



*Our feet have been standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem!  
(Psalm 122:2)*

Shalom Shalom B'shem Yeshua,

### **An Unexpected Adventure!**

This month, as we celebrate one of the Lord's *moedim* (mo-ey-DEEM), or appointed times, the Feast of Shavuot on May 18, 2010, we want to share another appointed time that Jamie experienced this past March. It began with a kind of "Macedonian call" (see Acts 16:9) in the form of a phone call from Eliyahu, the groom whose June 8, 2009 wedding you, our Jewish Jewels family, made possible. In broken English, Eliyahu left the following message on our house answering machine: "Jamie, come to Israel. Micaela will have our baby soon." Then another call came from the Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) rabbi and rebbitzen who found the orphan bride for us in 2009: "Come to Israel. We have ten poor girls who will be having a Bat Mitzvah celebration. We want Jamie to be the honored guest and will schedule the *simcha* (celebration) when she tells us she can come." We prayed. We asked the Lord what He wanted Jamie to do. We sensed an open door and an open heaven. Neil wanted Jamie to find someone to travel with her, since his duties as Rabbi precluded his accompanying her. Elisa, one of our single ladies from Temple Aron HaKodesh, said she would like to join Jamie and stay on for Passover, so plans were made.

### **New Birth in the Air**

Jamie and Elisa had separate seats on the flight from Fort Lauderdale to Newark, New Jersey. Jamie sat next to an Italian American senior citizen who was on her way home to New Jersey. The Lord had instructed Jamie to bring her old large print New King James Bible with her (completely marked up) to read on the two flights. After about an hour of reading, the lady next to Jamie asked her what she was reading. For the next hour, Jamie went through the Bible, answering the lady's questions. She was a Catholic who had never heard of being "born again," but had some knowledge of Jesus and a desire to know God. When she told Jamie that her name was Rose, Jamie said, "Well, Rose, God is calling you by name today. He wants to give you a new life, to forgive you of all your sins once and for all, and to make the latter part of your life even better than the former."

Rose asked Jamie why she said that. Jamie explained to her that she had made twenty-two seashells with messages from God for her trip to Israel. Twenty-one were in Hebrew. One was in English. The one in English that had a ROSE on it said, "You are special to God," and just happened to be in Jamie's purse. Jamie gave it to Rose who was very touched. Before the flight landed, Rose had repented of her sin, given her heart to the Lord, and explained to Jamie how to make good pasta sauce. An amazing adventure had begun!

### **Steps (Seats) Ordered by the Lord**

On the flight to Tel Aviv, Elisa and Jamie were scheduled to be seated in different sections of the plane. They asked to be in the same row and were placed together, Elisa at the window and Jamie in the middle seat. The aisle seat was filled shortly by a man in his forties, obviously an Orthodox Jew by his dress. He turned to Jamie after a few moments and said: "I prayed to God that I would sit next to interesting people on this flight." Jamie said to him, "Okay. Let's establish one thing. I did not initiate this conversation." "Good," he said. "Tell me about yourself." At least five hours of conversation ensued!

Jamie had expected the Lord to go before her and Elisa, but never dreamed that an Orthodox man would even open a conversation with them. Steve was gregarious, funny, curious, open, full of questions, and a knowledgeable teacher of Talmud at a yeshiva in Jerusalem. He was fascinated by Jamie's marked-up Bible and Elisa's Hebrew/English Bible. He knew nothing about the New Testament, and Jamie shared many New Covenant verses with him, including John chapter three, and the concept of being born again.

This Orthodox man admitted that we might know more Torah than he knew, since he mainly studied and taught what the learned rabbis said about the Torah. Steve insisted that we could not interpret the Torah ourselves—that we needed the Oral Law, the commentaries of the rabbis, to understand what we were reading. Jamie told him that she had the interpreter inside of her—the *Ruach HaKodesh*. Steve did not know what to make of that! He was astounded that we knew so much without knowing the Oral Law. He kept saying, "How is it possible?" Steve was also amazed that two women who were not born Jewish could love the Jewish God and the Jewish people as we do. Finally, he said to Jamie and Elisa, "I beg you. Please come to my home in Jerusalem. I want my wife and my five children to meet you. They have never met a righteous gentile before. In fact, until now, I had never met one. It would be an honor to have you in our home." We accepted his invitation.

