

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John  
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



Volume 7, Number 4

Jul/Aug 2009

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: FULL-TIME BY FAITH

Let me start by expressing my deepest thanks and humble gratitude for the financial support you have given to B'rit Hadashah Ministries and the Gospel outreaches that we have conducted in Israel every year. As you well know, I have been working as a Chaplain at Medical City Hospital for fifteen years. God has enriched, challenged, and grown me during my tenure there. As my readers also know, my God-given passion has always been to reach the Jewish people with the Gospel and love of Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel. For the last ten years or so, the Lord has graciously allowed me to carry out this vital, end-time ministry to the Chosen People in the land of Israel once, sometimes twice a year. So far I have led fourteen Gospel outreaches there. Many Israelis have been touched and changed by our evangelistic efforts. Many Jewish people for the very first time can now read the New Testament in Hebrew to learn about Jesus the Jewish Messiah because your faithful support allowed us to personally put the Hebrew Scriptures in their hands.

Others in Israel have come to saving faith in Him through our Gospel witness. This has been a fruitful and productive ministry in the Holy Land as you have learned and read over the years in our ministry newsletter. With each passing year more and more Jewish people are open to hearing about the biblical evidence for Jesus being the Messiah. This attitude is of little surprise since we are living in what Bible prophecy calls the "last days" where Israel plays a central role in the return of Christ. With the rise of hostilities and rancor towards the State of Israel among leading nations nowadays, and sadly as the current administration of the U.S. begins to distance themselves from our long time ally and important Middle East friend, the Jewish people in the land of Promise find themselves increasingly isolated and alone just as the prophets foretold it would unfold during the

end times (Psalms 2; 83; Ezekiel 38-39; Zechariah 12-14). As a result of this development, we anticipate an even greater openness to the Gospel message among the Jews in the coming months and years. The significance of this ministry at this time cannot be emphasized enough. It is unique and at the cutting edge. Tragically few ministries and churches today are making a real effort to reach the ethnic family of Jesus. But we have, and by your generous support, we will continue to do so until the Rapture of the Church.

Consequently, the Holy Spirit has revealed to me that time is of the extreme essence now and therefore this ministry needs to assert itself even more for the Jewish people in light of the prophetic events rapidly unfolding before our very eyes in the Middle East. In the last few months after much prayer and fasting, the Lord has made it increasingly clear to me that I need to be doing this ministry on a full-time basis. After much contemplation and consulting with trusted leaders in the ministry, friends, and Christian people that are wise in financial and business matters, I have determined to take a bold step of faith and embark on a full-time Gospel outreach to Israel beginning this October. This move will necessitate me leaving my full-time job and thus a loss of salary starting in late August of this year.

What I ask of you now is neither easy nor comfortable for me but the Spirit compels.

I sincerely and humbly appeal to those of you who have faithfully supported this ministry throughout its life to prayerfully consider increasing your monthly contributions, and for those who have given occasionally to give more regularly, and for those who have followed and benefited from this ministry, yet have not felt led to give at this point, we would ask you as well to please consider making a financial commitment to help support this full-time effort. With the incoming monthly contributions the

*Continued on page 2*



Security

Faith

God's  
Will

## Search the Scriptures

This publication is a bi-monthly newsletter, free of charge, from B'rit Hadashah Ministries. For more information about our ministry, or to be added to, or removed from, our subscription list, you may contact Elisa by E-mail at:

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### Special Announcement... Continued from page 1

ministry is now receiving, we would need an additional six thousand dollars a month to put B'rit Hadashah Ministries on the path of full-time ministry. That money will go to finance more trips to Israel, our ongoing Bible teaching ministry on radio, and speaking at churches across America to raise the awareness of the importance of Israel and Jewish evangelism. I am not unaware or insensitive to the reality that you and I are living in very difficult economic times and I understand what I am asking of you here.

