

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

Volume 13, Number 1



Jan/Feb 2015

The 31st Outreach to Israel: Proverbs 16:9

We, the To the Jew First team, do not have a motto. If we did decide to produce one, I would recommend the verse of Proverbs 16:9. It states: In his heart a man plans his way, but The L-rd determines his steps. This is always apparent on our missions.



31st Outreach Mission Team: Harvey Zion, Sue and Robin Hopper, and Todd Baker

This past October was not different... Todd, Robin, Sue and I had an excellent first day administering The Word in Nazareth. We had finished (so we thought) and were heading for Tiberias to check into our hotel and to prepare for our next three days in the Galilee area. We were discussing our ventures, praising The L-rd, rejoicing in our accomplishment and planning our tomorrow. What a joyful journey. Then all of a sudden the vehicle's caution lights began to flash. All the gauges were in normal range, the A/C was adequate, and there weren't any strange noises or movements. What could be wrong? We stopped, checked the tires - they were fine, but the lights kept flashing.

Cautiously, we proceeded on our way and decided to call the rental car company to report the issue. Robin got connected quickly and explained the problem. The operator, we thought, due to language matters, didn't quite understand and put him on hold. Robin gave the next responder the same information and again was put on hold. This process occurred maybe 5 or 6 more times. A more than 30 minute phone call and nothing had been accomplished. Robin then handed the phone to Sue and when a voice came on the line, the first thing Sue said was, "Please don't put me on hold." This person asked our location. Sue told them

a name of a hotel we were then passing. Using this position and I assume a GPS unit, we were directed to a convenience store/gas station about a 1/4 mile ahead of us on the right. We were told that the gas station attendant there would be able to help us.



By Harvey Zion

We arrive and sure enough there is an employee pumping gas into a car. Yes, in Israel, one does not have to fill the tank one's self. When he was done, we explained the situation. He talked to the rental car individual and was not able to help us. We sat there, frustrated and upset. Todd is now talking to their communicator. He was just about to make arrangements to have them bring us a replacement vehicle to our next hotel which was then only about 10 minutes away. At that moment, an off-duty police officer named Ezekiel enters the scene and also Proverbs 16:9. He is exiting the store. He had stopped here to make a purchase on his way home from work. We had Ezekiel converse with the helper on the phone and in minutes all was okay with our car. The annoying flashers were no more. We graciously thanked Zacky (his nickname) and proceeded to tell him how our Messiah had led us to him. Zacky was very receptive to our message and was inquisitive also. He happily accepted the complete Scriptures in Hebrew.



Zacky was the one The L-rd wanted us to see and saw to it that our paths met. Like I said previously, our day was not over as we had thought. Psalm 121:4 says: He who watches Israel never slumbers or sleeps. We His Shelichim (Disciples) are always on duty. The next one we encounter may be the one. It may even be You! What a wonderful way to complete our day of Ministry, and only Day One. Much more was to come. "Praise The L-rd." ✠✠✠



Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible. Also, special thanks to Andy Ball of The Bible Society of Israel for supplying us with Hebrew Bibles.

SIGNS AND WONDERS: SHARING SALVATION WITH ISRAEL



By Sue Hopper

The 31st To the Jew First Outreach began as we touched down at the Ben Gurion International Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel October 20th with Dr. Todd Baker, Harvey Zion, Robin Hopper and me excited to share G-d's Holy word with his very own chosen People. Todd ministered to two rental car desk attendants giving them scripture tracts as we prepared to drive to Natanya. One of the young women reading the tract quipped, "I hope this is true!" I assured her that it is certainly true! We prayed for both of these young women as we picked up our rental and drove onto Netanya. A great number of people are hungry for the truth everywhere we go and are searching for it.

Checking into our hotel in Natanya, a security man happily took an Isaiah 53 Explained book by Mitch Glaser from Robin saying, "This really looks interesting. I think I will read it!" I enjoyed being in Natanya for a day seeing the green waves capping the shore and feeling the gentle sea breeze on the beautiful Mediterranean sea, palm trees, children's happy shouts as they play soccer and cars streaming down the boulevards.

