

Israel Trip Report

Dr. Raleigh B. Washington

Oct 16th-24th, 2007

I. Background

Last April during the Israel Mandate Conference at IHOP I met Pastor Wayne Hillsden (King of King Church in Jerusalem). He was impacted by my message and by the workshop that Evan and I conducted. As he learned of our plans for HaTikva Center in Jerusalem, he stated that I needed to connect with a number of key people in Israel to solicit their input and support. He offered to host me and arrange the appropriate meetings. I traveled to Israel on the 16th accompanied by my wife Paulette and my son Matthew. Wayne hosted us in a fabulous apartment that was recently refurbished under the management of the church. Our accommodations were top drawer. My overall assessment is that I experienced God's favor throughout my stay in unprecedented fashion.

II. Wednesday, Oct 17th

Wayne met us at Ben Gurion Airport and drove us to Tiberius. That evening I had dinner with Pastor Ofer Amitai and Pastor Daniel Yahav. Pastor Amitai participates with the International Committee of Toward Jerusalem Council II and Pastor Yahav leads the largest congregation in the Galilee region and is very involved with reconciliation between Jewish and Arab believers. Both pastors received my report and plans for HaTikva Center with favor. They shared with me the differences between the American Messianic movement and the Israeli Messianic movement. Both expressed appreciation that I would seek their advice and input. Both expressed a willingness to support me in any way that they could.

III. Thursday, Oct 18th (Paulette's Birthday)

In the AM we visited some of the key spiritual sites in the Galilee region. This was Matthew's first visit, Paulette's second and my fifth. I had a late lunch meeting in Jerusalem with Rick Riddings (Director of Succat Hallel)—and Attorney Calev Meyers. Rick leads a 24 hour a day prayer ministry and hosted the Israeli version of IHOP's One Thing conference. Rick wants to join IHOP in providing 24 hour prayer coverage for Hatikvah Center. This is a huge blessing.

Calev is a strong believer, member of King of Kings and renowned defender of Messianic Jews right to Israeli citizenship. He has fought 147 cases mostly in defense of Messianic Jews. He recently took a battle on behalf of Messianic believers to the front page of the Jerusalem Post. Virtually every week for months his case was reported as front-page news. Finally the Minister of Interior called Calev into his office and said: "What must I do to shut you up?" The courts, Government, and the general Israeli public respect him. He is considering running for a Knesset seat. Winning would yield unprecedented favor for Messianic believers. Hence, as I shared the vision of the "Road", Calev could not contain himself. His heart and ours are one indeed. He believes some Zionists love the land more than the souls of the people. I told him that we needed a legal council for The Road To Jerusalem, especially considering our vision for Hatikvah Center and future events in Israel. He immediately accepted my proposal and said his fee would be a donation monthly of any amount to his recently organized ministry. Rick wants to join IHOP in providing 24 hour prayer coverage for Hatikvah Center.

Later that evening we visited the Pavilion and Prayer Tower at King of Kings. It has recently been added to tourism sites to visit in Jerusalem. Pastor Aaron Fruh from Mobile, AL and his daughter Rachel along with Wayne, his wife Ann and Executive Pastor Ron Cantor and me had fellowship over a meal. Aaron is the writer of Coach's book that is soon to be published. Paulette and Matt went shopping on Ben Yehuda Street. I returned home at 11:30, just in time to celebrate Paulette's birthday. We got caught up in meetings and shopping and no one remembered until Matt asked, what was the date? We celebrated at a great restaurant beneath our apartment. Thursday night in Israel is like Saturday night in the USA.

IV. Friday, October 19th

We traveled to Haifa to meet with Eitan Shishkoff. We celebrated Shabbat meal with his family and Russ Resnik, Executive Secretary of Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations. Russ and Eitan were hippies and friends when they accepted Yeshua (Jesus). The fellowship around the Shabbat meal was a highlight of our trip. Matt gave his testimony and we sang praise songs accompanied by Eitan on his harmonica and Russ on guitar—a blessing and a blast! I invited Eitan to pray about becoming our lead person for Hatikva. God had supernaturally knit our hearts as we ministered together at the Israel Mandate in Kansas City. He was the first name recommended by Jonathan Bernis our Board Member over a year ago. Eitan and I are praying and dialoguing. He was deeply impacted by my suggestion.

