

ISRAEL Trip First Week RECAP - 4/1/2008:

I have completed my first week in the Holy Land with Pastor Phil who I delivered to the airport late this pm. I am now back in Jerusalem firming up details and times for the next weeks activities. Still much to do and cover in CWP Mission trip. Highlights of first week follow:

March 24 & 25: Travel and arrival in Jerusalem late evening. Staying on Mt Scopus overlooking Old City.

March 26: Calls and plans to firm up meeting and events. Afternoon to Tel Aviv to meet and fellowship with Pastor Avi, associate and long time friend. Delivered stuffed animal from daughter Kolleen who saw his collection on her visit. Financial gift and prayer for Avi and ministry. Jaffa visit and opportunity to visit my favorite sidewalk eatery. One of the oldest in the area. 8:30 pm met Pastor Phil who joined me for Mission activities. Very late arrival back to Jerusalem.

March 27: Drive from Jerusalem via highway down to Dead Sea and through Jericho and along Jordan River highway in route to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Visit to Mt of Beatitudes, Capernaum, and sites along the Sea. Special luncheon hosted by the Deputy Mayor of Tiberias and the Chief Director of Foreign Affairs. This meeting was the result of many months groundwork on behalf of a "Naples Interest Group" to develop ties. Great reception and meeting followed by exchange of mutual interest letters. Then on to Nazareth to meet with Pastor Nizar and wife Katy, associates of CWP. Long social meeting in their home to get up to date on the Church of the Nazarene, share fellowship, some food of course and we gave a gift and prayed for the ministry of Nizar and Katy. Very late return to Jerusalem via the coastal road, past Tel Aviv and up the mountain highway 1 to Jerusalem.

March 28: Travel to Bethlehem for a group luncheon with Bethlehem Bible College President, Bishara; Dean Alex; Pastor Nihad; and more; to share fellowship and food. BBC tour to see progress on the "new building expansion" that is the result of five years planning. The three level shell is up and the interior portion is about to start. It will be a great facility. CWP friend Bill Hood made a [major gift] to the program; now showing results of the vision. CWP has [through your gifts] focused primarily on ministry activities, so the brick and mortar help was appreciated by BBC. Gathering in Bishara and Salwa's home [that is part of BBC] for social and fellowship. Late evening visit to the Bethlehem Orphanage to deliver medicine and a financial gift. 8:30pm return to Jerusalem.

- March 29: Jerusalem Assembly [Messianic] service, followed by a special baby dedication for one of the member families. Then a luncheon for the group which also included many non assembly members and non believers of the larger family and friends. Good chance to see the Gospel in action. Nice visit with many old friends and always a chance to add new ones. Late afternoon visit to the Garden Tomb for communion in a small private setting. Pastor Phil and I were blessed to get in because the crowds were as large as I have seen, with many large groups. Return to hotel for brief break and then return to the Old City, Christ Tomb and Calvary; and then to the Western Wall. This is Sabbath so no photos, wall notes, or anything outside the Jewish Worship rules is allowed. It is a special time to see the people of ISRAEL and the foundation stone for the people and the country. Opportunity to walk Old City at night and greet many of the people and then return to the Hotel.
- March 30: Service at the East Jerusalem Baptist Church. Alex Awad[BBC Dean] and Senior Pastor here, invited Pastor Phil to speak during our Bethlehem luncheon. Pastor Phillip "rose to the task" and delivered an inspirational message. Following the service, fellowship gathering to meet and greet the guests and old friends. Lunch at the American Colony Hotel, a historic landmark developed by the Spafford family. Great food and fellowship. Return to hotel to refresh and then to the Western Wall in the Old City. Kreta had a special letter prayer from a neighbor for me to pray over and place in the Western Wall. Also placed our family prayer note, and one special note for [YOU], the friends and supporters of CWP Missions in the Holy Land. A very "powerful" experience praying and standing at the Wall. Late return to the hotel. Seems we always get in a full day!
- March 31: Meeting in Jerusalem with Musalaha director Salim. They have a ministry that works to develop better relationships between Jews and Arabs. Musalaha also organizes youth desert trips, combined Jews and Arabs. Nice fellowship and CWP gave a financial gift to further the Musalaha work. Then to the nearby office and printing operation of Victor Smadja, KAM. Victor is one of the original founders of the current Messianic movement in Israel. He prints and distributes nearly 1.0 million books free in a five year period. My personal feeling is that Victor is the best bible scholar there is in the Christian world community. So it is a special time to visit and get his views on the Old and New Testament. He is very intense in his study, following every detail from a Jewish perspective. His command of Hebrew gives him abilities others do not possess. We had a great prayer and fellowship. Then we returned to Bethlehem to have a meeting and discussion with President Bishara and Dean Alex, along with the coordinator of the Shepherds Society who does much of the day to day activity. This has been a long running program of CWP helping Bethlehem, and area Christian families. Following our meeting

we were guests at the house of the Mayor of Bethlehem, and his wife. We have developed a close friendship. Discussion of local issues and a chance to bring a current Christian issue up to see if he can help. Of course, he said. All things start from the first step so now the view toward progress. Then Marcel served Turkish coffee, sweets and so forth. Nice fellowship and prayer and another late return to Jerusalem.

April 1: Travel past Tel Aviv on to Netanya to meet my dear friends at Beit Asaph Messianic Congregation. They are as active as ever, with the Senior Pastor and Elder [Evan] starting a college to educate believers. He remains the Chairman of the Israel Messianic Organization and is also active in bringing many of the important group issues to formal action. We had lunch with Evan and then met with his co-elders David and Raveev. We had fellowship and gave the ministry a gift. Even also set a meeting for me for Thursday night with one of the Galilee pastors who will be in Netanya for a wedding. On to the Airport to deliver Pastor Phillip for his travel home. Late afternoon to hotel to get organized for the next week, and of course send out this activity note.

A special note of thanks to all of our CWP friends and supporters. Everyone I meet says "be sure to tell our friends we deeply appreciate their support and send our love and prayers to them".

Thank you and GOD Bless,
Roger,CWP