

## AMMI MINISTRY MINISTRY UPDATE – APRIL 14, 2010

### Israel Witnessing Experiences

1. The flight to Israel on March 3 was filled with Chasidim (religious Jewish people). During the 10 hour flight several of the men put on *tefillos* or *tefillót* plural [Hebrew](#): תפילות; (daily prayer items worn by Jewish men, based on Deut. 6) and went to the rear of the plane and participated in **davening** from Yiddish טאָוונגן *davnen* 'to pray. When Jacob, the Orthodox man sitting across from me returned to his seat, I began a extensive conversation with him. After introductions, I asked him questions about the prayer books he was reading. This question led to a conversation about the Gospel. As I shared messianic Scriptures, he admitted he was weak in the study of prophecy. I encouraged him to read Isa. 53 and other verses, and to ask God to reveal to him the meaning of these verses. I also mentioned Psalm 119:30; "The unfolding of Your Word gives light, it gives understanding to the simple." I quoted this verse because the Orthodox believe without the complicated and intricate commentary of the rabbis on the Scriptures, a person cannot understand God's word. I was surprised that Jacob did not become angry during our conversation. Pray God will open his eyes to the Light of Scripture.



Putting on *tefillót*



Our Tour Guide Ari

2. Our Jewish tour guide's name was Ari. Ari believes there is a God. I had an opportunity to witness to him. I asked him what was the biggest obstacles he had to believing in Yeshua (the Hebrew name of Jesus - means salvation). He would not be specific. I know Ari has heard the Gospel many times because he often leads Christian tour groups. Pray God would penetrate the taboos that keep Ari's eyes closed to the truth.

3. On one of the evenings we were in Jerusalem, **our great nephew David** visited us. David is a student at a university in Tel Aviv. He is pursuing a degree in business. He also is a sergeant in the Israel Defense Force and fought in the recent Gaza war. Like many Israelis David's experience with war has made him wonder about the reality of God. He is also alienated from Judaism because his parents are extreme, legalistic Chasidic Jews. Also, His decision to serve

in the Army and take classes at a secular university has caused his family to stop communicating with him. Chasidic men and women are not required in Israel to serve in the armed forces.



David

He was extremely happy to connect with us as an accepting part of his family. After dinner, David was eager to show me the Ben Yehuda area. This area is filled with restaurants, stores, pubs, and street music. It is a hang out for people in Jerusalem. While we wandered the streets of Ben Yehuda, I spent hours sharing the Gospel with David. My focus was on God's desire for David to have a personal relationship with Him. I explained that religious legalism was not the only way to know God. He seemed resistant to the idea that God would require something from him. I was honest with David that our Creator does have standards of righteousness. but, these standards were actually the best way for us to live and experience God's blessings and peace. The conversation was pleasant and enjoyable for both of us. Pray God will help David repent and become an obedient follower of Jesus. Later, David called his grandmother (Jackie's sister) and told her how happy he was to connect with Jackie and me.

### **Palm Sunday Blessings**

On Palm Sunday, I taught at a church in Philadelphia on Christ in the Passover. An unsaved Jewish man named Jonathan attended the sermon/teaching. After the service I spoke to Jonathan about the Lord for over an hour. He has a difficult time accepting the deity of Jesus. I showed him several Scriptures from the Jewish Bible which point to the plurality of God and the deity of Jesus. Pray that I can meet with him again to help him move further towards salvation.

### **Health Concerns - Heart Problems**

I took a stress test on March 22nd. The doctor told me that the test showed some narrowing in my heart arteries. I am scheduled to have a heart catheterization on April 16th. I've done my best to eat a healthy diet, and my blood sugars and cholesterol numbers have been excellent. However, as a diabetic, it is easier for plaque stick to my arteries. I have to admit because of my arthritic left knee I have slowed down on doing aerobic exercises. Pray for God to heal me, and guide the surgeon's hands and mind.

### **Other Health Issues**

Once my heart issues are dealt with, I will be contacting an orthopedic surgeon to discuss a partial knee replacement. I have put this operation off, because of ministry responsibilities, but, I know it's important for me to make the time for this necessary body repair. Pray for guidance

and success for this procedure. A successful repair will help me continue for many more years of ministry (God willing).

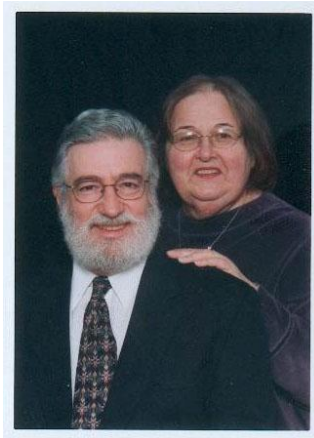
### **Unexpected Dental Costs**

I had an annual dental exam and the ex-rays showed that one of my teeth had an infection. I was surprised because I had not experienced any pain at this point. However, when I saw the ex-rays I understood the need for a root canal and a new crown for the tooth. If any of you have gone through this procedure, you know it's expensive. I have a dental discount plan which saved us about 25%. The total cost for this work including the initial visit and ex-rays was \$1,400. As I've written before, our finances are down because of the economy. Any assistance with this unexpected expense would be very helpful.

### **New Article on AMMI's Website**

A mission chairman from one of our supporting churches in Alabama (Young Meadows Presbyterian Church) sent us an interesting article written by Eric Hoffer in the *L.A. Times* on 5/26/1968. I think if you take the time to read this brief article you will be amazed at how little has changed since it was written 32 years ago!

We are grateful for all of the individuals and churches who support AMMI. Thank you for helping us continue to bring the Gospel to Jewish People.



God bless,  
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