up a tiny child's bones and just scatter them or allow them to be ravaged by time and the elements, with no remorse at all?** I realized anew the utter annihilation that Hitler wanted for the Jews...not only to steal their lives, and their belongings, but their very humanity...their dignity...to erase their very existence from the face of the earth. **It sickened me to my core.**

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

There are so many places in my body where I am in pain...regular places like my back, my feet, shoulders...and odd places like the bones between the knuckles on my right hand and the middle joint of the finger. I think that is from working the hand clippers for hours on end. **The section of the cemetery we are clearing is looking great. We got a start on taking down the remaining wall sections and cleaning bricks as well, for the wall to be re-built.** We found so many more bones yesterday. So many bones. We flag them and then Steven asked Karla and I to tear off plastic sheeting to cover them until today, so that Alex can rebury them. I'm hoping Alex will allow me to be with him for the reburial process.

**Yesterday when I was sitting on the ground, sweaty hot and with a hammer and a chisel in hand I felt a great kinship to the Hebrew slaves in Egypt.** In fact I kept teasing Steven about making more bricks for Pharaoh...bricks without

straw. **It was kind of amazing to think of all the ways bricks have been significant to the Jewish people throughout the generations.** Bricks in Egypt. Bricks in the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah). Bricks in the destruction of the temple. Bricks at the Wailing Wall. Bricks in the Warsaw Ghetto. Bricks in the concentration camps...the gas chambers. Bricks with bullet holes and mortar shells...Bricks covered in ashes from the fiery ovens...Cleaning bricks to rebuild a wall in a cemetery destroyed in Warsaw Poland...and even beyond. Someday, maybe I will do a study on bricks and the Jewish people.

**Thursday, June 19, 2008**

**It's 6:46am here in Poland, and I'm all dressed and ready for another day of brick dust.** Today, I think we will have masks, which will be such a blessing. I awakened feeling sick this morning...and I'm sure all that brick dust is probably the culprit.

**Tomorrow, we have been invited by the Jewish community to attend Shabbat at the only remaining synagogue in the city. It's orthodox.** And, they have invited us to the oneg Shabbat (dinner....sorry) afterwards. **It will be chance to interact with a great many of the Jewish community of Warsaw and we're all very excited for the chance. I am praying for many opportunities to talk to them about Messiah.**

**Friday, June 20, 2008**

**Today is the last day for us to work in the cemetery.** I'm hoping for some more time to talk with Alex today. Lord, I pray for that time.

Tonight, we will be with nearly the entire Jewish community (the living ones) in Warsaw, and during the dinner time. I pray Lord for many questions and a time of great fellowship and bridge building. **It's unprecedented here for the Jewish community to have a meal with the "Christian" community.** May we begin to see a harvest, Lord...please. There are so few Jewish people left alive in Poland. I would dearly and desperately love to see those Jewish people here find their Messiah and find eternal life in Him. That's my prayer.



Human bones...in Casey's hand.

**Saturday, June 21, 2008**

**I woke up screaming in the night last night. I was dreaming of children...being horribly tortured.** Most likely it's my subconscious trying to deal with the time in the ghetto last night and the fact that today I will be prayer walking Treblinka, a death camp.

The Shabbat service was typical of just about anywhere in the world, really. **There were 14 believers in that synagogue last night, praying for and fellowshiping with the Warsaw Jewish community...talk about a bridge of reconciliation being built!** Can you imagine such a thing ever happening?

**Sunday, June 22, 2008**

Today is my last full day here...we are visiting the death camp.

**I have been to the synagogue and then the little ghetto the previous evening...I then took the same journey that those fated Jewish people took at the liquidation of the ghetto.** For me, however, instead of standing in a sea of people so thick that no one could move inside a cattle car, and feeling the terror of what might be happening to me, I was riding in

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a nice little bus, with a bottle of water. The guilt I felt over that was hard to explain.

**I walked the railroad ties that are now commemorated by large stone blocks...**onto the ramp. I placed memorial stones there...and I collapsed beside it because the despair was so huge inside me. I walked to the cremation grid...I walked to the ash piles now covered over with asphalt to try to protect what lies beneath. The sad thing is...it cannot keep the ash and bone shards down. The earth is bringing them up. **I sat with others to pray there, and in the cracks in the asphalt there you see ash coming up...and in it we found bones...pieces of ribs...pieces of skull fragments...evidence of the life and death of someone dearly loved by God Himself...created in His image...and who most likely died without knowing their Messiah yet.**

**We each held those dry, charred bone fragments and cried out to God in prayer.** We read from the passage of Ezekiel...laying those dry bones onto the pages of the Word of God, where He speaks to them...speaks of breathing life into the valley of dry bones.

**We reburied those bone shards, but I will never forget who they represent.** The camp was prayed over and anointed with oil...the Word of God and the promises of God were proclaimed.


Please pray for Alex...and Stanislaw....and Leon and Malcha and the many many others we met during this time and last time here...please pray that they may be saved.

## Thank You!

**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. When we go...you are there with us...

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

In the service of the King,

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