V. Saturday, October 20th

We attended a One New Man worship service in the Forest between Nazareth and Tiberius. Approximately 600 Israeli and Arab believers coming together as one in worship of Yeshua the Messiah. Eitan and Daniel Yahav were two of the organizers. They asked me to speak to the gathering, which was another indication of God's favor. We met Lyall Anderson an associate of S. Chris Herndon, the business partner of Lee Domingue, moderator of our Board of Directors. Lyall has a heart for the Messianic believers and is constructing a project in Israel.

We traveled with Russ Resnik to the One New Man ministry of David and Karen Davis atop Mount Carmel. The Davis' are among the original organizers of the coming together of Jewish and Arab congregations. Karen is one of our Messianic artists. The Davis' are in full support of Hatikvah and future Road To Jerusalem conferences in Israel.

Later that evening we attended Shabbat service in Tel Aviv with Avi Mizrahi. Avi has an outreach called Dugit (small boat) that includes an evangelistic coffee shop. I delivered the message for the Shabbat service. Avi is looking for a location for his congregation as the former place where they met was sold. ---A frequent challenge for Messianic congregations in Israel.

****We seek to address this need through Hatikvah Center with a contracting and construction department.**

We fellowshipped after the service with Avi, Rabbi Kevin Solomon, and his family from Beth Hallel in Atlanta. They are spending a season of time in the Land.

VI. Sunday, October 21st

We worshipped at King of Kings; Pastor Wayne interviewed me during the service. I was able to share fully about the ministry of Road and how Coach and I were led of God from P.K. to TRTJ. Pastor John Stalker of Ft. Logan, a suburb of Denver, is a supporter of King of Kings. He said Coach and I were genuine risk takers for God.

VII. Monday, October 22nd

I visited Dan Juster, and Asher Intrater. They are both with Tikkum ministries and lead a variety of ministries in Israel i.e., Messianic congregations, Young Adult Discipleship and are premier speakers. They gave me great input for Hatikvah Center and were encouraged that I considered their input critical and necessary.

At noon we visited the Knesset in Jerusalem. Paulette and I had met with Mr. Elhanan Glasser of the Kennest in July. God gave us favor as we challenged him to support the Messianic's. Pastor Wayne was able to get an appointment for me. His assistant gave us a tour before we met with him. The time was short hence he suggested we have dinner with him that evening. Paulette, Matthew and I joined him for dinner. We spoke of many things including spiritual matters. He shared with us that 75,000 Holocaust survivors are living below the poverty level in Israel. I believe God has given us a friend in the Knesset.

VIII. Tuesday, October 23rd

I met with Rebecca Brimmer, Executive Director of Bridges For Peace in Jerusalem. She has Messianic Jewish believers in her organization but does not allow them to interact with the Jewish community. They help Messianic's but,

it is done without knowledge of the government. She feels her calling is to the unbelieving community. I challenged her to validate her call from Scripture. Her focus and finances goes to the unbeliever first, which violates Scripture Romans 15:27 and Galatians 6:10. We had a healthy debate and parted as friends. She is a member of King of Kings and Pastor Wayne sat in on the meeting. He applauded me afterward for discussing the tough issues.

We met with Malcolm Hedding, Executive Director of Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, and Tom Hess who leads a 24 hour prayer ministry located on the Mount of Olives. They were very encouraged and supportive of the ministry of TRTJ.

Summary

I asked Pastor Wayne to partner with the Road for an event in Jerusalem during the spring of 2009. He agreed with enthusiasm. We are discussing details before making a final decision.

I feel God's favor was upon us in extraordinary fashion, to meet with such key leaders are very difficult to accomplish yet alone all in one week-----Praise God for His favor!!!

Paulette and Matt saw the key spiritual sites yet participated in most of my meetings. Matt connected with Dov, an Israelite believer who is a border guard. He took Matt to his outpost, walked his beat along the Palestinian boarder and visited two schools in Jerusalem. He performed Christian Rap and was mobbed by those kids who were stared for love. He called this the highlight of the trip for him, as he was able to "touch" the people. He also visited the home of an Ethiopian family. God touched Matt in a special way.

I thank God for all of you who prayed and supported our trip.

In his grip,



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THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM