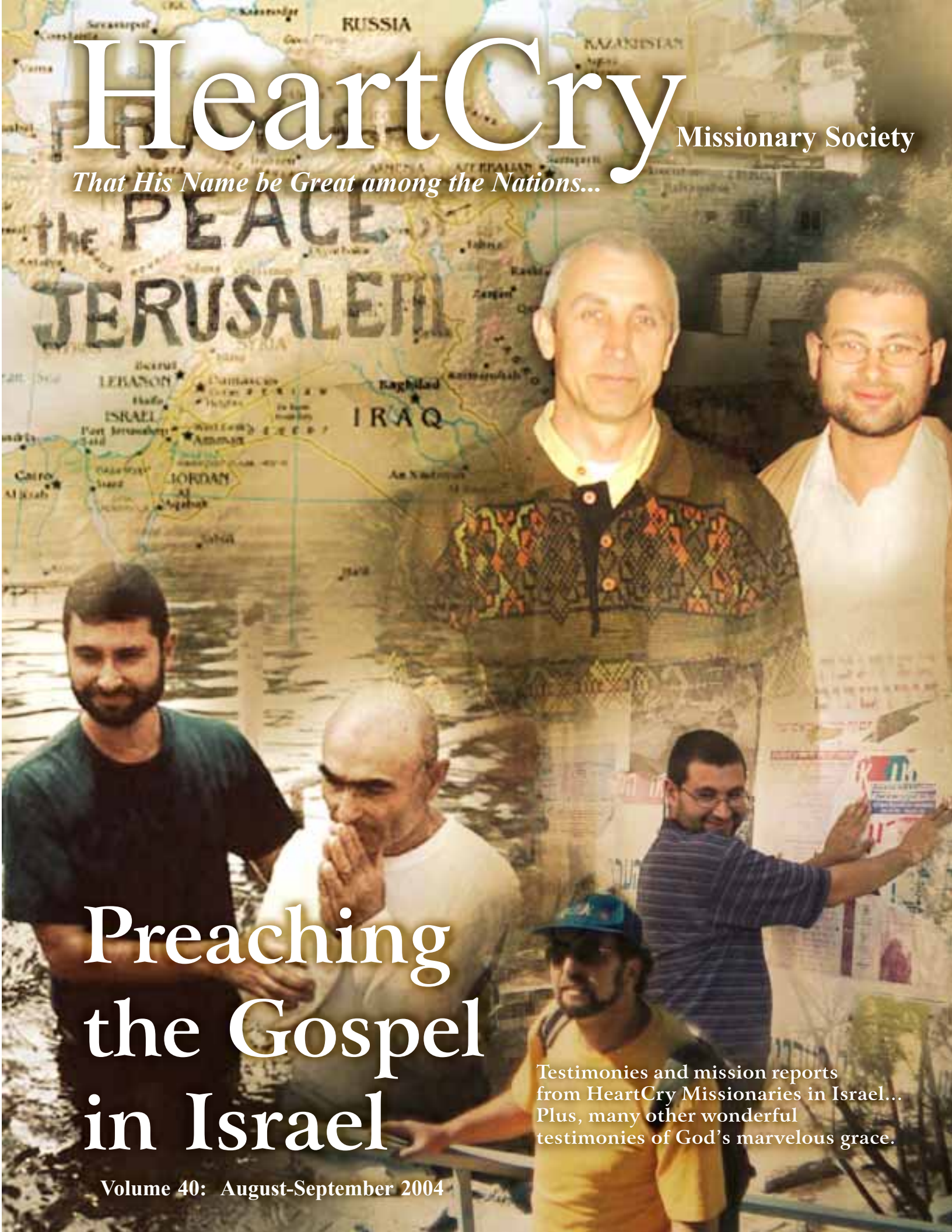


# HeartCry

Missionary Society

*That His Name be Great among the Nations...*

THE PEACE  
JERUSALEM



## Preaching the Gospel in Israel

Testimonies and mission reports  
from HeartCry Missionaries in Israel...  
Plus, many other wonderful  
testimonies of God's marvelous grace.

Volume 40: August-September 2004





# HeartCry *Missionary Society*

*That His Name be Great  
Among the Nations...*

## *Our Purpose & Passion*

*“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My Name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My Name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My Name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts.” - Malachi 1:11*

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11). We find our great purpose and constant motivation, not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory and our God-given desire to see Him glorified in every nation, tribe, people and language.

Although HeartCry recognizes the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to the un-evangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support native or national missionaries so that they may evangelize their own peoples. Therefore, we seek to work with godly men and women of integrity and vision in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant Churches among their own peoples.

## *Our Principles*

\* While we recognize that the needs of mankind are many and his sufferings are diverse, we believe that they all spring from a common origin - the fall of man and the corruption of his own heart. Therefore, we believe that the greatest benefit to mankind can be accomplished through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the establishment of

churches that preach the Word of God and minister according to its commands, precepts, and wisdom.

- \* Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord, then He will be our Patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed.
- \* We intend to never enlarge our field of labor by contracting debts. This is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the New Testament. In secret prayer, God helping us, we will carry the needs of this ministry to the Lord and act according to the direction that He gives.
- \* We will not compete with other biblical mission agencies, but use the resources that God has given to us to work in partnership with them. If the Lord directs, we will sacrifice our own goals and resources that other mission works may be helped and the Kingdom of God increased.
- \* In meeting any need, those of us who are supported financially by this ministry will be the first to sacrifice all things necessary for the advancement of His Kingdom.
- \* We will not measure the success of this ministry by the amount of money given, Bibles distributed or national missionaries supported, but by the Lord's blessing on the work.
- \* Our Goal is not to enlarge ourselves, or to become a key figure in the Great Commission, but to be faithful and obedient stewards by the grace that is given to us. That men may see our weakness and glorify God for His strength; that they may see our inability and glorify God for His faithfulness.





# HeartCry

Missionary Society

*That His Name be Great among the Nations...*

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## *Preaching the Word in Israel*

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### *HeartCry Magazine*

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- 4 - 5 From our Desk: *We are to live our lives in the light of two great days: the day Christ hung before men on a cross and the day all men will stand before Christ in judgment.*
- 7 - 9 Missionary Antony Simon. *Simon is supported in part by HeartCry as a missionary in Israel. He is the director of "A Voice in the Wilderness." His passion is preaching the Gospel and planting churches.*
- 10-12 Voice in the Wilderness. *A brief history of "Voice in the Wilderness" ministries that was founded by brother Antony Simon. The passion of this ministry is preaching the Gospel and church planting.*
- 13-14 Missionaries Slava and Orna Spataru. *Slava has been a longtime missionary with HeartCry. He worked with us in Moldova and is now working in Israel with his wife Orna.*
- 15-16 Missionary Brother Banchik. *He is currently a candidate we are considering for support in Israel. He serves with Antony Simon in Jerusalem and has also started a new congregation in Tel-Aviv.*
- 17-23 Reports from the Field. *We have included a few of Antony Simon's reports because they reveal the evangelistic passion that he has for sharing the Gospel.*
- 24-27 The Life of Anna Shmaiger Kinovsk. *Anna is not supported by HeartCry, but is a friend and coworker of brother Antony. When we first read Anna's testimony, we knew that it must be published.*

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*Hallowed be Your Name!  
Your Kingdom Come!  
Your Will be Done!*

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# From our Desk

by Paul David Washer

Your life is passing like a vapor. How have you invested your days? How are you living now? How will you invest the days that remain? These questions are thought morbid and dark to the great majority of people who live for the temporal and do not want to be reminded of their mortality. And yet the Scriptures confront us constantly with this most important theme.

*"As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, and its place acknowledges it no longer." - Psalm 103:15-16*

*"Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a **vapor** that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." - James 4:14*

*"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" - Mark 8:35-37*

*"Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." - II Corinthians 5:9-10*

The Scriptures shout forth the brevity of this life in comparison to the eternity that awaits us. He who lives for eternity is called wise, but he who lives for the things of this passing age is declared a fool. How many are swept away into eternity having carelessly spent their lives on things that cannot endure the fires of judgment? How many have wasted their time, talents, gifts, and resources on those things that will not remain?

As Christians, we live our lives between two great days. The day that Christ hung before men, and the day that all men will bow before Christ. These two days should be the greatest influence and motivation in our lives. They should determine our every thought, word, and deed.

## A Day to Remember

Every Christian is, in a sense, a prisoner of the cross, or better said, a prisoner of the love of Christ that finds its greatest demonstration in the cross. The apostle Paul writes,

*"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live*

*might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." II Corinthians 5:14 -15*

The word "controls" comes from the Greek word *sunécho* which literally means to hold together, compress together, or constrain. The reality of the love of Christ is to be so great in the life of the believer that it constrains him to live for Christ and closes him off from all that is contrary to His will. We may fight against Christ's lawful claim upon our hearts, but when His love is revealed, we must lay down our weapons and surrender. He wins the war with one revelation of His love.

In this same text, the apostle Paul writes that he had come to an important conclusion:

*"... He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."*

Although every individual in the body of Christ varies in maturity, devotion, and gifts, everyone can claim the death of Christ on their behalf. Christ gave His life for each and every one of His people without exception and without varying degree. If Christ gave His life for each one of us, then each one should live his life for Him with the same degree of devotion and intensity. Although our callings and ministries may be different, our devotion and commitment are to be the same. Is this a reflection of your life? Are you devoted to the person of Christ? Are you committed to His will? Are you living in light of the cross?

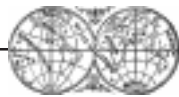
## A Day to Anticipate

The Christian should not only look back to the "cross work" of Christ, but they must look forward to the Day of His revealing when all men will stand before Him in judgment. The apostle Paul writes:

*"Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." - II Corinthians 5:9-10*

Although we cannot fully comprehend the scope and





meaning of Paul's word, it is certain that there still remains a judgment day even for the people of God. Is it not reasonable that our every ambition be weighed in light of this great truth? Paul wrote that his only desire was to be pleasing to Christ. The reason for this singular ambition was not only the love of Christ which constrained him, but the reality of the coming judgment.

Do we realize the significance of that Day? In one glance our lives will be evaluated and in one swift decree, all our temporal vanities will come to nothing. My mother often tells me of the time before my birth when our home was burned to the ground. In the middle of the night, my parents smelled smoke, leaped from the bed, and made it through the doorway to safety. The flames were so close to them that their sleeping garments smelled of smoke and ash. Although they were saved from the flames they had no choice but to watch helplessly as all they possessed was burned up in the fire. All they had worked for was gone, and all their treasures were reduced to nothing.

I recall a story about a group of young men who broke into a rather exclusive store. They did not steal a thing, but simply switched the price tags on every item on the shelf. The next day, the place was havoc. That which had been worth thousands of dollars the night before was now worth pennies, and that which had been given little value was now worth a fortune. The coming of Jesus Christ will have a similar effect upon the value system of this world. The morning after His glorious appearing, the highly sought after vanities of this world will have no worth at all, and the very things which were often despised by the great multitude of men will have a value that cannot be calculated.

Do you believe this? How then must you live? What are your ambitions and what is their eternal value? Will they pass through the fires of judgment as gold, silver, and precious stones, or will they be consumed like wood, hay, and straw?

### To Whom Much is Given

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, so much has been done for us and so much has been given to us, how shall we not give our lives completely to Christ? How can we hold anything back without feeling that we have selfishly denied the very Lord of Glory who gave His all!

How a man feels about his life at this moment matters very little. How a man feels about his life when he breathes his final breath and opens his eyes at the throne of Christ is of far greater concern. The size of a man's home, his reputation among the ungodly, the greatness

of his riches, the places he has visited, and the people he has known will be of little consequence on that Great Day when Christ judges the living and the dead!

In my travels to some of the poorest places on earth, I have come across some of the godliest and most devoted servants of God. They live in poverty, they minister in obscurity, and they suffer afflictions and persecu-

tions unknown to the greater lot of us. Their meeting houses are nothing more than a dirt floor, four walls of mud and straw, and a roof of rusty tin and plastic. They have no opportunity for theological education, they have no library to speak of, and they often lack the money nec-

essary to travel by bus to visit the homes of those in their congregations. In spite of such lack, I have seen the greatest workings of God among them, and seen the Spirit of God use them to evangelize the lost, disciple the saved, and multiply congregations without number. It is frightening when I think of all that they do with the little they have in contrast to the little I do with all that is mine. It is a powerful reminder of the words of Jesus, "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48).

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I am not writing this to condemn you, but to spur you on to greater works of piety, love, and gratitude. Let us use all that is within our grasp to serve the Lord. Let us redeem the time for these are evil days. The hour will come when no man will work. Let us work while there is day. Let us shun the world and despise its vanities. Let us serve the Lord with gladness and be busy about the work of our Savior, Master, and soon coming King!

