



News From Our National Leader

August 2015

By Graeme Lee



Reflection on Israel Visit

The National pages are back! It seems strange that our 'local news' has been missing for the past four months! However if you could have been in Jerusalem with John and myself in May 2015 you would have realized that compiling, writing and publishing the 'Israel and Christians Today' 12 main pages 'in Zion' was a huge undertaking without attempting the National pages.

I trust you felt the June issue "Reporting from Jerusalem" was inspirational! So here is the story of how the Lord answered our prayers and gave to each of us a wonderful Blessing.

The story is in three parts - The leadership Forum, The Global Prayer Call Conference and the Educational Study Tour.

The Leadership Forum is what it sounds - a bi annual gathering of Christians for Israel Leaders around the world. The four day meeting was held at the 'Ramat Rachel' a delightful Kibbutz hotel. We are fortunate to have such quality leadership and many forward looking decisions were made.

It was very strategic that Fiji's new National Leader Lepani Makubuna and his wife Salote were able to be present and participate in the Forum, similarly we were grateful that Owen and Lois Johnson were able to attend the Forum. Our Leadership group of 10 was one of the largest. Special mention must be made of Graham and Sandy Simpson who led the Worship singing.

The Global Prayer Call Conference was a great success for which we give all the "Praise to the Lord". 400 people attended the Conference. 35 Nations were represented. It was the first International Conference that Christians for Israel had convened - Harold Eckert our International Chairman was both the visionary and chief organizer of the event.

The Prayer emphasis was wonderful with many corporate times of Prayer. Many participants described the occasion as "life changing" and "experiencing God in a deeper way"

My wife and I were greatly blessed by the Study Tour. Every biblical site we visited was special. Although we had been to the sites on the 2013 tour, we found this time to be even more important biblically. We of course enjoyed the fellowship and fun with all our "Tour pilgrims"! - John Gummer as tour leader has given us some of the most memorable details on page 2. We hope you can join us in March 2017.



Two State Solution of Israel and Palestine Raised by NZ Representatives on the United Security Council

During the month of July 2015 NZ held the chair position of the Security Council. Concern over early announcements by our Minister brought ECI Legal Council Andrew Tucker to Wellington to visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other groups. I met the outgoing Ambassador Sir Jim McLay in Auckland recently. It was a most worthwhile meeting. Be reminded the ECI was established by Christians for Israel. It comprises a group of lawyers with International Law specialization who are pursuing this matter directly with National Leaders and Governments. I believe this is the most effective way to influence right outcomes but it needs our urgent prayer.

However be aware there is a Petition to sign on the back sheet. This is the petition of Rev. Nigel Woodley - Ebenezer NZ Chairman.

Temple Institute

Whilst in the old city of Jerusalem I visited the Temple Institute. What I saw motivated me to write a 'Quick Study on the Third Temple', please read page 3.

Successful Tour Leadership

I want to record my congratulations and thanks to John Gummer as our tour 2015 leader (John tells it all on page 2), Graham Simpson as the Deputy Tour leader (page 3) and Bryce Turner as Assistant Tour 2015 Leader. Bryce did a magnificent job as a backstop assistant that you could not get round!

New Representative Appointed for Cook Islands

It is a pleasure to announce that John Tangi (photo right) of the Cook Islands has been appointed by Andrew Tucker and Harold Eckert as Christians for Israel representatives in that Nation.

We wish John well and assure him of our prayer support. We thank Robert Siakimotu for bringing this matter to fruition.



Generous Support to Bnei Menashe – Jewish People From India

Whilst in Israel, Christians for Israel International responded to the challenge from Michael Freund concerning Bnei Menashe and gave \$150,000 USD.

However we are very pleased that Owen and Lois Johnson of Hamilton added a further \$1300 NZD to this worthy cause. This will enable the total number of 900 Bnei Menashe who can return to Israel.

Support

Thank you again for your support. We are always grateful to God for everything he is doing through his people.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- Pray for peace for the people of Israel and Palestine.
- Pray for peace throughout the Middle East.
- Pray for the Ministry of Christians for Israel worldwide.
- Pray for Executive Leadership - International Chairman Harold Eckert, President Willem Glashouwer and Executive Director Andrew Tucker.
- Pray for affiliate leaders in Australia, New Zealand, USA, UK, Singapore, Italy, East Africa, West Africa, South Korea and Brazil.
- Pray for the International office staff, Marloes van Westing, Rita Quartel, Ruud Neijhof and Jos van Westing.
- Pray for the English "Israel and Christians Today" worldwide paper
- Pray for the Dutch "Israel and Christians Today" paper
- Pray for the German "Israel and Christians Today" paper
- Pray for the Christians for Israel New Zealand office staff, Cathy Eksteen, Lauris Lee and Cathy Coldicutt.
- Pray for the New Zealand Board Graeme Lee, John Gummer, Graham Simpson and Denis Smith.



