

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



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May 2007

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.

Reaching Israel for the Redeemer

Part 1

Isaiah 62:11

The following series of articles is a detailed account of our thirteenth Gospel outreach to Israel that occurred from March to April 2007. I am happy to report that the Lord gave our outreach team, consisting of Robert Cuccia, Teresa Brown, Sue Legrand, and myself, ample opportunities to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah to His own people.



Todd Baker

This trip and these series of articles are devoted to the memory and ministry of Zola Levitt, whose passing into glory has now approached a year. But his vision of Jewish evangelism lives on in this very ministry to Israel. In these series of articles, the reader will hear from all four outreach team members.

Our first full day in Israel began as we drove from Tel Aviv to Tiberias and the Galilee region where the Gospel accounts tell us Jesus did so much of His ministry. On our way to the Galilee, the Holy Spirit prompted us to stop at a shopping center. Once we arrived, we visited several shops and began sharing the Gospel with those working there. The first two people we shared with were Arab Muslim ladies. Both of them seemed open and appreciative of the words of grace and salvation we spoke in the name and authority of Yeshua.

One young lady, Mai, was very open, although a bit nervous that the four of us were talking to her. But she realized shortly thereafter that we meant her good and no harm. She worked in a candle shop (but requested not to have her picture taken). Though appearing to be a moderate Muslim, Mai accepted a Hebrew copy of the Old and New Testaments, as Robert felt led to respectfully share with her the crucial differences between Islam and faith in Jesus the Jewish Messiah. I mentioned to Mai that even though the Gospel message came from Israel, its universal message of salvation is for all nations and peoples. The Muslims need salvation in the Messiah just as much as any other people group. The Lord Jesus invites anyone from anywhere to come and believe in Him that they might be forgiven, accepted with an everlasting love, and joyfully welcomed at His heavenly

Father's table (see Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:28-29; Luke 13:29-30). We shared with Mai that all who repent and trust in this Jewish Savior can come—rich, poor, employer, employee, Jews, Arabs, and Gentiles.

Another Muslim Arab lady we visited with worked in a soap and beauty shop. Her name was Amira. She proved to be very receptive to our Gospel witness for Christ as Teresa took the lead to share from her heart about how the great love of the risen Messiah changed her life for the better and how that same love is available for all. Amira happily received a Gospel tract in Arabic showing her how she too could meet this wonderful Savior.

Later, Teresa and I went into an office supply store and started up a conversation with one of the sales representatives—a Jewish girl named Tal. We shared with her about the greatest Jewish person who ever lived, and is still alive today, Who grew up and did His greatest acts for mankind in the very area she lived in today. His influence upon humanity is so great that He divided history into two periods (B.C. and A.D.). Tal rightly surmised that we were speaking about Yeshua min Nazarit (Jesus of Nazareth). We further shared that the God of Israel has given the infallible means by which a person can correctly identify the Messiah when He comes through the many detailed prophecies about His life found in the Tenach made hundreds and even several thousands of years beforehand. Only one person in Jewish history fulfilled these prophecies before the second Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70. The New Testament offers the historical proof how that person could



Amira, a moderate Moslem, accepted a Gospel tract in Arabic



Tal, a Jewish girl, gladly accepted a Hebrew Bible to help her learn about Jesus of Nazareth

only have been Jesus, the Galilean. To offer Tal the evidence to study for herself, Teresa and I offered her a Hebrew Bible containing both Testaments. She was very appreciative of this gift and heartily thanked us. Now Tal can discover for herself about the real identity of the One that God sent to be the Savior of the world, who came from simple Galilee. †

B'rit Hadashah Ministries

† PARTNER WITH US ☆

This is a humble but effective ministry whose goal is to bring the gospel of Yeshua to Israel and to raise awareness in America about God's preeminent call to take the Gospel to the Jews - Romans 1:16.

Because of the support of our faithful partners, there is a young Jewish woman attending a university in Jerusalem who now has a B'rit Hadashah (New Testament in Hebrew), and IDF soldiers in Haifa who can read that the Messiah Yeshua has come to bring hope and peace to their souls. Your donations have changed the life of an Arab shop keeper in

Tiberias who has accepted Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior.

Please consider (if you have not already done so) becoming a monthly partner. As you can read for yourself in the newsletter articles, these worthwhile donations are directly impacting individual lives in Israel. Isn't that what Yeshua's earthly ministry was about?

