



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## On Death and Dying

**D**eath is never an easy subject to talk about. But we have to. Sometimes it comes sooner than we expect. You never know.

**The call came in as it has so many times in the past. About three months ago.** Her voice was soft. Concern was evident in the way she began her sentence. I knew, as she began to speak, that whatever was going to be communicated to me was not going to be good...or easy.

*“Murray,” Gina said, “You may not remember me but we have met before and I have known of your ministry for many years. We have not spoken in a while but I need your advice. My husband is Jewish. He does not know the Lord. I am a Christian and love the Lord. We just found out that my mother-in-law, Brenda, is dying of cancer. She doesn’t have long.*

*I have had so many years to talk to Brenda about what I believe but have never really talked to her about her personal need for Jesus. We have talked around the issue. I have shown her the love of Jesus. We have a great relationship. We are wonderful friends. She knows what I believe. But, I want her to believe what I believe. I want her to go to heaven. She is in the hospital now and I was wondering how you can help me. I feel so bad.”*

**The call came in as it has so many times in the past.**

*“Gina”, I said, “We are here to help you. But I have to tell you something. I wish you had called me ten years ago. I don’t want to make you feel any worse, you are already carrying so much. But*



*it is going to be much more difficult for me to minister to your mother-in-law since she is in the hospital and surrounded by her Jewish family. Let me give you some ideas and we can go from there.”*

**Ground rush.** I guess that’s the reason why people wait. I heard about it on the radio. A secular talk show host was explaining how people wait to do things they need to do until the need becomes pressing. It is rushing towards them. Ground rush. **When a person is parachuting, after jumping out of the plane, falling at over a hundred miles an hour, the ground does not seem to be rushing at them at all.** They are getting closer to the ground, but it is like the ground stays at the same place. But the closer they get to the ground the faster it seems to be coming at them.

**The closer we come to the end of our lives, the closer our friends get to the end of theirs, that’s when we start to worry.** Become concerned. The spiritual form of ground rush must be “life rush”...or “death rush”.

**So, the call came in as it has so many times in the past...three weeks, a month, two months...before their Jewish friend dies.** I wish people would call sooner.

**I encouraged Gina to try to find some time alone with her mother-in-law. To share her heart.** Words of love. Words of hope. Words of comfort. I told her that time is important and that she needed to try to put away her fears. **I remember talking to both of my grandparents before they died. Both of them in the hospital.** Both of them on ventilators. God...it was hard. **My heart was pounding in my chest. At times the words didn’t come the way I wanted them to.** I do not know what God did in their hearts. But, they heard about Jesus from me. **I hope to see them in heaven one day.**

**I reminded Gina that she is not bigger than the Holy Spirit.** I shared with her the words of one of my mentors, Moishe Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus, He says, *“If the Holy Spirit is not working in someone’s heart at any point in time there is nothing we can do to turn the Holy Spirit on. By the same token, if the Holy Spirit is at work in someone’s heart at any point in time there is nothing we can do to turn the Holy Spirit off.”* I encouraged Gina to remember the sovereignty of God. The Lord would speak to Brenda’s heart.

**Sharing our faith is not only for the other person. Sharing our faith is for us as well.** Talking to others about the Lord gives us courage...we have to step out of our personal comfort zones. It builds our faith. We learn to depend on Him more fully.

**We need to share our faith so that we**

can know we did everything we could to bring the truth and love to those who are important in our lives. Once they are gone, we cannot talk to them anymore. Once they are gone we need to know in our hearts that we did all we could. We need to be able to go to bed at night...with peace.

**When I was in seminary one of my professors in the counseling department lost his father.** He was gone for two weeks. He opened his heart to us when he got back from the funeral. I remember him standing in the front of the class with tears in his eyes. He spoke to us about the difference between "clean grief" and "dirty grief". He told us he had "clean grief" with his father. He knew his father was going to die one day. He had talked to his father about those things that weighed heavily on his heart. There was not anything left undone. **He could grieve with peace in his heart.**

**Sharing our faith with others is important because we all want clean grief.** Who knows when someone is going to die, or get fired, or move? One never knows. That's why the Lord tells us to do it.

If you have a Jewish friend, business associate, neighbor, or family member I want to share a few thoughts with you...

### God Puts People Into Our Lives For a Reason

**It is no coincidence that you have a Jewish person in your life.** God is not about coincidences. He is the author of every aspect of our lives. Where we live. Where we work. Who comes into our lives.

**Don't miss the opportunities that the Lord gives to you.** It is not always easy to talk to people about spiritual issues, especially if the person is experiencing a life threatening illness. But it is exactly during those difficult times of life when people are most open to exploring spiritual issues. When did you come to Jesus? Were things going well? Or did you come to Him through a difficult circumstance? If you have a



Jewish friend or family member they are in your life for a reason. The Lord wants to use you.

### God Will Give Us The Words To Say

**Most people do not talk to their friends about Jesus because they do not feel like they know what to say.** They are afraid that if their friend responds back negatively then they will not know how to answer. We don't because we feel inadequate, incapable, ignorant, afraid. Jesus warned us about that. He said not to worry...that the Holy Spirit would give us the words to say. **But if we don't open our mouths how can the Spirit speak through us?**

**Remember that the same Lord who brings people into our lives will also give us the words to say.**

### Don't Wait Until Its Too Late

**I recently received a call from Mike in Texas.** Mike is a dentist who has a Jewish friend named Jason. Jason is an orthodontist who does not yet know the Lord. Mike called me overwhelmed with the feeling that he has not done enough to share Jesus with Jason. He was looking for something. Maybe a book? Some kind of answer.

### How to Contact Us

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I asked Mike several questions about Jason. Was he searching? Having difficulty in life? Marriage ok? Had Mike ever talked to Jason about Jesus?

Mike told me that Jason has "the world by the tail". Jason has everything one could want...health, a beautiful wife, money, and very few problems. Jason is not open to the gospel and is not really searching.

**I told Mike that one never knows when a friend may start their spiritual search.** But one day Jason will. And Mike will be there. He will be prepared. And if, God forbid, Jason were to die suddenly...Mike would have done his job.

**I am so glad Mike came to us early.**

**Gina recently called me. Her mother-in-law died.** Though grieving, her grief was cleaner. **She had shared Jesus with Brenda.** Gina doesn't know if Brenda ever accepted the Lord. But Gina did what the Lord wanted her to do. Life is for the living. Do what you can now.

**We are here to help.**

## Thank You!


**Death. No one can avoid it.** Those who we love will at some point leave us. But Jesus takes the sting away.

**It is our hope that more Jewish people will come to Jesus and spend eternity with Him in heaven.**

**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