



Light of Messiah Ministries

.....proclaiming Jesus, the Jewish Messiah!

Volume 14 Issue 1



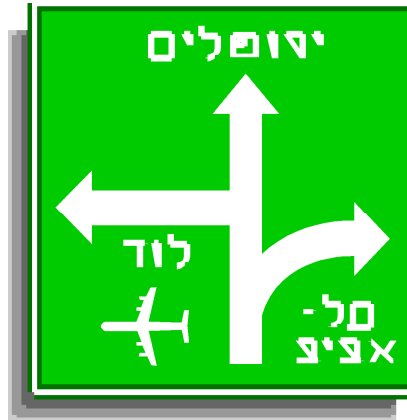
January 2006

Meetings From God

We spend most of our time in ministry looking for opportunities to meet with Jewish people and answer their spiritual questions. That is what we hope for and what we work towards. It is not unusual, however, for meetings to be set up, and then fall through. Occasionally a Jewish person will get cold feet and decide there are other important things to do, so meetings do cancel on us. **However, what we pray for are individual encounters with Jewish people and their Christian friends for the purpose of helping the Jewish person understand Jesus more clearly.**

Every so often, however, we will have a different kind of meeting. **These meetings are divinely appointed, uniquely orchestrated, God ordained, heavenly sent, meetings. These meetings could not have been scheduled by man but had to be planned by God.** This type of meeting is not what we are usually looking for. But, when meetings like this do happen, they are validations from God. They are God's way of saying, "I know what you are looking for...I know the desires of your heart...and I am with you. Here is an opportunity from Me that only I could have worked out." Of course every meeting with a Jewish person is divinely orchestrated, but some are well...unique. Let me tell you what recently happened to me.

I was in North Carolina doing a couple of services in December. I had had a very good morning service and was on my way to my evening service after having had lunch with the pastor from the morning church. **It is important to understand that I was in RURAL North Carolina.** I was in the middle of no where. There were no large cities



and most of the towns had one stop light, maybe.

While driving I noticed that the directions I was given to the evening church took me about 30 miles out of my way. On the map I saw a small country road that could potentially cut off several miles of travel. So, I called the pastor and his wife to get the "back road" directions. The conversation proved to be an exercise in futility because the back roads were complicated and there were very few signs or landmarks. After 15 minutes trying to figure out how to shorten my drive I realized that I might as well take the easy route and play it safe. Realistically, I had an hour to kill anyway. I wasn't in any hurry.

As I came to the end of the road I was on, and was preparing to turn right to finish up the drive, I noticed a brand new hotel in front of me. It was a perfect place for me to stop, check my e-mail, and watch some football before finishing my drive. "What a blessing," I thought.

I walked into the lobby of the hotel and

saw a young lady sitting behind the desk. She was reading a magazine. There was no one in the lobby, very few cars in the parking lot, and it was very quiet. I looked at the young lady behind the desk, who appeared to be in her early 30's, and asked her if it was ok for me to hang out in the lobby and rest for a little while. As she answered me, I observed that her accent was not from the south.

"You obviously aren't from around here," I said. "What part of New York are you from?" I inquired, guessing at her place of birth. "I am from Long Island," she said. "Really," I said. "I have family on Long Island. Are you the Catholic part of Long Island or the Jewish part of Long Island?" I asked, knowing that everyone from New York is either Catholic or Jewish! "I am Jewish," she said.

My jaw nearly dropped to the floor. I was shocked. There I was in the middle of rural North Carolina talking to a young Jewish lady. "I am Jewish, too," I said. "And, you are not going to believe it, but I am here to teach a church about Hanukkah!" "Hanukkah," she said, "nobody here knows about Hanukkah." "Exactly," I said, "that is why I am here."

"What in the world are you doing here," I asked? Melissa explained to me that she moved to rural North Carolina with her husband who had been transferred there by his company. She loved living in North Carolina but did not have much contact with other Jewish people. Even so, she and her husband, who is not Jewish, were raising their two daughters in a Jewish way.

"Melissa," I said, "I want to tell you

something else that is interesting about me. I am Jewish but I also believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Have you ever heard of Jewish people like me?"

Melissa explained that she was aware of Jewish people believing in Jesus but that she had never really spoken to anyone like me before. *"I don't know if you want to talk to me about this,"* she said. *"I am very opinionated."* *"Well,"* I said, *"I am used to opinionated people, let's just see."*

Melissa and I talked about spiritual issues for nearly 45 minutes. She told me that she was unsure of any absolute spiritual truth. She did not understand how there could be so many religions and so many interpretations of the Bible. She was very open to talk but confused about spiritual reality.

I shared my story with Melissa and told her how I became a believer in Jesus having been raised in a religious Jewish home. I then said to her, *"Melissa, God wanted me here today to tell you about Jesus. I know He wanted me here because there was no way I would have been here without Him bringing me directly to this place at this time. I even tried to go in another direction, and He made sure that I met you today. So, you need to know that Jesus is true. And even if you don't believe it now, don't forget this moment."*

Tears began to well up in Melissa's eyes. *"I know God sent you here today. It is hard for me to understand, but I know there is a reason for this."* She looked at her watch. *"You know, Murray, as we are talking now, at this moment, my husband is in New York at his mother's funeral. I couldn't be there with him. He is probably reading the eulogy I wrote for her right now."*

Melissa and I continued to talk. The lobby stayed quiet. No one came in. She got off of work while I was there and I was able to take her out to my van and get out the Bible. I had her read Isaiah 53 to me. She had never read it before. When I asked her who the passage sounded like she answered, *"Jesus."* *"Yes, Melissa, it is talking about Jesus. It was written 750 years*



before He ever walked on this earth. And Melissa, you interpreted it, not me!"

I asked Melissa if she would read a book if I left it with her. She said yes. **Then, right there in the parking lot of a hotel in the middle of rural North Carolina, I prayed, out loud, for Melissa.** I prayed for her husband, for her family, and for God to open her eyes. Melissa thanked me for the prayer and for the book. After getting her information so I could stay in touch, she left to go home and I went to my service. What an afternoon!

God had a plan for me that afternoon. I could not have planned that meeting on my own. The timing, the place, the day, the circumstances, surrounding me meeting Melissa could only be attributed to the divine hand and orchestration of God Himself. Even as I write about it, I am in awe and amazement.

That meeting was an affirmation of our ministry. He knows we want to reach Jewish people for Jesus. **That afternoon in rural North Carolina...God brought me to a Jewish person who needed to hear about Jesus.** It was God's way of saying, *"My hand is on your ministry. I will lead*

How to Contact Us

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you, Bert, and Casey, to the people who I want you to meet. My hand is on Light of Messiah Ministries. I am in control. I have your best interests at heart. Do not worry about the road you are traveling, because I will direct your paths." God directed me that day. And He is directing our ministry. What a great way to end one year and begin another!

Passover Banquet 2006

Our annual Passover Banquet will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Alpharetta, GA on Windward Parkway, Saturday evening, April 15th. Last year 500 people joined us for one of our most exciting nights of the year. Make your reservations now! **I know it is early, but it is first come first serve seating...and the early birds get the best seats!** Last year we had a waiting list, so don't procrastinate! We must have your reservations by Monday, April 10th. We encourage you to bring your friends and small groups, as well as your Jewish friends. **Please call our office to make reservations at 770-642-4706. You may also order tickets online at www.lightofmessiah.org.**

Thank You!

Thank you for enabling us to be available to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus.

**Thank you for standing with us.
Thank you for praying for us.
Thank you for supporting us financially.**

May the Lord bring abundant blessings to you this New Year!

Always available for Him,

Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries