



December 2007

## 2007 Mercy Mission Report

Dear Family in Yeshua,



### God spoke.

Before leaving on our 2007 Jewish Jewels Mercy Mission, the Lord gave us two words, one directly from Scripture and the other from a devotional commentary. Our hearts had been focused for months on the Israeli people and how we might bless them and touch them with the Love of God. Yeshua said, *"Blessed are the merciful,"* and we desired to live out that verse from Matthew 5 in His Land. A few days before departure, Jamie read the following commentary on Matthew 5:7 by M. Magdalen: "Part of the meaning of being merciful is to get inside the skin of someone else, to feel as he feels, to understand life the way he understands it. That, of course, is at the heart of the incarnation. It is precisely what Jesus [Yeshua] did when he 'got inside the skin' of a human being and experienced life as we do."

We are thrilled to report that our special group of 31 "mercy ministers" had the opportunity to 'get inside the skin' of the Israeli people, if just in minute measure. The comment was made more than once during our visit that the Israelis were astounded that anyone—especially people not born Jewish (90% of our group)—would spend their money and vacation time coming to Israel to see and bless suffering people: victims of terror, soldiers without legs and arms, very poor, abused and neglected children, new mothers and babies, and soldiers with no families in the Land. "You come here to cry with us. Why?" we were asked. Our answer: "Because God has sent us." He enabled us to witness Isaiah 61:1 become flesh: *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted...to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning..."* (Isaiah 61:1-3). WE REPRESENTED YOU. We were careful to say that the Love Baskets we distributed and the donation checks came from BELIEVERS IN YESHUA IN THE U.S. WHO LOVE ISRAEL AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

**Our Jewish Jewels Family sent us with over \$ 115,000 in Love Baskets and Donations on this 2007 Mercy Mission to Israel. The God of Israel was not limited by a depressed economy!**

The second word given to us was from Galatians 6:10, *"When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers."* (New Century Version) We understood that God was encouraging us to bless believers in the Land, those who have made *aliyah* from all over the world as well as native, *sabra*, Messianic Jews. YOUR LOVE GIFTS BROUGHT GREAT JOY TO MANY OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YESHUA IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

### God planned a mission!

We had planned six mercy missions, but God had planned more. On the way to our hotel in Haifa, about six hours after arriving in Israel, we were passing through the city of Netanya. Jamie had read about a very large health food store that had just opened in this city, said to be one of the largest in the world. She had asked our bus driver, Hillel, to find out about it, and perhaps take us there for a short stop on our way to Haifa.



As it turned out, Hillel misunderstood Jamie's English, and he brought us to a "storehouse" where



very poor Ethiopian children are given food and tutored after school. It was obvious that God had planned an additional mission for us, so we all went inside the tiny underground bomb shelter and saw some precious children and their caregivers. **YOU** gave them \$1,000 in Love Baskets to buy food. We asked permission to pray over the children,

and it was gladly given. Our mission had begun in an unexpected, exciting way! This all happened at about 3:00 P.M. on Monday, October 22, 2007 (9:00 A.M. EST). Thank you D,E and F prayer warriors!!!

### "Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Pockets"

That is how Neil prayed as Jamie planned the mercy missions. EIAI had graciously opened the door to



allow us ten extra suitcases full of gifts at no extra charge. In addition to this, each member of our group brought a suitcase filled with baby clothes, T-shirts, toys and other gifts for children, toiletry items for men, women and children, and more! *MATANOT*—the Hebrew word for gifts, pronounced *mah-tah-NOTE*—took on new meaning as our group of 31 people unloaded their gifts in a room at the Dan Carmel in Haifa. The hotel staff could not believe their eyes as we transformed a small meeting room into what looked like a small store. Faithful servants of the Lord sorted and filled 80 gift bags (many hand decorated) for the baby shower the next day in Haifa, and the one the following day in Poriya in the Galilee. We worked until 11:00 P.M. The hotel gave us favor and allowed us to use the room for two days so

that we could continue to fill our gift bags. [Favor granted and gift bags filled from about 8:00 P.M. – 11:00 P.M. (2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. EST)—M,N,O,P,Q,R].