Small Beginnings by Dennis McLeod

New memoir shares 70 years of author's life... How he overcame feelings of rejection to become person wanted by many

Author Dennis R. McLeod shares his lifetime journey from being a 15-year-old stepping out in life feeling the world was against him, to becoming someone who is wanted by many people, in his new memoir, 'Small Beginnings'.

'Small Beginnings' is the journey that started when – unbeknownst to him - God took him as a 15-year-old and started training and equipping him for the future.



"Many young and not so young people are lost, walking down a blank road," Dennis says. "I believe this book will encourage all people, no matter their age, that there is a beautiful world out there. All they need to do is allow God to open their eyes to see His beauty and everything else will fall into place."

Dennis was a top teacher where he taught for over 35 years. He has served as a church synod representative. He and his wife, Penny, served as missionaries in many countries and pastors in a church in their hometown of Hamilton, NZ.

Contact Dennis: dpmcleod2@icloud.com | Ph: 021 384 452

Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble | www.smallbeginnings.com

The Anecdote of a Tour Leader in Israel

By John Gummer, Tour Leader

About a year ago Graeme Lee and I, mooted the idea that since we had enjoyed our first 'Christians for Israel' trip to the Holy Land, that we would love to give others an opportunity to join us in May 2015. Visiting Israel is like visiting no other place on earth, the world's history from its beginning lays before you. So we agreed and started planning.

The whole event from beginning to end was a little like watching a plant grow; first of all the seed (Tour) was planted, the plant started to grow. Expressions of interest came in, the list was pruned back when deposits were asked for, the travelling list grew, travel tickets were issued, tour costs paid and finally the Team arrived in Tel Aviv, (aptly described by fellow Christians for Israel Board Member Graham Simpson in an accompanying article). The family then matured and became a very happy group of people, to sharing such an important Tour.

There were 32 people who toured, made up of two Fijians, one lady from Holland and the rest from around NZ as follows: Ken & Anna Pickett, John and Kathleen Gibson, John and Carolyne Gummer, Judith Coster, Selwyn and Gillian Vivien, Bryce and Eleanor Turner, Lynne Turner, Raj and Shemmi Sen, Graham and Sandy Simpson, Bernard Young, Graeme and Lauris Lee, Lepani and Salote Makubuna (Christians for Israel Fiji Leaders), Andrew and Liz Wilks, Russell and Marie McGuinness, Owen and Lois Johnson, Sheila Sen, Margaret Edwards, Ken and Maewyn Moore, and Carla Van Der Does (Holland).

The Tour began when 19 from NZ flew in to join the 12 already in Israel and were joined by Anna Pickett's cousin Carla from Holland. Both Anna and Carla were met in Israel by their second cousin, our representative in Israel, Marnix Van Ede. Marnix and Keshet Tour Planner Racheli Davidson did an excellent job in helping me put the Ground Tour in place and went the "extra mile" for the Team, with Racheli taking Russell to hospital, and waiting with him to receive treatment. Marnix also found a good dentist to help Carolyne to have a crown replaced, taking her to the surgery and ensuring she was able to return safely to the hotel.

Trying to keep track of everybody in the crowded streets of the Old City of Jerusalem was a challenge. However, because I am hopeless at counting people, I gave everyone a number between 1 and 32. So when we boarded the Tour Bus, before we would move, I had everyone shout their number in numerical order ensuring everyone was on board. Well, I tell you, some of the counting was hilarious as many of them adopted a special tone, others would forget but it ended up a lot of fun.

The Tour involved some walking at times and as you could imagine, many wanted to stop and shop and also go in different directions. So I had the Tour Guide lead from the front and stationed Bryce at the tail end. Bryce is a big man, and no one was going to get past him! This worked very well, a little like a sheep dog rounding up sheep. The one time we didn't count everyone before they entered the bus, was the time we left one site, to walk to another nearby and was the only occasion that we lost someone. She must have slipped away between counting and entering the new site. Praise God she was able to get herself back to the hotel in a taxi much to my relief.

There are so many highlights when touring Israel it is in some ways not fair to single some out as better than others. A personal highlight and even a triumph for me was to go through Hezekiah's tunnel. This tunnel is up to a kilometre long, deep under the Old City and was originally built to bring in water. Being a serious claustrophobic, on the first trip I stayed back using the excuse that I would look after my wife who did not want to go through it. This time Carolyne was ill and did not come on this particular day. No excuse! I shared my fear with big Bryce and he said have no fear, just walk in front of me and you won't be able to turn back as I will block you off. Off I went. By the Grace of God my fear departed and I went through the tunnel, admiring the skill of those old tunnellers who built this extensive tunnel with pick and shovel.

Palm Sunday Road was a unique experience. This was the road that Jesus allegedly used to make His triumphal entry into the Old City all those years ago. We to shared a special spiritual experience as we walked this road, sharing testimonies from the group and took in the special atmosphere that prevailed. It was hot that day! Very hot, with temperatures around 40 deg Celsius. Some of the older members of the team struggled but such was the special bond among the group that everyone helped those who needed help to partake in this matchless moment.

I remember back my first visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum, two years previously, just how sobering an experience it was. Unfortunately, this time, it was very crowded as there were many IDF soldiers there as a part of their orientation and education. There is not much to like about it but it is a 'must see' while in Jerusalem.

There is something awe inspiring about Masada, Herod's desert fortress. It is not only an archaeological site but also symbolises a tragic chapter in Israel's history. Arriving

there we were faced with this gigantic, gargantuan colossus that stands before you.

"How on earth do we walk up there," I heard mumbled among our team. You can see what looks like tiny tracks spiralling up the sheer sides of this mountain. "No way am I going up there!" However, once through the tremendous entry building, filled with so many treasures to buy, as well as a museum. We were faced with a very modern Gondola that took us swinging through the air up the side of the mountain, and yes, we conquered Masada in about ninety seconds. The top of the mountain is to all intents and purposes pretty flat. The history of Jewish pig headedness and Roman determination is there for all to see and was well worth the effort to get there.

Size wise, Israel being such a small country, it takes no time really to go from one end to the other. On about the eighth day of our tour we went from Jerusalem, down to the Jordan River to the site where Jesus was believed to have been baptised, back along the Jordan to the Dead Sea, on to Masada, back to the Dead Sea for a swim, then to Jericho for some photo opportunities, then drove up the Jordan Valley to Tiberius. This drive gave us an outstanding view of the area on both sides of the Jordan River, especially into Jordan. It is a very fertile area with many townships scattered on both sides of the River.

Of course Tiberius, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, in fact the whole area just radiates with Jesus and his ministry. I felt as if we were back in time as we sailed across the Sea of Galilee. The owner/skipper of the boats we used, Daniel Carmel; is a Messianic Jew and a popular Christian singer who led us in songs of worship as we went from Capernaum to Tiberius. It was truly a time when we felt the very real presence of the Holy Spirit. Nobody walked on water, however such was the presence of God that I would not have been surprised.

A reminder that Israel is constantly under threat from her enemies is always present. In the south we went to the Gaza Border and were able to look deep into the Strip. In upper Galilee we visited a Kibbutz, a collectively organised agricultural settlement, which was on the border between Israel and Lebanon. Just a few kilometres away was an area controlled by the Hezbollah and we were told by the Kibbutzim leader that their AK47s would be trained on us as we drove along the border. We were in safe hands though as we met with fifteen to twenty IDF Soldiers who patrolled the area keeping it safe.

These guys were of the Druze sect, who are fully integrated into the army to serve Israel. We took food to share with them and while eating we were singing and praying for them. This was truly a tour highlight. Our time in the Holy Land rapidly coming to a close we drove from Tiberius to Nazareth, on to Caesarea, finally staying the last couple of nights in Tel Aviv. An eye-opener for all of us was to stop at Nazareth, where Joseph, Mary and Jesus lived and worked, being able to visit Nazareth Village. Much of what it would have been like when Jesus was there, remains today. The village has trails through the countryside, goats grazing with a shepherd watching over them, a delightful donkey with her small youngster playfully nuzzling up to us all, workshops where we saw folk in period costume acting out the part of Mary and Joseph in a carpenters workshop. We also sat in the village synagogue.

I believe this would have been the closest we came during the entire time to how it was two thousand years ago. It was touching, authentic and fun; The highlight for a lot of us.

Tel Aviv is a great place to finish a tour as it is a modern Mediterranean Seaside City, typical of places surrounding this great sea. Our hotel was right on the beach and I loved being able to take a stroll, enjoy the sun and relax before our long flight home.

Tel Aviv was only formed and built in the early 1900s and is beside Jaffa (Joppa) which is famous for Jonah's exploits. It was also the place where Peter had his vision while relaxing on the roof of the house of Simon the Tanner. Jaffa has some wonderful old buildings and monuments reflecting its place in history.

Leaving from Ben Gurion Airport is a final reminder of the security measures that Israel has in place. Our Guide Donny, an excellent man to chaperon us around Israel, escorted us into the terminal and arranged for our Team to be checked in en-block. As Tour Leader I was asked to step aside and answer a whole raft of questions, which was carried out courteously. Everything goes through several checks and x-ray's and takes quite some time but finally we were able to depart.

Israel is my favourite country to visit and tour in. Friends kept saying "aren't you scared in such a volatile place?" I can honestly say "not in the least." Of course there is evidence of police, soldiers, guns and checkpoints in many places. Touring and being in God's own country with God's own people, walking where Jesus walked and talked, certainly outweighs feelings of any danger that may be there. 'Christians for Israel' and 'Keshet' our Tour Company, ensure any danger spots are safe before we enter them.

I would encourage everyone interested in Biblical History, smelling and breathing the atmosphere in God's chosen country to join us early in 2017 when our next Educational Tour will take place.



Tunnel



Tour Bus



Nazareth



Goats on old Jerusalem road



Sea of Galilee



Masada



Soldiers at Malkia



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Educational Study Tour May 2015

By Graham Simpson, Tour Leader



Graham and his wife Sandy

Here we were, a plane load of tired jetlagged pilgrims from NZ and Fiji, heading off on a trip of a lifetime. Next morning we are on the bus at 7.30am setting the pattern for the next few action packed days.

First stop is Bethlehem, the place of Christmas card images of shepherds and angels and Angel Gabriel announcing peace to all mankind. Reality hits home – no Jews allowed in here, this is Palestinian Authority (PA) territory – and

Christians are leaving en masse as a result of harsh discrimination, unable to sell their businesses and land because it is illegal for Jews or Christians to sell land or businesses to Arabs. Our bus winds through the steep and narrow streets barely rounding sharp bends to the first stop at the Baptist church. There Rev. Naim Khoury, the pastor inspires us with his humble narration of his faith journey.

His church has been bombed nine times. He has been ambushed and shot (four bullets) on his way to church. And yet he has stayed.

The youngest of 10 children of a Greek Orthodox family, he was filled with Holy Spirit one day.



Rev. Naim Khoury

When he tried to tell his mother she responded “What kind of religion is this?” Unable to share his new found joy with his family, he discovered strength and power in prayer. As a result, over the past 27 years all of his siblings and parents have become faith filled Christian believers.

He was taught that the Old Testament was a rubbish book, a book written by Jews for their own sake. God impressed upon him that he should read it. As he did so, God gave him a special love for the Jewish people. Pastor Khoury says: “People began coming to church because we kept the promises of God to bless his people first. We have been doing this for 40 years now” As a result his church has now established 5 new churches in the “West Bank” of Judea and Samaria and runs the largest distribution network of Christian literature, DVD’S and training material in Israel.

His church is flourishing with a vital youth and children’s programme, drawing Muslim background Arabs into the life of the church through vacation Bible schools.

This was truly an inspirational start to an outstanding tour of this unique country, Israel, where with every breath we sensed it’s rich history. We gained valuable insights into current events from amazing Jewish leaders who demonstrated a passion to know and follow God. They had astounding knowledge of scripture and leading ministries for underprivileged people in their midst.

Moving on to the Mount of Olives we looked out over the Old City of Jerusalem beyond the steep narrow Kidron Valley and allowed ourselves to drink in the significance of this land and the precise location where Jesus will return again.

And this was just the first day of our tour. Each one of us will continue to benefit from it for years to come.



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Quick Study on Whether a Third Temple Will Be Built and Beyond

By Graeme Lee

1. Background

- King David bought the rocky plateau called Mt Moriah - 2 Sam 24:16-25.
- First temple was built by Solomon on this place in 961 BC. The temple was destroyed in 586BC by Nebuchadnezzar.
- Second temple was built by Zerubbabel and extended by Herod the Great but was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD.
- The Temple Mount is today occupied by Muslims - their Dome of the Rock was built in 689AD. They want to prevent the building of the third temple by any means because they believe this will prevent the coming of the Jewish Messiah!

2. Will a Third Temple Be Built?

- Temple Institute in Jerusalem has completed the preparation of all the utensils and requirements for the next temple! They are waiting for the start of the building now!
- The Red Heifer issue has been resolved.
- Bible says however that we (every born again believer) are a "temple" - 1 Peter 2:5 i.e. a 'Non-structural temple'.
- Some say we are the 'living stones' of the third temple!