We thank you deeply for your support, whether you are able to give monthly or a onetime donation. It all goes a long way in helping us achieve God's purpose and plan for this outreach ministry.

Make checks and money orders payable to:

B'rit Hadashah Ministries
PO Box 796127
Dallas, TX 75379-6127

We also accept:



You can also make your donation online at:

www.Brit-Hadashah.org

** Donations are tax deductible in the U.S. as you give to this 501(c)(3) Non-profit ministry. **

thank you for your support

The Importance of Israel to the Church

In this day, it is essential for Christians to be educated about our Jewish roots and God's plan for Israel as it directly impacts the future of all Believers. To have Todd speak to your church, organization, or Sunday School class about this and other important topics affecting Christians today, please contact Teresa Brown at (940) 367-7939 or email BHMengagements@gmail.com.

The following are just a few of the topics that Todd teaches on:

Eye on Israel - volatile current events in the Holy Land and its relevance to prophecy;

Israel and Prophecy - the importance of knowing and understanding the relationship of Israel to the Church;

Israel's Right to the Land - where and what is Palestine, and do Arabs have claims to the land?;

Seven Reasons the Gospel must go to the Jews - is Jewish evangelism Biblical, and why is it so largely ignored?;

Messengers of Messiah to Israel - based on Dr. Baker's recently released book that testifies to what God is doing in the hearts of the Israelis, both Jew and Arab;

The Dead Sea Scrolls - exploring the authenticity and reliability of Scripture.



Invite Todd to Speak to Your Group





THE LOST TOMB OF JESUS?!

PART 2

Ministry At Talpiot and Romance in Jerusalem

I wrote to our readers in last month's newsletter from Tiberias, Israel, and asked for your prayers as we journeyed to Jerusalem and specifically to the burial site where some are claiming to have found the remains of Jesus Christ. I told you that we would plan to find this place while in Jerusalem, besiege it with prayer and speak the truth boldly to whomever would listen. We would proclaim that the remains of Jesus of Nazareth could not be found here because He is clothed in light and seated at the right hand of the Father in Glory. Well friends, thank you for your prayers, for this was a day like no other. The story that I want to tell you is a bit unorthodox as missionary stories go. But here it is, the story of our unorthodox day in the land of the orthodox..... with a surprise ending.

To tell it properly I have to go back to March when I was at home in Denton, Texas. I had seen the documentary about the lost tomb of Jesus and I was bothered by it to say the least. I awoke one morning having had a dream that there was a gift box sitting on top of the cement slab that covers the tomb in Talpiot. As I lay in my bed contemplating this dream, an idea began to take shape. I realized as it was unfolding in my mind that the dream and the idea were from the Lord. We would bring gifts to the site! The box would be red with gold ribbon and white on the inside. Red would be for His blood that was shed, gold representing the treasure inside and white for the purity that comes from salvation through Christ. Inside each package I decided to put a Gospel tract in

Hebrew, a bookmark showing the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and the New Testament fulfillment by Yeshua. And of course the treasure and the truest gift would be a complete Hebrew Bible.

I told Todd about the dream but I didn't go into detail because I didn't want to sound kooky. So I just told him that we were to take Hebrew Bibles to the site wrapped up like gifts. He liked the idea but soon forgot it and I knew he would. A few days before we left for Israel I went looking for red boxes. I couldn't find any small enough to fit in my suitcase. So I broke down and bought red bags, gold ribbon and white Easter grass.



Todd and Teresa share the Gospel with Alana at Talpiot, the site of the supposed "Lost Tomb of Jesus"; it turned out that it was her children who discovered the ossuary over 20 years ago!

When we got to Jerusalem around March 25, I reminded Todd that we needed to go to this site which is in a small neighborhood just southwest of the Old City. On the 27th, Todd, Sue and I headed out after breakfast and prayed to find this place.

It was like finding a needle in a haystack among hundreds of apartment buildings. At one point in our efforts, I became frustrated at Todd who seemed to be just walking in any and all directions. But a small voice inside me said "follow him" so I

did and amazingly he seemed to take us right to it. The significance of this would become apparent to me later in the day.

We set the little red gift bags tied with gold ribbon on the top of the tomb and a few on the steps next to it. We also put one on a bench outside a synagogue on the way up the hill.

Wow, we were finally there andwell, we were the only ones there! It was as obscure a place as you could imagine, not a soul in sight. I started feeling a little doubtful and silly to think that God had told me to do this. But we held hands and began to pray. We prayed that the lies about this place would be dispelled and we prayed for the people who would come and the people who had come. Then a blessed assurance came over me. I knew that the Lord had a plan and would see it carried out exactly how He wanted. Then, Alana emerged from the building facing us.