In this edition of the HeartCry Magazine, we are presenting the work of brother Antony Simon and Slava Spataru. They are two missionaries to the nation of Israel who are supported in part by the HeartCry Missionary Society. We believe that the testimonies and reports from their missionary endeavors will be a great encouragement to you. We have also included a few testimonies from the laborers who work alongside our brothers in the ministry of preaching the Gospel to the nation of Israel. May God use the contents of this magazine for His glory and for your edification!

Your brother,

Paul David Washer





ISRAEL

The  
Wailing Wall



# HeartCry

## Antony Simon's Testimony

Brother Antony Simon is supported in part by the HeartCry Missionary Society as a missionary in Israel. He serves there with his wife Dona and their three children Joshua (15 yrs.), Rachel (12 yrs.), and Yoel (1 ½ yrs.). Antony is the founder and director of "A Voice in the Wilderness." His passion is preaching of the Gospel and planting biblical churches. The following is his testimony.

### Introduction

My wife Dona and I made *Aliya* (i.e. returned to Israel) twelve years ago with our two-year-old son, Joshua. We now have three children. Joshua is fourteen, Rachel is twelve, and Yoel is ten. We live in Maaleh Adumim which is located next to Jerusalem. It is a settlement in the West Bank.

We were sent out as missionaries to Israel by a Baptist church in London. We hold to the 1689 Baptist confession of faith. I am the pastor of a congregation in Jerusalem and am working together with brother Slava Spataru. I praise the Lord that we have continued this long in the ministry and that He is expanding the work. At the present, we are trying to register as a charity, but we have had many problems from the Ministry of the Interior. If we were not Christians, we would not have a problem.

### Testimony

*I was born in Manchester, England. My parents were Jewish and so I attended Jewish schools where I learned about God from an early age. I was taught that He was omnipresent and I sensed His presence everywhere, but I was not taught that He was a Holy God who hated sin. At our home, we celebrated all the festivals, such as Passover, the Day of Atonement, etc. We followed all the traditions, but I did not know God. I was as the prophet described:*

*"This people draw near with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men." (Isaiah 29:13)*

I read the Scriptures, but I could not understand even the simplest truths. Why did David say in Psalm 23:6, "I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever?" Once I asked my father what happened after death and he said that we all go to heaven. His answer was wrong, but it satisfied my curiosity about life after death. Neither my father nor the Jewish schools I attended ever confronted me with the truths of Scripture:

*"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)*

*"All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment." (Isaiah 64:6)*

*"For there is no man who does not sin." (II Chronicles 6:36)*

I was lost and did not know God's forgiveness. God has



*Even at Yom Kippur or the Great Day of Atonement (a tradition developed after the destruction of the second temple), it is taught that the offering of special prayers takes the place of a blood sacrifice. Because of this false teaching, I did not realize that all my good works could never measure up to God's requirements for a blood atonement.*

said that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness, "For it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement" (Leviticus 17:11). The Rabbis contradict God's Word by substituting *mitzvahs* (i.e. good works) such as repentance, charity, and the saying of prayers in the place of the shedding of blood. Even at Yom Kippur or the Great Day of Atonement (a tradition developed after the destruction of the second temple), it is taught that the offering of special prayers takes the place of a blood sacrifice. Because of this false teaching, I did not realize that all my good works could never measure up to God's requirements for a blood atonement.

During my youth I had a great contempt for all non-Jews. I believed that everyone who was not a Jew was a Christian. Eventually this attitude caused me trouble. When I was eighteen years of age, I spent a month in a *kibbutz*. There, I met a Christian named Terry who I mockingly nicknamed, "John the Baptist." He did not appreciate my jokes and complained to the director. I was reprimanded, but my attitude towards him did not change. Providentially, God arranged a Jew, who believed that Jesus was Messiah, to be my roommate at the *kibbutz*. For some reason during my first stay in Israel he never spoke to me about his faith, but God was to use him later.

After visiting England for a few months, I returned to Israel to live in another *kibbutz*. There I met a girl I knew from Manchester who warned me that there was a Christian in the *kibbutz* whose name was Charley. She said, "Be careful because he might try and convert you." I replied,

“Not me! I’m not interested in such things.” Little did I know that God had other plans. My roommate at the *kibbutz* had a terrible problem with snoring, and we agreed that he should move out. My new roommate was Charley. During our time together, Charley and I began to discuss prophecy and the rest of the Scriptures. Before that time I had not read the Bible apart from the book of Esther. Charley had not yet said anything about Jesus, but one day he read to me the following portion of Scripture from the twenty-second chapter of the book of Psalms:

*“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? ...I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint... My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death ... they pierced my hands and feet ... ”*

After listening to the words, I said, “I am Jewish and I do not want to know about Jesus.” I was shocked when I discovered that Charley had not read from the New Testament, but from a Psalm of David that had been written 1,000 years before Jesus came to earth (Psalm 22:1, 14-16, 29). These and other prophecies such as Zechariah 12:10, Isaiah 53 and Isaiah 7:14 led me to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. I was so excited about these new discoveries that in my exuberance I went around the streets of Jerusalem telling everyone. I also went to see a Rabbi in a place called *Kfar Habad* to discuss Daniel 9:24, 27. I showed him that the Messiah had to come and die before the Second Temple was destroyed. This Rabbi told me that the prophecy was fulfilled in King Agrippas, but his answers from a commentary were so absurd that I was even more convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. At that time, I was still unconverted. I only knew about Him, but I did not trust in Him as Savior and Lord.

Another believer at the *kibbutz* named James often took me to the Christian meetings in Haifa. One day he asked me, “Who do you believe Jesus to be?” My answer was emphatic, “He is the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel!” On this day, December 24, 1982, at the age of 18, I found peace with God. I was born again. I repented of my sins and trusted Christ as my Savior. Now I can say like David, “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Psalm 23:6). My prayer today is that other Jewish people will also come to believe and trust the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ!

I was so excited about my discovery of Jesus as the Messiah that, in my exuberance, I went around the streets of Jerusalem telling everyone. I also went to see a Rabbi in a place called *Kfar Habad* to discuss Daniel 9:24, 27. I showed him that the Messiah had to come and die before the Second Temple was destroyed. This Rabbi told me that the prophecy was fulfilled in King Agrippas, but his answers from a commentary were so absurd that I was even more convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. At that time, I was still unconverted. I only knew about Him, but I did not trust in Him as Savior and Lord.



*In this photo, brother Antony Simon is witnessing to a group of young people about the glories of the Messiah and the salvation that He offers to all who truly repent and believe the Gospel.*





# HeartCry

## Dona Simon's Testimony

*Dona Simon is the wife of brother Antony Simon and is an essential part of "A Voice in the Wilderness" ministry. She is the mother of three children Joshua (15 yrs.), Rachel (12 yrs.), and Yoel (1 ½ yrs.). The following is her testimony.*

I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and grew up in a home that had no concern about religion. I knew almost nothing about God and I do not think I ever heard the name of Jesus mentioned out loud. My parents simply never thought about God, and I never asked them. We had the secular mindset that no one lives forever, a person dies, and they simply pass on their genes to the next generation. Life was full of ups and downs, a mixture of laughter, sadness, fun, work, etc. We were a "normal" family. There were a few times when I wondered about the origin of the universe and the meaning of our existence, but such concerns were brief and fleeting. I do not remember ever seeking God, but as I look back on my life, I can now see that He was seeking me.

When I was eleven years old, an American missionary with a southern accent visited our home. His name was Jim. He was short of stature and his closely cropped hair was snow white. He was easygoing and charming, and he had the most wonderful smile. He invited us to his church; and my mother, who found him hard to refuse, promised to go. The following week, my mother and I took along some friends as reinforcements (my mother's friend and her son) and attended the church. It was a simple service in a small community hall. My mother genuinely liked the pastor and was very polite to everyone, but religion in any form was not for her. We said our good-byes with no intention to return.

We did not return to the church, but our *reinforcement's* son did. He became a believer and was thenceforth known in our neighborhood as the "Bible Basher". He was always giving out tracts and talking about God to anyone who would listen. His mother thought that his religion was just a passing thing. She excused his actions by telling everyone that, he was young and simply going through a phase!

A few years later, when I was fourteen, and on an Easter Sunday, God's work became more evident in my life. Easter Sunday meant nothing to us as a family. Sundays were long lazy days, spent reading the paper, enjoying a leisurely breakfast, and taking outings with the family. But that day, we had nothing scheduled to do and I was bored. Mum and Dad were watching a program on TV and my sisters had gone out without me. As God would have it, there was a knock at the door. It was my mother's friend whose son had become a Christian. Her son had invited her to church, but she decided to pass by our house on the way in order to drop off something for my mum. I was so bored at home that I asked if I could accompany her. At least I would have something to do!

When I arrived, I recognized the same man who had come to our door years earlier. He was still around and was still knocking on doors. I remembered his smile and he remembered me. I do not remember the sermon, but I do remember a feeling curiously awakened



*"I do not remember the sermon, but I do remember a feeling curiously awakened in my soul. It was as if someone had turned on a light bulb within me... Although it had never occurred to me before, I could see my sin... I knew that I had to do something, but I did not know what."*

in my soul. It was as if someone had turned on a light bulb within me. I returned home that evening with the boy who we called the "Bible Basher" and asked him all sorts of questions.

From that time on, I returned to every meeting. I remember one night when Jim was talking to me with a hot drink in my hand for nearly an hour. I remember thinking things and automatically knowing that they were wrong. Although it had never occurred to me before, I could see my sin. I attended every service, listened to the sermons, and read the Bible and other literature. I knew that I had to do something, but I did not know what.

Finally, one evening after the service, I asked a young woman who was a member of the congregation, "What must a person do to be saved?" She took me through the Scriptures and taught me the Gospel. Later that evening, I acknowledged my sin and my need of a Savior. I prayed with her and asked the Lord to be the Lord and Savior of my Life.

Since that moment, a great deal has happened. I have grown, fallen down, and got up again. I met my husband Antony when I was pursuing my studies in London. He had come to faith in Israel and desired to live there and serve the Lord. After we married, we moved to Israel, and have been here ever since. God has blessed us. We strive to live useful lives for Him and give Him all the Glory for His faithfulness and love to us. "He orders our steps."





הַקוֹל בַּמִּדְבָּר  
THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

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*The following is a brief history of "A Voice in the Wilderness" ministries that was founded and is now directed by brother Antony Simon. The passion of this ministry is the advance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and church planting.*

## The Beginning

The Voice in the Wilderness Congregation began in the 1990's through local evangelism. Antony Simon and his wife Dona arrived in Israel in the late 80's at the same time thousands of Russian immigrants were returning from the former Soviet Union. Unlike the western European Jews, the Russian Jews were very open to the Gospel.

To begin their outreach, Antony and Dona began to place advertisements for a free Bible on the many bulletin boards around the cities of Israel. To their great joy, many people responded. Since the Israeli government housed many of the returning Russian Jews in hotels, Antony and Dona placed the same ads in every hotel, and then delivered Bibles to the rooms of those who requested them. Again, many people responded, sometimes as many as forty at a time. Through such Bible distribution, many relationships were formed, which led to Bible studies, which grew into regular meetings. This happened first in Jerusalem, and then, two years later in a town of Kiriat Gat.

## The Challenges

Today, the work and the challenges continue to grow vibrantly. Antony and those who labor with him are given a constant opportunity to use their gifts and talents for the Lord, and to have their faith strengthened by the Lord's faithfulness. They began working primarily with the Russian immigrants, but now they have believers and visitors from all over the world. Not only are they ministering among those who speak Russian, English, and Hebrew, but they are now also ministering among those who speak Spanish and Portuguese.

## The Tours

Tours to the "holy sites" in and around the city of Jerusalem continue to be the main outreach program for the Voice in the Wilderness team. At the moment, their work is concentrated in Jerusalem where every Friday they take groups of people to the Garden Tomb and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. While they give details about each place, a strong emphasis is placed on the actual meaning

and relevance of the events that allegedly occurred there. The audiences are mostly Jews from Russia, but occasionally there are others who speak English and Hebrew. Although other people are also working in this ministry, Antony is always present during the tours either as a guide or a team coordinator. There is a time for questions and answers during and at the end of every tour, followed by the distribution of literature and invitations to their prayer meetings and Bible studies. Antony makes a great effort to be personally involved during these activities in order to insure that things run smoothly.

When the team goes to the "holy places" in the Old City, their evangelistic efforts extend beyond those in the tour groups to tourists and locals who are within hearing distance of their lectures. Often, Antony is given the opportunity to witness to local Catholic and Armenian priests. He tries to point out to them their failure to understand and preach the Gospel as it is clearly revealed in the Scriptures.

The Russian team consists of three main coworkers: Slava (who is supported by HeartCry), Luda, and Lisa. They are involved in almost every evangelistic activity sponsored by the ministry. From the first contact to the last, Antony counts on the faithful support of each team member to do all that is necessary in order to make the Gospel known in Israel.

