



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Ministry With Our Friends In Israel

As I write this letter I am flying home from San Francisco, CA where my wife and I attended the memorial service of Moische Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus. Moische was a dynamic man whose life touched thousands. He was instrumental in launching Jewish evangelism into the forefront of missions. Jews for Jesus is the most recognized Jewish ministry in the world. **We are blessed to have a close relationship with Jews for Jesus.** And I am personally indebted to Moische Rosen and to the ministry of Jews for Jesus for helping me to become the ministry leader that I am.

Though our ministries are not organizationally connected, we are connected in our mutual desire to see the gospel proclaimed to the Jewish community around the world. Because of our mutual desire, we work together on many occasions. **It is my belief that ministries should cooperate more and compete less.** We do that with our friends in Jews for Jesus and with many other Jewish mission agencies and congregations as well.

The most significant work we do with Jews for Jesus is joining them on outreach campaigns throughout the United States and abroad. Most recently we have joined them to help with their Behold Your God campaign in Israel. Casey has travelled to Israel the past three years to help reach the Jewish community in the land of Israel. I was supposed to go this year but, due to some passport issues, was unable to go. I will be travelling to Israel in the near future to work to reach my people in that special land. It is our hope to do more outreach in Israel, because God is at work there.



Though our primary outreach is to the Jewish community of Atlanta, we also minister to Jewish people throughout the southeast and in Israel.

Israel is 85% Jewish, and most Jewish people are secular. They are not religious Jewish people, for the most part. Many Jewish people in Israel are from other parts of the world. Many are from Russia and have very little religious training at all. The bottom line is that 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 who insisted to me that evangelism in the land of Israel was illegal. Many people do think that it is illegal to talk to people about Jesus in Israel. I have said it before, it is not illegal to share the Gospel in Israel. **Not only is it not illegal, but it is necessary and 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. Israel tried to stop a flotilla of boats carrying aid to Palestinians in Gaza, several activists were killed, and the media war began. To this point, Israel has lost that media war, and the world turns further against Israel. The battle rages.

I am not writing to address the necessity for the blockade, whether or not it is fair, whether the Israelis did the right thing, or whether the Palestinians are being unfairly treated. **What I am writing about is the biblical truth that Israel and the Jewish people have been, and will always be, the target of the worlds scorn.** Few people or countries come to the aid of Israel while many gather against her.

But God has a plan for Israel and for the Jewish people. Because he chose the Jewish people through which 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 70 to 100 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.

I have been in touch with Casey throughout her time doing street ministry just north of Tel Aviv. Her reports are amazing. God is at work in the hearts of Israelis. **She has told me stories of Jewish people coming to know Jesus right on the streets of Israel.** While doing calling from the phone book Israelis are asking questions and requesting materials. We are in 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 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 work-

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

ing 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. Please pray for us as we bring the message of Jesus to the Jewish community in Israel.

Harvest Summer Outreach

When Casey returns from Israel we are planning our annual local outreach to the Jewish community here in Atlanta. We will be spending most of our time ministering to the Russian Jewish community alongside another friend of ours, Bob Josey, with Messiah for Israel ministries here in Atlanta. Behold how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell (and work!) together in unity!

Please pray for us this summer as we work hard to bring the truth of our Messiah Jesus back to the Jewish people.

Thank You!

We have many wonderful God given opportunities to see Jewish lives being changed by the message of Messiah Jesus.

Thank you for loving the Jewish people. Thank you for praying. Thank you for standing with us to bring Jesus back to the Jewish community.

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