3. However Scripture Talks of a Third Temple

- Jesus himself refers to the 'abomination that causes desolation' standing in the Holy place of a new structural temple - Matthew 24:15.
- In other words the Antichrist occupies the next temple and sets himself up as God for 3½ years having broken a treaty with Israel concerning the temple.
- So we can assume another temple will be built.
- Is this then the temple that Ezekiel speaks of (ch. 40 - 48) in all its God given detail.

It could be but it is more likely to be a different temple that is built hurriedly after the 'Gog Magog War' when the Temple Mount will be fully returned to Israel.

- There is nothing to indicate that there is a 'Shekinah Glory' associated with this temple.

4. Where Will it Be Built?

- In Jerusalem, although there are scholars who believe it could be built at Shiloh where the Ark of the Covenant was held for over 400 years.
- However I believe 'the Temple Mount' and the first temple site is special to God - 2 Chron 7:16

5. The Millennial Temple

- We know the 'geography' of Jerusalem is changed after the Coming of the Lord - Zechariah 14:3-11
- So may we assume there will be a new temple in Jerusalem from where the Lord will reign?
- We can be absolutely certain that Gods Shekinah Glory will always be there!

6. The 'Eternal Temple'

- This is not a phrase from scripture. However Rev 21 describes the new heaven and the new earth - which follows the 1000 year millennial reign. John says “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God” Rev 21 1-4.
- But there is no structural temple because the “Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple” Rev 2 1-22.



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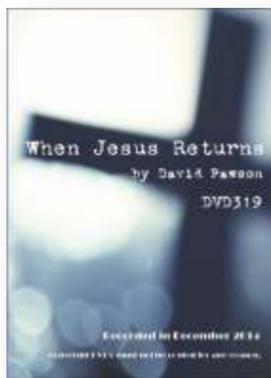
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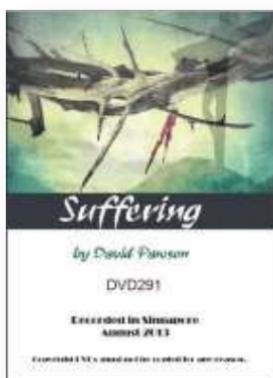
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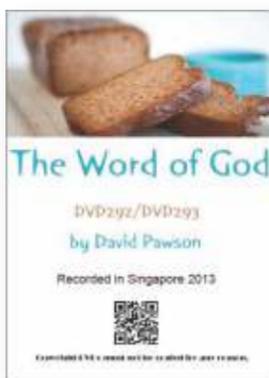
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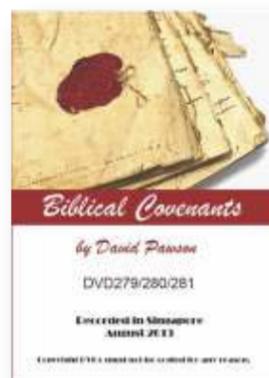
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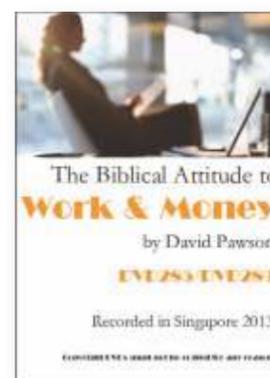
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For Zion's Sake Ministries

For Zion's Sake Ministries is a non-profit humanitarian aid organization - established and dedicated to assisting the needs of newly arriving immigrants. For most, starting over in Israel is physically and emotionally, as well as economically, overwhelming. Thousands of new immigrants go home to Israel every year. Most of these immigrants arrive in Israel with only the clothes they carry with them in their suitcases. The transition of starting over in a strange land is extremely difficult for most of the immigrants (Olim). For Zion's Sake Ministries assists those in need both spiritually and physically by providing humanitarian aid through their warehouse distribution of furniture, medicine, food coupons, and clothing. Direct financial assistance is given through various Outreach programs.



Hineni Jerusalem

Hineni Jerusalem is a not for profit organization with a focus on Jewish unity, social, and spiritual concerns, while inspiring people of all Faiths, Cultures and Nations to a pursuit of bettering society and a desire for a world of justice and peace. Hineni Jerusalem's contribution to society includes: assistance to survivors of terror, the needy, troubled youth, survivors of the Holocaust, disadvantaged people, and provides humanitarian aid in times of war and need. As a result they have introduced, in the heart of Jerusalem, a center that offers a soup kitchen, various therapies for support and recovery, educational programs, cultural events, National and Jewish holiday celebrations, commemorations, continually creating additional programs as the need arises.

Contact Us

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