## Video and Literature Distribution

In every Israeli city there are hundreds of notice boards, both on the streets and inside residential buildings. The task of Antony and his co-laborers is to fill these boards with invitations to the scheduled tours and weekly services. This work has to be repeated regularly due to the strong opposition from the Orthodox groups who remove their advertisements or write the swastika symbol over the top of them. Many living in Israel equate Christianity with Nazism. The team also puts a leaflet in every mailbox offering a free video about the life of Jesus. Those who are interested, call the office and order the film, which is delivered personally so that a team member might have the opportunity to share the Gospel and provide the inquirer with further literature - Bibles, books, leaflets and even Christian music.

Antony, Slava, and Luda are the ones who are most involved in these activities. They praise God when young volunteers come from Europe, Africa, and America to help them with these specific activities. When they have a large team of volunteers helping them, they





*It is through the preaching of the Gospel and the teaching of God's Word that a church is established. In this photo, brother Antony Simon is teaching in the church in Jerusalem. There are many who are using mass evangelism techniques and boasting of great conversions, but when the noise dies down and the smoke clears there are few that remain faithful to the Gospel and demonstrate a genuine faith. Any true move of God will result in the expansion and edification of the local church. It is brother Simon's desire, as well as the desire of those who work with him, to win people to Christ, disciple them, and build strong local New Testament churches. The ultimate goal of mission and the most difficult task.*

are able to place invitations and posters throughout an entire city such as Kyriat Malachi or Kyriat Gat in just one day. This is very effective. Sometimes they must do the work at unusual hours in order to avoid the fierce opposition from Orthodox groups. They praise God for the willingness of the co-workers and volunteers who have felt called to this task.

## Kyriat Gat

The work in Kyriat Gat began two years after the work in Jerusalem. Antony, Dona, and the other laborers visit the work twice a week in order to evangelize and lead Bible studies. Every Tuesday, the team travels to Kyriat Gat to post signs and hand out invitations for the meetings. In the evening, after the evangelistic activities, the workers and new converts gather for a Bible study and prayer meeting. As in Jerusalem, the majority of those in attendance are Russian.

The team returns to Kyriat Gat every Saturday morning for another evangelistic service. There is always a great number of children who attend and this gives them an excellent opportunity to

further advance the Gospel among Israeli families.

It is common for Antony and his team to face opposition from the locals who say that the children are too noisy and who demand that they meet with the children in a separate place. This does not discourage the team, because they give thanks in everything. They are persuaded that all of these things will give them even more opportunities to reach more children.

## Youth Meetings

The youth meetings take place in Jerusalem every Friday evening immediately before the Sabbath. They have a series of youth activities, but the Bible study, and the session with questions and answers are the main focus of the meetings. Most of the youth who attend these meetings are fluent in both Hebrew and Russian. Some of them even speak English very well. Many of the students in the group are attending college and they are often challenged by their teachers concerning their faith and hope in the Lord Jesus. The team praises and worships the Lord for these opportunities and considers it a privilege to equip their youth with sound spiritual weapons to face such opposition and criticism for their





*One of the main evangelistic outreaches of the Voice in the Wilderness ministry is their evangelistic tours. The team offers free tours of the "Holy Sites" around Jerusalem and uses them as a tool to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This has been proven to be the most effective means of making contacts with people and spreading the good news. In every tour, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached.*

faith. Some of the young people also serve in the army. They serve alongside many orthodox soldiers who try to talk them out of their faith. The workers at "Voice in the Wilderness" praise the Lord because their youth are good soldiers of God and have learned how to defend their faith.

## Jerusalem

The Bible study in Jerusalem takes place every Wednesday evening and is well attended. There is a short period of worship followed by a Bible study and then they finish with prayer requests and a time of prayer. The congregation praises God for the opportunity to fellowship together and to feed from God's Word. They have their main service for the week on Saturday evening. A praise and worship time is followed by an evangelistic message and a time of prayer. A small reception is held at the end of each service in order to give the members and visitors an opportunity to get to know each other better and to develop fellowship among the saints.

## The People

Because of its religions, history, and worldwide significance, Jerusalem attracts people from all over the world and from all kinds of religious backgrounds. This makes the work doubly challenging because Antony and his team must not only invest time and effort preaching the Gospel to unbelievers, but they must also dedicate time and effort correcting the gross distortions and heresies held by many of their visitors. They must constantly keep an eye on the flock and make sure they are not being influenced by the strange beliefs that are held by the people who live in Jerusalem and by those who visit. They praise the Lord for the people that they have been able to help through their ministry. They are encouraged by the feedback that they receive from them through emails and letters.

As in any congregation, they have members with all sorts of problems that need special attention, such as the elderly and the sick. One must bear in mind that the difficulties in Israel are very peculiar to the country and the context in which the inhabitants must live. Some of the difficulties are:





*After each tour, free Bibles, tracts, and other Christian literature are made available to all who are interested. Although the Russian Jewish immigrants are more open to the Gospel than those from Western Europe, Simon and his team of workers are seeing a growing interest in all. God is truly doing a work in the land of Israel and therefore it is important that we be obedient to His call. We must go through every open door with wisdom and courage.*

- The young men and women must serve in the army. Israel is constantly engaged in a war with terrorist groups that have vowed to destroy her at all costs despite the many peace efforts. The life of every Israeli is in real danger and under the constant threat of a terrorist attack. They live in a constant state of high alert because of the indiscriminate terrorist attacks that are perpetrated on a regular basis against innocent civilians. Parents and children live in a state of anxiety and fear.
- Many of the members in the church are still learning or improving in their Hebrew language skills. Fluent Hebrew is required of anyone who wants to work and properly integrate into Israeli society.
- The congregation has many members who are still awaiting the approval of their Visa application. Many people suffer because they have loved ones who are living far from them in another country. The required “red tape” often results in separated families, and leaves

many people in limbo until the Ministry of Interior decides their fate.

- The meetings are on Saturday (*i.e.* the Sabbath) when there is no public transportation. The team must provide transportation to many of the members, especially to the elderly and the sick who are unable to walk to the meetings.

Although Antony and his team are firmly committed to their Christian faith and practices, they must bear in mind that those of different cultures and backgrounds appreciate sensitivity and kindness. Although Israel is a Jewish state and strongly influenced by Jewish culture, it is still a democracy made up of people of many other religious traditions. There are Jews and non-Jews who have moved there from all over the world. The team never compromises its faith, but the members do try to communicate their Christian faith effectively and thoughtfully to the many different cultures that are represented in Israel. It is always a struggle to be sensitive to other cultures and yet not allow cultural diversity to get in the way of the Gospel message.





*The goal of all ministry is making disciples and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). Antony Simon writes, "There are so many people who support good-works Christian organizations in Israel, but they do not realize that these organizations are ashamed of the Gospel. They do "good works," but they do not spread the Gospel message.*

## The Team

Antony and the team of workers occasionally receive extra help from volunteers who are visiting Israel. Any skills they might possess are useful and appreciated. They specially appreciate people who are willing to work in the distribution of literature. This requires no training beyond an open heart for the Lord's work. Language skills in Russian, Hebrew, Arabic or any other language that Israeli citizens may speak is of great use to them.

Slava Spataru (who speaks Russian fluently) has been a great help to all. He has been used of the Lord to bring many people to the meetings. He is also directly involved with the Friday evangelistic

tours, the weekly distribution of literature, video and leaflets, and the work in Kiriat Gat. As a skilled handyman, he also does a great job fixing everything that breaks and enables the ministry to conserve precious funds. There are also two other ladies named Luda and Lisa who are gifted in speaking Russian, Hebrew, and English. They are directly involved in the distribution of literature and are a great compliment to the work.

## Tel Aviv

Besides all the work that is done in Jerusalem and Kiriat Gat, Antony and his team also assist a co-worker named Leonid Banchik who serves the Lord in the Tel Aviv / Jaffa area. The group he leads is still small, but has great potential and a willingness to grow. When possible, especially when they have extra volunteers, the team travels to Jaffa and helps him place posters and leaflets in the areas surrounding his meeting place. Being a talented musician, Leonid also helps the Voice in the Wilderness ministry with music and worship.

## Web and Internet

The Voice in the Wilderness ministry posts a website with the latest information about their team, daily news headlines, and prayer requests. Their page can be accessed at [www.voice-wilderness.com](http://www.voice-wilderness.com). They encourage everyone to pay them a visit. They also appreciate suggestions that will help them to further improve the quality and effectiveness of their ministry. Dona Simon works very hard to keep the website updated and to take care of all the correspondence that reaches them.

## Music Ministry

Music is used to praise and worship the Lord in every service. Antony and his team are aware of its potential in strengthening the believer and reaching the unsaved. Through their website, they offer a music CD that contains a collection of songs compiled by one of their co-workers. They believe that the songs will be a blessing and an encouragement to all.

## Opposition

In Israel, the team is faced with all kinds of unique difficulties and obstacles, both spiritual and bureaucratic. They may involve security issues or religious opposition. The team tries not to give too much attention to these things. There are many people who oppose them and try to discourage them, but they are fully aware that it is God who called them and God whom they serve. To Him be the glory! Amen.





The three photographs above represent the perseverance of those who oppose the Gospel and those who preach it. The photo on the **left** depicts one of the ministry's advertisements that has been vandalized by those who do not want the Gospel preached in Israel. They have drawn a swastika and equated it with the cross of Jesus Christ. They work diligently to discourage any of their countrymen from listening to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the photo **above right**, an orthodox Jew is recording the activities of Antony Simon and the other workers as they evangelize in the streets of Jerusalem. They use means such as this to intimidate Jewish believers from sharing their faith in Christ with others. In the photo **below right**, the perseverance and endurance of Antony Simon and his team are evident. No sooner are their advertisements torn down than they simply put them back up again. In the photo **below**, an unavoidable confrontation provides an opportunity to witness.







# HeartCry

## Slava Spataru

*Slava has been a longtime missionary with HeartCry. He worked with us in Moldova. When we heard that he was moving to Israel, we pledged to continue our support, but he graciously refused. He would not be supported with God's money until he knew exactly how he would minister. We waited for months, until we received a call from Antony Simon. He spoke of Slava's usefulness in the ministry, and asked if we would support him. We approved. In the following, are the testimonies of Slava and his dear wife Orna.*

## Introduction

My family and I came to the Promised Land in June 2000. My wife, Svetlana, is Jewish; and according to the Israeli law of immigration every Jew until the third generation has the right for an *aliyah* (immigration). My wife's relatives came to Israel earlier.

After a month in the country, the Lord led me to a Romanian congregation in Tel-Aviv and later to a congregation of Romanian believers in Jerusalem. I decided to meet them and

they asked me to minister in their church. At the same time, pastor Antony, the minister of the Russian Jewish congregation in Jerusalem, asked me to help him in his ministry among the Russian Jews. I was glad for the offer to labor in the Russian speaking congregation with him since I speak both Russian and Romanian. In order to minister, my family and I had to move from Netaniah to Maale-Adumim, a town near Jerusalem.

I began to minister when Romanian brothers and sisters were forced to leave Israel because their visas expired. It was a time of unemployment in Israel and many foreign workers had to go back to their countries. Many of the workers in the Romanian congregation had to leave with their families and left a void in the church. I work officially as a plumber to provide extra support for my family and pay the necessary taxes. My wife works with young children and the elderly.

Our messianic congregation has recently been approved as an official messianic organization. We thank the Lord for this. For a very long time our case was under consideration, but the Lord has very graciously helped us.

*Slava and Orna Spataru and their children. It is our privilege to be a part of their ministry in Israel.*





*Slava at the wheel of the van. Another group of guests are boarding for a tour of the “Holy Sites” around Jerusalem. They will all hear the Gospel before the tour’s end.*

Besides the Jerusalem congregation, we also have believers in Kiriath-Gat. The town is located about 70 km from Jerusalem, toward Ashkelon. We have about 50 members in both congregations and the majority of them are Jews from the former Soviet Union: from Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Uzbekistan, Moldova, etc.

The free tours that our congregation provides to the “holy sites” in Jerusalem provide a wonderful opportunity to preach the Gospel. With our van, we bring people from Kiriath-Gat and then take them back after the tour. There are people who cannot afford or are afraid to go to Jerusalem themselves, so we are glad to drive them there and back. We also distribute free Bibles

and other Christian literature together with the “Jesus” video. Recently, a very religious Russian speaking Jew asked me for a New Testament. His name is Alexander. Please pray for him that he will recognize Jesus as the Messiah and Savior.

We also perform free Christian concerts for believers and unbelievers in several cities in Israel. These provide a wonderful opportunity to tell people about the Lord. There are eight brothers and sisters who are involved in the ministry. We all work as a team. Please, pray that we will bear fruit for the glory of God.

## Slava’s Testimony

I was born in a family of unbelievers. My mother had made a profession of faith when she was young, but was never baptized and did not bear the fruit of a true Christian. My father descended from a long line of Baptists, but his parents apostatized (i.e. openly denied Christ) in 1946. They died from hunger a year later. Relatives took my father and his sister into their family and raised them.

In 1974, my mother truly repented and was baptized. She then demonstrated the fruit of a true believer and taught me about God. My father hated God and openly mocked Him. He cruelly beat my mother for being baptized. Twice he managed to find my mother’s Bible and burn it. In spite of the great persecution, my mother often took me to the Baptist meetings (it was the only congregation in our settlement). I attended, but nothing attracted my attention. When I was fifteen years old, I left

the congregation for the world’s pleasures. My mother prayed constantly for me and passed much time crying before the Lord. She did her best to bring me to the Lord.

I finished high school, graduated from a technical institute, and entered the army. It was there that I began to think about my life. After the army, at the age of 21, I married and had many problems. The problems were not caused by my family, but by my own spiritual struggles. I worked at a factory where no one cared about the questions of life. All I saw around me was deceit and hypocrisy – the people said and thought one thing, but they did the opposite. I sought for advice from people who were experienced in life, but they could not help me. Everyone had their own opinions, but no one seemed to know what they were talking about. Most told me that I had to learn to take care of



myself. In Russian this means that I needed to learn to ignore the needs of others and be willing to walk over them to achieve what I wanted. I began to ask myself if there was another way to live that was not so cruel where the interests of others were also taken into consideration. Why should we have to take from others in order to be satisfied? These kinds of questions haunted me and so I began to read the Bible.

It was through reading the Bible that I came to a knowledge about Christ. I discovered that He really is able to transform our personality. I now think back on my life and wonder what would have become of me if I had not come to Christ? What would I have said to my children when they came to me and asked the same questions I asked before? Would it have been the same

answer that I had received from others? Would I have told them, "Learn to take care of yourselves. Step on others and do not be concerned about them?" What if my children, after having received this advice from me, would have stepped on their mother and me? I am glad that my children will not be raised with such terrible advice. Now, I am sure that Christ is the answer to everything. I tell all the people that they must know Christ in order to have life and to know how to live. Since 1989, the year my sister, my wife, and I received Christ as our Savior, the aim of life is to proclaim the Lord Jesus and His Gospel to all men. His advice from the Holy Scriptures never disappoints me. What I learn from the Lord I try to teach others. Knowing His will and living it makes my life full.

## Orna's Testimony

I was born in an interracial family. My father was Jewish and my mother was Russian. Because of his Jewish heritage, my father suffered many hardships during WWII, first from the Germans and later from the Russians. In the end, almost all of his relatives had been killed. Only he and an aunt survived. After the war, when my father was only a teenager, he was arrested and sent to a Soviet prison.

As I was growing up, we lived in a small village on the banks of the Volga. My father would not allow my four brothers and me to discuss our Jewish heritage or to speak about God because he considered such conversations to be dangerous. On a few occasions, my grandmother on my mother's side told us about Christ.

Though our father was Jewish and had gone through many difficult times because of his heritage, he never denied that he was a Jew. But when we were required to obtain passports, our father told us to choose our nationality ourselves. Out of fear and convenience, we all chose to write that we were Russians. This did not help us much because when the people discovered that we were the children of a Jewish father they would cause many troubles for us. In spite of these persecutions, three of my brothers managed to become officers in the Russian army. By the time of our exodus from Russia, two of them had already become majors and another had become a captain.

None of us had ever thought about leaving Russia, but in 1997 my elder brother immigrated to Israel. By the summer of 1999, almost our entire family had followed him. I arrived with my husband Slava and our children in June of 2000.

As I look back now, I realize that everything was in God's hand and according to His will. I did not really even think about God until I married Slava and we migrated to Moldova. Neither he nor I were believers at the time, but Slava's mother was a believer. From the very beginning of our family life in Moldova there were many difficulties. I had so many problems that I did not know how to solve them. I worked as a seamstress and became acquainted with the women at my work. Their behavior and way of talking seemed to be very different from everyone else I had ever known. I soon discovered that they were believers. The more I knew them, the more I wanted to be like them. Four years passed, until in 1989, my husband and I repented

and became members of a local fellowship. Later, my husband was called to minister as a pastor. We traveled to Bucharest, Romania, where he studied for four years to be a pastor. After his graduation, we ministered for five years in a church in Moldova. We did not have any children for the first nine years of our marriage, but later the Lord blessed us with a girl and a boy. With God's help we are able to persevere in the midst of trials and problems. This testimony may not be very prominent among others, but I can testify that the Lord has done and is still doing wonders in our lives.





## *Leonid Banchik, A Man Set Free*

nothing about God. I remember that when I was ten years old, a girl in my class admitted to me that she believed in Jesus. I was able to tolerate this somehow, but when she added that our teacher was also a believer, my confusion knew no bounds: "How could an adult in our country believe in some sort of God? We are supposed to believe only in communism!"

When I was seventeen, I watched a new film about the Russian artist Rublyov. One scene from the film shook me so much that for a long time afterward I pictured it before my eyes: a man with Jewish features named Jesus was walking along carrying a heavy burden, stumbling, and falling on the way to His death. I do not know how this scene passed through the strict Soviet censors. In school, they taught us that such a man had never lived.

From that time on, I began to be interested in the person of Christ and read through the Bible. I was happy to know that this great person was, like me, a Jew (Jews love to remember the names of all their great fellow tribesmen, such as Einstein, Freud, and others.) For me, Jesus was just another in a line of famous Jewish personages. I outright rejected the thought of Him as God. I was sure that the authors of the Gospels had simply created a fantasy around the true person. I was happy to read the Bible and learn about the history of Israel, but I could not consider it to be the Word of God.

The Chernobyl catastrophe turned the life and thoughts of people upside down. It announced to the world the beginning of the end of Communism and the beginning of Perestroika (a Russian word that now everyone knows). At that time, many Russians wanted to obtain a Bible, but at the end of the eighties there were not enough Bibles to go around. I began to make money by getting free Bibles from my friends and selling them. The thought never entered my mind that I was doing something wrong. Once a week I went to the market with a packet of Bibles. They were literally ripped from my hands. People were willing to pay money to such a sinner as I in order to have the Scriptures in their home.

Together with the positive changes that took place in our country, anti-Semitic organizations also began to grow in strength. Once while in Moscow, I accidentally happened onto one of their groups. They all pointed at me and laughed. Upon returning home, I opened the Bible and read: "Then I heard another voice from heaven say: 'Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues'" (Revelation 18:4). At that moment, I felt that I should leave Russia, but where could I go? In 1990, Israel was the only country receiving Jews. I emigrated there, not because I had any particular love for Israel, but I thought that Israel would be a stepping-stone to the United States. In one year, I received my Israeli passport, but when I applied for an American visa, I was rejected.

After my rejection, I traveled to Toronto. There I contacted some wicked men, who promised to get me over the border for a fee. One of them offered to make me a fake document. He said, "The most important thing is to get through customs. There they will ask you where you are going. You need to say clearly, with an American accent, 'Willow-dale'." For three days I tried to say the word as I was told, but was unable to say it correctly. All this time, I was living with believers from a Messianic congregation in Toronto (some acquaintances in Israel had given me their address). Every evening they took me with them to their meetings. During the day I was talking with all sorts of deceivers, smugglers, and forgers, and in the



## HeartCry

Leonid Banchik

*Brother Banchik is currently a candidate we are considering for support in Israel. He now lives on a monthly income of two hundred dollars. He serves Christ with Antony Simon in "A Voice in the Wilderness" congregation in Jerusalem and has also started a new congregation "The Vineyard" in Tel-Aviv. The Tel-Aviv congregation has an average of fifteen people in attendance. But it is their hope that God might use them to bring many hearts to His Son.*

*On Friday, brother Banchik organizes evangelical tours to the city of Jaffa. He also performs evangelical concerts in cities throughout Israel. He writes articles on Israel that are published in various Christian magazines. He hopes to one day publish the articles in a book entitled "Around Jerusalem with the Bible". The following is his testimony.*

I was born in the atheistic country (Ukraine) to an atheistic family. My father was a committed communist and a leader of the local party organization. Therefore, as a child I knew absolutely





*Leonid Banchik is a wanted man in Israel. Those who oppose the Gospel know him well and do all in their power to stop him from preaching the cross. These posters are placed in strategic places to warn the people about this man who seeks to convert them. Brother Leonid writes, "We have many adversaries in Israel. In different cities around the country they put up my photograph with the title "He baptizes Jews. Stay away from him!" They stand near our gatherings and yell insults at us. They send their agents to us. They are also trying to pass a law in the Parliament forbidding us to evangelize. But nothing and no one can stop the Good News from being spread!"*

evening I was fellowshiping with God's people. Finally, I came to the realization that I needed to go back to Israel.

When I returned to Israel, I went on an excursion to the Christian sites in Jerusalem. I quickly found nice people to talk with on the tour bus, and we had a good time discussing different issues. Then the bus stopped at the garden of Gethsemane and everything changed. We went into the church of the Agony of the Lord. I looked at the central mosaic, which showed the lonely, suffering Jesus, and I remembered the words "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me" (Matthew 26:38). In one split second it was as if the wonderful guide and all the nice people with whom I had been talking simply disappeared. Only Jesus was left. I understood from the garden of Gethsemane, that Jesus went through horrible sufferings, through unimaginable mocking and scorn, He went through a terrible death in order to redeem mankind from their sins. I understood not only that He was a great man, but that He was also something much more important: Jesus was my God.

That was in 1992. The year I repented and joined a group of believers that soon afterwards became the congregation "Simkhat Yeshu'a". For eight years I was an elder in this congregation. Now I am serving in the congregation in Jerusalem called "A Voice in the Wilderness" and have started a new congregation in Jaffa. After my conversion in 1992, I began to write songs about the Lord, and since that time, have recorded three CD's. I also arrange and perform in evangelic concerts in many Israeli cities.

I can share with you a testimony that demonstrates the importance of music. A certain couple used to come to our congregation.

The wife had already received the Lord a long time ago, but her husband did not even want to hear the Gospel. He said that he did not even believe that Jesus had ever existed. Finally, one Saturday I decided to begin the service with my song "Golgotha". After the song, the man came to me in tears and said, "I was so foolish. I read the Bible and did not understand anything. I listened to my wife and laughed about her words about Christ. Your song explained to me the whole truth about Him. I repent of my sins and want to be with Jesus." He cried and I was so thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him with my songs.

Since I had become a believer during an evangelistic tour, I made this one of my primary ministries. I began leading evangelistic tours around the Old City of Jerusalem, but now I am leading tours in Jaffa. I also write a column called "Through Jerusalem with the Bible" for the magazine "My Jerusalem". I also write articles for Christian newspapers in the USA and Germany.

We have many adversaries in Israel. In different cities around the country they put up my photograph with the title "He baptizes Jews. Stay away from him!" They stand near our gatherings and yell insults at us. They send their agents to us. They are also trying to pass a law in the Parliament forbidding us to evangelize. But nothing and no one can stop the Good News from being spread.

I understand now that the Lord loves His people so much. He loves Israel. We need to do all we can to witness to God's people, regardless of all the obstacles. I love Israel and am so happy to be serving my people.

Your brother, Leonid Banchik



It is a shame that the cults are so active in their witnessing, when we who have salvation do almost nothing in comparison. People are lost, and the Jehovah's Witnesses want them in their organization. Do we want them in the Kingdom?

- Antony Simon

that honoureth not the Son, the same honoureth not the Father, which hath sent him" (Geneva Bible). They were not able to answer and began to run away. I tried to give them more Scriptures, but they said they had no time.

I realize that I was only sowing seeds - one plants and another waters. It is always my goal to make people think even though I know that valid thoughts are a rare commodity these days. It is such a shame that many are working for salvation when God's precious gift is FREE. It is a shame that the cults are so active in their witnessing, when we who have salvation do almost nothing in comparison. People are lost, and the Jehovah's Witnesses want them in their organization. Do we want them in the Kingdom?

When in London, it is my custom to go to Tottenham Court Road where all the electrical shops are located. I always pop in to a little shop run by the Church of the Scientology (although it is not a church and is certainly not scientific). This time, I entered and asked them about God and the Bible, but their response was the same as always, "We are not here to talk about God." I then asked, "Why are you called a church?" The lady with whom I was speaking avoided my question and began to talk about their late founder. I asked her where he was and she said that he had been reincarnated. I then asked her, "How do you know? She gave no answer and so I explained to her that the theory of reincarnation was wrong. I then asked her to describe the difference between good and evil. She replied, "There is no good or evil." I asked, "What about Hitler? She replied that he was neither good or evil." I then began to explain to her the Gospel, but was interrupted when someone came in and threw me out of the shop. They said that no one was allowed to "talk religion" on their premises!

A few days later, I went past the shop again and saw a young man trying to get people to take a free personality test. He came up to me as I walked past and asked if I wanted to take a test. I declined and explained to him the Gospel. He listened carefully. When I finished, he told me that my arguments where logical and that it was from God that I came and spoke to him. His name is Josés and he is from Angola. I gave his name to a friend in London so that he might do follow up.

Earlier that day I had been looking for a book shop to buy a book on the scientific argument against evolution. I went from bookshop to bookshop until I found the book in a shop on Oxford Road. When I went to pay, I said to the cashier, "This is a good book. It proves that evolution is a lie." He was open and I explained to him the Gospel. He gave me his email address so we could correspond about the Gospel.

Afterwards, I went again to Tottenham Court Road to buy a computer case, but it was 10 p.m. and everything was closed. In God's good providence, it was not a wasted trip because I bumped into Josés, the very same man from that afternoon. Afterw speaking to him again, I praised God for giving me opportunities to bear

## Antony Simon's Reports from the Field

*We decided to include some of Antony Simon's reports from the field because they reveal his passion for sharing the Gospel. The reports have convicted and encouraged us to be more faithful in personal soul winning. We hope that they will do the same for you.*

### Report from London

*Last year, brother Antony returned to England to visit the few individuals who support his ministry. He then visited the United States in hopes of finding more individuals and churches willing to support the work in Israel. The following is a brief report of his time in London. It will give you insight into the character and passion of this man.*

England was very interesting. I was staying in East London and had many opportunities to witness to people. One day as I was leaving the house I saw two women going door to door. I went up to them and asked, "Are you Jehovah's witnesses?" They answered, "How do you know?" I replied, "I just know." Then I said to the one who spoke to me, "You have been one longer than the other." Again she asked, "How do you know? I replied again, "I just know." I then asked for their New World Translation. Before I read from their own Bible, I asked, "Do you give as much honor to the Father as you do to the Son?" They responded, "They are not equal so we give more honor to the Father than to the Son. I then read to them from John 5:23, "... all men should honor the Son, as they honor the Father: he





*Brother Antony Simon seems to have an unusual gift of evangelism which enables him to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in many one on one situations. It is often said that the kingdom of heaven is not built by those timid souls who choose to stay behind castle walls, but by those who despise the dangers and discomforts and go boldly into the highways and hedges seeking the lost. You cannot rescue shipwreck souls if you stay on the beach. You must dive headlong into the dangerous waters.*

witness to the truth . I could see His hand at work.

When I was in London, there was a demonstration against war in Iraq. It seemed to me to be a demonstration in favor of Saddam. It reminded me of sixty years earlier when men marched in favor of Adolph Hitler. Over half the people who were present at the demonstrated carried signs against Israel. There was a great deal of anti-Semitic content. I asked people why they were marching, but no one had a really clear answer. As I waited on a bus, a family that came from the march, sat near me. I asked them if they thought that the march was worthwhile, but they said that they were too tired to talk. Afterwards, two young men from South Africa sat next to me. We began to talk about politics and then moved on to the message of the Gospel. In a short while, the man who had been too tired to talk suddenly shouted, "Will you shut up!" Is it not amazing that he has the right to march in support of Saddam, but I have no right to talk about the Creator! The young men asked me to continue talking about the Lord. They professed to be believers, but they attend a very liberal church. I encouraged them to be serious about the Lord. They both thought that our meeting was from the Lord.

When I was in Manchester, I then went to the Anglican Church in the square. I make it my practice to go there and speak to people about the Gospel. On this trip, I met the caretaker of the church. He was dressed in his elegant religious robes, and so I asked him about the Gospel. I said, "I am a Jew. Will I go to hell if I die without faith in Jesus? He could not answer me, so I asked the vicar the same

question, but added, "Did not Jesus say that he was the way, the truth, and the life, and that no man can come to the Father, but by Him?" The vicar told me that he did not believe that a person needed to believe in Jesus, but that they only needed to live according to the spirit of the teachings of Jesus. He also said that he did not believe in Hell. He said that it was just a place of cleansing or purification. I said to him in reply, "That's good. I can steal, rape, murder, and commit adultery. Then when I die, I can take a shower, be cleansed and go straight to heaven." I then began to explain the Gospel to the lost soul of this religious man. In the end, I asked him if I could pray for him. I knew that my car was on a meter and in Manchester if you are one minute late you are fined, but I decided that it was better to pray. The man took me into a room and I prayed for his soul. As I was leaving, I told him that Jesus said that he was the door through which men are saved. The vicar replied, "We can all be doors", but I told him he was wrong and that only Jesus is the door to salvation. I received the fine.

Later that evening, I went to Leeds for a meeting at the Messianic Fellowship. On the way, I went to look for an old friend of mine from school. He is lost, but open to the Gospel and has attended a number of meetings. He was not at home, but I finally found him at his work. I invited him to come to a meeting where I was speaking on Sunday morning. He agreed, but when I arrived, he was not ready. I waited for him even though I was almost late for the meeting. On the way to the fellowship, he began to tell me how

he had made a mess of his life. His wife wanted a divorce and he was going to attempt suicide on the very day I arrived. He told me that he knew that my coming was not by chance. He is addicted to drugs and all his money goes to feed this habit. His wife pays all the bills and is tired of being with him. He owes taxes and they could lose their house. I told him that he would have to change if he really wanted to save his marriage and that there was only one way. At the end of the meeting that night, Steven stood up and asked people to pray for him because he has made a mess of his life. Please pray that Steven will come to faith in the One who is able to make all things new.

## From the United States

*Last year, brother Antony returned to England to visit the few individuals who support his ministry. He then visited the United States in hopes of finding more individuals and churches willing to support the work in Israel. The following is a brief report of his time in the United States. It will give you insight into the character and passion of this man.*

While I was in America, the Lord gave me many opportunities to witness. New York City is a great place to share Christ. There is a great openness to the Gospel, and yet at the same time, so much religion. In many places in the city, one can see storefronts that have been converted into meeting places for new churches that have been founded by leaders who claim to have the truth. I went into one bookshop that was filled with useless books written by useless authors. I listened to conversations and heard nothing but confusion. God's people are hungry and are in need of good wholesome food, but they seem to only receive that which cannot nourish. In the end, they become anorexic. It is often better to read the Bible alone.

The church that invited me to New York was very special. It has many nations worshipping the One Lord under the same roof, and its growth is founded upon the Word of God. The only discouragement was the prayer meeting. The building, which seats 900, was almost empty, with the exception of the pastors who are faithful to the Lord. One pastor was Hungarian and the other was from Hong Kong, but they made an excellent team. The Pastor from Hong Kong is a very special man. I will not say anything more except that he was a blessing to me. The Hungarian Pastor is also a very good and a wise brother who lives a simple life. He can pack all his possessions into one backpack, unlike many of us who have truckloads of stuff.

While I was in New York, I went out every day to witness to people. My favorite place was the subway. It is a great place to hand out tracts. I met one Hispanic man who was a believer. We communicated with only simple English and hand language, but he invited me to his house. On the way, we went to the church building where I was staying, and discovered that the Spanish fellowship was meeting that very hour. We went in and my new friend enjoyed the service. He was very thankful. I rejoice that many Spanish-speaking people are turning to the Messiah and leaving the whore of Rome. While I was handing out tracts in a laundromat,

I met a girl from South America who seemed to be a believer, but was not fellowshipping with other believers. I spoke to her about the need to have fellowship with other believers and invited her to the fellowship held at the church I was visiting. She promised to visit.

If we go out of our way to witness, the Lord will give us the opportunities. I witnessed to a number of Orthodox Jews while I was in New York and discovered that they are more open than those in Israel. I sat opposite one Orthodox Jew on the train. He looked at me and knew that I was also a Jew. I began to speak to him in Hebrew and asked him about the Messiah. Many Orthodox Jews in New York believe that the Messiah is the rabbi Menachem Mendel Shenierson who died a number of years ago. Some believed that he would rise from the dead, but he has not risen (although he will soon rise in the resurrection of the wicked). I asked him, "Do you believe that Menachem is the Messiah?" He said that he could be Messiah or another like him. I then asked, "Could Yeshua [i.e. Jesus] be the Messiah?" He quickly replied, "Anyone but him!" I could see that the name of Jesus was accursed to him. I asked, "Why do you not like him?" But he could not answer. The Orthodox Jews hate Jesus and they do not even know why. Before he left, I asked him to please read Isaiah 53. I told him that he would find the answer there. I hope he will do as I asked. I did ask if I could come and speak to him

further, but he refused. He left me amicably. Later that day, I spoke with another Orthodox Jew. I offered him a tract and told him that it was about Jesus. He replied, "Let's speak Hebrew so that the Gentiles cannot understand us."

Another time when I was on the subway, I asked a husband and wife for directions, and then I asked them if they were Christians.

They said yes, but I had a hunch that they were Jehovah Witnesses. I asked them and they asked how I knew (A response that I am used to if you recall my last letter). I told them that the Lord had told me and that I had a message for them from The Lord. I had their immediate attention and they replied, "What is it?" I asked them the same question I always ask the Jehovah's Witnesses. It is a great stumbling block to them and they cannot answer it: "Do you give as much honor to the Son as you give to the Father?" When they declared that they did not, I took them to John 5:23: "...that all men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father that sent him...." Afterwards they said that the Son was less than the Father, but I directed them to verses 17-18 that declare:

*"Jesus said, 'My Father works unto now and I work. Then the Jews picked up stones to stone Him because he not only broke the Sabbath but said that God was His Father also making Himself equal with God.'"*

After hearing the verse, they asked me who had made such a declaration. I replied that it was the commentary of the apostle John about the person of Jesus. I begged them to please listen to the message because it was the difference between life and death. They had to get off the train and so I went with them and began to speak to them further. Please pray that God will open their eyes. Their thoughts on their religion has been challenged.

Another favorite place of mine to witness is Ground Zero - the desolate remains of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. It



has become a place of pilgrimage. I was approached by a television crew and gave a brief interview. It was a great evangelistic opportunity! The reporter was a Baptist who was not walking as he should, so I encouraged him to follow the Lord with all his heart. I also met a mother and son. The mother was a believer and she said to her son, "Listen to him David [her son's name]!" She was a mother who was anxious for her son's soul. I was able to talk to David. I pray that the Lord will open his heart.

One night after leaving Ground Zero, I walked to Time Square. I saw some black preachers who had a picture of a white Jesus that they were standing on. They were preaching a racist message and so I approached and told them that the problem was sin and not the color of one's skin. I told them that they were worse than the KKK, and then I asked them why they did NOT preach the Gospel. In the crowd, there was a man who liked what I said. He invited me for a drink, but I told him that I would drink a coke instead. As we talked, I discovered that he was into some very strange things. He was very successful in the music business and he knew the Gospel, but he was disillusioned. An incident in the past while he was on the island of Haiti had shattered his faith. While he was there, he had heard the practitioners of voodoo speaking in tongues just like the people in his church. He asked himself how this could be. How could the very people who utter demonic curses and charms speak in the same language that his church had taught him was the language of heaven? His faith was crushed and he had no answers. I opened the Bible and explained to him what it teaches on tongues and the full meaning of the Gospel. When he left, he was very thankful to me and I was glad to have been used of the Lord.

In the city of London, I used to speak at a place called Speakers Corner – an outdoor public forum. When I was in New York, I went to Washington Square and made a small sign that said, "SAY NO!" Would you stop if you saw someone who stood with such a sign? It gave me several good opportunities to witness. I spoke with one man who was a homosexual, another young man who needed salvation, and a few others. I also met a brother who was a missionary in Pakistan and who was working with the church where I was staying. We then went together to witness to some Muslims. As we were going, we met a few Mormons and challenged them. One of them even told me that if their religion was a lie he would still be happy to believe it. A good approach for witnessing to Mormons is to ask them: "Is your religion the true religion? Is your prophet a true prophet?" After they reply in the affirmative, ask them, "If your prophet told you that you were not allowed to preach your religion would he be a true or false prophet?" When they tell you that their prophets would never tell them not to preach to anyone, you should then ask them, "Do you know that in Israel your leaders [i.e. prophets] signed an agreement not to spread your religion among the Jewish people?"

It's so sad that people want to believe in prophets and extra biblical revelation, but they do not realize that the Bible is complete and the sole authority. The prophets have long been silenced, and those who are truly prophets today will speak to us through the

Scripture alone. Once, someone asked me to for a picture of a Torah scroll. I asked him why he wanted it and he explained that it was for a book for which he was doing the illustrations. I asked him about the theme of the book and he said that it was about the vision that his pastor had seen. He said his pastor had prophesied about September 11. I asked him when his pastor had seen the vision and when he had warned the people, but the man could not give me an answer. It is so sad that people do not want to think. They would rather believe a lie.

As you can see, the Lord gave me many opportunities to witness in New York. On one occasion, I went to a restaurant with a

brother who had invited me and I prayed before we ate our meal. The waiter saw us and began a conversation about the Gospel. The person who I was with was a little embarrassed, but it is my conviction that we should witness in season and out of season. Later, I was with this same brother in an elevator and handed out a tract to a person riding with us. My friend gave me a very strange look. We should use every opportunity we have to witness and we should not be afraid. On the plane to and from America I was able

to witness to the people sitting next to me. One of them was a young Turkish man who now lives in the US and the other was an Austrian "Protestant" who was into the New Age movement and Spiritism. After a long conversation I said to her that spiritism was contrary to the Bible. She became angry and stopped talking to me. She was liberal and "open to everything", but she was closed to the truth. This is always true - if a person does not believe in the true God, then they will believe in everything else that is wrong.

## Last Year's Passover in Israel

*The following is a brief report from Antony Simon after leaving the United States and returning to Israel. The main theme of the report centers around last year's Passover season in Israel and God's work among this nation which so desperately needs Christ.*

Although the Passover is finished, the work in Israel goes on. Passover is a very important event in the Jewish calendar, and in many households, families gather together to remember this great event in the history of Israel - their redemption from Egypt. Many Jews are secular and do not believe that it was a historical event. An example of this is the tour guide whom I met recently at the Garden Tomb. One of the workers had a book on angels and I asked to see it. She asked me if I believed in angels, and I replied that I did. The Israeli Jewish tour guide who was standing next to us suddenly entered the conversation and proclaimed that he did not believe in angels and that all the miracles in the Bible were explainable. As an example, he supposedly explained the first plague against Egypt by saying that the reflection on the Red Sea looks like real blood at night. I responded by telling him that the Bible says that all the rivers turned into blood and that all the fish died. He was silent. He was ignorant of the Scriptures. He then responded by telling us that he was an atheist. It is so sad that he cannot see that the endurance of his own people is proof of the existence of God.

This year, the Passover and Easter celebrations occurred about





the same time as the Orthodox Easter (It is usually a week later because of different calendars). Because of this, Jerusalem was full of pilgrims from all over the world. There are many religious people and much religious activity, but God must be grieved. The Holy Sepulcher (the traditional site of the burial and resurrection) is a place of idolatry. There is a stone at the entrance of the sepulcher where they say that our Lord's body was laid, but it is a lie. The stone is very recent, but the people kiss it and pour oil in the shape of crosses upon it. I saw one woman who poured a bottle of water on the stone, wiped it up with a cloth and placed it in a container. There is religion, but there is no voice for the truth. It is so sad.

Every year the acting head of the Greek Orthodox Church goes in into the Holy Sepulcher alone and comes out with fire which they say comes down from heaven. It is just another trick and yet many people say that they know the Orthodox Faith is true because of the fire. On the night before the fire, my wife Dona and I and our three children went to the Old City. As we passed by the Holy Sepulcher, there was a large crowd of people. Our youngest son could not see above the crowd, but a kind man helped him by putting him on his shoulders. It turned out that this man was a professor at the Anglican College in Jerusalem and an unbeliever. He told us that all religions are the same. When a person goes up a mountain they can take many paths but from the top it is all the same. We quoted the words of Jesus from John 14:6, but the man replied, "Jesus never

said that." Then I quoted Acts 4:12. The man replied, "Paul was wrong?" I told him it was not Paul but Peter who was speaking. The man replied, "Peter was wrong." It is sad that the man was ordained and did not even know the Bible. He was the judge of what was biblical and not biblical. How can such a man teach in a theological college? As Jesus said, they are nothing more than blind leaders of the blind. For him, when all is said and done, we have nothing, no

Word, no Savior, and no hope for men!

We have initiated a new outreach in a new area. We began by distributing the Jesus video, and so far, over 35 people have ordered the film. We usually go out twice a week for several hours and we have had a good response. Usually, mostly Russians speakers respond, but this time there were many Hebrew speaking Israelis who responded. One day an Orthodox Jew attacked us. He came up to one of

the members of our team and asked him about the letters we were placing in everyone's mailbox. Our workers told him that it was an advertisement for a free video. After a few minutes the man appeared and demanded that we take all the advertisements out of the boxes. Our team member refused. The man became very angry, grabbed our worker, and shouted for the police (It is not illegal to preach the Gospel in Israel as some would like it to be.) There was a struggle, but eventually our team member escaped without any harm. Praise the Lord!

We continue with our tours to the Old City every Friday. A few

*Is it not amazing how afraid the Communists were of the Bible? I have heard that during those dark years of Communism, many believers read the literature that was written against the Bible, because it often contained verses of Scripture. The enemies of Scriptures were used by God to provide His people with the only source of Scripture through which they received comfort and hope! The Bible was precious to these people, more precious than gold.*



weeks ago we had a special tour on Saturday and there were 160 people from Haifa (100 of whom were not believers). We were able to distribute Bibles and other literature and they received it happily. Recently, we decided to start something new. We are going to bus people in from other cities so that they might attend our tours. We went to another town to distribute invitations and we had a massive response. Our leaflets state that ours is a tour of "Christian" holy sites in Jerusalem so that people who come are well aware of who we are and what we are about. Please pray for this extension of our work and that the Lord will be glorified through it.

Recently, we went to a free concert in a park in Tel Aviv. A few hundred thousand people were expected and we were able to hand out many thousands of invitations and literature for the Jesus Film. We also had many opportunities to testify personally of our faith. One young man named Alex was very open to the Gospel. I gave him my email so that we could continue with our discussion. Please pray for his salvation.

Very few mission organizations here in Israel have such a good opportunity to preach the Gospel as we do, and so we thank the Lord. There are so many people who support good-works Christian organizations in Israel, but they do not realize that these organizations are ashamed of the Gospel.

They do "good works," but they do not spread the Gospel message. They send out big newsletters that are full of all the good works they have done. This is good, but all the love and good works in the world are nothing without preaching that the Messiah was slain for our sins. His redemptive message, the Gospel Message, alone has the power to save souls.

*They said to me that the Messiah is an anointed figure like king David, and that in every age there is a messiah. I countered by explaining to them that the one great Messiah is different from all others. He is Prophet, Priest, and King. I shared with them that Jesus was a King in the line of David, a Priest according to the order of Melchisedek, and the one great prophet spoken of by Moses who would reveal to us the will of God.*

## More from Israel

*This is one of the latest reports we have received from Antony Simon working in the country of Israel. Please pray for this man and family. We consider it a privilege to have a part in his ministry. We hope that the following words are an encouragement to you.*

Shalom from Jerusalem! Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ! We recently went to Beer Sheva and then to Kiriat Gat for a Bible study. I left the house at twelve noon and returned home twelve hours later after a long day. We went to visit Sarah, a dear sister who had broken her hip and undergone surgery. This woman became a believer about eight years ago at the age of seventy-five. She lives with her granddaughter in very difficult conditions. Most of her pension goes to pay bills and what little money she has left over, she uses to help a family who has financial problems. Regardless of her trials, she is so happy. She has no money, and the circumstances of her life are difficult, but her life is filled with joy. How can that be? She constantly goes around doing good as a living witness for Jesus Christ. She attends every service that we hold and prays constantly for all the people she knows. She truly walks with the Lord. A few weeks ago she went to the supermarket and fell and broke her hip. Many would say, "What a tragedy! Why do bad things happen to good people? She is a believer. Where was her God?" Others would say that the tragedy must have happened to

her because of some secret sin.

Both opinions are wrong. God used her tragedy to lead another to the Lord! In our last visit, this dear sister introduced us to a woman called Louda. Louda had been a Communist and a follower of Stalin's ideals. She truly believed in the Communist system. She told us that in the library where she worked there was not one copy of the Bible. She also said that during the Communist period there was only one legal copy of the Bible in all of Moscow and it was used to find arguments against the Bible.

Is it not amazing how afraid the Communists were of the Bible? I have heard that during those dark years of Communism, many believers read the literature that was written against the Bible, because it often contained verses of Scripture. The enemies of Scriptures were used by God to provide His people with the only source of Scripture through which they received comfort and hope! The Bible was precious to these people, more precious than gold.

As Louda and I discussed Communism, I pointed out to her that Karl Marx thought he was teaching freedom to the workers, but in the end, his teachings led them into greater bondage and slavery. After I spoke to her at length about the failure of communism and the existence of God, Louda took a Bible and let us pray for her. I told

our dear sister Sarah, "See why you fell. The Lord had a purpose in it. You were sent here to talk about the Lord." Sarah was so happy. We brought to her several Bibles, which she distributed among patients who had requested them. The next time we came, we decided to take Sarah outside into the garden. Louda and a few others from Jerusalem had also come. Sitting in the garden, unrehearsed, we began to sing Christian songs.

Sarah then requested that I share a word from the Scripture. I spoke about suffering, the existence of God, and the sufferings of Jesus. There in the hospital garden, completely unplanned and unexpected, a small service was in progress. While we were singing, Sarah's friend Louda, who had been sitting nearby, came and joined in. Sarah testified in front of all. Others nearby were listening, and no doubt, wondering about these curious people. Before we left Sarah said, "I thank God that I fell, because we were able to tell these people about God." Please pray for Sarah that the Lord will bless her in a big way.

As I look back on it now, I realize that I could have led these people "to pray to receive the Lord", and written a letter saying that I had three people who prayed "the prayer", but it would have been a lie and it would not have been a work of the Holy Spirit. Over the years, I have heard many claims of mass conversions in the country of Israel. Some even keep a record of how many "decisions" were made. I received a letter just last week stating that there were thirty-two conversions in a certain place. Since I knew the head of the mission organization that made the claim, I asked him if the account was true. He said that it was not. Why do people count "their converts" and write it down in a book? I do believe that there may be some who are truly converted through these means, but true conversion is rare. It is possible to pray the prayer with many people and still not have one true convert. Evangelists tell of great decisions, but their words are misleading. I have done my homework.



*The distribution of literature is an extremely important part of the ministry of "A Voice in the Wilderness." During street evangelism and after every tour, the laborers offer Bibles, New Testaments, and tracts to all who sincerely desire them.*

This type of evangelism does not work in Israel, and it hardly works anywhere else for that matter. Many years ago I was part of a campaign in London and those with whom we were working came back at the end of the day telling about how many people prayed to receive the Lord. The campaign developed into a competition. Do you know why no one prayed with me? Because I was too ugly! The most attractive girl and guy had people praying every day. At the end of the campaign, I took an address of a man in my hometown of Manchester who had "prayed to receive the Lord". As I spoke to him, it became evident that he prayed because the girl was pretty, and not because he was a sinner who needed salvation. A few weeks later, I asked the leader of the campaign if he knew of a genuine conversion during the campaign. He said, "No, not one."

Although there was no evidence of true conversion in any of those who "made their decision", I am sure that all the false figures were published. Why do Christian workers lie and exaggerate? Truth should be important whatever the cost, but unfortunately truth is usually the first casualty. Are we not content with sowing seeds? Is the salvation of a soul ours to claim? If we do not see

immediate fruit, have we failed? God Himself is the author of salvation, to Him alone belongs the glory. Let us be forever grateful that we are able to be partakers in sharing the Gospel story.

We have been much encouraged by the Lord because He has sent new people to the work in Kiriat Gat. Last week there were twenty adults and fifteen children in attendance. It might not seem like much, but it has been a great struggle to reach this point of seeing any fruit. We hope to start a Sunday/Sabbath school and we have some people who are volunteering to teach.

We have now expanded our tour ministry to include people from Kiriat Gat. We carry tourists and newcomers living in Kiriat Gat to Jerusalem for our Friday morning tour. Our numbers have dropped, but we have an average of 12 to 14 people every week. Last Friday, twenty-five people attended our tour. In Jerusalem, we have begun meetings for young people every Friday and they are going very well. Working alongside other Christians in the Tel Aviv area, we have also begun tours in the Old city of Jaffa every Friday. We hope to use the tours to make contacts so that we might plant a new congregation in Tel Aviv. We covet your prayers in this matter. These tours are evangelistic in nature and advertised as such. Many people come just because they are free. Using the traditional sites of Christ's life and ministry, we are able to explain and compare what is tradition with what the Bible says. We could not do all these things without the Lord's help.

On a personal note: My wife Dona and I are doing well and our children Josh, Rachel, and Yoel are healthy and growing up fast. How the years fly! Thank you for your Prayers and support. Your prayers are highly coveted on our behalf. Your words of encouragement and love are a blessing to us.

## Most Recent Report from Israel

*The following is brother Antony's most recent report from the land of Israel. It continues to demonstrate that his ministry is incarnational - winning people to Christ through personal one on one evangelism. This is the way most used of God to bring His people to His Son.*

The Lord has been good to us and we have been very busy in His work. We have been sticking up posters, handing out leaflets, stuffing mailboxes, and personally inviting people to our tours. The Lord has blessed us with many good responses. We are going out two evenings each week to deliver the literature that the people are requesting and to follow up on those whom we have met in the past. Through God's providence, we continue to meet interesting people and many are very open to discussing spiritual things - *especially the Hebrew speaking Israelis*. We could use another full-time laborer to work exclusively in following up these contacts. Please pray for this need.

The meetings are going well in Kiryat Gat, but in the very near future we will need to find a new meeting place. The sister in whose house we meet is leaving town for health reasons. We have nearly twenty children in the Sunday school and twenty-two adults in the meeting. After being stagnant for so long, things are starting to happen. There is growth and maturity. Praise the Lord!