Alana was a resident who had lived there for 25 years. She inquired about us and we told her that we came to this site to bring the gift of truth. Todd explained to her that a great and dangerous lie was being perpetuated on the world from this place. And then Alana began to tell us of the hardships her family and the residents experienced because of what was happening here. Her English was limited but she told us of how the press had been coming from all over the world. They came at all hours and knocked on her door and put cameras right in her windows. She told us that she and her husband want to move their family but it is hard because there are not many nice places to live.

She spoke of the director Simcha Jacobovici. With obvious discontent

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THE APARTHEID LIBEL / SLANDER



BY STUART ARDEN
ISRAELI CORRESPONDENT

Israel's denigrators frequently use the word "apartheid" in reference to Israel's treatment of Arabs, thereby showing complete ignorance of the meaning of that term, as well as their viciousness and deceit in attempting to defame the only real democracy in the midst of Arab autocracies and dictatorships.

Under the apartheid practices of South Africa, non-whites were not allowed to run businesses or professional practices in white neighborhoods whereas in Israel, all citizens, irrespective of race, religion, or national origin can open businesses and professional practices anywhere they choose. For just two examples: there is an Arab baker in Jerusalem's popular open-air market, *Mahane Yehuda*, and there is an Arab shop owner (selling Judaica!) in Jerusalem's Center One, a shopping center well-known for its Orthodox Jewish clientele. If Arabs do not open businesses in Jewish neighborhoods it is only because they prefer to be in Arab neighborhoods.

Higher education for blacks in South Africa could only be obtained in separate universities whereas in Israel recent studies have shown that more Arabs attend Israeli universities than do *Sfardic* (Mediterranean/Middle Eastern) Jews. In health fund clinics and Israeli hospitals, there are many Jews being treated by Arab doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, and Arabs fully avail themselves of Israeli medical care, and the same is true for all other professions. Life expectancy among Arabs has increased 27 years since 1948, and literacy among Arab women is 88%; can any Arab nation equal these figures?



Rana Raslan, Miss Israel 1999, in her "nationalistic" gown (notice the design!) at the Miss Universe contest. (Forest Rain photo)

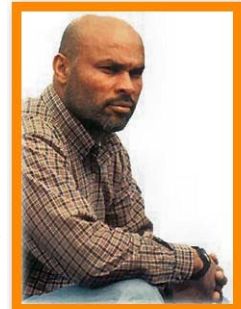
In 1999, an Arab woman from Haifa, Rana Raslan was named "Miss Israel," and in a later interview in New York, she said, "In Haifa there is a mixed population and I don't feel any difference in the way I'm treated, since Jewish and Arab people live together." Would a black Miss South Africa have been possible during apartheid, and could she have said "people live together?" Additionally, Arab actors and actresses have appeared in Israeli stage and film productions side-by-side with Jews. Where's the apartheid?!

Under South African apartheid, trains and buses were segregated and sex and marriage between races was prohibited whereas there are no Israeli laws doing such, and all Israeli citizens and visitors to Israel ride freely on Israeli buses, trains, ships, and planes.

Arab citizens of Israel have all the rights of citizenship including due process in the courts. South African apartheid banned black voting in national elections whereas Israeli Arabs participate in national elections and at anytime you choose to check, there are 8-10 Arab ministers sitting in the *Knesset*, Israel's parliament. Not only that, all eight Arab ministers in recent *Knessets* have made anti-Israel speeches and pronouncements, activities which would have been called "sedition" in America and be subject to

prosecution, yet not one single one of them has been charged with a crime. On 29 January 2007, Ghaleb Majadle became the first Arab minister in an Israeli government (Minister of Science, Culture, and Sports). Apartheid?!

Arab Israelis have played on sports teams side-by-side with Jewish Israelis since the inception of the State of Israel. There are Arab players playing for teams in Jewish cities and there are Jewish players playing for teams representing Arab villages. Rifat Turk, a Moslem Arab, was a star midfielder for *Hapoel*, Tel Aviv's soccer team in the 1970s and '80s, a member of Israel's national soccer team, participated in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, and was named Israel's Soccer Player of the Year in 1980. Turk also appeared in the 1980 Israeli film, *Morning Star*, where he got his nickname of "Jimmy." In 2003, Turk was elected as Deputy Mayor of Tel Aviv; is there any apartheid here?



