



WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?

“HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE, TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?” (MICAH 6:8)

This verse of Scripture in a sense sums up for me, what I believe the Lord was saying to us during our recent Feast of Tabernacles tour which included Poland, Israel and Turkey.

The primary motivation for the tour was to attend the ICEJ Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, the theme for which was “The Tabernacle of David”. The Prophet Amos spoke of a future restoration of the Tabernacle of David (Amos 9:11), and this same prophesy was spoken of by James, the leader of ‘the church’ in Jerusalem in Acts 15:16-18 at the time when gentiles were becoming believers in Jesus, in increasing numbers. I believe this is a parallel of the times in which we are living.

When the LORD spoke through Amos as recorded in Amos 9, he connected the restoration of the Tabernacle of David (v11) with the restoration of the nation of Israel (v14-15) “ Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their

fruit. I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them,” says the LORD your God.” I can confidently say that the days spoken of here also parallel the times in which we are living.

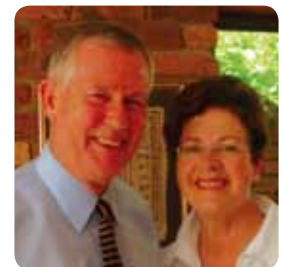
In Poland we visited a number of the memorials of concentration camps and it was a very sobering time. I was particularly interested in the build-up to the “Final Solution” which culminated in the death of some 6 million Jewish people. It was a gradual process: starting with a ‘catastrophe’ (the defeat of Germany in WW1), an evil leadership using corrupt practices to gain political power, national hysteria over a ‘fake’ cause, and ultimately racial hatred and vilification. We were told repeatedly “If we don’t learn from history, we will find that history will repeat itself”. Regretfully, I can again confidently say that history is repeating itself before our very eyes.

In Israel we were blessed to have Jesma sharing regularly from the Word, with the theme “Sitting at the feet of Jesus the Rabbi”. Again I was challenged with the simplicity of Jesus’ message - “Follow

me!” The task of the Rabbi was to make disciples, one who did what the Rabbi did! While this might sound like a very simple task, it is enormously challenging, particularly at this time in world history.

Out of the ashes of the Holocaust, the nation of Israel was reborn – God was still working! While darkness may appear to be overwhelming the world, Jesus is still calling to us, “Follow me”. In the story of the Good Samaritan recorded in Luke 10, Jesus’ instructions to the lawyer were very simple, “Go and do the same”. In Luke 18:8, He again challenges us, “When the Son of man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” May the Lord help us to keep our eyes and hearts focussed on Jesus in these days.

And may He bless you abundantly out of Zion, and may you all have a peaceful and safe festive season.



Bruce and Merrilyn Garbutt

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Australia Connects



Julie Simmons makes friends with Holocaust survivor of Mavqi'im Moshav

"After years of praying for the land and for the Jewish people it was great to actually meet some of the people we've prayed for. I prayed for over ten years for a people and had never met a single Jew and I had this amazing love in my heart, given by God for a people I'd never met!!!"

This is the testimony of Julie Simmons of Alstonville NSW who with her husband Bill, represented Australia on a special tour organised by ICEJ AID during the Feast of Tabernacles for Directors and Representatives of ICEJ Branches. Her report continues. **Just over four years ago, Jewish families were uprooted from their homes, businesses and communities that they had established on the sands of Gaza over a period of 40 years. Many are still waiting to be resettled and in the meantime living in cramped temporary**

housing. ICEJ became involved with evacuated Jewish families through the Embassy's Aid program by providing much needed aid, love and comfort to these people. Moshav Mavqi'im, established in 1949 by Hungarian Holocaust survivors was a few years ago, an aging community as most of the children had moved away and the surrounding land was not being farmed. After the Disengagement, about twenty five evacuee families were accepted into the Moshav and they have brought new life to this community by starting to farm the land and build. Mavqi'im recently approached ICEJ to help re-establish the Community Centre which had been closed, and we were there for the re-opening of this Centre. Here we met Holocaust Survivors together with the families from Gush Katif and were blessed by spending time with them over a "cuppa" and listening to their stories. A very special and moving moment was when the German Director stood before the Holocaust Survivors and opened his heart to them in love. Their response was emotional and real.

The work of the Christian Embassy in this community, as well as in Nitzan which we also visited, is exciting and enables the organization to reach out with God's love to encourage, to connect and to build relationships with these two groups of people who have suffered such incredible loss in their lifetimes. To be a part of the restoration of these communities is a unique opportunity for ICEJ and it was a blessing for all the delegates who visited and witnessed first hand the work being done.

Hanukah – Festival of Lights, Festival of Dedication

Beginning on the evening of the 11th December, the Jewish community celebrates Hanukah for 8 days. It originates from the time that the Jewish people cleansed the land and their Temple from a foreign power in 167 BCE. However, it does not commemorate an amazing military victory! Rather, it remembers the miracle that God wrought at the time. When following the cleansing and rededication of the Temple, only one day's supply of consecrated oil could be found that had not been contaminated. The oil was required to relight the Menorah – the 7 branched candelabra - that stood in the Holy Place before the Holy of Holies. That one day's supply burned for the 8 days that it took to prepare more oil. During Hanukah, which is also called the Festival of Lights, candles are lit on special 8 branched menorah's, beginning with one the first evening, two the next and so on. In Israel the lights adorn rooftops, roadsides, and windows shining out a message of God's protection and provision. This lovely festival also remembers the cleansing and dedication of the Temple, set aside for the worship of God, but had been defiled. In 2 Corinthians 6:16 & 7:1 it says, *"What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? We are the temple of the Living God...let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates..."*

