



Christ is the Answer Israel

2009 June

Clark and Jared's trip to Israel

Pre-Note: This PDF file contains Clark Slone's Daily Travel Log and Jared Worby's comments about Israel. We received this information after the June Newsletter was distributed from CITAITALY.com. Hope you enjoy the reading of these two articles.

CLARK SLONE'S ISRAEL DAILY LOG

Introduction

Israel is by far the most exciting place I have ever been. I have been to a few places in my life, but the feeling and contrast is truly unique. The physical aspects are truly spectacular. The Judean desert on one side that makes the moon look inhabited. A beauty comes off the hills that just speak to your heart of the greatness and beauty of God. Then Tiberius and Lake Keneseret steels your heart if you love nature.

Lake Keneseret (Sea of Galilee) is still one of the most fruitful lakes in it's number of fish in the whole world. I saw that fish abound to a point that when you swim they have to get out of the way.

Spiritually the only word I can use is exciting. You feel that this is the center of the world and God has a purpose there. I know God dwells everywhere but there it seems to be a special hang out and you feel it strongly.

Day 1

We arrived at 1 AM and nothing happened as planned. It was 3 AM before we got clear and upon looking for Gad we could see he was probably sleeping comfortably at home. Our plans were already array.

We got a Taxi for Jerusalem. We could feel the excitement in our souls as we passed the battleground for Jerusalem at the time of independence. We passed right through it going up the mountain to the city. I felt good even though I was wondering what to do. I called a convent I had stayed last year (Echo Homo) But the night guard said to forget it as "there was no room in the in". I begged for mercy and pleaded if we could sleep on the couches in the coffee shop. I know the Lord touched his heart as he said yes. Man did we sleep badly. Those couches were bad, but at least we were off the streets. The streets of Jerusalem at night are dangerous and I did not want to loose my life so early in the trip. The convent is on via Della Rosa in front of the Dome of the Rock. What history!

We went to the pinnacle of the convent and saw a sight that can only be described as breathtaking. Jerusalem has to be one of or is the most beautiful cities in the world. My heart raced inside of me. Praying there was a rush.

Day 2

I found Gad, my Dome Mount buddy and it was the meeting of two friends. We talked and he spoke of preparing Macluba for us. It is great stuff but will kill you r stomach. It's kind of like Arab piea. He gave me a cell phone, but the problem was it was in Hebrew. But you have to go with the flow. The rest of my trip was trying to change it to no avail. He took me to a Palestinian friend and I rented a small Getz (Hyundai) it wasn't the greatest looking car but it ran and was cheap. We hugged, we yelled abebe. (Love and appreciate you in Arab) and were on our way.

I took Jared to have breakfast. Hamus (garbanzo bean cream with garlic and olive oil) pickles, fresh onions, tomatoes and pita bread. Some Arabic coffee that will put hair in your nose. Not bad but your breath could kill a camel.

We went to visit some friends I had made the year before in the suuf. That is an open market in the back allies of Jerusalem. What a place. You expect Ali Babba to jump out at any time. It goes on for miles and it is broken up into the Arab quarter, Jewish quarter and Christian quarter. In fact the tomb of Christ and Golgotha are in the Christian quarter.

We tried to find some Christian contact I had known but to no avail. We drank some more coffee, ate one of the best burgers in the Jewish quarter (was Mc Donald Jewish by chance?) and headed for Haifa.

Day 3

Went to the Port area and were taken back at the forests and beauty of the surroundings. The Romanian messianic brother we stayed with explains as less than a generation ago it was an expansive desert and had been reforested. He stated that the government plants over 2000,000 trees a year. Also there is a day when every Israel citizen plants a tree to commemorate the nation. The Romanian family of Daniel Blag was so neat. He is a concert singer and she is a pianist. Boy was he good. (He also speaks Italian) He spoke 8 languages well. Folks like that make you feel a little slow, my preferred tongue is hillbilly.

We talked of the wall that divides the Palestinians and after seeing it and hearing what it means makes you want Jesus to come and break down the walls but you see it's just not time yet. We also talked about pork in Israel. (You don't want to hear about that) Also about the Ethiopians that were brought from Africa to Israel. You see them always present in the Military. They seem like dedicated Jews. Also in the south of Israel it has detention camps of Somalia's that have entered Israel illegally. Yes they have a problem with illegal's big time. But guess what no Mexicans, yet.

The temple mount is interesting (spent sometime around there.) Daniel explained how the Dome is not really interfering with the 3-temple construction, as behind the dome is plenty of space to build the end-time temple. I went to see for myself with my temple mount buddies.

There is a museum right there at the wall and you can see a small model of the next temple. Dan explained that the stones are already cut and all the things are in order for the construction and systemizing the new temple. When the Jews get the go ahead it WON'T TAKE LONG. He shared a story of a Russian visitor who makes furniture. He got interested in the harps used in the old temple and as a hobby built one. The word got out, as it was so beautiful and precise that a Jewish rabbi visited him and asked if it was for sale. He said no but he could make another. The rabbi said ok build 4000 for the new temple. And guess what, he did it. That is just a few of many exciting stories I heard. Where ever you go you see and hear the Bible and it's reality comes forward and you feel history-taking place (or the end of history).

We did Shabbat at Dan's house. About 20 folks showed up. It was a great experience. There was a group of German young people who were there doing social work. I got to know them well. We had the bread (Israel bread is just great, I can still taste it) the wine and a meal. Kosher of course and a lot of laughing talking and praying. Dan sang a few cantatas. He has sung in some of the greatest opera houses in Italy and Europe. He promised to visit us and sing in our tent.

Day 4

We went to a messianic Jewish fellowship. The pastor is Arab. It is like so many contrasts you see here. It was a great little meeting. You appreciate such a group of believers more when you know in such a vast city there are so few. He has paid a price to be in Israel ministering. A quest speaker from Monte Negro spoke. He was such a humble and sincere fellow. I thought Italy was bad as far as believer's numbers but he shared that in the whole country of Monte Negro there were only 150 believers. He was a Serbian along with his sweet wife.

After the meeting they went home with us to eat and it was so good to see how Israel Christians have a burden for countries worse off than themselves for the gospel. He is taking care of a small group of young believers. It makes you have a greater burden for lost countries and the end time work that still needs to be done for the gospel. We checked in at the Armenian hospice. A friend, I had made last year was working there named Ossy. A very nice girl who had a crush on Grant. It was about 20 bucks a head and good to be staying in the center of the old city we thought.

In the room with us was a Swiss guy who was stinky and had some real feet issues. He snored like a bear. We were right in front of the minaret that gives the call to prayer at 4:30 AM. It was impossible to sleep. We couldn't take a bath so I just used some wipe ums and cleaned my major cavities.

Day 5

We left again to go to the south. We wanted to meet up with the Dome guards as they invited us to have a picnic and visit the Lebanon border. We went to the city of Akko. That meant going and coming almost the length of the country and returning that night. But we were looking forward to hear and get to know better these people. They are considered the radical of the radical being in the position they are in. But to be sincere they seemed like very normal people who loved their families and just wanted to make it to the next paycheck.

They all had second jobs and worked over 12 hours a day. We were able to talk freely to them and get to know them well. One young man who spoke English perfectly had his father in jail for life for assisting in an attack on a soldier. He was hoping his father would be exchanged for an Israel prisoner, but still he would be exiled to Gaza for the rest of his life. There are so many sad stories. When I presented that you do know the Hebrew are you're your brothers literally. They would hesitate and say yes we know. I see so many similarities amongst them as Jews and Palestinians. You can see they came from the same family.

We went to a famous tunnel that the British had built before independence to bring trade into Israel from Europe by train. It had been blown up in the struggle for independence to stop arms coming into the country. Most battles that took place came from the northern threats. To stand where so much blood was shed makes you think of the seriousness of the situation.

We ate a lot hamus, and Palestinian burgers with pita. Also a lot of lamb. We met some Jews from Hungary and Jared was able to speak to them. They also spoke German that helped me communicate. We went to the beach, (monkey beach), oh what beaches. We found a park and had a bar-b-que . The head of the guard unit tried to evangelize me. But by the end of the day, they could see we had the love of God for them. They all seemed to be searching.

