

WHAT IS FAITH? BETTER YET, WHAT IS A TEST OF FAITH?

For me it's a cable car ride from ancient Jericho up to the Mount of Temptation! Capturing photos of an old orthodox temple built into the walls of a mountain temporarily diverted me from the great urge to feed fear and look down. But once my feet touched rocky soil and I turned around, faith became sight. Suddenly, the conquest of Jericho (Joshua 6) leaped off the pages and thousands of years vanished.

Below us was ancient Jericho, once completely destroyed when its walls came down as God commanded, but now rebuilt following Joshua's prophecy, foretelling the great cost to human life (1 Kings 16:34). Looking across the city, I wonder where Rahab might have lived? No doubt her house stood at the eastern edge of the city where she was first to see Joshua and his small team move quietly across the valley from the mountains of Moab (now called Jordan). And what about the sound of rams horns blowing for seven days in a row...or 40,000 Israelites marching in unison around Jericho every day...or the sound of walls crashing down, followed by shouts of victory as God gave the city into the hands of His people...**imagine!**

PROPHETIC VIEW

Still travelling to our destination in Galilee where our small team would meet with ministry partners, the land before us stood as reminder that God's Word is sure and time (by our standards) does not affect Him!

But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come.

For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown.

I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt.

Ezekiel 36: 8-10 NASV

In the distance stood a settlement of people in the mountains, overlooking the very land that had once been commanded to produce food for the returning Israelis. Bible believing Christians rejoice at such evidence, which only fuels and firms our Biblical convictions on prophecy unfolding in Israel!

JUDGEMENT

Driving only minutes northeast, our team stood in awe, overlooking the valley of Moab, and across Gilgal, where the Israelites camped, just before their historical trek to Jericho for the wall-crashing ceremony!

*Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you."
So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.*

Joshua 5:9 NASV



MOUNTAIN SIDE TEMPLE



EZEKIEL 36 FULFILLMENT



VALLEY OF MOAB AT GILGAL

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SUNRISE AT THE SEA OF GALILEE

At Gilgal, God washed the world's influence off Israel, and only a few miles southwest; Jericho would suffer overdue judgment. It was in this area where ancient kings tried to use divination against the Israelites, from the nearby "high places of Baal" to stop the forward motion of God's plan.

As we travelled, the land continued to speak...and we were only an hour into our journey! Truly, Israel is a nation where saint and sinner can find themselves...our reflections are everywhere!

TIBERIAS

The bad news is jet lag woke me at 1:00AM...the good news is that I was ready for sunrise! Watching the eastern sun slowly increasing its glow across the Sea of Galilee and over ancient Tiberias I was struck by a little reality. A few years ago, our Voice of Hope station reached into the heart of a young Kibbutz worker-a French Jew who met his Messiah through our broadcasts. Today Claude pastors a church inside Tiberias where it is said that the 71-member Sanhedrin (assembly or council) dormant for nearly 2000 years, has been revived in 2004. This assembly of leaders once led as Israel's supreme leadership, and is considered by many in the orthodox community as a major facet of Israel's restoration, and perhaps one vital to its end-time preparation for Messiah. Tiberias is clearly a spiritual epicenter for last day events and only miles away from Armageddon itself, where God will judge the nations! (Revelation 16). It is no surprise to us that Claude has felt led to plant a church here at the site of much future spiritual activity. He needs help with this strategic end-times church...for details on how you can help, contact us!

MOUNTAIN WARFARE

Travelling north, skirting the edge of Syria, enroute to a small Messianic congregation, an ancient Crusaders' castle stood as a tired reminder that the kingdom of God is not taken by sword. Driving north of Ceasarea Phillipi, past the temple of Pan carved into rock face, (where Jesus is said to have challenged Peter with Matthew 16:17 as they stood before the fallen-idol site) we were just moments away from modern day Katzrin, a community of mostly Soviet Jews. Katzrin is a community established after the 6-day war and surrounded by mountains rich with history of war, as nations fought for territory. While nearby mountains were once dominated by castles, Katzrin today is home to a growing community of messianic believers who have discovered that eternal kingdoms are only taken by *The Sword!*

Our days of northern ministry was punctuated by a quiet early evening boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, shared with 87 Singaporean believers (that stretched our boat to maximum capacity). Miles mean nothing to the believing community. Together we were transformed into a unified family who could not all speak the same language but we could worship Jesus together-and we did! Heaven will be amazing!