Rifat Turk, Israeli Arab Moslem footballer, now Deputy Mayor of Tel Aviv. (Tel Aviv Magazine photo)

Emile Shukri Habibi, who had served in the Knesset 1953-1972, received Israel's most prestigious award, the Israel Prize in literature, in 1992, even after having previously received an award from the PLO! Justice Salim Jubran, an Arab, presently sits on the High Court of Justice, Israel's Supreme Court, having been preceded by Abdel Rahman Zuabi in 2004, and there are other Arab judges in lower courts. Is this apartheid?

There are a number of Arabs serving in governmental offices in Israel as well as serving abroad in embassies and consulates, and in July 2006 Ali Yihye was named Israel's ambassador to Greece. Yihye had previously served as the Israeli Ambassador to Finland, from 1995 to 1999. Not exactly apartheid behavior!

News management is a powerful tool, and when Israel Television (IBA) began its English-language news, Anan Safadi, an Arab, was designated head of the English News Department. For many years the chief editor of the *Hebrew* News Department was Rafiq Halaby, a Druze. Beduins, Circassians, and Druze serve in both the Israeli army (IDF) and in the Border Police, and Yusef Mishleb, a Druze, carries the rank of Brigadier General in the IDF. Apartheid you say?!

The Israel Arts and Science Academy, located in Jerusalem, is a national high school for gifted pupils; as such, it draws pupils from all over the country not just from its neighborhood, and Arab pupils also attend. Since it is a national school instead of a neighborhood school it has dormitories with three to four pupils to a room. The rule for the dorms is that the residents may not be all from one religious or ethnic group; this means that some rooms have Arab pupils and Jewish pupils rooming together. Is that apartheid?!

Arabs of eastern Jerusalem voted in recent "Palestinian" elections and even though they are NOT citizens of the State of Israel, they have been issued Israeli Identity Cards and are given National Insurance (Israeli Social Security) and receive state-provided medical care without any history of having paid into these funds. Arab citizens of Israel receive Child Care Assistance (i.e.

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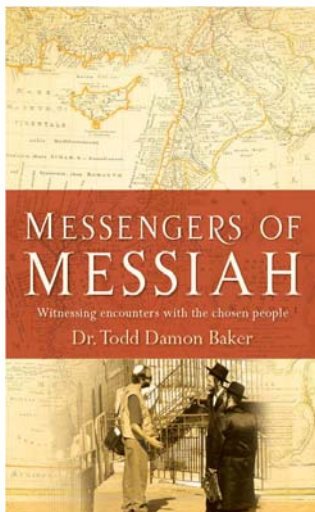
she told us in her broken English "he cares nothing for the people here. He is for cinema. He brings crews digging and tearing up everywhere." She told us "he is a liar". We learned that it was her children who found this ossuary 20 some years ago while they were playing. This was one of the few historical elements of the film that was portrayed correctly. I marveled at this divine appointment with the one person who could accurately tell us of this saga from the beginning.



The supposed "Lost Tomb of Jesus"

partner Sue asked Alana if she would like to know the truth about Yeshua. She said yes. Todd gave Alana a summarized but heartfelt account of the Gospel. He then gestured toward me and said to her "Alana, God gave this woman a dream on the other side of the world and sent her here to meet you and give you this." He handed her a beautiful bound Hebrew Study Bible. Her eyes got big and I could see that she understood and was touched by what he said. With wide eyes she looked at me expectantly so I told her "What if the reason that you are still living here is so that we could give you this book and you can learn the truth about Yeshua? Then when people come here looking for answers, you can be a servant of God and tell them." Her face was filled with emotion and she invited us into her home. It was a precious time that I will never forget.

**Don't Forget about Todd's
Book Available for
Purchase on our Website**



She said her children went down into the hole and found "mishkah" holy scrolls. The scrolls did in fact contain letters from the New Testament indicating that those buried here were likely followers of Jesus. Our

Alana was a gracious and kind hostess. She poured us grape juice and brought out delicious sweet bread for us. She shared with us about her family and showed us pictures. She is concerned about her youngest son who is coming of age to be in the Israeli Defense Force. The peace of Jerusalem is a concern for all Israelis but it affected me to

see this mother's fear as it threatens her world on a much more personal level. Peace in Israel is such an elusive dream in a constantly changing political climate. With every blessed encounter we have in Israel, **Isaiah 62:7** cries out to us, - *you who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the Earth.*

We were blessed to learn that her oldest son, Aussi, is dating a Christian girl from Finland. Alana likes her very much and told us that Aussi is on his way to meet her in Prague and ask her to marry him! We knew that this young Christian woman from Finland could likely be an instrument in this family's spiritual awakening and that perhaps we were even planting the Gospel seed that she would water. We promised Alana as we left that we would pray for her and her family and come to see her next year. She hugged each of us tightly and said "yes, yes, come."

