



October 2007

Times to intercede according to
the first letter of your last name:

6 A.M.-8 A.M. A,B,C	4 P.M.-6 P.M. P,Q,R
8 A.M.-10 A.M. D,E,F	6 P.M.-8 P.M. S,T,U
10 A.M.-12 P.M. G,H,I	8 P.M.-10 P.M. V,W,X,Y,Z
12 P.M.-2 P.M. J,K,L	10 P.M.-6 A.M. Those
2 P.M.-4 P.M. M,N,O	whom our Father
(ISRAEL IS 6 HRS. AHEAD)	wakes up to pray!

Blessings to our fellow Fishers of Men!

Galilee this Month

This month, as we prepare to leave on our 2007 Mercy Mission to Israel (Oct. 21-Nov. 1), we want to bring a little of Israel to you. We will be spending three days in the Galilee, the area where Yeshua spent much of His time. It is one of the most beautiful areas in the country. The jewel of the Galil is the Sea of Galilee. Yeshua's earthly ministry centered around the Sea. It was also the site of many of His miracles. Yeshua must have loved the Sea of Galilee. He probably would have agreed with the ancient rabbi who said, "Although God has created seven seas, yet He has chosen this one as His special delight."

LOVE BASKETS FOR ISRAEL CAN STILL BE SENT TO JEWISH JEWELS. THANKS!

The Sea of Galilee is not actually a "sea." It is a freshwater lake, in fact, the lowest freshwater lake on earth, 700 feet below sea level. It is 13 miles long, 7.5 miles across at its widest point, and up to 150 feet deep. The Jordan River is the main source of water for the lake, supplying 75% of its annual intake. The Sea of Galilee is called a sea because in ancient Hebrew there was no word for lake. The word *yam* (sea) was used to describe both large and small bodies of water. Hence, the ancient name for the lake was *Yam Kinneret*. Israelis today use this same ancient name for the Sea of Galilee. *Kinneret* comes from *kinnor*, the Hebrew word for harp or lyre since the shape of the lake roughly resembles a harp. Other names for the lake over the centuries have been: Sea of Tiberias, Lake of Gennesaret and Water of Gennesar. At the time of Yeshua, the shore of the lake was lined with villages and towns and an estimated sixteen man-made harbors, including Tiberias, Magdala, Gennesaret, Bethsaida, Gadara and Capernaum. According to Josephus, there were about 230 fishing boats that regularly worked the lake.

Focus on Fish

Fishing was big business in ancient Galilee. Fish was the main source of protein in the daily diet. Salted, dried fish was an important export. From Magdala, dried fish was exported to various parts of the Roman Empire where it was considered a delicacy (*tarichaea*, Greek for Magdala, means dried fish).

There are approximately 22 varieties of fish in the Sea of Galilee. In Yeshua's day, one of the most popular was sardines. These small fish were probably the two small fish of Matthew 14:17 with which Yeshua fed the multitudes. Another popular fish was tilapia (also called St. Peter's fish.) Tilapia is still very popular at the Sea of Galilee today. In fact, our group may be at a restaurant on the shore of *Yam Kinneret* having our St. Peter's fish lunch as you read this letter. Please pray for divine appointments by the sea! There were also fish in the Kinneret that were not eaten by the Galileans: the unclean fish, those without scales prohibited in Leviticus 11:9-12; prominent among these was the catfish.

Focus on Fisherman

The life of the Galilean fisherman was not an easy one. These men had to be tough and strong since fishing involved strenuous, physical exercise — rowing, hauling and fishing at night with bodies wet most of the time. Since tilapia and sardine seasons both occur in the winter (the rainy season), the fishermen were used to fishing in the rain.

While we usually think of the Galilean fishermen as being “unlearned,” the fact remains that many were accomplished businessmen. They were both hard-working and skilled at their trade. In Bethsaida, the government of Herod the tetrarch sold fishing rights to wealthy individuals who then sublet rights to fishermen. The fishermen then paid a substantial tax to the investors. The fishermen were the ones who furnished the boats and equipment for the actual fishing, paid their help, sold their fish, mended their nets, etc., etc. Fishermen in ancient Galilee had to know how to deal with both fish and people!