But I remind you that God's plan for human civilization does not grind to a halt because depressed times are at hand. Nor is He limited or constrained by less-than-ideal economic circumstances to move forward with His work. In fact, from a divine standpoint we know that God controls and shapes history. We also know, and the biblical narrative bears this out, that God's greatest outpouring of blessing come in the depths of misery and despair. God says, "make the most of every opportunity for the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16). Ask God to "show you His ways," "to examine your heart and your mind" (Psalm 26:2) as you consider contributing regularly to help build a permanent and full-time ministry to God's Chosen People. To be a part of something this important that has lasting eternal implications is why the Creator has placed us in this generation. It is God's will that you and I bless the Chosen People and when doing that, He promises to bless us in return (Genesis 12:1-3). Would you help us now take the greatest blessing back to the Jewish people who first blessed the world with the salvation of Yeshua the Messiah? By supporting this ministry with your tax-deductible financial gifts you will be doing this very thing!

As I end this letter of earnest appeal, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I refer you to Matthew 6:19 which says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on this earth, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

God bless you as you prayerfully consider this matter and God bless your continued support of this ministry to the Chosen People.

Your servant in Messiah,  
Dr. Todd Baker

## 15TH GOSPEL OUTREACH PLANNED FOR OCTOBER!

I am excited to announce that this gospel outreach ministry is going back to Israel from October 18<sup>th</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be our second one this year! Joining me on this pivotal outreach again will be Pastor Ralph and Debbie Conn who have been in the ministry for nearly thirty years and they have such a tender and deep love for Israel. Also accompanying us will be Kenny Gee who Zola Levitt ministries and this ministry sent on a Gospel outreach in 2007. Kenny has been faithfully attending Shalom, Shalom Messianic congregation, where I pastor.

Now that I have embarked by faith on a full-time journey, our support for these outreaches to Israel is critically more important than ever. Increased pressure placed on Israel by the coercive U.S. and the international community to give away half of Jerusalem and other vital tracts of the Promised Land make it imperative that we go to Israel more often to warn the Chosen People of the prophetic events to come and encourage them to find refuge and salvation in Yeshua the Messiah. Iran's nuclear acquisition, her alliance with Russia and now Turkey (Togarmah) make it apparent that the Gog/Magog battle prophesied by Ezekiel to occur in the last days could happen at any moment (Ezekiel 38-39). All the more why we must have your financial support to carry out these End-Time Gospel outreaches in the land of Israel before it becomes too late and the Rapture occurs!

The Lord has commissioned us to continue this mission of mercy to His people on His behalf as laid out by Him in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:47). You and I are therefore responsible for taking this Gospel message back to the land and the people from whence it came (Romans 1:16). Very few ministries have the courage or conviction to do what we are doing. We are on the cutting edge and the battle frontline of ministry. I am therefore humbly asking you to partner with us and financially support our Gospel outreaches to Israel. Our goal is to go three times a year for about two to four weeks each time. Travel costs, expenses for Gospel tracts, Bibles, and teaching materials are always on the increase and we need your regular support now more than ever. Don't forget that God has promised a special blessing on those who take the effort to bless the Jewish people (Genesis 12:1-3). And the best way you can bless and show your love for the people who gave us the Messiah, the Holy Scriptures, and the Christian faith is by sending us to return and give these priceless riches back to them. ✪

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Later in the evening of the same day that my phone was taken, Pastor Ralph Conn gently took me aside and said he felt led of the Holy Spirit to pray with me that God heavily convict this woman, who took the phone, so that she would give the phone back or discard it so that it could be found and returned. Two hours later in an amazing answer to this bold prayer of faith, Tamar Keres, an old friend of mine for many years, called me at the hotel from Tel Aviv to say, "A miracle has happened." She then explained that an Orthodox man found my old phone on the street, and called the last number on the phone log which happened to be Tamar's number. She informed me that since the man could only speak Hebrew, I should therefore arrange for the phone to be delivered to the hotel by taxi. The man told her that he found the phone lying on the sidewalk next to the bank some two blocks away from the tourist center where I left the phone. I was not at the bank location at anytime and obviously the hostile woman that I talked with at the tourist center must have taken the phone and threw it there. God used this spiteful act from someone having a spirit of anti-Messiah to further give other Jewish people an opportunity to hear about the Messiah's redemptive love for them who would not have heard it any other way. Indeed, Psalm 76:10 is true in the case of this spiteful woman when it says: ***"Surely the wrath of man shall praise you, the remainder of wrath you shall restrain."***



by Todd Baker

The next day our witness for Messiah Jesus continued in Tiberius with a journey to Nof Ginosaur—a beautiful kibbutz in northern Galilee. There we met a young Israeli man working at the café. His name was Iddo. When I went up to pay for my lunch, I said to him that coming to Israel was like coming home because this was the homeland of my Messiah Yeshua.

I then offered Iddo and the female cashier a Messianic Gospel tract entitled "Love the Jewish People". When giving this to him, I said that our outreach team does love Israel for what they have given the rest of the world—the Hebrew Scriptures and the Jewish Messiah. Iddo was very excited about hearing this. When I inquired if he had read the Tenach (what Christians call the Old Testament) Iddo immediately replied that he had. I then asked him if he ever looked at the New Testament to learn about Yeshua's life and ministry in

## Giving Out the Bread of Life

### Stories from our 2009 Gospel Outreach to Israel - Part 2

Galilee—a place where He did so much of His ministry. Iddo said he only read excerpts from the New Testament in high school. I decided to offer him a free copy of the New Testament in Hebrew, a gift which he gladly and gratefully accepted.

When giving him the inspired text, I said to Iddo that many Jewish pretenders came to the Jewish people proclaiming to be the Messiah and only one is the true Messiah. He listened with obvious interest and openness. I also remarked that God provided a foolproof method for identifying whom that true Messiah would be when He comes. That method was found in the Messianic prophecies contained in the Tenach that Messiah would fulfill when He came to Israel.



Iddo, who works at a cafe in northern Galilee, was grateful for the Hebrew copy of the New Testament which our team gave to him

Some of these prophecies were:

- 1) Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1-2);
- 2) Messiah would die by crucifixion and rise again (Psalm 16:10; 22);
- 3) Messiah's ministry would begin in the region of Galilee (Isaiah 9:1-3).

I then plainly told him these and many other Messianic prophecies were historically fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Nazarene. He is alive today and wants to bring the Jewish people to Himself. Iddo could learn of this now by reading the New Testament I gave Him. Iddo was touched by these truths and was very grateful for the gift of the Scriptures he received from this ministry.

Later in the evening, I remembered an old fishing hole (a term I use for a good place in Israel where Jewish people are open to the Gospel of

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# Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age



The Parable of  
the Dragnet  
Part 6  
(Matthew 13:47-50)

by Todd Baker

**T**he Church labors with Christ as workers together with Him to fish for the lost souls of men. This is the essential difference in the parable of the dragnet from the previous parables in Matthew 13. Before this parable, Jesus was seen as the main character principally involved in the ministry of saving souls. In the parable of the sower, He is seen as the Sower going forth to sow. In the parable of the wheat and the tares, He is viewed as the Householder, the man who sowed "good seed" in His field. In the fifth parable, Christ is the Treasure Hunter. In the sixth parable, He is seen in the role of a Merchantman seeking precious pearls. But in the seventh parable an abrupt change takes place. Instead of Jesus being the central figure, His laborers prominently figure as co-workers with Him. The Lord works through them to save the lost. Therefore, the ministers of the Gospel are the fellow-laboring fishermen with Christ—exactly as the Word of the living God predicted through the prophet Jeremiah long ago. **"Behold, I will send for many fishers, says the Lord, and they shall fish them"** (Jeremiah 16:16). We cannot fail to take notice of the indistinct nature of the fishermen. The Lord Jesus does not refer to the fishermen individually by name, but instead, assigns them an inconspicuous title, generically referring to them as "they" in verse 48. Those involved and engaged in casting the net into the sea play a role of anonymity. Perhaps this fact could serve as an indirect reproach against the idolatrous worship and homage paid to many "popular" preachers and ministers so prevalent in the Church today. Our united cry should rather be: **"Not**

*"Again the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered of every kind, which when it was full, they drew to shore; and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the age. The angels shall come forth, and separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

- Matthew 13:47-50



**unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Your Name give glory"** (Psalm 115:1).

God is the only personal source from whence our salvation comes, and He is the Author of the success and blessing of all true ministries. Every minister of the Gospel is co-equal with one another as the laborers of God. The preacher is merely an instrument in the hands of the Maker. It is God, not man, who gives the increase. **"So then neither is he that plants anything, neither He that waters, but God that gives the increase"** (1 Corinthians 3:7). My dear Christian reader, let us remember in the future to refrain from esteeming this man of God over another because of the outward size and commercial success of His ministry; **"For there is no respect of persons with God"** (Romans 2:11). The minister of God should always be a Christ-like example to the flock shunning the idolatrous praise of men. He should take up the self-effacing attitude of Christ and His cross, as the Word of God instructs every believer to do in Philippians 2:3-5. **"Let nothing be done through strife and vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things but**