We may also need to look for a new place to meet in Jerusalem. We have thought about finding a place that we can use as a meeting place and an office. Our old van has 180,000 km and has more than reached the age of retirement. Since the van is essential to our ministry, we are seeking to buy a new one that is reliable. We use the



van for several different ministries: (1) to bring people to and from the meetings on the Sabbath when there is no public transportation from an hour before sundown Friday night until an hour after sundown Saturday - hardly any of our people own private cars; (2) to bring young people to our Friday night youth meetings; (3) to carry people without charge to our evangelistic tours in Jerusalem. Needless to say, the van is a well-used tool.

I leave for the United Kingdom on the fourth of June and will return at the end of the month. I will be preaching in several churches and will also use the time to visit my family. While I am gone, the work in Israel will continue under the direction and preaching of brother Joaquim. He and his wife Rosania and their two children have been with us for over six months and are very devoted to the work. Until a week ago, they have been camping out in our small ministry office. The Lord has now provided an apartment for them. This is a great answer to our prayers. They have come to our country from Brazil with little promise of support and yet they remain in spite of the hardship.

Recently, I decided to go to the Dead Sea on my day off. I needed to unwind and so I pulled out my shorts and drove down to the sea with a few friends who were visiting from the UK. We jumped into one of the hot natural baths and then after fifteen minutes or so we went out to swim in the pool. It was cold and very refreshing on a hot summer's day. Afterwards we went to the mud baths. I jumped into the bath and wallowed in it until my entire body was covered in black mud. While I was carrying on in this fashion, a young couple looked at me with amazement and laughed. I must admit I was not a very pretty or reverent sight, but my joy sparked a conversation and we began to talk.

It turned out that the man was from my home town of Manchester, England, a place that is famous for football and rain - the former I hate and the later is good - if it would only fall on Israel instead of Manchester. This man was visiting his girlfriend who was studying political science at a University in Israel. Somehow religion came up (it always does when I am around). I asked them if they had any religious convictions, and the man responded that he was an atheist. There I began, full of mud and looking quite a sight, a discussion about the existence of God and the origin of man. The man declared that we all came from Space (Outer Space!). All the excuses offered by men are nothing more than a modern protest movement against God.

Before his girlfriend pulled him away from the conversation, she told us that she was a Christian. She then interrupted our conversation to ask us why we did not ask her if she was a Christian. I replied, "Are you?" She declared that she was and then began to tell us how she had prayed the sinner's prayer and made a profes-

sion of faith. For many reasons, it seemed to us that "her profession" was not genuine and so we began to explain to her the true Gospel. Before we parted, I offered them a lift back to Jerusalem, but they declined. When we left the Spa, we saw them at the bus stop. We stopped and asked them if they wanted a ride, but again they declined. We knew that they would have a long wait until the next bus and so we decided to drive back and offer them a ride one more time. This time they accepted. On the way, we were able to talk even more about the Gospel and a brother who was with us shared his testimony. In the end, we gave the boyfriend a copy of the New Testament, which he received. Providentially, they left a jacket in our van, and so we hope to have further contact with them. Meetings like this are often the way God gives us opportunities to speak to others and share the Good News. Nothing is accidental!

This last Friday we had about twenty people who attended our tour. It gives me great joy to see so many people with whom we have

the privilege of sharing the Gospel. On the tour, Lisa speaks to the Russian group and I look for opportunities to speak with everyone else that gathers around. In the site of the Holy Sepulcher, I saw two Israelis on a personal tour and I asked them if I could explain the significance of the place to them. I ended up sharing the Gospel with them and explaining the true meaning of the word *Messiah*. They said to me that the Messiah is an anointed figure like king David, and that in every age there is a messiah. I countered by explaining to them that the one great Messiah is different from all others. He is Prophet, Priest, and King. I shared with them that Jesus was a King in the line of David, a Priest according to the order of Melchisedek, and the one great prophet spoken of by Moses who would reveal to us the will of God. I also was able to explain to them the truth of the resurrection and

show that it was not a myth, but a real historical event verified by history and its witnesses. After taking them to a few places in the Holy Sepulcher, I asked them if they wanted to see the Garden Tomb, but their time was up and they had to leave. They said that they would be back in a few weeks and would enjoy seeing the Garden Tomb if I would take them. Their names are Elad and Tomer, they have my number, and said that they would call. This is another opportunity I pray.

After leaving them, I met a man from the Philippines. I said hello to him in Filipino and he began to talk with me. I asked him if he was a Christian and he replied that he was not a Catholic. I asked him if he was a believer and he responded that he was not. He then declared that he was from a group called the Church of Christ (not the same as the denomination) and that they did not believe that Jesus was Lord! I then quoted Romans 10:9 to him, "If you confess with

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

*- Romans 1:16*

*I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,*

*- Romans 9:1-3*

*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery -- so that you will not be wise in your own estimation -- that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."*

*- Romans 11:25-26*



your mouth Jesus as Lord and you believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead you will be saved.” I read it to him three times and he did not know what to say. I left him my card and invited him to our meetings.

Arriving at the Garden Tomb, I met a man who was in a terrible state of confusion (Jerusalem is a city full of confused people). This man denies the authority of Scripture and only accepts the traditions of men as found in the Eastern Church. For example, he believes in the baptism of infants to save them. I often meet this person and each time he has another new tradition or dogma that he is fervently expounding. I explained to him that the Church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. I told him that the Bible does not get its authority from the Church, but that the Church gets its authority from the Bible. The man responded by telling me only that our baptism was not valid because we had no apostolic succession. As we were leaving, he handed my friend an invitation to a new church he was overseeing. Later, I called the man and asked him under whose authority did he baptize in his new church and how could he be a pastor if he had been divorced several times. He gave me no answer. His life and beliefs are not based upon rational thought or the study of the Scriptures. He lives according to tradition because he does not want to accept the Scripture and submit his life to them. A friend of mine once showed this man a Scripture

verse and he denied that it was even in the Bible. Why does he do this? It is because the verse contradicted his life and revealed his sin. Instead of conforming to Scripture, he tears the verse out of the Bible.

Some who read this report may think that I should just leave this man alone and do better things with my time. Why then do I bother speaking with him? Because I see how much damage the false teachers like him create. Jerusalem is a very small place. With every new wind of doctrine that crosses this city, the people get only a partial glimpse of the truth and a great deal of error. Men like him are forever stumbling in the way and yet he is searching for something. I really hope that one day this man will look at himself in the mirror of God’s Word and desire to change his ways and surrender to God. The Gospel and its message is so simple to understand and so wonderful. We are the ones who put on dark glasses over our own eyes. We are the ones who hide and refuse to see. I thank you all for your prayers for us. We treasure each and everyone. May the Lord keep us faithful in all things.

Antony and Dona Simon





# HeartCry

A Memoir of God's Grace



## *The Life of* Anna Shmaiger Kinovsk

*When we first read Anna's testimony, we knew that it must be published. Anna is not supported by HeartCry, but is a friend and co-worker with brother Antony, Slava, and laborers at "A Voice in the Wilderness." It is our hope that God might get glory for Himself and that you might be encouraged through Anna's words.*

I was 16 when the horror began. My well to do, Orthodox Jewish family lived in the district of Lubar, a town about 120 miles southwest of Kiev. Before the war it was considered a Jewish town because the majority of the population, about 7,000, was Jewish. That number was decimated in the aftermath of WWII. My brother and I were only two of three Jews in the region's ghetto who escaped and survived Hitler's "final solution." Our preservation and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is a fulfillment of God's promise to deliver a remnant of His people and return them to Jerusalem:

*"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion." - Jeremiah 3:14*

## Before 1941

Our home life before the Second World War was a happy one. My learning began in a Jewish school, but after only a year, we moved to Velikovolitzeh, a town 12 miles from Lubar. There I was enrolled in a Ukrainian public school. When I reached my teenage years, I became a member of the Komsomol, the communist youth organization. Although I was Jewish, I easily made friends with the Ukrainian students. I was amazed to watch most of those friendships quickly erode in the ensuing weeks.

## 1941

When the German invasion of the Soviet Union became imminent, I, along with other Komsomol members were called on to help dig trenches and erect tank barricades. For this reason, my parents stayed behind when many other Jews in the community fled for their lives. The invasion came on June 22, but the defense was no match for the German military machine and in a very short time, our communities were overrun. Many Ukrainians actually welcomed the German forces because they saw the Nazis as liberators from the detestable Bolshevik system that had dominated their lives. I remember my first teacher stating that he had waited a long time for this moment.

The new system proved much worse however as the Nazis

wasted no time in undertaking their program of ethnic cleansing. Inexplicably, a majority of Ukrainians chose to remain silent or cooperate fully with the German authorities. Many eagerly enlisted in the new police force that was created for ridding society of a common enemy – the Jew. New laws went into effect. One law required all

Jews to wear the yellow Star of David on their clothing. Then came the massacre in Lubar. The strong men were the first group to be executed and then the old, the women, and the children were slaughtered.

Some managed to hide temporarily from the initial executions, but another new law soon facilitated their arrest. Any home found hiding Jews would result in the execution of the entire family. Many of my school friends participated in exposing Jews. Some appeared to be very proud of doing it. Those who were exposed were then rounded up and confined to a ghetto.

The area selected as a Jewish ghetto was a large complex of buildings on the outskirts of Lubar. The buildings had served as a convent, but were turned into a government run orphanage after the 1917 Russian Revolution. In the violence of the communist takeover, many children were left without parents, and since all religious institutions were dismantled, the complex was turned into an orphanage. Today the same buildings house a technical institute. Those who study there are not aware of terrible atrocities that took place within those walls.

It was early August 1941 when the Nazis came for my family and me. The Ukrainian police approached the Jewish families in our community and offered to send us to Palestine. However, it was only a ploy to make us cooperate. I shall never forget the road and the convoy of wagons that hauled us away to the ghetto.

## Life in the Ghetto

Living conditions in the former convent/orphanage were brutal. We were confined to small rooms or cells where people had to sleep standing. As many as 80 to 100 hungry people were “canned” into these cells. There were no wash basins. I would often use the condensation on the windowpanes of our cell to wash my face. Feeding us was never a concern of the police guarding us. The common attitude among them was “Jews never eat anyway. It’s unthinkable.” Occasionally a peasant would come to the ghetto and deliver a bucket of potatoes. It was never enough of course and so there was always a mad scramble just to get hold of one.

The beauty of autumn could not alleviate the crying, hunger, misery, and death that enveloped our once happy and prosperous community. Our presence in the ghetto became something of an attraction for the townsfolk. They would come to the courtyard and gaze at us as people do when they visit a zoo. One of the pleasant-

ries I did experience was a weekly visit by a dear childhood friend of mine, Nina. She had not collaborated with the new regime and walked the 15 kilometers from Velikovolitzeh to bring me some food of toasted bread. This was considered food, as it was all that most common people had to eat in those days. She

is still alive today and we maintain contact.

Children in the ghetto were sometimes allowed to leave the ghetto and scavenge for food. One day, as I went begging from door to door, I walked by the superior of the ghetto police. He followed me for awhile and then stopped me as I made my way to the ghetto. He told me he wanted me to come out to him that night. I spoke to him as though we were on the same level and firmly rebuffed him. At this, he threatened to use violence and take me out by force. I assured him it would be violent.

My concept of God at this time was the one taught to me by my mother. I strongly believed He was all-powerful and Someone to be feared above all men. Even so, back in the convent, I

was very despondent and fearful of what would come of our situation. Standing before a corridor window that evening, I paused to ponder at the nighttime sky. My eyes caught sight of two shooting stars streaking simultaneously towards each other. I envisioned that somehow God would bring me through this ordeal and that I would survive the ghetto together with someone else. That night I fell asleep crying on my mother’s lap. Upon awakening the next morning, my mother in-

formed me that during the night a man had come into the cell with a flashlight looking for someone, but after some time, he gave up and left. To this day, I cannot comprehend God’s goodness in sparing me the humiliation I expected. As the Psalmist wrote,

*“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high,  
I cannot attain unto it.” - Psalm 139:6*

Other young women were not so fortunate. Every day one or two were taken out, beaten, and raped. I can still hear their screams even now. Those horrible screams were the results of so-called experiments or “exams” that new police recruits had to take before passing on to a higher office. One day one of them grabbed a hold of me and ordered me to strip naked. When I warned him that he would be wise to leave me alone as I had a terrible disease, he hit me with the butt of his rifle. I lost consciousness and was carried back into the cell.

Another experiment had one man in solitary confinement. He was kept inside a small utility closet and periodically taken



out and beaten. The experiment was to see how long a person could endure such treatment. Within three months, half of the Jews in the ghetto perished because of these experiments or from starvation or disease.