### "Geshem B'rachot: In the News!"

A dream, two years in the making, came true for Jamie as the 22 women in our group hosted a baby shower for the new mothers at Bnai Zion Hospital in Haifa. This first-ever shower (not an Israeli custom) was a huge blessing for all concerned. Approximately 40 new mothers each received a package of





Pampers and a gift bag filled with beautiful baby clothing and accessories. Hospital staff, dignitaries and even a member of Israel's Parliament listened as our friend Amy, a Jewish believer who has lived in Haifa for many years, read the verses written in Hebrew on the beautiful handmade plaques that we brought for each new mother (Psalm 139:13-18).

Mothers and their newborns mingled with our group, enjoying refreshments and

experiencing "showers of blessing" (Ezekiel 34:26). There were secular Jewish mothers, Orthodox Israeli mothers and Arab mothers at the shower. We were very impressed with the hospital staff as they gave some of us a tour of the neonatal section of the hospital, pointing out the specialized glass and anti-missile construction in the pediatric ward. **YOU** made a \$7,000 donation to the neonatal intensive care unit of Bnai Zion.



Our event was featured in a local Hebrew newspaper. Following is a rough translation of a portion of the article:

What is the connection between television host Jamie Lash with Dr. Amnon Rofe, Knesset Member Elhanan Glazer, Professor Gonen Ohel and David Weisskopf?

by: Ronit Kitai

"We came to bring joy to Haifa," thus said Jamie Lash, head of a delegation of American Zionists that came to Bnai Zion Medical Center in Haifa. Lash, host of a pro-Israel American television show called "Jewish Jewels", arrived with a group in order to bring support to the new maternity ward that Bnai Zion inaugurated.

"Last year, during the Second Lebanon War, I thought to myself how sad it must be in Haifa," explained Jamie Lash in complete solidarity. Therefore, following the Second Lebanon War the group decided to strengthen a hospital that



מימין לשמאל ארז שימקו, חנית שורץ, פרופ' גונן  
אוהל אלחנן גלזר, גב' ג'ימי לאש ראש המשלחת,  
ד"ר אמנון רופא מנכ"ל המרכז הרפואי "בני ציון"  
ודיוויד וייסקופף יו"ר עמותת "Love For Israel"  
(צילום: יח"צ)

was "in the line of fire," and for this chose Bnai Zion Medical Center. The exciting event took place under the auspices of Director General of Bnai Zion Medical Center Dr. Amnon Rofe, MLK Elhanan Glazer from the pensioners party and David Weisskopf chairman of the non-profit "Love for Israel" American organization. Director of women's department Gonen Ohel, related to the emotional element of the morning and explained research was done to check the power of prayer on the health of people. "The results of the study were not significant, but for us they are clearly significant. Those who will offer prayers for you with an open heart to the prayers and heart of their G-d to whom they pray will respond." Director of International Relations at Bnai Zion, Hanit Shwartz, thanked the group for the plaques and for the many gifts they divided to the mothers and new-born babies."

All this took place on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 from 10:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. (4:00 A.M. – 6:30 A.M. EST). Thank you to our early rising intercessors!! The hospital asked us to please return next year!

### More Gifts for Haifa

On Tuesday evening, October 23, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. (12:30 P.M. EST), we invited a Messianic Jew and his wife to our hotel for dinner so that we might bless the local believers in the Haifa area. They asked if they could bring their pre-believing Jewish parents with them who were visiting from Canada. We had a delightful dinner sharing seashell testimonies and Yeshua until about 8:30 P.M. (2:30 P.M. EST). Marty and Sue left with a large suitcase full of gifts, \$300 to buy blankets for holocaust survivors, \$1,000 for needy believers or pre-believers in Nazareth, and \$1,000 for needy believers or pre-believers in Akko. The Lord put all this together at the last moment. Someone was praying!

