



June 2023

Words cannot express how overwhelmed Jeanine and I were as we traveled May 26-June 6 to the Holy Land. This was a special gift to ourselves as we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August. We were a part of a 26 person Tour from Edgewood Baptist Church in Rock Island. Our Bible teacher was Gerad Hall and our Guide in Israel was David. Wow! 10 days non-stop, breakfast every day at 7:00, bus left at 8:00 with Bulos, our excellent bus driver. Caesarea Maritime, Caesarea Philippi, Nazareth, the Mt. of Olives, Mt. Carmel, Tel Megiddo, swimming in The Dead Sea, The Sea of Galilee, Hezekiah's tunnel, Masada, an actual archaeological dig we participated in for 3 hours, Jerusalem, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and on and on! But, as wonderful as this experience was, which we will never forget (Wayne took a thousand pictures), the highlight was witnessing to a Jewish man named Oren.

On the first leg of our trip home from Israel, I was seated for three hours on the plane next to this Israeli man from Tel Aviv. He was a 50 year old, single businessman, very friendly and immediately struck up a conversation with me. Sensing this was God prodding me to care for him, I prayed for wisdom to share the love of Jesus. He was very open about his life. Tel Aviv is as far left morally and po-

litically as Jerusalem is far right. Very liberal and progressive! Yet, this man, growing up in this atmosphere, was easy to talk to about the Lord. He told me he was in-between jobs and traveling to Spain for vacation. I told him we were believers in Jesus and about our love for Israel and all the interesting Biblical sites we had visited on our Tour.



I asked him if he ever read the Torah (1<sup>st</sup> five books of OT) and he said his family was not very religious but he had attended Hebrew school growing up and learned the OT Bible stories. His father even read the Bible to his family every Sabbath (Shabbat) and on Jewish holidays. That brought to my memory how we had visited the very site where David, as a boy, had stood up to and killed Goliath, the giant. How a boy, with faith in the Lord, had more courage than an entire army of Israel!

Before our flight ended, I shared one of my favorite verses, *Jeremiah 29:11*; "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." The prophet was reassuring the people of Israel, who had been taken captive by the Babylonians in 586 BC because of their idolatry,

**Mission**

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

**“Listen, O Israel!  
The Lord is our God,  
the Lord alone.”**

Deuteronomy 6:4

that God would not leave them but forgive them and return them to the land.

But, then I turned the conversation more personal. Verses 12-14 says, *"In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you, says the LORD."* I encouraged my new Israeli friend to pray and look wholeheartedly for the Lord; wanting him to know that God even now was looking for him and wanted to be found by him.

I shared that God had designed a divine appointment for me to sit next to him and asked if I could pray for him. He agreed and right there in that plane I asked the Lord to care for his heart, to guide him in his search for a new job and that God would draw this man to himself in a new relationship with the Messiah. What a blessing! What will the Lord do in the heart of this man? My prayer is that our conversation will lead him to seek the Lord and invite Jesus to be his Savior.

## *Praise and Prayer*

### **Praise**

- ◆ For a safe trip to and from Israel, and the opportunities to see the Bible come to life.
- ◆ For young couples who want to start their marriage off right by working through spiritual and emotional issues in their lives.

### **Prayer**

- ◆ For God to work in the many lives of hurting couples and individuals whose hearts are broken and long to be healed.
- ◆ For another counselor to be interested in helping people find healing and freedom in their relationships with God and others.

## *Birdies for Charity*

Thanks to all who sent in pledges for the 2023 Birdies' campaign. We are so grateful to you for your gifts. June 30 is the cut off, so there is still time to send in your pledge! If you need a Birdies Brochure call or email and we will get one to YOU. 309-764-6881 or [freedomministries@att.net](mailto:freedomministries@att.net)  
**Thank you!**



## *Testimony*

What I want to share is how much I appreciate your kindness and your patience along with your confidence in God's desire and willingness to heal even the areas we are not aware. With your help, I think I'm gradually being able to look at and accept some of my past. Perhaps, more importantly, I am starting to trust, that God can heal even me.

I do spend time daily asking for the grace to forgive and to move on, binding myself to God's wisdom and God's will. A turning point for me was definitely Wayne's sincere apology for all the pain I have suffered at the hands of males. While having no part at all in any of the past experiences, that caused my pain, I was acutely aware that something had happened, of which he was aware and for which he was sorry. That gave me the courage to begin to accept the past and to strive for forgiveness. Your persistence in staying with me each and every time until I can find the presence of Jesus in these situations is invaluable. That hope of reconciliation also gives me courage to keep on trying to be open to whatever God asks.

If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please contact us. Our email address is: [freedomministries@att.net](mailto:freedomministries@att.net) or write to: Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 953, Moline, IL 61266-0953