

GLOBAL CHURCH GROWTH *Discipling Ministries*

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*Israel, a dream trip for all who
love the Lord!*



I had an opportunity in 1975 to go to Israel, but I was talked out of going. 35 years later I finally make it to the Land of our Lord. Maybe I would not have appreciated the trip then, or may not be as much help as I was on this trip. I went with 3 great companions for 17 day adventure and ministry. Eddie Hart who truly has a heart for the Jewish people had been 5 times and had a lot of contacts to meet and work with, John Leech who has worked together with me in a number of countries, and Mark Smith who was excited about learning and sharing his love for the Hebrew language and people.

Our first few days were taken up with helping a Russian immigrant with the remodeling of her apartment in the city of Nasaret illit. She spoke Russian and the minister that was sponsoring her only

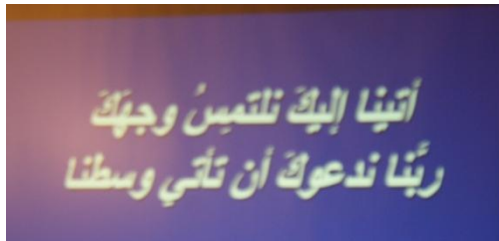


spoke Russian. So God gave me back some of my Russian so that I could communicate and translate during the work. What does this picture look like, church or warehouse? Well if you said both you would be right. Many of the messianic churches in Israel have started in a warehouse. You say why that does not sound like a good place. The reason is two fold. First, by meeting in a warehouse setting the church stays away from offending the local Jewish populace. If they would be in a residential area they would be persecuted, but here they can

minister freely because they will not feel threatened by their presence. Second is economically less expensive.

Over the first 9 days we were staying in the Nazareth area. From this base we visited congregations and ministries in the northern area including Haifa, Nazareth and Galilee. A number of the congregations were a mixture of Hebrew, Russian, and English believers. Many Russians have migrated to Israel to fulfill their journey of coming back to the promise land. 20 years ago there was hardly any messianic believers meeting in the land, but now God is fulfilling His promise to bring back His people from all over the world, and I was moved to become a part of helping that that happen as every gentile should, not to hasten Jesus back, but because every soul is precious in His sight.

As you know Global's main ministry is to train churches, leaders, and lay members how to evangelize and disciple using the material God has given me. My policy is not to go and beg people to translate my material. I just show and if any one is interested then I let them translate. I did not know what would happen on this trip, but I was amazed of the response of leaders. One minister wants to translate the books into Hebrew, one finish the Russian that already has been started. In our visits I met another missionary who is interested in even translating it into German, and then a possible fourth language. So praise the Lord, Lord willing I will return later to help in training and Discipling.



IF you notice this is Arabic not Hebrew. John Leech had made a contact with an Arabic brother and we visited him and his ministry in the old Nazareth area. I was so excited to learn about the Arab Christian congregations meeting in the area.

Saleem, pictured here stressed that everyone comes to see and hear about the Jews coming back to the Lord, but that is not the whole story. God is also working in the Arabic community also in the land of Israel. All one sees on the TV is how all Arabs are Islamic, and that is not true, God is working with all. This is not to say it is easy or without difficulty. Israel is not as free to evangelize as it is in America. You cannot go on the street and evangelize the Jewish or Arabic population, but if anyone asks, one can surely share. Friendship is the place to start as is the case in any good approach in sharing the faith.



We then made our way up to Jerusalem. The Bible says "up" because as you approach Jerusalem you have to go up and up in elevation. On this leg of the journey we met with Eddie and Jackie Santoria. They minister with an all Hebrew speaking congregation in the city. In the other congregations we saw on the screen all three languages, but in this congregation we saw only Hebrew. We were told there would be no translation or speaking of English within the service. At first I felt a little put off, but after thinking and hearing their reason it made sense. They did not want to run away any Jewish prospect that they were trying to reach. They know of other congregations that offer this service, but they have narrowed their focus. But during their daily teachings and Bible studies they do offer English translation if needed.



In these 17 days there were a lot of things learned on my part that I have not the space or time to relate. We did visit places like Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Masada, Mount Carmel, among other life changing places. Why life changing? I will never read the Bible, preach, or teach the same again. When the Bible talks about going up to Jerusalem, or down to Galilee I will understand. To think of the journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem I will understand how that might have been a hard few days walk. I will think of walking by the garden tomb or seeing Golgotha. Just amazing that I walked on some stones that Jesus probably walked on or the wall of the temple mount where He might have touched. Wow what a mind and soul stirring experience. But I bring my self back to this time and think it is not over, it is not like seeing where Lincoln lived or worked. He is dead, but the One who walked these streets is alive and it felt like He was there with me at the wall when I prayed, In the Garden where I prayed, and at the tomb where stood. As I looked at the eastern gate pictured above I could visualize Jesus our Lord breaking open the stones from the entrance and walking through. When I washed my face in at the shore of Capernaum on the sea of Galilee I almost cried.

When was Jesus born?



Most scholars would admit that Jesus was not born on December 25th. The thought is that it was a former pagan holiday and the Catholic Church in times past merged the birth event with the pagan holiday. Some say that it would not have been that time of year because most shepherds would have brought their flocks in for the winter. And some think it might be in the time of the feast of Succot or booths. That would be about the last week of September. This was a celebration of harvest, but the spiritual significance was that the temporary booths were about celebrating the Glory of God. Jesus was born in a temporary setting and He was surly the glory of God. No one knows for sure, for the record keeper in Bethlehem was not informed of the birth. You know a little hush, hush. The key is He was born in the flesh that we might have His example, His love, and later His Sacrifice. Everything that happened at His birth was only a preamble to His resurrection. So for now, let us celebrate His glorious incarnation looking forward to the last great harvest when He returns.

2011 Itinerary

Plans are firming up for 2011. January I am planning on returning to Dominican Republic to train at least three churches and hold a leadership seminar with 15 to 20 local ministers. February home, May possible return to Arizona and the Apache mission. In October, Jacque and I will be traveling and fund raising with the Northwest School of mission. As we firm up dates we will let you know of where we will be serving.

NEEDS

We still need more to join us in our 30/30 team. That is, pledging at least \$30 a month to help us in our traveling and mission expenses. WILL YOU CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH US TO HELP US HELP MAKE DISCIPLES AROUND THE WORLD?

Please send pledges to:

Global Church Growth Travel fund 1

PO Box 188 Seymour, TN 37865

A BIG THANKS



If you do support us we cannot thank you enough for your gracious love and support, for without you we could not fulfill God's calling to go and make disciples.

Visit us on the web at

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