### More Babies



A second baby shower took place in Poriya (the Galilee area) the next day. Eric, of the Galilee Experience, helped open the door for this wonderful mercy mission. This time, the men in our group were part of the party. The shower was from 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 (4:30 A.M. – 6:00 A.M. EST). We again read from Psalm 139,



reminding all present that God knew us when we were in our mother's womb (verse 13). That day we blessed 30 girl babies and 10 boy babies with beautiful gifts. We were told that the baby clothes will be passed down for generations! Nurses received Love Baskets, and the hospital received a donation for the maternity ward. Jamie held a young couple's firstborn—a precious baby girl. Our men seemed to really enjoy the experience as well.

Wednesday evening at 8:15 P.M. (2:15 P.M. EST), as our group went to a worship experience, we went to an Israeli home for dinner. We met Tal on our first Mercy Mission and have been in contact with him and his wife Tali ever since. We asked our group to keep us in prayer as we broke bread and shared with this young couple until 11:00 P.M. (5:00 P.M. EST). They are secular Israelis, but they believe in God. Tal does not believe in life after death. We discussed this as well as an experience they both had recently at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Please pray for Tal and Tali (Titus 3:5-6) that Yeshua would reveal Himself to them.

### Mission to Lone Soldiers



A very special mission to the historic 101st Paratroopers Battalion was arranged for us by Richard Weisskopf of the Love for Israel Relief Fund. These Israeli soldiers have been an elite fighting unit on the front lines in all Israeli wars since 1956. Many of them are "lone soldiers," soldiers with no families in Israel. Most are new immigrants, but some are orphans. They are usually considered to be the best soldiers in the IDF. **YOU** provided 40 lone soldiers with Love Baskets and special backpacks which were filled with toiletries and goodies by our Mercy Mission group. **YOU** also bought 140 T-shirts with the following verse from Psalm 91:5-7 on them: **FEAR NOT.** "*You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day...*"



Our group experienced a rare treat: a live military exercise on the Golan Heights. The soldiers used live ammunition. It was exciting and sobering at the same time. Following this, we had lunch with soldiers on the base. Our dear friends Richard and Michelle prayed with two of the soldiers after lunch who were seeking direction for the future. We later found out that two hours after the live exercise, the IDF cancelled all military exercises on the Golan because officials feared they could spark war with Syria! Thank you for praying from 10: A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (4:00 A.M. – 7:00 A.M. EST).



### Welcomed—in Yeshua's Name!

We arrived at the Organization for Victims of Terror at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, October 26, 2007 (4:30 A.M. EST) and were immediately overwhelmed with hugs, flowers and a singing serenade. Michel, the chairman of the organization, welcomed our group in the name of *Yeshua HaMelech, Melech HaM'lachim* (Jesus, the King, the King of Kings). He proceeded to show us the New Covenant commentaries that he has been studying, and blessed us with plaques that will adorn Neil's office at Jewish Jewels and

TAK. We were very moved to hear that since Michel, his wife and two co-workers prayed with us to receive Yeshua in July 2006 (in our home), God has turned their deep, deep sorrow into joy. Michel related to the group that since his precious daughter was killed in a terrorist bombing on his birthday, he had lost a birthday and could never celebrate it again. But Yeshua, his Messiah, gave him a new birthday, July 25, and now he celebrates on that day because he has been born again! Our group was showered with gifts and thank yous from these families who have all lost loved ones in horrific ways. Truly the Spirit of God has done a work of comforting those who mourn in Zion and binding up the brokenhearted. As we left our friends in Afula, we stopped at an overlook in the city of Nazareth. At that moment, someone from below released

white doves from a large cage. As they flew in a flurry of feathers before us, the Lord spoke to Jamie's heart: "I am releasing My Spirit over Nazareth, over Jerusalem, over My people." Please pray...for the *Ruach HaKodesh* to continue revealing Yeshua the Messiah to God's people Israel!