### **Micaela's Baby**

After fourteen hours of traveling, we arrived in Jerusalem and were met by Yudi, an Israeli pre-believing friend who brought us to the apartment where we were to stay, right near Ben Yehuda Street. Three hours later, we were in a cab with Micaela and her baby on the way to a large baby store. Ayela was three weeks old and tiny, since she was born a month early (eight months after the wedding). This did not stop Micaela from bundling Ayela up and taking her shopping with us. Two and one half hours later, Jewish Jewels had purchased a crib, dresser, rocking chair and accessories. Jamie held the baby while Micaela discussed purchases with a saleswoman. A very happy new mother waved goodbye to us in a taxi filled with what we bought, AND also with what we brought: almost 50 pounds of baby clothing, a stroller and a pack n' play! (This "orphan bride" continues to have a rich Father (God), in spite of the continued rejection on the part of her husband's parents.)

### **Bat Mitzvah Blessing**

There was no time for jet lag. At 10:00 AM the following morning, we joined Ilaneet, the rabbi's wife, and her daughters in a taxi ride to The Kotel (Western Wall) where we met ten girls and their mothers and sisters for a Bat Mitzvah celebration. The girls prayed at The Kotel and read psalms, but did not read from the Torah as boys do. When Jamie began to pray at The Kotel, God surprised her with a spirit of joy. The rabbi's wife was witness to this, and Jamie sensed that it was very intentional on God's part.

The celebration that followed, which you sponsored, was delightful. Forty-eight people, including the Bat Mitzvah girls and their families, enjoyed a pizza luncheon in a lovely old restaurant right opposite the original site of the Holy of Holies! The restaurant was an ancient well. To enter it, you had to descend many steps into a softly lit, stone-walled room. After lunch, the rebbitzen spoke to the girls in Hebrew about praying to God as a friend. Then, Jamie realized that she was explaining her seashell ministry to the Bat Mitzvah girls.

The mothers profusely thanked us for providing such a special treat for these girls. One single mother was near tears. You gave each Bat Mitzvah a \$50.00 gift certificate enclosed in a beautiful card handmade by a Jewish Jewels partner. Handmade bracelets were also part of their gift.

From the Bat Mitzvah celebration, we went to the home of an Orthodox social worker to learn about the projects she undertakes for Israeli soldiers and youth in the suffering town of S'derot. Sharon explained to us that missiles are still targeting Israeli citizens in S'derot. The children are traumatized, and her organization is training high school volunteers to work with them in after school programs to help them have a measure of normality while living in a war zone. She also mentioned



that the soldiers of the IDF **love** to get cards or letters from people telling them that they are praying for them. Please consider sending a Hanukkah card with us (in English) on our December Mercy Mission. We will personally hand them to the soldiers.

### **Faithful Friends from Afula**

The next morning, Jamie and Elisa walked to the picturesque neighborhood of Nachla'ot, to the home of the Breslav rabbi and his wife. The rebbitzin is expecting her eighth child. It is hard for us to imagine a tiny, two bedroom home with a family of ten, but that is common in Nachla'ot. Jamie had a bag of gifts for the children, including jump ropes, clothing and crayons. The rabbi's girls were very excited about their new Passover shoes. They insisted that Jamie take pictures of them.

After lunch, Jamie suggested that she and Elisa go to #1 Ben Yehuda Street to see if her seashell was still hanging in the jewelry store from our 2008 visit. It was! A "Love Never Fails" shell was still prominently displayed. After a lively discussion about Yeshua's resurrection from the dead, Jamie and Elisa prayed that God would show the shop owner, Eliyahu, the truth about Yeshua, the risen Messiah.

At 5:30 that evening, despite cold, rainy weather, our spiritual children, Michel and Yaffa, drove almost three hours from Afula to Jerusalem to see Jamie. Yaffa had just gotten out of the hospital following a heart catheterization and other procedures. They came to Jerusalem for prayer and fellowship. Jamie anointed Yaffa with oil and prayed the prayer of faith. For two hours, we shared from the Word of God, Jamie in English, and Michel in Hebrew. Our focus was Exodus 12 and Luke 22 and the upcoming Passover. When we read from the *B'rit Hadashah*, Michel kept saying, "This is very strong!" He always says, "My rabbi is Rabbi Neil. My temple is Temple Aron HaKodesh."

### **Shabbat in Yerushalayim**

Following a delightful free morning of wandering through the ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Mea Shearim, watching the hustle-bustle of families getting ready for Shabbat, Elisa and Jamie prepared for a Sabbath evening (*Kabbalat Shabbat*) with Orthodox Jews of the Carlebach movement. This was quite an experience. Jamie and Elisa went to light Sabbath candles at Sharon's home where the table was set for eighteen guests. Following a brief walk to the synagogue, they sat with Sharon in the packed-out women's section of the synagogue. The service lasted for about an hour and one half, and included singing in Hebrew from Psalms 95-99, and Psalm 23. A bride, who had married the night before, danced with some of the ladies (including Jamie) in the aisle. The rabbi gave a short sermon on ridding our lives of spiritual leaven before the Passover. At one point in the service, everyone on both sides of the divider (*mechitzah*) turned to welcome the "*shechinah*"—the presence of God.

