

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 4, Number 5

May 2006

As always, special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions to B'rit Hadashah Ministries, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible.

Search the Scriptures

This publication is a monthly newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries. Special thanks go to several people who helped to make this newsletter possible:

Zola Levitt - Mark Levitt - Nancy Baker
- Don and Elisa Retzlaff - Greg Hartwig

For more information about our ministry, or to be added to our subscription list, you may contact Dr. Todd Baker by mail at:

P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

or by e-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com.

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DEBTORS OF MESSIAH TO ISRAEL *Part 1*

"They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings."

Romans 15:27

This is the first of many articles about the witnessing encounters Paul Colley and I experienced during the March 2006 Gospel outreach to the Jewish people of Israel. God did many mighty and phenomenal things on this outreach that only He could do. We are humbled, privileged, and honored to take back the message of Yeshua the Messiah to His ethnic people from whence it came and I thank every donor and prayer warrior for supporting and praying for us as we successfully carried out this end-time ministry.



Todd Baker

On March 21st, Paul and I set out for Tiberias from Tel Aviv the day after we arrived in the Holy Land. On our way there the Holy Spirit moved me to stop at



The City of Nazareth

a certain shopping center between the two cities and make an additional stop to Nazareth, where Jesus spent most of His boyhood (see *Luke 2:39-40*), to conduct witnessing for Yeshua the Messiah. We decided to go to Nazareth Illit (the English word *elite* comes from this Hebrew word. It means "upper" or "higher") which is the upper part of Nazareth where the Jewish community resides.

Once we arrived at the shopping center between Tiberias and Tel Aviv, the Lord led us to a candle shop where a Jewish woman named Danni worked. Danni originally came from France (a nation that is infamous for being one of the most anti-Semitic nations of Europe) where she taught dance at a Roman Catholic Parochial school. When we inquired about her knowledge of Jesus,



Danni, from France

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Olmert's Fateful Folly

BY STUART ARDEN
GUEST AUTHOR

Stuart Arden is an Israeli, a former TV producer, educator and a resident in Anathoth, a small settlement in the West Bank. Stuart is a good friend to Zola and myself, and his wife Joni is a tour guide in Israel. I hope you enjoy his insight in this article.



- Todd Stu Arden

With the Prime Ministerial reins in his hands, Ehud Olmert has invented a new euphemism for EXPULSION, for removing Jews from their homes and gardens, lands and occupations; Ariel Sharon called it "disengagement," and Ehud Olmert calls it "convergence." The word "transfer," as in the case of transferring Arabs elsewhere, which during the Mandate the oh-so-proper British even considered, is supposedly abhorrent, undemocratic, and racist, but leftists fully support and applaud the transfer of Jews, making Judea and Samaria largely *Judenrein* while never even contemplating a similar fate for the Arabs in Israel proper. The strongest supporter of the expulsion of Jews from the Land of Israel (but adamantly opposed to a similar fate for Arabs) is an organization called "Peace Now," which should really be called "capitulation now!"

Ehud Olmert, the first member of the Likud Party to have been elected mayor of Jerusalem (twice), served seven consecutive terms in the Knesset (the Israeli parliament; although under Israel's parliamentary system he was never voted for as an individual) and became leader of the Kadima Party by default. Likud Prime Minister Ariel Sharon designated Ehud Olmert as Vice-Prime Minister, and Olmert became Acting Prime Minister as a result of Ariel Sharon's stroke. True, the Kadima Party received the most votes in the general election of March 2006, thereby giving Olmert the right to form a coalition government with himself as Prime Minister. However, one wonders what would have happened if the election had been held a month later, since the projections were for anywhere between 40-45 mandates with Sharon leading the Kadima Party, and with Kadima dropping in the polls every week leaving Olmert with only 29 mandates. It is Sharon's persona which achieved that election victory, and Olmert is no Sharon. Sharon was the "glue" that held-together right-wing Likudniks in the same political party with left-wing Laborites, including a recalcitrant Shimon Peres (three times Prime Minister, but never elected by the people!), who to this day refuses to acknowledge the disaster of bringing Yasser Arafat and his terrorist cronies into Israel's backyard after the Likud Party of Menachem Begin had pushed them all the way to Tunisia.