The city of Akko was the city where Napoleon was stopped in his invasion of the Holy land. His troops couldn't take the city and he fled back to France. They are very proud of this. The city is very beautiful and we went through the ancient center. We got separated from the others and they felt bad, as they had rented a boat to take us around the walls of the city. But by that time Jared and me were destroyed. We sat with one of the men with us and he explained how he was over seeing the cleaning of the grounds of the Dome. We were able to talk about his family and his desires in life. I feel we will be able to do a work, but it will be with much wisdom and patience. Some used the term that we were the men of God. I thought we never would get back to Jerusalem, but because of God driving like a maniac we made it in time to recuperate some sleep.

An interesting note: The Muslims put a cemetery in front of the east gate. Why? Because they knew Jesus was to enter at that gate in the end times. Because for a Muslim it is prohibited for a truly holy person to walk over a grave. It defiles them. But they don't understand that is no obstacle for Jesus, as He doesn't have to walk, also the dead are going to rise anyway.

Day 6

We met with a brother named Edmond who had a strong ministry at one time in Jerusalem. I was with him last year and he was doing a lot with a helps ministry to the poor. He was getting the gospel out through this. But this year he was in big problems with the authorities and had lost most of his help. He was very upset and having some marital problems also. We prayed and he gave us some real good advice on how to go forward. We hit up some more contacts and drank a lot more coffee. Nothing exceptional happened the rest of the day other than talking with a lot of friends we met in the suuf. I did some tricks that entertained the whole area. I did a trick on an Armenian priest, that he and every one seemed to enjoy.

Day 7

We went to Masada, as I wanted Jared to experience the place. He said, as I feel also, that it is the most spectacular city we had ever seen. Herod the great built it as a fortress city to protect him in case of a civil war. He always feared this. He built a number of palaces and storage buildings. They had public baths and saunas. All the luxury you can imagine. It is still very present. It needed a lot of water but donkeys up this little road brought most of the water for many, many miles. People really suffered a lot and just for Hared to party. No wonder he was afraid of civil war.

After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, a group of over a thousand Jews fled to Masada. After 2 years of siege the Romans built a road right up the mountain with Jewish slaves. What an impossible situation. The Romans took many casualties and hated the defenders. They couldn't wait to get in. But when they finally entered they found no one alive as they had all committed suicide together. To say the Romans were discouraged is an understatement. Now all soldiers going into the IDF (Israel defense forces) must go to Masada and make a vow. NEVER AGAIN they vow as to the death they state that never will they permit this to happen again in Israel. It is inspiring and we felt a spirit of greater commitment to Christ. TO THE DEATH!

We went on to the Dead Sea and through the Judean wilderness. It is captivating to think Jesus walked this area. The Dead Sea is world famous for it's beauty. But something interesting is the date palm that is everywhere. Sometimes there are large forests of them. They are so beautiful and I was told that Israel is one of the largest producers of dates. I seemed to be always eating one when I could. THE DESERT WILL FLORISH!

That has come true literally. One of the things that surprised me were the large fields of banana trees right out in the desert. There seemed to be plantations that spanned out into the distance into the wasteland. Who would believe bananas could grow so well here.

We returned to Jerusalem and stayed with another messianic family from Romania, Brother Gershon. He would leave to pray but before he would wrap himself in leather straps and a prayer box on his head. It was a beautiful family and fed us some good Romanian food. We also were able once more to talk and try to understand how we could do a work in Israel. He gave some great information and how Israel helps Jewish immigrants. We wanted to sleep in, as we were so tired. But just before we went to bed we were told that the room we were sleeping in had to be free by 7:30 am as it was used as a day care. What to say? No rest for the wicked or those of Christ is the Answer.

Day 8

We went back to Jerusalem and ran smack dab into the pope. Over 8000 police and military. Jerusalem was locked down until 8:30. It is truly the most religious city in the world. Even the black and whites (Orthodox were trapped at the Moroccan gate, they weren't happy either) I got cold and huddled against the wall. I prayed for my lungs not to get blocked, He finally passed with his motor cades. There was so much excitement I thought he might float by. But it wasn't over as the next day we went to Nazareth and couldn't get in as it was blocked off as the pope had went there to. It was as if he was following us.