Tuesday morning we began our day praying and reading Ezekiel 36. We first stopped at a shopping mall in Natanya that has been a good gospel fishing hole in the past. Lena who was standing outside of a cosmetic shop took a Promised Messiah pamphlet from me and I went

over a few of the prophecies written in the Tenach (Old Testament) and the fulfillment of them in the Brit Hadashah



Lena

(New Testament). Lena told me her name means 'happy' and she seemed happy to receive the good news I shared with her as well as accepting a Complete Hebrew Bible.

Next I met Daniel at a juice bar who after talking a while accepted a Complete Jewish Bible in Hebrew from me



Daniel

containing both Testaments together and also Bible tracts and study materials. The name Daniel means 'judge' and he rightly determined that this Holy Book would be valuable to him in his understanding of G-d's message to him.

Driving on to Nazareth we stopped for lunch and as we were leaving, Todd and I stopped into a candy store. A young woman, Cigal, attending the store engaged in conversation with us and took a complete Hebrew Bible from Todd.

Driving to Tiberias our rental car began making an annoying sound and a call was made to the rental



Cigal taking notes from Todd

agency. The rental agent suggested that we stop at a nearby gas station which we did. A police officer there happened to be working security detail and was able to show us how to stop the annoying clicking noise the Mazda was making. His name was Ezekiel and he took an Isaiah 53 Explained book from us. It was another



Ezekiel and our rental car

productive divine appointment arranged by Yeshua and the prayers of his people.

Next we checked into a room in Tiberias and a young baggage man received an Isaiah 53 Explained from us as he brought us our baggage. Our room overlooked Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) and the old ruins of a Mosque.

The next morning, Wednesday, Todd read Zachariah 12 to us before we prayed and walked to the Big Mall at Tiberias. There I met a young woman named Janeel who was from Carmel. She was familiar with Messianic congregations but had never read the Brit Hadashah and openly accepted this complete Bible in her native Hebrew from me graciously and joyfully. What a blessing to return G-d's word to his people who first shared it with us.

There were other opportunities for us to share G-d's word with His people that afternoon as

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Search the Scriptures

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The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:23-35)

Part 16



²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ³⁰And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³²Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘you wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ ³⁴And his master was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses" (Verse 35).

The heart of the parable's message is contained here, in verse 35 concluding the parable. The Lord will not forgive our sins if we do not forgive our neighbor's trespasses against us. God's proverb on the inviolable law of forgiveness in the kingdom is as follows: The forgiving receives forgiveness, the unforgiving remain unforgiven. **"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses"** (Matthew 6:14-15). Personal fellowship with God is in view in Matthew 6:14-15, not salvation from sin. If I do not forgive others as I have been forgiven, I cannot have ongoing fellowship with God, even though I am still saved. I am to forgive my brother who has sinned against me with relational regard to the immense wrongs forgiven me by God. Nothing compares with what sins I have been forgiven of, which gives no justifiable reason for me not to forgive as well. Forgiveness is a self-denying act of love. It disregards the vindictive motive of the wounded spirit in favor of the new nature formed in Christ after the image of God. I must essentially forgive, then, not so that I may be forgiven, but because I am forgiven. True forgiveness is not predicated on whether or not I am asked to forgive by

the one who's injured me. It was while we were yet sinners Christ dies for us (Romans 5:8). He forgave us in principle before we had the slightest inkling to ask it of Him!

