



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Why Didn't He Believe?

**T**he plans were set. We were going to spend the day at one of the largest Christian concert events in the country. **"Celebrate Freedom 2008" was an all day Christian event featuring the best and most popular Christian singers and speakers in the country.** Our plan was to have a booth, meet believers with a heart for the Jewish people, and hopefully run into a few pastors who might like to have us come to their church. **It was hot and humid day, but we were geared up for a fun time talking to believers and listening to great Christian music.**

I arrived early in the morning to get set up and meet the early crowd. Janice was planning on meeting me there later in the morning and staying for the duration. **We planned on being there from 8 in the morning until 11 at night. A long day. They were expecting between 40,000 and 60,000 people.** A busy day too.

The throngs arrived at 9:30. As people walked by, they stopped at our booth giving us the opportunity to talk to them about the work that we are doing to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. **It is still amazes me that there are so many Christians unfamiliar with ministry to the Jewish people. So many are unaware that God commanded us to bring the message of Jesus back to the people who gave us Jesus.** But, what a great opportunity for us to make our ministry known to Christians who do not know about our outreach.

Janice had arrived. As she was talking to one couple I noticed a middle aged man looking at our literature. I walked



up to him, extended my hand, and introduced myself to him. *"Hi, my name is Steve,"* he said, *"and I find your information very interesting."* After telling him a little about what we do I asked him where he went to church. *"Oh,"* he said, *"my wife is a Christian and I am Jewish. We attend a local community church. In fact, I am a volunteer and there every Sunday helping the church out. I have been doing it for two years."*

**So there I was, surrounded by 40,000 Christians, at a Christian event, listening to Christian music, talking to a Jewish man who did not know Jesus.** And God brought Him to me.

**After the initial shock wore off I found out that Steve was raised in a religious Jewish home and has been married to a non-Jewish woman for 20 years.** They have been attending church together and have raised their children in a Christian environment. **Steve loves going to church and has even taught the younger childrens classes.** He was very interested in my story.

I spoke to Steve for over 30 minutes. I

shared my personal story with him, telling him how I came to know Jesus after having been raised in a religious Jewish home. I shared the gospel, told him about Jesus, and communicated the fact that God loves him and wants to have a relationship with him. Steve listened.

*"Steve,"* I said, *"it is so clear to me that God has His hand on you. He is obviously trying to get your attention. It is not a coincidence that you were raised in a Jewish home and then married a woman who has taken you to church for 20 years. You hear about Jesus every Sunday from wonderful teacher of God's Word. You have seen, you have heard, you have experienced...now God has brought you across my path. Are you ready to accept Jesus into your life?"*

*"Murray,"* Steve said, *"I have the best of both worlds. I am Jewish and I go to church. I don't feel a need for Jesus. I think I can be a good person, believe what I believe, and be very happy. I am not ready to accept Jesus. I will consider what you are saying."*

I gave Steve my information and got his in return. He left and I wondered why he did not pray with me to accept the Lord. **I have had the opportunity to pray with so many Jewish people just like Steve to accept Jesus. Why not Steve?** I was deeply discouraged. Encounters like that always make me ask the question, *"Why? Why do people like Steve reject Jesus? How can they go to church and hear the message of Jesus so clearly presented, and walk away without saying "yes"?"* I have to leave those questions for God...for later. But there are some basic principles that I have to, we all have to, remember...

- ◆ **God is the One who draws a person to Jesus and oftentimes we can recognize Him doing it.**

I could almost see the Hand of God on Steve. **God was, and is, so obviously trying to get his attention.**

One of the most incredible facts about meeting Steve was that neither he, nor I, expected it to happen. The timing was beyond our control. The setting was beyond our control. The subject was beyond our control. **God has had his hand on Steve for at least 20 years. God has been drawing Steve to Himself.** We do not know the outcome. We cannot know the future. But we can know that God is the one who draws people to Himself.

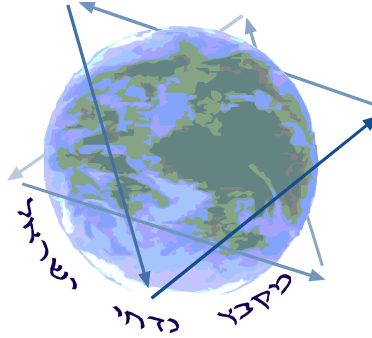
**If we can see that a person is being wooed by God we need to help them understand that fact.** Jewish people often say to me, "*Murray, if God would just give me a sign. If He would just make it clear, I would believe.*" My response is always, "*He is showing you right now. The fact that I am sitting here talking to you about Him is a sign in itself.*"

- ◆ **We cannot know how God is at work in a person's life, but have to be ready to obediently to share our faith.**

When God brings a person into our lives it is for a purpose. We never know who those people are going to be. Of course we have our family members, neighbors, and business associates. **But what about the person at the grocery store, the person sitting next to you on an airplane, or the waitress you strike up a conversation with at a restaurant?** God brings people like that into our lives as well.

I recently had the privilege of praying with a young waitress at a local restaurant for assurance of her salvation. She was raised in a Catholic home, had just severed a 10 year relationship with a man, and was attending a very popular church here in Atlanta.

After asking her a few questions about



how she came from Texas to Georgia the conversation quickly turned to spiritual issues. I told her that after 10 years she needed to find a man who loved Jesus first. "*Oh my gosh,*" she said, "*it seems like everyone I have been waiting on this week is a Christian and my best friend has been talking to me about Jesus too!*"

**I prayed with the waitress to commit her life to Jesus. She was ready. We always need to be ready.**

- ◆ **No one can have the best of both worlds...in the spiritual sense.**

**Steve said that he has the best of both worlds. From his perspective he is not only fine, but in a better place than many.** He has his Jewish identity and he also has a foot in the church. He feels comfortable, accepted, wanted, encouraged, and has a sense of purpose. **I have talked to many people like that. Everything is going right. Not only do they have the best of both worlds, but they have the best of many worlds...from this world's perspective.** They have everything that anyone could want. A happy marriage, a secure job, financial security, and their health. But, at some

point the worlds will begin to unravel. At some point the marriage will come under stress, the job will disappear, a loved one will get sick...something.

**I gave a gentle warning to Steve. I told him that God is not only trying to get his attention, but God will do whatever He needs to do to get his attention.** I recounted the story of the Exodus to Steve. God tried so very hard to get Pharaoh's attention. He used the plagues. They were God's attempt to get Pharaoh to turn his heart to God. Life is difficult, bad things happen, and they happen to good people...to Christians...to us all. God will use those events to draw us closer to faith...to Himself. I said to Steve, "*God is talking to you...you need to listen.*"

**The Jewish Festivals are upon us. Jewish people around the world are praying to God and asking forgiveness for their sins.** If you have a Jewish friend, neighbor, or business associate, please take the time to send them a holiday card wishing them a happy new year. Use this season to go beyond your comfort zone, to ask relevant questions. **We are here to help.**

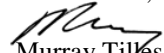
**If you do not have a Jewish friend or acquaintance, please pray for our ministry during the Jewish holiday season.** It is one of the most important times of the year for us as we bring Jesus back to the Jewish people.

## Thank You!

**Steve is just one of the many Jewish people we have the incredible opportunity to tell about Jesus.** We were there, because you sent us.

**Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.**

For the staff,

  
Murray Tilles

Light of Messiah Ministries

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