**every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."**

The act of the dragnet being thrown in the sea and drawn ashore after it's full with fish is a parabolic synopsis summarizing the commencement and the completion of the Great Commission given to the Church by Christ. The Great Commission, under the context of this parable, is the universal work of the Gospel drawing a mixed profession of both good and bad people into the outward, professing sphere of the kingdom of heaven. The Great Commission began when the net was cast into the sea, and will be concluded when the net is full and dragged ashore. Jesus prophetically spoke about the progressive course of the Great Commission in the beginning and completion of it. The beginning of it started when the resurrected Lord commanded His disciples at once to go and preach the Gospel in all of the world in Matthew 28:19-20. **"Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."** Here we have the Gospel net being cast out into the sea

of nations, which refers to the present age of grace that has already lasted for two thousand years. The fulfillment of the Great Commission is yet future tense. But it shall be completed immediately before His return as foretold by Jesus in Matthew 24:14, **"And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."** When the Gospel is sufficiently preached "to all nations" so that all peoples might hear the salvation message of Jesus Christ, then will the net be "full" and ready to be drawn ashore for God's discriminatory judgment and separation between the good fish and the bad. In the present time, as indicated in this parable, the fish are not separated as long as they are in the net. It is evident by this that the Christian profession should contain a mixed haul. Every witness for Christ should be aware that his evangelistic success will gather a mixed collection of saved (good) and unsaved (bad) into the professing sphere of Christendom. All the more why God's fishing disciple is to be led by the Holy Spirit with keen discernment when he or she is soul-winning for the Lord. He must know who and whom not to witness to. The soul winner of the Lord is never to force the Gospel of truth on the hardened and rebellious in heart that treat the holy Word as a worthless and unprofitable thing. **"Give not that which is holy to the dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."** (Matthew 7:6). †

## About the Author

**Dr. Todd Baker** is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas, Texas. 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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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 202, Dallas, Texas.

For more information, please visit [www.brit-hadashah.org](http://www.brit-hadashah.org), click Fellowship & Tours tab or call (866) 910-0444.

שלום

## UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for July and August's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

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# *To Bless .... Is To Be Blessed*



*And, Yeshua said, "Come unto me.....and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28*

*"For they who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."  
Isaiah 41:31*

**L**ooking over the Galilee from a cave where Yeshua rested with His disciples after the death of John the Baptist, these words of truth gripped our spirits. Here we were resting and preparing for the day ahead. Ralph and I reflected on being called to Israel as Ambassadors for Zola Levitt Ministries. What an honor to come share our hearts and the love of Yeshua in a land that is and will be loved by God with an "Everlasting Love."

The encounters were Divine. The words heart felt. The tears real. Who would have guessed our God would touch so many through our obedience to His voice.

So much to remember and put in our memory banks, but just walking where Yeshua walked could never be forgotten. Nor the people we met along the way.

Ralph met a young man (over 90) by the name of Zvi. "Would you like to sit - talk awhile?" Ralph asked. As Zvi opened his case, a life of pain turned to joy and salvation poured out from its cover. This man showed us pictures of him as a boy - a soldier - a father. The story he told spoke of his triumph over the Holocaust and finding Yeshua as Messiah. Through him many have heard and listened to a man chosen by God to help bring the Jewish people to the truth of Messiah. We said a prayer, hugged and encouraged one another to continue on. Little did we know this man was well known in Israel and a shining star for Yeshua HaMashiach!

As the days marked our journey across the land we met many who were simply touched by the words "We love you and we are praying for you!" Words of encouragement to shop owners, bakers, waitresses, and all that our Lord led

us to, paved the way to share the words....."Thank you for giving us our Messiah, for you know Yeshua is your gift to us as Believers." They smiled and listened to our hearts. They even let us pray for them. The touch of the Father's hand was upon them. And, we were blessed to see our words penetrate their very souls.

