



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Coconut Grove Arts Festival

Last month I sent Casey to join a ministry outreach in Florida. **The Coconut Grove Arts Festival is the largest arts festival in Florida and is attended by many Jewish people.** We do not do a lot of street ministry in Atlanta because there are not a lot of opportunities for us to do so. However throughout the year we will partner with other ministries to do some street evangelism. We joined our friends in Jews for Jesus for the arts festival this year. Following is Casey's journal, in her own words.

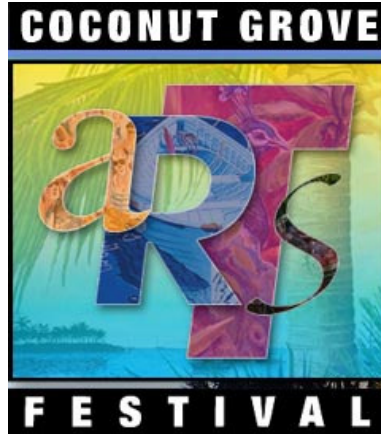
February 13, 2009

I had to get up at 4:30 am to get to the airport this morning, only to find out that my flight was overbooked and I couldn't get another flight until 12:35 pm. I'm really tired. Not the best way to start even a short outreach, already worn out. But, I did finally arrive in Florida and met up with Greg and his family, and the other volunteers who are helping out at the Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

We're a small team, but mighty in spirit and fellowship! I am excited to join this outreach because when I was last in Miami I ended up sick in the hospital and completely missed the Coconut Grove Arts Festival Outreach. This should be a fun time.

Saturday, February 14, 2009

We got up early today and headed to the Jews for Jesus office for some training. **I've been through training before, so this time I actually helped train the new volunteers.** Marina, Tori, Suzy, Ashley and Niche were all new. We had a time of prayer and headed out for Miami.



Miami is filled with beautiful people. However, they are so beautiful and "cultured" it seems they think they don't need God too much. As a group we distributed about 7000 gospel tracts today and got quite a few contacts from those who are interested in knowing more about Jesus.

While I had a few good conversations, I really didn't get the chance to have any that were terribly deep or soul searching. I am going to have to pray about this and hope that the Lord will show me those He is calling to Himself tomorrow. **I need to see the people through His eyes.** Otherwise, they are just hoards of beautiful people who don't want any part of God.

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Ughs. Morning comes so early these days! Today we only had 5 volunteers for our team but we nearly matched the same number of tracts! I pray that each little seed finds good soil in which to take root so that it can begin to grow.

Today the crowd was a much more Jewish which amped the animosity up a few levels. However, I did not

find this discouraging because even if a person is angry at me or the gospel tract they've just read, they still had to think about Jesus that day. Otherwise, they might not have.

I met a man named Stan who was working at the art fair for his company. Stan is Jewish. He was outraged by my shirt that said "Jews for Jesus" but confronted me rather nicely about it. **He said that Jewish people can't believe in Jesus.** I asked him if that was the criteria these days for being considered Jewish. I asked, "Perhaps the man walking by us doesn't believe in Jesus; so that must mean he's Jewish as well, right?" **Stan stumbled a bit, then he said that Jews who believe in Jesus don't follow the rules.** I asked Stan if he followed all the rules. He said that of course he did. I took a little detour and asked him how the art fair was going for him, and if he was here yesterday? "Yes", he said. "On the Sabbath?", I asked. I thought he followed the rules!

Then I shared with him how God knows we can't keep all the "rules" perfectly. He provided the solution to the sin problem by sending Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. He could read all about Him in Isaiah 53. Stan didn't want any part of reading those "lies" in the New Testament. He was actually quite shocked when I gently told him that Isaiah was one of the Hebrew prophets in the Hebrew scriptures. **He let me write down some scripture references from his Bible for him to read, and seemed quite deflated and unsure of himself after that.** He said he would read them.