The truly forgiving saint does likewise. He forgives the wrongdoer even before he is asked of him to forgive. Forgiveness, itself, is total and free. The Christian's willingness to forgive his brother before even asked proves this and makes it possible when asked, "Forgive me, brother." He can reply, "I already have. You don't owe me anything. As God has forgiven me, so I forgive you." Nor is forgiveness acquired by mental acknowledgement or intellectual comprehension of its doctrine. Forgiveness is a matter of the heart and will. It must emanate from our emotional, volitional, and compassionate response moving in synchronous accord with our thoughts and intentions of the mind and will. Scripture declares all issues of man's good and evil doings spring from the heart (Matthew 15:18-19; Romans 10:9-10). God is certainly not fooled with pretentious acts of mercy, especially if the heart is absolutely contrary inside. Often the carnal man is convinced of the outward display, but God determines the authenticity of the act by examining the motive of the heart. **"For man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart"** (1 Samuel 16:7). If I appear to forgive; yet retain bitterness in my heart, God still sees me as bitter altogether.

After reading verse 35, the question inevitably arises; does God revoke his

pardon from the Christian, as He did with the "wicked servant"? No, the parable is not designed to teach that God reverses the eternal pardon of grace, but rather disapproves of those who fail to qualify for it—by repentance and faith God gives. The "wicked" servant did not qualify for the lord's pardon simply because he was unwilling to forgive. The willingness to forgive is not a condition for salvation but an outgrowth and consequence of salvation. The unmerciful servant demonstrated by his unwillingness to forgive the fact he did not truly receive the reality of his lord's forgiveness! The point here our Lord makes is quite obvious "to him that has ears to hear". Unforgiveness shall eternally damn the merciless. Those who claim salvation will take heed and forgive whenever it is necessary. The parable distinguishes between the true convert and the false convert. The genuine convert will forgive. The counterfeit Christian continues to censure and blame and therefore cannot forgive. The wicked servant falls in the latter class—the class of Christian counterfeits. He is justly condemned "wicked" in that he hated his brother instead of loving and forgiving him.

Both heathen and Christian alike are often enraptured with the desire of how they can please God and satisfy his various requirements of the Law. The only plausible way the Law is fulfilled is by love; love for God and man. **"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even**

Continued on page 5

we left the mall and walked the area near the Kinneret. Young teenage students were interested in what we were doing and



Students with Todd and Robin

Todd and Robin were able to share G-d's truth with them and give them study Bibles and materials. Also we ministered to others we had shared with in previous outreaches.

Thursday we took a day trip to Har Hermon driving by Capernaum and through the Golan Heights region. Not only is there an Israeli ski resort closed at this time of year there but



Robin with an IDF Soldier

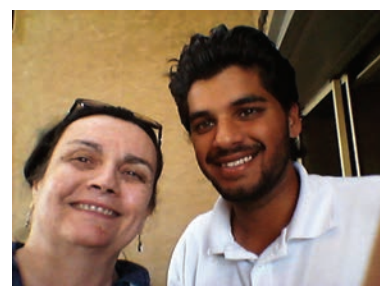
also a strategic post manned by the Israeli Defense Force. The young IDF officers there welcomed us taking their pictures and letting them know that we pray for them and support Israel. They were also open to taking complete study Bibles from us in Hebrew.

The next day we drove up to Jerusalem, the Holy City we love so much. After Shabbat, Robin and I met an Orthodox man on Ben Yehuda Street named Israel. We gave him about 30 shekels and visited with him a few minutes leaving without offering him the complete scriptures. Later we ran into him again. He asked if I would buy a few groceries for his impoverished family. I happened to have just bought a package of pomegranate tea at a grocer nearby and offered to give him that which he accepted. Then I told him I had another gift for him, a Complete Hebrew Bible containing both the Tenach and the Brit Hadashah. To our amazement

he also accepted the complete Bible and when we left shouted out "Salvation" as he waved us shalom. All groups of people in Israel are becoming more open to receiving the word and hearing about Yeshua. It is a sign of the times and we marvel at what Yeshua is doing in His homeland. We work and pray that His people will accept salvation through Him and be ready for His return to His land.