One man truly touched me. His name was Morris. Yeshua brought us together by a simple plate of "pickled herring." "Look, Debbie, I got this just for you!" What a true gift it was, even though I do not like herring. I ate it and enjoyed every bite. Why? Because Morris took the time to give me a gift. After several mornings of laughing and talking I thanked him for his kindness. I learned that he too was a Holocaust survivor from Poland and had written a book....."Tricks of Fate" which he brought to show me. Now I will read it. Before we parted I was able to share with him a special gift. One of love from Yeshua to him. After asking if I could give him a complete Bible, in Hebrew, he accepted. Part of this Bible of course was the B'rit Hadashah. With tears of joy we hugged and I gave him a little kiss to say good-bye. Funny when you think of it, this was FATE but not a TRICK.

Divine appointments and blessings beyond belief came to us and those we met. So as you go.....Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem!!! You will not know how many will come to the knowledge of the true Prince of Peace. Thank you again Zola Levitt Ministries for a trip of a lifetime!!!!

Shalom,

Revs. Ralph and Debbie Conn  
Tampa, Florida

# 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.*

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

### thank you for your support



Ridgeview Church

## Speaking Engagement: August 12 & 16

Todd will be speaking at Ridgeview Church in north Rockwall, Texas (see [www.ridgeview.net](http://www.ridgeview.net) for directions).

**Wednesday, August 12th, 7:00pm** - 1 hour Bible study format with a teaching focus on God's plan for Israel in these last days and what He is doing today in the nation to fulfill prophecy and bring them to Messiah.

**Sunday, August 16th, 9:00am and 10:45am services** - sermon each service with a teaching focus on "How we know we are in the last days and what that means to believers".

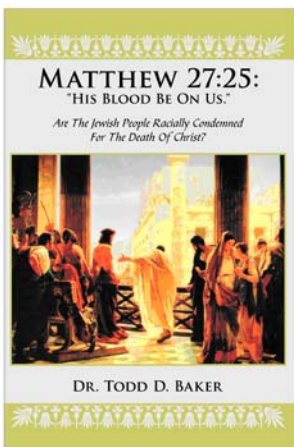


If you would like to have Todd as a guest speaker at your church or function, visit our website:

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Don't forget that you can purchase a copy of Todd's latest book on our website!

## MATTHEW 27:25: 'HIS BLOOD BE ON US'

### ARE THE JEWISH PEOPLE RACIALLY CONDEMNED FOR THE DEATH OF CHRIST?

# SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John  
5:39



Jul/Aug 2009 issue

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### Bread of Life... Continued from page 3

Yeshua). This place was at the restaurant located in the Caesar hotel in Tiberius. Several issues of *Search the Scriptures* in the past years have documented these witnessing encounters. When our outreach team arrived, our waitress who came to our table proved to be a very gentle, open, and sensitive soul. Her name was Tohar (which is the word for purity in Hebrew). We asked her how life in Israel was going in the last year after the war in Gaza. Tohar's response was that life seemed difficult. We encouraged her that the God of Israel will not let His Chosen People be destroyed nor forsaken. He will defend and vindicate them until the end of the present age when Messiah will come and rescue them from the Gentile nations' attempt to eradicate Israel at the battle of Armageddon. Ralph, Debbie, David and I unanimously expressed our sincere gratitude and deep love for the Messiah's people to her. Tohar was visibly touched to the point of tears. To pay our gratitude of debt to her people, we offered her a copy of a complete Jewish Bible containing both the Old and New Testaments. Tohar received it with such

reverence that she and three of her co-workers kissed the Scriptures with humble reverence with the same gesture that is regularly done in the Synagogue when the Torah Scrolls are passed around among the attendees.



*Todd and David with Tohar who reverently kissed the copy of the New Testament given her*

Later on, Tohar came back to our table and said that she did the same thing when praying over her food like when she ate bread that God gave to sustain her physical life. She then cupped her hands as if she had bread in them and kissed it to show her thankfulness to God for giving her food. And now she was showing the same reverence for the New Testament Scriptures that tell of the Messiah of Israel. We were greatly moved at her response. Right away we pointed out to Tohar that Yeshua compared Himself to physical bread when calling Himself the Bread of Life in John 6. Thus, He meant to say

by this metaphor that when a person receives Him as Lord and Messiah, he or she would have eternal life with God.

Deborah Conn plans to keep in touch with this precious young lady in the hope of further teaching her in the ways of Yeshua the Messiah. ✠