Prior to his stroke and the subsequent hospitalization which rendered Ariel Sharon

"incapacitated," Sharon had said (after the expulsion of over 8,000 Jews from the Gaza Strip) that "painful sacrifices" would have to be made, but Ehud Olmert has been much more candid. According to Olmert, 68 Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria are to be emptied of their Jewish inhabitants, something which will probably affect more than 100,000 people, some of whom are second and third generation residents of areas whose Jewish roots stretch back to Biblical times.

What is the cause or the reason for Israelis to want to relinquish land to the Arabs; land that God had promised them in the Bible, and land which is the heartland of their Biblical heritage (land that they regained as a result of Arab attempts to destroy Israel)? Is it war-weariness? Is it the misguided fantasy that this will lead to peace with the Arabs? Is it to curry favor with the western world because the "Chosen People" seem to have "been chosen" more for obloquy than for equipollence? Or is it the suicidal urge of "leftists" who seem to take the attitude of "We're so sorry we won the war," i.e., the assault by five Arab armies intent on destroying the nascent State of Israel in 1948, an action which appears to be an on-going Arab obsession?

There is a certain "war weariness" among Israelis as there is practically no family in Israel that hasn't been touched by fallen friends or family members, in either wars or terrorist actions, but compare this with the oft-repeated statement of the Arabs that it took them 200 years to get rid of the Crusaders, and they'll get rid of the Israelis, too! Lest outsiders think that this is only a Jewish-Arab problem, beware, for another Arab statement

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Join Dr. Todd Baker in an enriching evening of teaching the Bible and the Jewish roots of Christianity. The Shalom, Shalom Congregation meets each Friday evening at 7:00 at Fellowship Bible Church now located at 9330 N. Central Expy, Room 101, Dallas, Texas. For more information, please visit <http://www.levitt.com/congregation.html> or call (214) 356-2583.

שלום

FIRST TIME AMBASSADORS

by Teresa Brown,
Guest Author

March - What a beautiful time of year to see the land flowing with milk and honey. For me, anytime would have been a sight to behold. But I believe that God wanted me to see my future home for the first time while it was in its season of bloom. This was my first trip to Eretz Israel, the land that God loves. My name is Teresa Brown and this is an account of a pilgrim's homecoming and the birth of a missionary.

Last year in November, when I first met Todd Baker, I learned that he not only has a heart for Israel but a calling on his life to bring the gospel back to the Jewish people. I was intrigued by this. I have learned a great deal about Jewish history over my 25 years as a believer, through my study of the Old Testament. But since meeting Todd I have also learned about the very Semitic roots of my faith. I have for years been persistent in my request to God about going to Israel. Every year the ministries on every Christian television and radio station had a tour to Israel. Zola's tour was one of my first choices because of his Jewish roots and his knowledge of the Holy Land. But being a single working mom put a hold on my dreams for awhile.

Today I understand how preeminent God's timing is and how important it is to wait on HIS DIVINE ORDER. Within 6 months after being introduced to God's mission outreach "To the Jew First" through Todd and Zola Levitt ministries, I was partnered up with a dear sister, Sue LeGrand, and on my way to Israel. Not only was I going with the most qualified Israel tour out there but I was going as a missionary-in-training.

Shortly into the tour I began to realize that I hadn't been in preparation for this mission for 6 months but for 25 years.

On the first morning of the tour, Sandra Levitt introduced Todd, his partner Paul Colley, Sue and me to the members of the tour as ambassadors of Messiah to Israel. We weren't expecting this but it later proved to be clearly ordained by the Holy Spirit. We began our journey through the promised land with these precious pilgrims praying for us at every turn. Many of them, like Alfred and Eleanor Fast from Grand Island, New York, have Jewish friends back home that they want to witness to. We gave them materials to take back with them and wrote down the names of their friends so we could continue to pray for them. This was an unexpected move of God that we were very excited about. These people were such a part of what Sue and I were doing on this trip. We just want to say thank you to them for being worthy partners through their prayers, support, and encouragement.