A young girl was hitch hiking and we picked her up. This is very normal in Israel you see it everywhere. One asks why? Well they need a ride and are not afraid because they all are packing guns. They are trained from youth how to use them. This girl could have been Ester. She was so beautiful. She opened up how the youth are very frustrated in Israel. All Jews must do military after high school for 2 to 3 years. She said at the time when you want to fall in love with someone you have to go into the military. I looked at her and thought you are sooo right! I breathed deep and we shared that we sympathized and felt bad for them. She stated a lot of youth have physiological problems because of this. She was so sweet. After this encounter we met a young man suffering from "shell shock" badly. There is another side to the reality here.

We went to Arad and met some women doing work to help holocaust victims. I could see they loved the Lord and we were edified to see people serving the Lord here. As we passed the Judean wilderness Jared ask if I felt the presence of God I said how can you not. No backslider or atheist would be comfortable here for sure. God is so real! I can't really explain it.

Day 9

We went to Tiberius to have a couple of meetings with some Christian house groups. They were very charismatic. Twenty per cent of all evangelical christens live in this area. We stayed with a dear couple from LA. Sherrill and Tony. They showed much love and took us around. Some houses in the area were being broken into and many were nervous. Crime is not very prevalent there. I guess with every body packing you think twice.

The area is suburban and looks very American. We went to see Armageddon (Megiddo valley) the scene of the last battle. Napoleon said it was the world's most perfect battlefield. 200 million soldiers can have over 4 square meters each to move in for battle. It is completely used for agriculture and every inch is green. What a sight.

Day 10

We headed back to Haifa to be with Daniel and another Shabbat and meeting. A girl from Azerbaijan came to the meeting. She was newly saved. We saw another side to the society. She opened her heart how she had rented her apartment to some Arabs. They did not pay their rent and trashed the apartment. They left her with 3000 dollars of debt. She was a mother with two girls and she had had an arranged marriage and her husband had left her. She spoke six languages but English was not one of them. Daniel translated from his fourth language English to his eighth language Hebrew.

Jared and myself shared out of Corinthians and First Peter. I pray she gets stronger from her trials. I know the brethren there will help her a lot. We grew very close to her while being there I will be praying for her. She was so full of love.

We went to Cascara and saw the city of what Herod the great had built. Nice ruins, but you see mans glory is so unstable. The city was one of the greatest in the Roman Empire. An earthquake leveled it then a tidal wave wash most of it in the sea. We headed for the mountain where Elijah called down fire. It was on the other side of Armageddon and you could see the city well from that point. Bro. Dan was with us and shared a lot of history.

We met many more brethren and a number wants to visit in Italy. One dear sister wants to come and teach those interested in Hebrew. That will be interesting. All the brethren we met were so talented. Singing and playing seems so spontaneous to them.

Day 11

Went back to Jerusalem after many emotional goodbyes. In Jerusalem we checked back into the Armenian hospice, but this time Ossy put us up in their nicest room. It was still on the level of a place for monks, but much nicer than before. We went to the suuf and said goodbye to our friends. We went back to the Dome and greeted our guard friends. Then we went to eat Maclubi at Gads house in the middle of the Palestinian quarter. We drew a lot of stares being a couple of white boys. Some of the folk who came out to see us looked like they were out of a chic track. But I had learned to show respect and shake hands. They immediately are touched by this. To your close friends you shake hands and then kiss your hand. This means you are my brother to the death. (I used a lot of hand sanitizer).

We ate laughed and we prayed with them. They looked at us strangely, but we thought, hey we've kissed our hands, what more can we do. We went back to the suuf and spent the evening. Doing some more entertaining and tricks. Also saying goodbye to all.

Day 12

We got up very early and said good by to Jerusalem. The most beautiful cities in the world. At the airport I was asked if I knew Gad who was with us. I said yes, he's my friend. That did it. They took us out of the car and interrogated us up and down. They tagged my bags and it took 2 hours to get out of the airport. I know it really blew them away when we hugged Gad and he showed so much emotion about our leaving. We all lifted our hands and we prayed for Gad. Gad whispered that it is not so popular to be a guard at the dome of the Rock. He laughed and said they think I am a radical. Gad promised to come soon with his wife and visit us for 4 days. That will be fun!

An overview of our trip

We had a great time where ever we went and it may not have seemed so but we were always in prayer and discussion with ourselves as how we were going to do this. We saw clearly it had to be the Lord and we needed some more open doors. THE NATION LIES BEFORE US. To have a team to evangelize and encourage the brethren is our sentiment. Also to instill in others our desire to share Christ's love in a place where He lived. To show we do not want to start another fellowship but help and encourage those there will be part of our mission.