POTATOES AND AIRPLANES

Our delightful spiritual journey was sharply interrupted during one of our humanitarian stops. Our team was here to bless Israel in soup kitchens; in food gathering and whatever might help that might alleviate the nation's poverty. 20% of Israelis are poor and need help, so our visits are designed to provide what we are able; in between work sites, we enjoy rich history as we travel. On this day, our team had just started gleaning sweet potatoes for distribution to Israeli soup kitchens (*NB our host Leket Israel provides fresh and nutritious food for 300 soup kitchens across Israel as well as 7000 sandwiches for children EVERY DAY!*). Our team was thoroughly enjoying the honor of working in Israel's fields when suddenly our thoughts were interrupted by the roar of Israeli fighter jets scrambling overhead, each one armed to protect this small but determined nation. We later discovered there had been a conflict in Gaza (as there often is) but the rumble overhead did not stop our gleaning ministry...the people of Israel need food.

MARTY MOURNING?

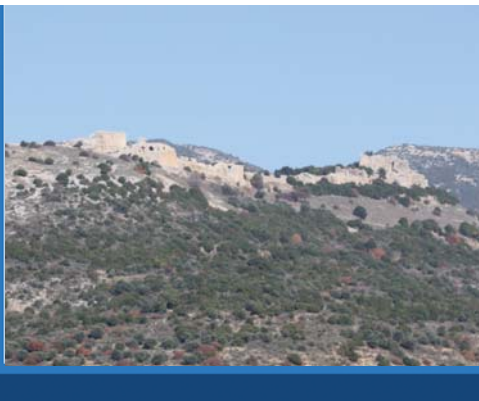
Our next stop was Hazon Yeshaya (Prophecy of Isaiah) which was fashioned after Isaiah 58: 6,7 NASV:

...Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry...

Founder Abraham Israel provides 40,000 meals every month, drawing help from caring volunteers and donors across the world. In the heat of the moment I should have reached for my camera (and not a carrot)...my treasured camera hit the floor! In a test, I managed to take "a snap" through a broken lens...not sure if Marty is mourning or pretending...



PASTOR CLAUDE PREACHING IN TIBERIAS



CRUSADER CASTLE IN GOLAN HEIGHTS



GIFTS OF CLOTHING FOR MESSIANIC CHURCH

either way, our forward progress was not stopped. We peeled and cut and prepared food for many needy Israelis that day-we just could not photograph it.

RADIATION OR RADIO

After daytime serving Israel's needy, our team enjoyed some evening quiet time in our Jerusalem apartment, which included radio. Each night we would tune in to our partner (Orient 98.7 FM) radio station in nearby Bethlehem to enjoy High Adventure USA's Pat Kowalick giving announcements and inviting tourists to visit any of the Holy Land's exciting Biblical sites. But most thrilling for me was the beautiful Christmas music soothing the nation with the best news ever given at any time in history! Standing in our apartment, watching the Israeli flag flying over the Knesset and listening to our partner station was an incredible gift to us-especially after so much difficulty and expense to establish and maintain it in Bethlehem-an area where there is only 1.5% Christian population (down from 35%).

We also broadcast across the entire Middle East on shortwave radio on various signals and in many languages. Standing in our parking lot (where I could listen as loud as I chose without overwhelming our apartment) I tuned in to frequency after frequency, hearing our signature Bible Voice identifications followed by broadcasters who provide programs for us. My enjoyment was interrupted by a passing tenant who enquired most seriously, "is there any radiation here?" With my best serious face I replied "no" wondering if the salvation message broadcast or the sight of a shortwave radio was the cause for concern...either way, I continued the delightful task of monitoring our shortwave broadcasts that reach across over 400 million people in 22 nations each and every night! I wished our founder George Otis could have enjoyed this with me...his dream was to reach the world for Christ-starting with Israel!

BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT

Looking out across Israel each day, taking in Biblical sights, helping modern Israel with humanitarian support and watching neighbors (Biblical brothers) struggle to maintain peaceful co-existence, especially at a time when the world celebrates the birthday of Jesus, I wondered; *what gift might Jesus want? What is most important to Him-of all He could choose, what is top of His wish list? After all - It's His birthday!* After Jesus' 40-day temptation which included an opportunity to have **anything** in the world (Luke 4), His heart and word did not waver-it was to fulfill the will of God, further evidenced by His very first public statement (Luke 4:18 NASV) immediately following His temptation:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

Clearly, Jesus wanted to free mankind from captivity-from prison of the soul that is even more confining than any of the world's prisons! He wanted this so much for us that He even died to provide it. I got it-again! What excites Jesus is a soul freed-and what excites us is evidence of this interest and freedom. Each and every week we receive such evidence from our international broadcasts, but during our special Shepherds Fields Broadcast at Christmas, several brave listeners came forward to our booth:

If you need to be Christian just tune to orient radio-on this program you feel that someone cares. | Faries H.

Why you do not have Christmas all the year? What you have in your station is good but not enough for me and for my family. We wish that all radio stations here will follow you... | George A.

I love to tune 98.7 and the teaching from the holy book; even the Korean (programs) I do not understand, but the atmosphere is good too, keep on we like it. | Sandy E.

I am newly married. I always tune 98.7 the best Christian program and the best song ever, we love you all. | Ola D.

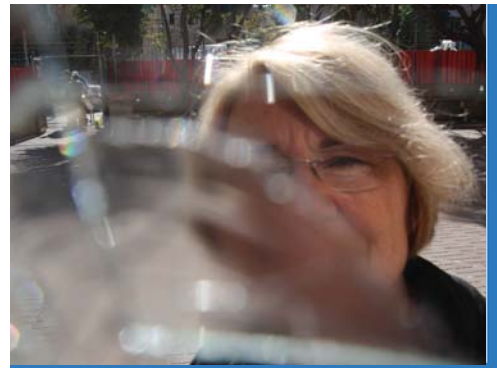
If I tell you are the best, you believe it, because you are not radio who mix gospel with oriental songs. | Yousef.



GLEANNING SWEET POTATOES FOR NEEDY



BUSY SKIES OVER ISRAELI FIELDS



DON'S "OOPS"



REACHING TO BOTH BROTHERS WITH RADIO



NEW TOWER IN BETHLEHEM

GLEANNING AND GLEANING

Our ministry to glean Israel's fields for food is part of many other humanitarian initiatives to bless Israel's incoming Aliya population...and our daily broadcasts on Bethlehem's FM outreach to Jerusalem and area, as well as our multi language shortwave radio outreach to Israel and the entire Middle East are designed to glean the skies for souls. We must not leave even one behind!

Ministry in Israel, whether humanitarian or spiritual, is designed to reach people for Christ *to set free those who are oppressed; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord* (in their lives) Luke 4:19 NASV.

Jesus began His ministry here, at the spiritual center of the earth-what better place for us to begin 2012. Please continue to support us in prayer and finances as the Lord leads you. Let's glean together!

Don



BROADCASTING ACROSS SHEPHERDS FIELDS WITH RADIO



BULLET HOLES IN OUR BETHLEHEM BROADCAST STUDIO

SPECIAL MOMENTS IN ISRAEL



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. FRIENDS LOOK ACROSS VALLEY OF JEZREEL (ARMAGEDDON)
2. DON & MARTY AT GARDEN TOMB
3. "A VISIT WITH MRS G" LITERATURE FOR RUSSIAN CHILDREN
4. JESUS' MOUNTAIN PATH FROM GALILEE TO NAZARETH



BROADCASTING FROM MANGER SQUARE IN BETHLEHEM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE PORTION BELOW AND RETURN IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED. THANK YOU.

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January 2012

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