As we walked past the tomb site, we noticed that only one gift bag remained of the four we put out there and we praised the Lord. We can see that the enemy has intended evil for this place, but the Almighty intends it for good, and we rejoice!

Well there were other great things that happened in our day. And you can be sure that we will write about them in upcoming issues. But at the end of the day, after a glorious morning and a full day of witnessing opportunities in the German Colony, I got a personal surprise. At a small bistro in Jerusalem called "Little Italy," Todd pulled a ring box out of his bag and asked me to marry him. It was romantic and memorable but I will spare the details for the sake of our privacy. I said yes, of course.

And I marveled at the little box that I held in my trembling hands. It was red with gold trim around the top. When I opened it there was this breathtaking engagement ring encased in white satin. He had brought the ring from America before he even knew the colors of the gift box in my dream. Then with a smile I remembered earlier that morning as we looked for the tomb site, a still small voice said to me "follow him."

OK Lord, I think I will.



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Search the Scriptures
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Apartheid... Continued from page 4

monthly payments for each child they have) essentially meaning that Israel is subsidizing Arab births — does that sound apartheid?!



Speaking of Apartheid, check-out this Saudi road sign (middle-east-info photo)

Beduins sometimes have 4 wives, each one bearing 8-10 children, and the family receives Child Care Assistance for all of them. Additionally, "Palestinians" marry Israeli Arab women and use their wife's home address to also get Child Care Assistance, all paid for by Jewish Israeli taxpayers; that's subterfuge, not apartheid! Some of the so-called Palestinians of eastern Jerusalem learn at the College of Judea and Samaria (which has university status), located in land liberated

from the Jordanian occupation (called "disputed territory" by the UN), by-passing closer Arab universities; thereby learning and being accepted in a Jewish institution located in land which is coveted for themselves by these so-called Palestinians. Bizarre but definitely not apartheid!

Organ transplants from both Arabs and Jews are distributed according to waiting lists with no preferences. On 1 June 2001, a suicide bombing outside a Tel Aviv beachfront disco killed 21 young Israelis and injured 120. One of the families offered all their daughter's body parts as transplants. An 11 year old Arab girl from a Galilee village had her eyesight restored through a corneal transplant from a Jewish girl that, ironically, had been killed by an Arab terrorist. Where's the apartheid?!

Are there injustices or inequalities? Sure, there might be, but can America or any of the western democracies boast of complete equality for their minorities? It is also worthwhile to bear in mind that Israeli Arab participation in terror against Jews is increasing, yet absolutely no draconian

measures directed against Arabs have been enacted.

The so-called "Palestinians" fall under the jurisdiction of the "Palestinian Authority," therefore any comparison of their rights in relation to Israel is completely inapplicable. Furthermore, since these people refuse to take responsibility for their terrorist acts, they only have themselves to blame for any restrictions on their movements from place to place. Nevertheless, on 30 March 2007, MDA medics (*Magen David Adom*, Israel's "Red Cross") crossed into Gaza to evacuate an Arab woman who had suffered a heart attack and was unable to be resuscitated by "Palestinian" medics. She will now be treated in Ichilov Hospital, in Tel Aviv, not exactly apartheid-behavior; and this is not an isolated event!

Calling Israel an apartheid state is the height of ignorance, and any logical person would realize the fallaciousness of such a statement; but Israel-bashers are so consumed with hatred for Israel that they would never let facts interfere with their agenda. ☆

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 www.searchthescripturesonline.org/fellowshiptours.html or call (214) 356-2583.

שלום

UPCOMING MESSAGES

Topics for this month's lessons are:
Messiah in the Tabernacle series
Matthew 27 and 28 series Conclusion
Illuminations From Isaiah series

About the Author

Dr. Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas. He has been a chaplain at Medical City Hospital for over a decade. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England. He is a theological consultant and writer for Zola Levitt Ministries and has appeared on Zola Levitt Presents. With his extensive experience in Jewish evangelism, he has led several Gospel outreaches to Israel. †

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