We see probably Telaviv would be the best place to start. We will need a place to stay as a small team and a van. We will need to be as independent as possible as not to be a bother and have the elasticity to move and seek out opportunities to share. There are many obstacles and I could take a page to write them down. But I know if the Lord wants us there, there will be no obstacle we can't over come. I wrote only high lights of these few days. Not mentioning many we met and things we saw physically and spiritually. Even though this seemed to go on forever it was only a part of what happened in these 2 weeks.

Pray for us as we cannot do this without divine help but being that is our reality daily we can be encouraged. I am sending this to a very few because most I know don't have the patience to read so much.

Love, Clark



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2009 June

Jared Worby's Letter

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the first place I want to thank you for your prayers on our behalf as we visited Israel from May 6 to May 19.

In the second place I would like to share with you some things about our trip. To say the least it would be difficult to tell you everything that happened as it seems to me even now that so many things did happen. I would just like to share a few highlights.

Of course just to go to Israel and see some of the many places of Bible history and to be in those places where our Lord walked was a thrill in itself. And to be among God's chosen people, the Jews, was also an amazing thing, as well as seeing Bible prophecy being fulfilled with the establishment of the Jewish State. I was amazed at what this people has done in 60 years since they returned to the promised land!

One of the main things that I brought back with me was the fact that we were able to spend quality time both among Arabs and Jews. Of course as most already know there is a tremendous tension between these two groups especially in Jerusalem. But we discovered that the Arabs like the Jews are people in need of Christ. I cannot go in details here but the first person we connected with on the first day was an Arab who my brother, Clark Slone met last year when he visited Israel for the first time with his son Grant. This man made himself available to help in any way he could. He is married and has three children and works two jobs in order to make ends meet. One of his jobs is as a taxi driver and that is how Clark first met him, and started his friendship with him. But his other job is a guard at the Dome of the Rock! As far as I could tell he was very honest and sincere with us. And we just tried to be his friend. One of the things that Clark told me that was important was shaking the hands of the Arabs. This is important because a Jew will never shake the hand of an Arab.

We actually went on a picnic with him and about 25 of his friends and colleagues. What an experience that was.

But we also spent a good amount of time with believers. We stayed in the home of a Messianic Jew in Haifa who actually came from the very city in Romania where I now live! We also stayed with his cousin who lives just south of Jerusalem who also came from Arad, Romania where I live! In fact on two other different occasions we met Jews who had come from Romania, either them personally or their parents or grandparents. One of them spoke Romanian with a heavy Hebrew accent. We met one Jew from Romania who was the tour guide in Nazareth at what is called the Nazareth Village which was a replica of village life in the time of our Lord. He came from Bucharest two years ago and lives with his family in what is called Upper Nazareth where he told us that twenty percent of the people there came from Romania. By being with these Jewish brothers we got a good taste of Messianic Jewish life participating two times in the Sabot, as well as going to a Messianic fellowship.

Of course as we already basically knew, the situation for ministry is very difficult and complicated especially for non Jewish citizens. We were able to share with some different people about our desire to share the gospel in Israel, and received some very good advice especially from an English brother who has lived in Israel for ten years, and is married to a Jewish believer. We are now praying that the Lord will provide us with a van, and a place to base out of. At first we pray to be able to go with small team for a period of three months, then change that team with another one for three months and so on. Please pray with us to be able to take this first step of buying a van and sending the first team.

But I also want to ask you to pray for us as we continue our work here in Romania. This very week we are going to set up our tent in the county of Arad in a city called - Curtici. We will start on Saturday the 30th a series of evangelistic meetings. And please pray regarding the near future as we have been invited to go to a very needy area of Romania called Oltenia. It is about 240 miles from Arad. It is considered a very dark area of Romania spiritually speaking. There is much witchcraft there even done by the Orthodox priests! I have been told that there are small towns of even up to 7000 inhabitants where there is no church. Please, please pray about this.

I am sorry if I have not shared very much about our trip but I would have to write many more things and take up too much of your valuable time. I hope that what I have written will at least cause you to pray for Israel if you do not. If you have any questions feel free to write and ask. God bless you and use you for His glory and honor.

Your brother, Jared Worby