Police stationed in the long corridor of our crowded cells were often drunk. As they sang and laughed people died. Apparently, they were not paid enough by their employers so they looked to us as an additional source of income. They would shuffle prisoners from cell to cell and confiscate any valuables they could find. Whenever this was done, prisoners were stripped of their clothes so they could not conceal anything. As the end of October approached, the time came for the rest of us to be eliminated.

On October 31, a police force from another region arrived to help the local police carry out the genocide. Early in the morning, around five or six o'clock, the men were taken to a location about three miles away and forced to dig a massive grave. When the pit was prepared they were shot on the spot and dumped inside. My father Izik was one of those victims. By nine o'clock, it was our turn. My mother and five year old brother were at the head of the line when we were all ordered out into the corridor for the death march. My other brother, Fischel, and I stood close behind them.

## Escape from the Ghetto

There was no place to run and hide. Police, every five meters apart, guarded and ordered our every move. Once they were emptied, all the cell doors were locked. However, one just next to me had been overlooked. It was cracked open very slightly and without a moment's hesitation I seized my brother's hand, pulled him inside, and locked the door behind us. Perhaps it was the commotion at the time that enabled us to slip away unnoticed. Looking back it was more like a miracle from the hand of God – He had heard my cry!

There was just one small opening on one side of the room. My brother of 13 years had no trouble squeezing through but for me at my age it was nearly impossible. After quite a struggle, I finally pushed through. The police never expected anyone escaping in this manner and so we found ourselves in the empty garden of the compound. With no one around, we darted away as fast as we could.

Before long, we reached the small river of Sluch, a tributary of the Dnieper River. We waded across and took one of several paths that led to a village. Sickly and filthy in appearance we looked for a poor peasant home that might take us in. On the street, however, a blond woman met us and kindly invited us into her home. It was one of the nicer ones in town. Inside I expected to see icons and images on the walls but there I only saw verses from the Bible! I was astonished by the words on the wall. One verse declared:

*"...the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel." - Mark 1:15*

From that moment on I began to associate the Messiah of Israel with the Lord Jesus Christ. How else could a non-Jewish family take us in when the Nazi police offered a 500 DM reward for turning in a Jew? How could they risk the execution of their whole family for hiding us? The parents of the home had four children of their own but they were not afraid to help us. We were washed, clothed, fed, and even given the warmest sleeping quarters – a large space over the oven/fireplace, which was used for baking, cooking, and heating their home. Our "little room" covered by a curtain doubled as a convenient hiding place.

God's providential care for us during this time became even more evident when we came to realize that on either side of this home were houses belonging to the police. This family, the Saneviches, had a firm faith in the Scriptures and a deep trust in the great Creator. Every day we would hear the Gospel. In time, God used their witness and the Scriptures on the wall to bring my brother and me to faith.

*Sickly and filthy in appearance we looked for a poor peasant home that might take us in. However, a blond woman kindly invited us into her home. I expected to see icons on the walls but I only saw verses from the Bible!*

*How could they risk the execution of their whole family for us? They had four children of their own, but they were not afraid to help us. We were washed, clothed, fed, and even given the warmest sleeping quarters. Our "little room" covered by a curtain doubled as a convenient hiding place.*

## 1942

After three months of hiding in this lovely home I decided we had better move on and head for Palestine. For this journey, the Saneviches helped us prepare documents that concealed our Jewish identity. Thus my name, Buzya Shmaiger, was changed to Anna Moyeeseva Ilchuk. The family name with the Jewish stem "Il" (God) was made up, the middle was a common Ukrainian name and

my first name "Anna" I took from my host which I have kept to this day in memory of her. My brother Fischel took the same middle and family name although we were advised against it since my brother was circumcised. If he were caught then both of us would be exposed as Jews. I insisted on keeping the same names however. We would stay together whatever the consequences.

Having been provided with food, money, and other necessities, we embarked on our journey. After several kilometers, we unexpectedly encountered an "old friend" of my father's. He recognized us and understood that we were running away but showed no sympathy for our plight. The bounty for our heads mattered more to him than my father's past friendship. Fischel started crying as I pleaded that he not turn us over to the German authorities. Only after offering everything we had did he agree to let us go.

We continued our journey but having lost everything except our documents, we were forced to abort our plans to reach the Black Sea. Perhaps the way to Palestine was too hazardous, God knows. We detoured instead to a collective farm in the village of Krasnopil, about fifty kilometers from the ghetto. There we found work and stayed for several months.

God's hand continued to guide our steps and preserve our lives. When rumors in the village spread that we were Jews, I made up the story that we had run away from home where our mother had

died and our father had married another woman. This stepmother treated us very badly, beating us and insulting us until we could bear it no more. Some remained skeptical until one day as we were visiting a church in another small community a passing merchant heard the story from the villagers. He remarked to the villagers how similar the account was to his own family history. He even believed the children to be his own, but he never came looking for us and the rumors stopped.

God led us to become acquainted with other true believers in the village and soon we began attending church services regularly. Our faith was strengthened as we grew in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. That same year my brother and I were baptized.

While I worked in agriculture, Fishel worked as a shepherd for a woodsman. Fishel was glad to share his knowledge of the Gospel with his employer, but his manner of speech was characteristic of Jews. Sometimes the woodsman wondered if the boy could be Jewish, but the issue was never forced. One day, some youthful shepherds that also suspected him of being Jewish confronted Fishel in the field. They seized and stripped him until he finally admitted that he was Jewish, but again his identity, for some reason, was never betrayed.

## 1943 - 1945

The following year, the Germans began mobilizing a Ukrainian work force to help with the war effort in Germany. A special transport train was used for this purpose and I was one of the many women in the village that was drafted. My brother was left behind. In Germany, I was assigned to take care of an elderly couple in Shaktsdorf, a town 25 kilometers from Berlin. It was very easy for me to pick up the German language as I had studied it in school and grew up knowing Yiddish. Within three months, we were conversing freely with one another.

There too, God's hand was over me. The old man I worked for was not convinced that I was the Ukrainian girl that my documents claimed. Although I felt much love in the home, I never felt free to disclose my real identity. I once asked the couple what their feelings were about the German treatment of Jews. They said Jews had been good for the German culture and that Hitler was a shame to the nation. They then took out a picture of the former German Kaiser and shared that he was their idea of a real man. One day the old man, Reinard, came home and very happily said to me, "I have observed you for two years now and I have come to the conclusion that you must be German." I breathed a silent "thank you" to God. By then I could really identify with the Psalmist who wrote:

*"I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because He hath inclined His ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live." - Psalm 116:1, 2*

## After the War

Fifty years passed before I finally arrived in Jerusalem. After the war, I returned to Ukraine and was reunited with my brother in our hometown of Lubar. Most of the buses were destroyed during the war so most people were carried by transport trucks. While riding atop one of these, I overheard a conversation of the passengers discussing the story of some young Jews who escaped the ghetto and survived the war. "Only the brave could survive such an ordeal," they said. As I heard this, I could only ask myself inside, "Am I brave? I was close to death so many times. Who else but God could deliver me through all those experiences?" I could never have survived the war

without turning to God. As a child, my mother had often spoke to me about the Messiah to come. I knew that He lived in my heart. My brother is in Israel today and lives with his children in Beersheva. Although he is now very ill, he has a strong assurance of entering the Lord's presence after this life is over.

Not long ago, I returned for a visit to Ukraine and video-documented what was left of the places and people that will be in my memory forever. Certainly, I could not find

my house for it was destroyed many years ago. Now there is a young acacia tree on the property where my house once stood. I broke off one of its small branches and brought it back with me to Israel. On the common grave, where my parents and five year old brother are buried, there stands a monument. My video is now a testimony of that period and of God's providence in preserving my life and bringing me to Himself.

God is not far from His people in the darkest hours of human suffering. After the war, Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs, and the Hero's Remembrance Authority, recognized the "Saneviches" as a family of the "Righteous Among the Nations" (i.e. righteous Gentiles). On November 10, 1993, the Department for the Righteous issued them certificate #5585. The parents that took us in and sheltered us at the penalty of death have gone on to be with the Lord. However, three of the four children, who participated in the clandestine activity receive financial help from a Jewish foundation in America. I still correspond with Tatiana, one of the daughters, who is very close to my age. "Slava Bogu" (To God be all the glory!)

*"Whoever saves a single life is as if one saves the entire world." - The Talmud*



# THE ONE TRUE GOD

## A Biblical Study of the Doctrine of God



### Method of Study

The great goal of this study is for the student to have an *encounter with God through His Word*. Founded upon the conviction that the Scriptures are the inspired and infallible Word of God, this study has been designed in such a way that it is literally *impossible for the student to advance without an open Bible before him or her*. Our goal is to obey the exhortation of the apostle Paul in II Timothy 2:15:

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”*

Each lesson deals with a specific doctrine of the attribute of God. The student will complete each lesson by answering the questions according to the Scriptures given. The student is encouraged to meditate upon each text and write his or her thoughts. The benefit reaped from this study will depend upon the student's investment. If the student answers the questions by thoughtlessly copying the text, and without seeking to understand its meaning, very little will be gained.

The student will find that this is primarily a biblical study and does not contain much in the way of colorful illustrations, quaint stories, or even theological commentaries. It was our desire to provide a work that only pointed the way to the Scriptures and allowed the Scriptures to speak for themselves.

This book may be used by an individual, small groups, or

Sunday schools. When used in a small group or discipleship, it is recommended that the students complete each chapter on their own, and that they meet with their discipler or teacher to discuss each question together.

### Exhortation to the Student

The student is encouraged to study biblical doctrine and discover its exalted place in the Christian life. The true Christian cannot bear or even survive a divorce between the emotions and the intellect, or between devotion to God and the doctrine of God. According to the Scriptures, neither our emotions or our experiences provide an adequate foundation for the Christian life. Only the truths of Scripture, understood with the mind and communicated through doctrine can provide that sure foundation upon which we should establish our beliefs and behavior, and determine the validity of our emotions and experiences. The mind is not the enemy of the heart, and doctrine is not an obstacle to devotion. The two are indispensable and should be inseparable. The Scriptures command us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind (Matthew 22:37), and to worship God in both spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

The study of doctrine is both an intellectual and devotional discipline. It is a passionate search for God that should always lead the student to greater personal transformation, obedience and heartfelt worship. Therefore, the student should be on guard against the great error of seeking only impersonal knowledge, and not the person of God. Neither mindless devotion, nor mere intellectual pursuit are profitable, for in either case, God is lost.

### The New American Standard Bible

To complete this study the New American Standard Bible is required. This version of Scripture was chosen for the following reasons: (1) The unwavering conviction of the translators that the Bible is the infallible Word of God; and (2) its faithfulness to the original languages.

### The Writers

This workbook was first written in Spanish ten years ago by Brother Paul Washer, while he was a missionary in Peru. It has been used by many missionaries, pastors, Sunday school teachers and small group leaders throughout Peru. It has now been revised and translated into English. Most of the improvements in this book come from the editing and comments from Pastor Charles Leiter of Kirksville, Missouri.

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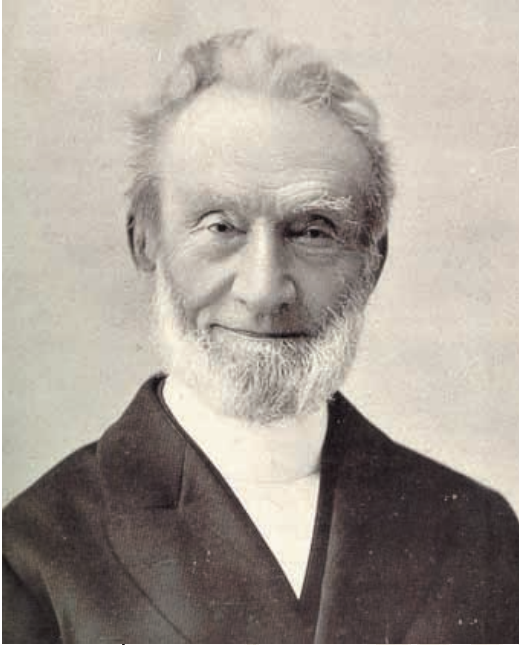
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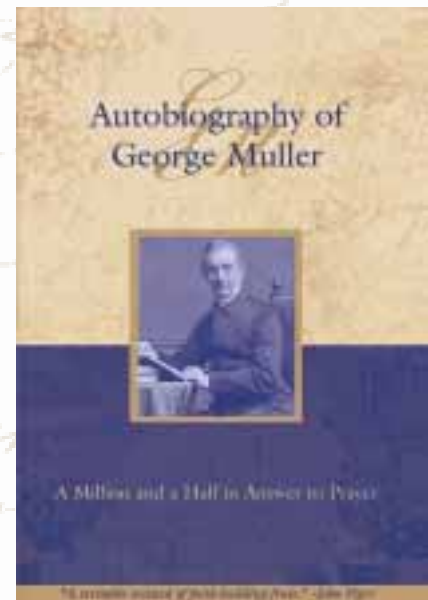
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*What part of “GO” do you not  
understand? Matthew 28:18-20*



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