After leaving Jerusalem, we drove by the Dead Sea and stopped at the fortification Masada built by Herod the Great on our way to Eilat. Here I met a young security man named Yakir who works at Masada and also at the Dead Sea. He was in the Israel Defense Force for three years, but was not called up to serve in the Gaza war recently. I shared with Yakir that I am a retired police officer from Texas and that I believe that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah as foretold

in the Tenach and the Brit Hadashah. Yakir had heard of a complete Bible with both the Tenach and Brit Hadashah together but did not own one. He also believes that there is only One G-d which I concurred with him on this truth. I shared with Yakir that I had once given a complete Hebrew study



Sue and Yakir

Bible to a young woman in Tel Aviv who noticed that it was a nicer Bible than she was given at her IDF graduation class. Then I ask Yakir if he would like a similar study complete Hebrew Bible to take home with him. He replied yes. I took one out of my backpack purse to give to him and wrote a message to Yakir in the cover page from myself, my husband and my pastor, Todd. Please pray for Yakir that he will come to accept his Messiah Yeshua and thereby have eternal salvation.

There are many more stories of lives in Israel that we touched on the 31st Gospel outreach to the Jew first. Thank You for Your many prayers and support. Your prayers were answered and appreciated all along the way from one end of Israel to the other, from the North to South. ✨🌟

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In light of the Last Days' realities, we appeal to you. We ask for and appreciate any support you can give us during this critical time of need. We need your thoughts,

your prayers, your words and your financial support as the Lord leads your heart.

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Thank you for your support.

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant... Continued from page 5

this: "You shall love you neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14). My love for God is reflective of my love toward man; and my love for man reveals my love for God. If I love God, then I will have the same love for my fellowman, thus fulfilling all that is required of me by the law of God. **"And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also"** (1 John 4:21). The servant was unloving towards his fellowman, and therefore being incapable of loving his neighbor before him, further is unable to love God who is unseen. **"If someone says, "I Love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen"** (1 John 4:20)? This being the case with the "wicked" servant, he broke the Law in all points. He despised the great divine law of human ethics: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31).

In hating his neighbor, he also hated God! Condemnation is the only just thing left, and so his lord executes judgment. The unmerciful servant is immediately punished, his life taken, his soul imprisoned with his goods re-confiscated according to those who disobey the Lord and His king Christ Jesus. **"Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment"** (Ezra 7:26). The hatred

of man, shown by unforgiveness, would be more devastating than one could ever imagine if the Lord declined from shunting it with His conquering love. No wonder King David exclaimed **"Let me fall now into the hand of the Lord; for very great are His mercies. But let me not fall into the hand of man"** (1 Chronicles 21:19). Our forgiveness is not patterned after a certain numbered limit. No sin, however great or small, is beyond our forgiveness. If a brother should sin against you as much as seventy times in one day, you are to extend your forgiveness to him with the same amount, whether it is seven times or seventy times seven. **"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother trespass against you, rebuke him and if he repents, forgive him. And if he trespass against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to you saying, I repent; you shall forgive him"** (Luke 17:3-4). In conclusion, our forgiveness toward each other is an outflow of God's forgiveness on us. It is therefore unlimited and unobservant of any certified limitation or regulated number. If one chooses not to follow this needful principle, God will hold the unforgiving person accountable and unforgiven. Outside of God's forgiveness is an endless cycle of punishment, rejection and isolation forever. **"So shall My heavenly father do to you, if you from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses."** ☆†

About the Author



Todd Baker

Dr. Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas, Texas. He was a chaplain at Medical City Hospital for 15 years. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England, and is a Fellow of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism & Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. 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 many Gospel outreaches to Israel. †

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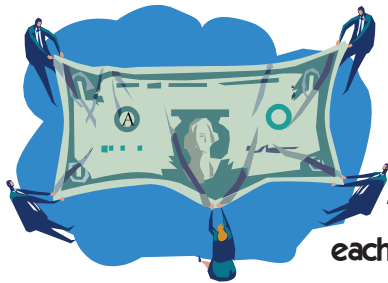
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