Following a delightful Praise Cruise on the Sea of Galilee with Messianic Jew Danny Carmel, we returned to our hotel in Tiberias and put together 32 gift bags of womens' toiletries and about 50 T-shirts representing the states of our Mercy Mission team members. These gifts, along with Love Baskets and seashells, were all ready when our friends from the Organization of Victims of Terror arrived for dinner and a Messianic Shabbat service. **YOU** sponsored 50 members of their group (all having lost loved ones in terror attacks), as well as at least 10 local believers in Yeshua. Dinner was at 6:30 P.M. (12:30 P.M. EST). Much sharing went on at dinner. At 8:00 P.M. (2:00 P.M. EST) about 100 of us gathered to worship the Lord and hear the Word. Local believers led us in Hebrew with English translation. At least 40 pre-believing Israelis heard the Gospel for the first time. Joy filled the room.



Love Baskets were gratefully received by both pre-believers and believers. We danced with joy until 10:30 P.M. (4:30 P.M. EST). We gave our friend and translator, Amy, 10 Love Baskets to bring back to the Pro-Life group in Haifa the next day as well as a few more for the poor.

### Wheelchair Wonders

Our next Mercy Mission took place in Tel Aviv on Sunday, October 28, 2007 at 5:00 P.M. (11:00 A.M. EST). We visited Beit Halochem, a center of rehabilitation for Israel's 50,000 wounded and disabled soldiers. Our good friends Zeke and Carrie of Israel Arise arranged this mission for us. Beit Halochem means "House of the Warrior." It is an amazing place where soldiers who have been wounded during service to their country come with their families for recreation and rehabilitation. Activities include archery, swimming, pool, table tennis and much more. The director who spoke with our group was very moved to see us there. He spoke of our **heart**. He saw Yeshua in us. **YOU** gave a \$5,000 donation to this marvelous facility.



How can we describe a basketball game of men (and one woman) racing down the court in wheelchairs? How can we put into words what it was like to dance as a group with men and women in wheelchairs who are

professionals and perform as a troupe? Many have no legs or one leg. All have suffered greatly, yet their spirit is indomitable!

**YOU** treated these men and women to dinner afterwards, as we sat with them as a group outside under the stars and got to know them on a personal level (from about 7:30 – 9:30 P.M. (1:30 – 3:30 P.M. EST). 20 Love Baskets (\$2,000) were given to them as well as 40 bags of gifts—T-shirts and hats of various U.S. sports teams.

At dinner, we mentioned to Sarah, the volunteer coordinator, that we still had some baby things in a big bag on the bus! She asked if she could have some for some needy mothers. So...our very patient driver, Hillel, opened up the luggage compartment and waited for us as we rummaged through a bag in the dark looking for clothes for girl babies. The baby clothes kept multiplying!



### Still More Babies!

During our three days in Jerusalem, Love Baskets and baby gifts flowed forth to believers. Two young recently married believers had just found out they were expecting. One of their babies will be the first grandchild of our dear friends Chuck and Karen Cohen. We were able to bless these babies while yet in their mother's womb. Their parents also received gifts. We even gave baby gifts to believers who were trying to conceive—by faith! 60 Righteous Rhymes CDs were also given to believers all over the Land. It was obvious that children were on God's heart during the 2007 Mercy Mission.







### Needy Children

Our final group mission took place on Tuesday, October 30, 2007 from 9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. (3:00 A.M. – 5:30 A.M. EST). Our Israeli friend, Eitan, arranged a day's outing for 40 very poor, needy children and parents at Ein Ya'el, a Living Museum built around a spring in southern Jerusalem. At Ein Ya'el, children get to experience aspects of



everyday life in Bible times, and can participate in many hands-on traditional crafts. Our group made pita bread with the children. We dipped our hands in flour and oil together, rolled together, put our bread on

the outdoor oven together, and ate together. The children were given breakfast, pizza lunch, ATV and horseback rides and more during this very special day for them—only possible because **YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE!** Our Mercy Mission group gave each child a bag of toys and candy. Love Baskets were given to each family. There was a unique blend of Orthodox, secular Israelis and Arab children at Ein Ya'el. All live below the poverty level. Some have major physical problems. We prayed for a brother and sister after their mother lifted up their shirts to show us their insulin pumps. Thank you for blessing these children!