One day at a Kibbutz outside of Jerusalem, Sue and I were visiting with two young Jewish women, Ayelot and Naama, after lunch. Naama shared with us her viewpoint that the state of unrest between the Arabs and Jews in their land was a result of the government leaders pitting the Arab and Israeli people against each other. I asked if they recall that this animosity actually goes back to the days of Abraham, with Ishmael and Isaac. This fact seemed to get their attention either because they didn't realize it or they were surprised that I knew it. At any rate it opened a door for us to share about Yeshua and we talked for about 20 minutes. Naama agreed that giving up Israeli territory would probably not appease the Palestinians. She said "When you give them a finger they take the whole hand!" They also



Teresa and Todd with one of many waitresses witnessed to on this trip

agreed that the God of Israel is a peace-loving God whereas the Muslim religion seems quite violent. She commented that the Muslim people are even violent toward each other. It was obvious in her tone that she was baffled by that.

Both women expressed a deep desire to have peace in their land, even if it means giving up territory. We told them of One who would bring peace to Israel in the future but could bring peace to their troubled hearts now. My partner Sue gave them a B'rit Hadashah (a Hebrew New Testament). We encouraged them to pray before reading it. I asked them to ask God to reveal **His** truth, not ours. I asked Naama if she believes that He would do that for her if she asked. She said "yes, I do." This was a very effective witness. We could actually see a light going on in Naama's mind as we talked to her. One of our tour members from Indiana said that when she saw us talking with these ladies she grabbed her husband and said "let's pray."

At the Jordan River, I was approached by an Arab man in a souvenir shop. He was an effective salesman and I liked him immediately

even though he tried to sell me more t-shirts than I needed. As we talked, I learned that he was a believer in Messiah. There are some who have told me on this tour that Arabs will say anything to sell you their merchandise. Although I don't doubt it, there was an unmistakable joy in this man's eyes. He told me how he is sometimes able to share his faith with people who come into the store. I asked about how effective his witness is with his own people. He said "Ah, that is not so good; I just show them love." Well, for the cynics out there, he didn't end up selling me any t-shirts but before I left he hugged me. I have since thought about this. . . a Muslim man hugging me, an American protestant woman. The love of Jesus truly knows no prejudice. It reinforces hope that the lion will one day lie down with the lamb.

This trip was amazing from beginning to end. The beauty of the land was breathtaking and the Holy Sites were emotional and sometimes overwhelming! There is a great deal of spiritual energy especially at the Jesus sites because Muslims are also there worshipping their god. Although we had to stay with the tour group because Ms. Joni, (the best tour guide in all of Israel) runs a tight ship, God was so faithful to His purpose and gave us witnessing opportunities everyday. Sue and I were able to give a B'rit Hadashah to a Jewish person who truly wanted one everyday that we were there. There were waitresses, store clerks, IDF soldiers, a photographer, some young Armenian men, one in particular whose name I didn't get. But when I asked him if he knew about the Messiah, he said "yes, some say he is Jesus Christ." He reads English and Hebrew and wanted every piece of material I could give him so I gave him one of every tract we had.

There is so much more to share and I hope to have the opportunity to share in future issues. For now I want to close with a heart felt **"Praise God"** for the **ministry of Zola Levitt**, and thanks to **Mark Levitt** for letting this happen. This ministry has given me an opportunity to see the missionary inside me that I didn't know. A very special thank you to **Todd Baker** whose passion is infectious and teaching invaluable. **Thanks for believing in me, my friend!** Shalom ☆



Teresa Brown

she told us that she had a general understanding of Christian doctrine but was not very familiar with Messianic prophecy. This is common among sacramental or main line churches where very little Scripture, or for that matter Bible prophecy, is taught. When Paul and I discussed with her about the biblical evidence for Jesus being the Jewish Messiah, she did tell us that she had a copy of the New Testament in the French language. Though she could not read Hebrew very well, she could read English. So we gave her a list of Messianic prophecies that she could look up in the Tenach and then see how Yeshua fulfilled them in the New Testament. We concluded our Gospel witness to Danni by humbly communicating with her that we are deeply grateful for the fact that the Jewish people gave the Scriptures and the Messiah to all those who believe.