Fishers of Men

“As Jesus [Yeshua] walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake; for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow Me, Yeshua said, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed Him.” (Mark 1:16-18 - NIV)

Imagine the power of that word “come” spoken by the mouth of Yeshua. “At once” they left their nets and followed the Messiah. This was no small thing. These rugged fishermen left their livelihood, and everything they knew. It cost them as they left something of real value. They took a big risk. They took a huge leap of faith. They followed God at the Spirit’s call. We relate to them since we made a similar decision in 1973. We have never, for one moment, regretted leaving home, jobs, family, security and our former lives to follow *Yeshua*. We came at His call, and He made us fishers of men.

Simon Peter and Andrew were using cast nets when Yeshua called them. This is one type of net used on the Sea of Galilee. It is circular, about 20 feet in diameter, with lead weights on the border. Cast nets can be flung either from the shore or from boats. It required considerable skill to properly cast the net to encircle and trap fish beneath it. Good fishermen were skilled fishermen. What skills does a fisher of men need? II Timothy 2:15 has one possible answer to that question: *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* Skillful—in handling the Word of God.

“You will catch men.”

There is a fishing story in Luke chapter 5:1-11 in which there was a miraculous catch of fish. *Yeshua* was by the Lake of Gennesaret when he saw two empty boats and the fishermen who had left them to wash their nets. They had fished all night, caught nothing, and were probably discouraged. *Yeshua* got into Simon Peter’s boat and asked him to pull out a little from land. He sat down and began to teach the multitudes from the boat. *“When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, ‘Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’”* (Luke 5:4)

Mendel Nun, an 87 year old fisherman who has spent a lifetime studying the ancient fishing methods used on the Sea of Galilee, believes that Peter was using a trammel or veranda net. He believes that the story took place near Capernaum where the rocky floor of the lake would necessitate this kind of net. Fishermen using a trammel net fished at night and stopped at dawn. Then they carefully washed their nets and hung them to dry. *Yeshua* was there **early** in the morning to meet them. (There’s a lot to be said for meeting with the Lord early in the morning: a miraculous catch may be forthcoming!)

The fishermen in this account were fishing for tilapia, the fish that eventually was named for Peter. They fished at night because during the day the fish could see the netting. Peter said to *Yeshua*, *“Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net”* (Luke 5:5). When they let down the net, they caught so many fish that the net began to break. They signaled to their partners who brought another boat. Both boats were filled and began to sink. All were astonished at the catch of fish — especially because they realized that *Yeshua* must have blinded the fish so that they did not see the net. It was unheard of to catch fish in this way during the day. The miracle caused Peter to fall at *Yeshua*’s knees and confess his sinfulness.

Have you ever been exhausted and discouraged after much self-effort to accomplish something,

want to go home and crawl under the covers, and the Lord asks you to do something for Him? Is it always convenient to answer His call? Do you know what Peter and his friends would have missed if they had not inconvenienced themselves that day? It is estimated that the catch was the equivalent of several nights of good fishing —about three-fourths of a ton. That amount, according to Mendel Nun, is as much as a trammel net fishing crew would normally take in two weeks' work. Our conclusion: Obey even when you don't feel like it! Obedience always brings blessings. Always let Yeshua come into your boat. Be a vessel through which He teaches others. Launch out into the deep with Him. He says to us what He said to Peter: *"Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men"* (Luke 5:10).

Back to Fishing

In John chapter 21, we find Peter and some of the other former fishermen (Yeshua's disciples or *talmidim*) going back to fishing. Yeshua had been resurrected from the dead. They had seen Him. Of the seven disciples who were former fishermen, the following were there: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John and two others whose names are not mentioned, possibly Andrew and Philip.

They all went out at night. They caught nothing. When morning came, Yeshua was waiting for them on the shore. He asked them if they had any food. When they answered, "No," Yeshua told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat, and they would find some. When a multitude of fish filled their net, John recognized Yeshua, told Peter, and Peter plunged into the sea. When they all got to shore, they found Yeshua cooking a fish breakfast for them. *"Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken."* (John 21:11)

Have you ever wondered why there were exactly 153 fish? The disciples were probably using a gill net, a vertical type of net that floats on top. Fish are usually scared into the net and caught in their gills. They need to be removed one by one, hence the exact counting. Does 153 have some deeper, spiritual significance? Search the internet (type in '153 fish'). There are a few interesting mathematical theories, especially pertaining to the number 3, but no great revelations! On this third occasion of Yeshua showing Himself to His disciples after being raised from the dead, the Messiah gave Peter a second chance. Having eaten breakfast with Peter was already a statement that Peter was forgiven, since in the Middle Eastern mind, when you eat with someone, you have relationship with them!