As we were leaving the fair and walking to the parking garage we encoun-

tered a Hasidic (ultra-orthodox) man and another man who was just orthodox, but not Hasidic. They looked like they had been hit by a truck when they saw our shirts which said "Jews for Jesus". I was the only girl on the team today, so I smiled warmly at the two men and greeted them very pleasantly. They stood staring with their jaws literally agape. **We went into the parking garage, all the while I was wishing that I had had some more time to have a little conversation with the two men.** We had to ask the attendant where the elevator was, and he indicated it was back the way we had come, and around the corner.

This lead us right back to the two men. I smiled at them again, and then decided I should ask them for directions to the elevator (even though I knew about where it was). **They continued to look at my Jews for Jesus tee shirt as we spoke.** As I talked with them, I actually saw their stiff demeanor begin to melt away and they were very accommodating with trying to help me. I thanked them and went on. **While I realize that I didn't get to share the gospel with them with words from my mouth, I hopefully demonstrated the gospel with my attitude, kindness and warmth, and also my shirt!** I pray they come to know their Messiah Jesus one day.

Monday, February 16, 2009

I prayed for a special encounter today. You know, the kind that you know was so divinely set up by the Lord. The one you were meant to be there for. And, I had that encounter.

A preciously sweet Jewish lady by the name of Sho came up to me and said she was fascinated by my shirt. She asked me how one can be Jewish and believe in Jesus. I began to explain to her how it was possible. I could see her excitement building. She told me that this is her hope! **I got to share with her about Jesus being her atonement once and for all time.** I got to share with her the concepts of Passover and the blood of the lamb being applied for death to pass over.



And how Jesus is a picture of that same thing. In the background, at just that time, the blaring music behind us became the resounding sound of "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee". It was a chilling moment. **Sho looked at me with tears in her eyes and said that it was just amazing to think these things about Jesus. Though she had never heard the hymn before she said, "Wow, even the music is telling me this is true".** She gave me her contact information for more follow-up. At that moment her Jewish husband arrived and whisked her away. I pray that Sho will not be deterred in her search for hope and truth in Jesus.

Following that encounter, I met a group of playful elderly Jewish men who thought I was the most fascinating thing they had ever seen. They weren't open to the gospel, but they were really a lot of fun to talk to. I got to share with them, and they were quite good natured about it. **Then one gentleman by the name of Bill decided he had to have his picture made with me. He said he wanted to send it to his rabbi to give him a heart attack!** They were just so fun so I agreed we

could take a picture together, but I wanted one for my camera too.

While they were not truly open, Bill and his cronies did hear the gospel that day. They took tracts about Jesus, and they even have a picture to remember the encounter. I think Jesus can work with that. The crowds were lighter today, and so that was disappointing. It was cloudy and looked like it was threatening rain all day.

During the weekend we distributed over 13,000 gospel seeds. Thousands more saw our "Jews for Jesus" shirts and were challenged to think about Messiah. Many contacts were made that can be followed up on. But, I leave Miami with a little sadness that still so many seemed cold to the gospel. In a city filled with beauty, culture, and wealth, few felt they had any need at all for a Savior. **I pray for the Lord to show them differently.**

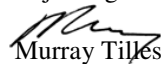
Casey had the opportunity tell many Jewish people in south Florida that you can be Jewish and believe in Jesus. **Whether she spoke to them directly or they saw her tee shirt which proclaimed the message, they heard.** Please pray that the seeds that were sown will bear much fruit.

Thank You!

Though we do not do a lot of street ministry here in Atlanta, we still try to get out on the street and in the marketplace to bring Jesus to the Jewish community right where they are. **Jewish people need to hear the Gospel.** We need to bring Jesus back to them.

Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.

Rejoicing in Him,


Murray Tilles

Light of Messiah Ministries

How to Contact Us

Light of Messiah Ministries
P.O. Box 501179
Atlanta, GA 31150
Phone: 770-642-4706
Fax: 770-642-0319
E-mail: lightofmessiah@yahoo.com
www.lightofmessiah.org