The next witnessing opportunity occurred in an open-air market in Nazareth. Paul was buying strawberries from the vendor there when the latter asked us where we were from. He and his friend, selling fruit next to him, were both Arabs. Their names were Abed and Moshi. Two-thirds of the population in Nazareth is Muslim. Fortunately, I was carrying Gospel tracts in Arabic and we gave both a copy to read and discover how the sinner can escape God's judgment by placing one's



Abed with Paul

unreserved trust in the Savior Jesus Christ. Amed and Moshi warmly received them and thanked us. We must not forget that Jesus came to bring the wonderful blessings of salvation for all peoples, including the Arab people as well, and two of them received our testimony about this.

As we were leaving the market place, I felt compelled to stop and speak boldly to the security guard at the entrance. I asked him if he was Jewish. He said, "Ken" (which is Hebrew for "yes"). The man's name was Arturo. When I showed him a Hebrew Gospel tract entitled "Love the Jewish People," his face suddenly lit up with excitement. I asked Arturo if he would like to have it to read. He said "Ken, ken." Then, I thought about asking if he would like a copy of the Brit Hadashah (the New Testament) in Hebrew, as well. Arturo was so excited and happy that we would give these precious commodities to him that he said, "yes, yes" over and over again repeatedly thanking us in the process. May this be the beginning of a new life in Messiah Jesus for Arturo as he reads about His Messiah in the inspired pages of Holy Scripture.



Arturo the security guard gladly accepted a copy of the B'rit Hadashah

silently prayed asking the Lord to guide and direct our steps in this matter. The providence of God in quickly answering this prayer and arranging circumstances so that this could be done was simply amazing and was to lead into an effective witness to several people at a shopping center!

Once Paul and I left the market place, we went to back to the rental car. After driving a few blocks, I spotted a sign on the right side of the road that simply said "shopping mall" with an arrow pointing in the direction it was located. The Holy Spirit urged me to go there whereupon I then asked Paul if he wanted to go, too. He said, without hesitation, "yes." As we turned into the shopping center, there were several signs on the side of the building indicating the different shops located there. One prominent sign that immediately caught my attention said **Peliphone!** I had no idea of this beforehand since we were in new territory. But of course to Him who knows all things and leads His people accordingly (see *John 10:3-5*), the Lord knew of this place to repair the phone and thus directed our steps there to have it fixed. The store did just that.

Going there, indeed, opened the door for Paul and me to witness about the Messiah and pass out Gospel tracts to various people. The next article in this series will further elaborate on these encounters. ☆

About Todd Baker

Dr. Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries — a Gospel outreach ministry to the Jewish people of Israel. He is also a full-time chaplain at Medical City Hospital. Since called to the ministry in 1984, his ministering experience includes Bible teaching, jail and prison chaplaincy, counseling, evangelism, and church ministry. Todd is also a theological consultant, writer, and tour leader in Israel for Zola Levitt Ministries. He has led several Gospel outreaches to the Jews of Israel commissioned and sent by Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation of Dallas, Texas. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, and he recently earned his Doctorate Degree from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England. †

B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Growth in any ministry is a very important thing to happen, says Dr. Todd Baker, founder of B'rit Hadashah Ministries. For the first two years, we have greatly been supported by fewer than anticipated supporters whose donations, combined, average less than \$1500 per month which is far short of the \$7000 monthly budget needed to go full time. However, we do see growth, which is very important. In this age of "the prosperity gospel," we dislike having to ask for financial support, but the reality is that it is a necessity.

Presently, B'rit Hadashah Ministries is comprised of all volunteer staff so the majority of funds received goes straight to ministry newsletters, mission trips, Tanachs and other materials needed for the mission field. Even Todd Baker himself does not receive compensation at this point, but instead chooses to continue to work as a chaplain at a local Dallas hospital.

One thing for sure though, God is working through this Ministry in Israel. One of the ministry's faithful supporters is none other than Zola Levitt as well as others who give their financial support, as well as time and talent like Eric Oler and Elisa Retzlaff. These two are indeed sowing good seeds in heaven.

Most importantly, says Todd, we are very thankful to all who can support the ministry and are encouraging members of the ministry to take the challenge and sign up for any automatic contribution they can afford. Even with as little as \$15 per month, contributions from many supporters can make the difference we need to make our budget goal and increase the mission trips to Israel. We are undertaking a great mission with a greater reward.

May God Bless each of you as you give and may it be on a consistent basis.

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If you would like to help this ministry but can't afford a financial commitment, suggest to your church pastor that Dr. Todd Baker come speak to your congregation about his work in Israel. Todd is available for speaking engagements, and can be reached via e-mail (toddbus@yahoo.com) or phone (214-356-2583) for scheduling information.

If you have access to the internet and the world wide web, would you consider receiving our newsletter via your e-mail rather than through the postal system? The money you would be saving our ministry in printing and postage cost by doing this would be a big help to us. Thank you to those of you who have already made the switch!

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May 2006 issue

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B'rit Hadashah Ministries

P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

e-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com

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It is with great regret that I mention the passing of a dear friend, colleague in Christ, and spiritual mentor - Zola Levitt. Zola passed from this world of woe into the glorious presence of his Messiah on April 19.



In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that you make a donation to the ministry at www.levitt.com.

I will always be indebted to Zola for allowing me to minister and witness to his people. He has been a major financial contributor and believed of me and this ministry. I will sorely miss him, but rejoice that he received his heavenly promotion.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." (Psalm 116:15)

Olmert's Fateful Folly...Continued from page 2

is this one relating to Christians: After we get rid of the Jews, we'll take care of you! War-weariness which results in foolish capitulations (and that means giving up land which represents strategic depth), only brings the seekers of Israel's destruction closer to Israel's population centers, power stations, airports, and that indefensible "Green Line" (the armistice line of 1949), when there have been absolutely no statements from the Arabs that giving up Judea and Samaria will even end the dispute, nor that all the Arabs want is a state ALONGSIDE Israel and not IN PLACE OF ISRAEL.

That "Green Line" is really a "red line" for Israel and is highly significant in this talk of "disengagements" and "convergences." In 1974, in Cairo, the Arabs held a conference after they had given it their best shot in the 1973 war (called The Yom Kippur War in Israel and The October War, in Egypt), and they decided that they would take whatever Israel was willing to give-up and use that as a springboard for the next war (of the attempted destruction of Israel!). A large part of their thinking and ceaseless efforts since then have been devoted to pushing Israel back to that Green Line which is merely a line on the ground with no significant geographical or geological formations to form a real border between belligerents. The classic "rebuttal" to this suicidal impulse was stated by former Israeli statesman Abba Eban in an interview in the German magazine Der Spiegel on November 5, 1969, when he said, "it has for us something of a memory of Auschwitz." Lt.-Gen. Thomas Kelly, Director of

Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the 1991 Gulf War, said: "It is impossible to defend Jerusalem unless you hold that high ground [in Judea-Samaria]. I look out from those heights and look onto the West Bank [Judea and Samaria!] and say to myself, 'If I'm the Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, I cannot defend this land without that terrain.'" (The Jerusalem Post, Nov. 7, 1991)

One has to wonder at the folly of pushing one's own country close to this indefensible line, giving up one's patrimony to forces which continually make it clear that their sole aim is the destruction of Israel, or in the world of *realpolitik*, giving up the "cards" you hold, without a *quid pro quo* or even the slightest indication that this will silence, mollify, or even appease your avowed enemy. We are not talking about gentlemen from Oxford and Cambridge; in Arabic society any sign of weakness (e.g. appeasement) is treated with scorn and only emboldens them to be more belligerent and to seek more concessions, and with a Hamas-led government (listed on the U.S. State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations), any conciliation seems to be pure folly. Most significantly of course is that the Arabs view these appeasements, capitulations, "disengagements," and "convergences" as victories for terrorism thereby whetting their appetite for more terrorism; and of course there's no need for peace negotiations if you can get it "for free." Sadly, Mr. Olmert apparently never took Statesmanship, Diplomacy or Negotiation 101. ☆