Then Yeshua asked Peter if he loved Him more than the fish (his livelihood). Yeshua continued three times to question Peter about his love for the Master (three times to overturn Peter's three denials?). The Messiah was restoring Peter and asking him to reconcile others to God as he had been reconciled. Peter was being called from catching fish to feeding sheep and leading lost lambs back to God—a paradigm shift. Doesn't *"Follow Me"* (John 21:19) always include yielding to do things God's way?

The Drag Net

Yeshua tells a parable (*mah-SHAHL*) about a drag net in Matthew 13:47-50, and relates this method of fishing to the kingdom of heaven and angels who will separate the wicked from the just at the end of the age. According to Mendel Nun, the drag net or seine net is the oldest type of fishing net used on the Sea of Galilee. Its use was once the most important fishing method on the *Kinneret*, and involved two boats and a team of as many as 16 men, who hauled the net non-stop to shore. Mendel was one of the fishermen who used this net until it was phased out in the 1950's. (We hope to meet him at *Kibbutz Ein Gev*.) The action of pulling the net toward shore in the form of a semicircular wall was done as often as eight times during a day's fishing. A fishing crew could catch as much as 2 1/2 tons of fish each day. Since the drag net scooped fish off the bottom, unclean (non-kosher) as well as clean fish were caught. James, as a former fisherman, is referring to the entrapping nature of sin by using a drag net analogy: *"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed"* (James 1:14).

The Fish with the Coin

We read in Matthew 17:27 the account of the unusual provision for paying the temple tax. Yeshua said to Peter: "...go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you." This particular fish miracle has an interesting background. It is generally agreed that this fish with the coin in its mouth was a tilapia. Tilapias are mouth breeders. In the spring, they lay their eggs on the bottom of the lake. After fertilization, the parents take the eggs into their mouths for three weeks until they hatch. Once hatched, the parent fish want to prevent their offspring from entering their mouths again so they take in pebbles to make "home" no longer comfortable. They may also take in a coin with the pebbles. The miracle of Matthew 17 is not that the fish had a coin in its mouth, but, as is often the case today, the miracle is in God's timing!

Gone Fishing!

We covet your prayers while we are in the Land of Israel. A prayer schedule on page one suggests 24/7 prayer, according to the first initial of your last name. Remember, Israel is 6 hours ahead. Jamie keeps an hour by hour account of what happens so that you will know when the Lord answers your prayers for our 1) safety, 2) health, 3) open doors, 4) favor, 5) anointing, 6) group unity, and 7) supernatural ability to minister the Love of God that never fails!

P.S. Daniel Carmel, a Galilean fisherman, boat captain and singer, has received Yeshua and has produced a CD — a collection of popular worship songs in Hebrew and English. You'll love it — Daniel will be ministering to our Mercy Mission group and our Israeli guests, and we will go on his boat.

P.P.S. Randy Smith's DVD **How Jesus Taught** will make you feel like you're on tour with us in Israel. **Great** explanations of the rabbinic teaching methods used by Yeshua.

On a personal note: There was a time when our eldest son, Jonathan, was not following the Lord. We didn't know what to do. We didn't have his heart, nor did God. We prayed. We stood. We trusted. The Lord gave us a word that may apply to a "fish" in your life — a husband, a wife, a mother, a father, a son or daughter: "He is a big fish, and a big fighter, but he's on the hook. Give him line! Don't try to jerk him quickly and reel him in. Allow Me to deal with him. He will eventually exhaust himself and come home." He did, to our great joy, and daily amazement.

Following Yeshua, fishing for men, *Neil & Jamie*

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - October 2007

LOCAL TV STATIONS

STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:	AIRTIME:
AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
CA	Sonora	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WLCB TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30 AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITH ALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	WSFJ TV 51	SUN 3:30 PM
OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26	SUN 12:00 PM
OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21	SUN 12:00 PM
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGG TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

SATELLITE NETWORKS

SKY ANGEL

Angel Two - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9702]
 GTN - SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9707]

DirecTV

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 321]

God TV - The GOD Channel

WED 4:30 AM (GMT) & 6:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Australian Christian Channel (ACC)

THU 8:00 AM (AEST)

Galaxy 16

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 5:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 121]

Satellite Receiver

WHT- Galaxy 16- Transpondent 15 - SUN 3:00 PM (EST)



INTERNATIONAL Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00 PM

INTERNET www.jewishjewels.org www.acctv.com.au