Following the service, a sumptuous meal was spread before us, punctuated with singing, some political discussions, and introductions of guests. Proverbs 31 was read and commented on. Each of the eighteen guests had a silver kiddush cup set before them. Dinner ended at 10:15 PM with a delicious homemade cake and—popcorn! (a local custom, we assume).

The next day, we experienced the other side of Israeli society, the secular side. We went with Eitan, Yudi, and their children to a nature preserve in the Judean Wilderness. Recent rains had turned the brown grass to green, and wildflowers graced the cliffs. Jamie, Elisa and Eitan's family carried a picnic lunch across a bubbling stream, balancing precariously on the rocks. Then we all hiked through the hills and rested on the hillside as the children waded in the cool water. A much needed rest!

### **Redeeming the Time**

Sunday, the first day of the week, is *Yom Rishon*, in Hebrew. As the Israelis went back to work, so did Jamie and Elisa. First stop: Curves! Jamie could not resist using her free pass to exercise at her favorite "mission station." She handed out Jewish Jewels cards to the two workers who spoke perfect English, and encouraged them to watch us on TV. Following lunch with Jewish believing

friends, and dinner with more Jewish believing friends, Jamie and Elisa made the promised visit to the home of the Talmud teacher, Steve, from the Newark/Tel Aviv flight.

It is hard to put into words the warm welcome, openness, and joy that embraced us in the Rubin household. Jamie and Elisa enjoyed the very animated conversation of an entire family of Orthodox Jews who sincerely wanted to know what Christians believe. One of the sons, age 11, said: "I think you're more Jewish than Christian." Their father said, "Well, yes, it's just that they believe that Jesus is the Messiah." The children wanted to discuss Jamie's seashell ministry, since Jamie had given their father a shell on the plane. Jamie and Elisa shared with the Rubins for almost three hours over dessert. Then photos were taken. E-mails were exchanged. This family had heard that there were people not born Jewish who loved Jewish people, but they had **never** before met any! Please pray for Steven Rubin and family—that they begin to search the Torah rather than rely totally on the Oral tradition of the rabbis. Pray for a divine revelation of the Messiah Yeshua for this precious family.

### Final Encounters

As Jamie and Elisa ordered breakfast at Café Hillel the next morning, a woman named Ruti (Ruth) engaged them in conversation. Ruti is a native Hebrew speaker, but she also speaks English, Spanish, French, German, Russian, Persian, Arabic, Aramaic, and Armenian. Ruti is estranged from her family, and at one point mentioned that she was hungry. Jamie and Elisa invited her to join them for breakfast. They prayed for Ruti and encouraged her. Ruti invited Jamie and Neil to her home in Jerusalem for dinner during our 2010 Hanukkah Mercy Mission. Pray for Ruti. She needs Yeshua.

The last Israelis to be touched on this short, but very sweet adventure, were three salesladies at the Ahava store in the Mamilla Mall. Anav, the manager, knew Elisa from a former visit. Her name means "one grape." She requested that "two shells" be sent to her. Pray that she reads Isaiah 53, the chapter that Elisa encouraged her to read. May her eyes be opened to see her Messiah.

Jamie left Jerusalem just as spring arrived. We pray that the *ahava* (love) that was shared in Jerusalem will bear much lasting fruit for Yeshua's kingdom. *"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."* (Song of Songs 2:11-12)

### Becoming a "God Magnet"

Jamie was willing to be led by the *Ruach HaKodesh* to "GO" and be a witness for Yeshua and share His love with the Orthodox community in Israel. At other times, she has been called to share with people in nursing homes or with sales people in malls. This is her Judea and Samaria. ALL believers are called to be witnesses for Messiah. God wants to use all of His children to reach people with the Good News of *Yeshua HaMashiach*. Yeshua told His disciples: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

God has a divine appointment for YOU, a harvest that only YOU can reap. He wants you to be fully-armored, equipped and ready to take a stand for the Holy One of Israel. We want to help you with this month's offers. In **Becoming a God Magnet** by Harvey Katz, the author does an excellent job of exploring how each of us can draw people to Yeshua, because of who He is in us. **I Have a Friend Who's Jewish** by Don Goldstein is a powerful little book to give to Jewish pre-believers. **Why Me?** by Jacob Damkani is the riveting testimony of an Israeli Messianic Jew. Be equipped, GO, and share with the lost sheep of the house of Israel! (Matthew 10:6)

Praying for you, Love,



P.S. Our 2010 Hanukkah Mercy Mission to Israel is also a tour of the major Jewish and Christian sites. Call us at 1-800-2-Yeshua (1-800-293-7482) for a brochure. A real adventure awaits you!!!