### Blessing Teachers

During the course of our mission, we encountered many teachers guiding groups of students on field trips. (Unfortunately, there is always an armed guard with each group to protect the children from terrorists!) Teachers are not paid much in Israel, and our guide, Leor, encouraged us to bless them with Love Baskets as the Spirit led. We stopped by Leor's daughter Kelly's kindergarten at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 30, 2007 (9:00 A.M. EST) to give heart-shaped lollipops to all the children and to bless their teacher, Tsvia. When she received 2 Love Baskets, she was overwhelmed. She later called us to let us know that it was the happiest day of the year for her!



### Remembering Holocaust Survivors

There was no time on this mission to visit our dear friends at Ner Yaacov, a home for holocaust survivors. However, our friends, Chuck and Karen Cohen, gladly agreed to deliver warm socks, hand-knitted scarves (by some of you!), soap and a number of Love Baskets to them for us.

### Sudanese Refugees!

Yes, your giving even extended to the refugees from the Sudan. How? They have made their way to Israel, crossing the Red Sea like the Israelites of old, fleeing from "Pharoah." They have nothing. Many from Darfur have just been granted asylum. While doing our final packing in Jerusalem, we realized that we still had an entire bag (a big one) filled with toys and other gifts for children. Richard Weisskopf of Love for Israel suggested that we send them with him to give to the Sudanese children. Another unexpected mercy mission!



The Sudanese connection did not stop in Jerusalem. After our Mercy Mission teams left for the U.S., we had the privilege and delight to go to Eilat for five days with our dear friends Richard and Michelle (our first time ever in Eilat and Petra). Anna, one of the expecting mothers in Jerusalem, had told us about a Messianic outreach in Eilat that has services on Friday evenings. We "just so happened" to have one more big duffle bag full of toiletries and other gifts, so we got a cab and went to The Shelter Hostel on Friday, November 2, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. (1:00 P.M. EST). At The Shelter, run by John and Judy Pex, we found an amazing mix of people from Russia, the U.S., Singapore, Columbia and other Latin countries, and the Sudan. When John saw the big bag, he said that the Sudanese could really use the toiletries, etc. Love Baskets? Of course! And a donation to help feed the hungry—of whatever nationality. We experienced something for the first time in Eilat—a message translated simultaneously into Russian, Spanish, Hebrew, Sudanese and Chinese.

Jamie had a great time handing out seashell messages at The Shelter (in Hebrew and Spanish), and all over Eilat. Without a doubt, the favorite message was: "You are special...in the eyes of God." (*Atah me-you-ched ba-ey-nay-im shel Adonai.*)

### Mission of Ministry

Our driver, Hillel, a pre-believing Israeli, and our guide, Leor, a believing Israeli, both summarized our Mercy Mission to Israel by commenting that unlike other groups that take—we came to give. We did not come to see things clean or antiseptic, nor did we want to see the "right" things. We came to mix with the people and their problems, to do something for Israel. Mission accomplished. Well done, Jewish Jewels family!

While we left lots of love in Israel, we brought back some for you—in the form of a heart key ring that says "Shalom." Order one this month!

Each December we have turned to you, our Jewish Jewels partners, to help us end the year with all of our bills paid. And each December you have demonstrated your faithfulness by helping us accomplish that goal. Please prayerfully consider sending along an extra end-of-the-year-gift so that we can fulfill this mission and boldly move into 2008 energized to proclaim Messiah Yeshua to the "House of Israel" while there is still time.

*Warmest Holiday Blessings in Yeshua! Love, Neil & Jamie*

P.S. John and Judy of The Shelter Hostel walked the hiking trail in Israel called the "Shvil," 940 kilometers from Eilat to Dan. Judy's book, **Walk the Land**, chronicles this journey—fascinating reading!

P.P.S. A special offer: The DVD "Against All Odds." How can a nation, one day old, defeat twelve armies armed with one tank and five cannons? Be amazed and blessed as this 95 minute docudrama explores the history and miracle of Israel, the nation against all odds.

P.P.P.S. A Gift from Israel: This brilliant, revolving, gold key chain featuring the Dove of Peace on a blue background and the word Shalom written below the dove serves as a great reminder that Yeshua is the Prince of Peace.

P.P.P.P.S. Israeli - American Flag Lapel Pin

