

## **CJF Ministries Report for July 10<sup>th</sup> 2007**

### **LEBANESE FOOD AND APRICOT JAM**

This has been a month of varied experiences, ranging from frustration to elation.

As far as the congregation is concerned, we have farewelled some and welcomed others into the family of believers.

Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> saw our Lebanese friends, Jim, Vera and the kiddies, fly off to Canada to begin a new life. It was hard to say good-bye, but they keep in touch by phone! Vera's mother invited us to a delicious Lebanese lunch, and comes faithfully to the meetings with her daughter. Any one who has not tasted Lebanese or Druze cooking has never known the joys of eating! How we love these delightful displaced believers, who miss their country, friends, homes and families back in Lebanon.

The following day, a group of friends from Nahariya, went to the Yardanit, where Gideon, of CJF Ministries, baptized a mother and daughter from our congregation. It was a great day for them and us, and they too attend the meetings and Bible study, sometimes with the grandmother. It has been wonderful to see the eagerness of the mother to catch up on long years of ignorance of the Scriptures, and she makes the appointment for me to teach her every week. She fell in love with an old calendar, and as a result of this, we are working through the "Appearances of Yeshua in the Tenach- (Old Testament)"

Our lunch and breakfast meetings have continued with my former neighbor, Shoshana. She always enjoys our times together, defends us fiercely, but is not always open for spiritual things. We still meet almost every week, and she will not allow us to miss if she can help it, but pray for a real revelation to her, as to who Yeshua is.

One morning, the doorbell rang, and in came another former neighbor, eyes aglow with a piercing light. Her husband Paul had told her to come, and her "New Age" beliefs literally radiated out of her, as she talked of the god living in each of us, and searching for the god within. We had a long talk with her, and gave her a pot of my homemade apricot jam, and promised to visit a week from the next Shabbat! Meanwhile, a little later, our local Jehovah's Witness, Dina, turned up, and introduced me to a lady who did not want "Jehovah", so she thought we might be interested. She confided that her sect did not want her to contact me, but she felt differently! We did then visit Paul and Regina, in their own home. They had made wonderfully tasty finger food to eat, while Regina sat cross-legged on the floor. Khalil also came with and talked to them about Yeshua. During our conversation, Paul declared me raving mad, and a fascist Zionist, but listened just the same. Another Russian lady came in with her husband, whom she described as her Master. It was a really weird set-up, but in spite of all, we were asked to come back again soon, and bring another pot of apricot jam.

Cindy still comes regularly to visit, each time explaining that she is not a believer, but finds hope and comfort in our company! Unfortunately, one of our friends told her she was going to hell, and this upset her a lot! However, she rang me again, and still wants to visit. This lady has suffered a great deal, and needs much love and compassion.

Our Dutch teacher and family are on leave, so their place is being filled by Pastor Najeeb from Haifa, and Fareed Shaheeda, also from Haifa, both Israeli Arabs. Khalil has been accepted to go to a Theological College in Nazareth. Khalil, a former Moslem, needs a wife. Please pray that he might meet God's choice for him.

On the not so bright side, Elana and Tali have definitely taken many steps backward, and seem to show little or no understanding of all they have heard over the years. It has saddened us to see their behavior, and even deterioration in their general demeanor.

The laser treatment was not successful, and I still do not see out of my right eye, only very blurred. The pressure in the right eye is still very high, and nothing brings it down! Keep praying please.

We thank you for your prayers, and greet you all. Judging from the mounds of letters and emails we receive, there must be hundreds praying for us, for which we are very grateful. God bless you all.

Ruth Nessim on behalf of the congregation