



Oasis

A Publication of Tents of Mercy Congregation (Ohalei Rachamim) - Volume 7, Issue 7

FROM SHIA TO YESHUA

By Marty Shoub

It is not everyday that Ohalei Rachmim hosts a guest speaker from Iran but on the evening of June 7th, we welcomed a brother who was once a Shia Muslim dedicated to the cause of Islam. Reza Safa grew up an ardent Muslim. His father was an eminent Islamic scholar, who used to take his young son to secret meetings with Ayatollahs, the same Ayatollahs that staged the Islamic revolution and rule Iran today.

During the revolution Reza had been studying in the U.S.A. His student visa was revoked on account of the American hostage crisis and Reza returned to Iran. Reza supported the revolution but something inside him compelled him to leave. Unsure of what to do, he decided to call upon a friend living in Sweden. There a believer gave Reza a Farsi New Testament and Reza began to read. Reza explained, "The more I read the more intrigued I became about Yeshua and confused about Mohammed."

Reza had been a dedicated Muslim. He took extreme measures to demonstrate his devotion; he would travel eighteen hours to the gravesite of an Imam to ensure his prayers would be answered. After six months of reading the New Covenant scriptures he could find no fault with Yeshua but was struggling with making the final transition to faith. Like many others before him, Reza called out to the Savior in desperation, "Yeshua, if you are the Messiah show yourself to me!"

Reza had never heard an answer at the dead Imam's tomb but after he called out to Yeshua he heard a gentle voice speaking to his heart: "Reza you don't need to pray this way anymore, your sins have been forgiven."

Reza found joy in the Messiah but also loneliness as his family completely rejected him and his Western Christian friends didn't understand him. He went through a painful three year process where the Spirit of God completely stripped away his old Muslim mindset and gave him a new biblical foundation of understanding.

God had called Reza to be one of His sent ones, especially to Reza's own Iranian people. Fifteen years ago, the Spirit spoke to Reza that there would be a great revival among the Muslim people and he began to pray in earnest for the salvation of Muslims. Five years ago the Lord told Reza to purchase TV production equipment. He began taping shows with no way to air them. He wondered if he had heard the Spirit correctly but within a year, satellite stations were launched to beam programming into Iran and Reza's TV ministry, "Roz-e-nejat" (day of salvation) was born.

The response has been overwhelming. Iranians have responded dramatically to the simple Gospel presentation. Reza explained that many Muslims are hungry for God. What we see as radical militarism is many times a sincere (albeit misguided) effort to please God by people who have great zeal without the knowledge of God's love for them in Yeshua. "Roz-e-nejat" has a call center to respond to viewers and after each broadcast the phones are ringing off the hook with viewers giving testimony of how Yeshua revealed Himself to them. According to Reza, this is unprecedented. Even ten years ago the Gospel made seeming little impact on Iranian society; now Reza told us many thousands are coming to faith.



Reza Safa, Iranian preacher encouraging Israelis

Continued on page 6

Reza gave one amazing testimony of a new believer in Iran. This man had been a drug addict for nineteen years. In a dream, a man appeared to him with a cell phone and asked him if he wanted to speak with Yeshua on the phone. Placing the phone next to his ear, he said hello but received no answer. Still in his dream, he looked at the cell phone and saw on the screen the phone number for Reza's TV program's office. The man woke up remembering the phone number, dialed Reza's office and explained his dream to one of Reza's staff members. After hearing the Gospel, this man received salvation and deliverance!

Faith in God's Word is the heart of Reza's message. Today, many believers are worried and perhaps even scared of the rise of Islam and the threats made by some of their political leaders. Reza knows, perhaps better than most, the reality of militant Islam and is not ignorant to the dangers faced by believers in his country. Reza himself, constantly faces death threats by those who oppose his message. He is no pie-eyed Pollyanna. Yet, he remains enthusiastically optimistic. He encouraged us not to give in to fear but to see with eyes of faith that the God of Israel is in control. He boldly testified: "They have been trying to kill me for years and have not been able to do so. If they cannot get rid of me what chance do you think they have to destroy Israel, the Apple of God's eye?"

Reza's definition of faith is being sure of God's will. When the disciples feared for their life as the storm threatened to sink their boat, Yeshua rebuked them. Reza explained, "Yeshua had told them to head out on the water because He needed to continue His ministry on the other side of the lake. Storm or no storm, boat or no boat, if Yeshua said they were going to the other side, then they were going to the other side. If we know what the Bible says about Israel, then we shouldn't worry."

This is not the first time that a ruler in Persia has threatened to destroy the Jewish people. If the story of Esther tells us anything, it tells us that God is in control and no one can thwart His will.

Reza encouraged us to reject fear and instead, reach out to Iranians and other Muslim people with love. "Pray for the salvation of the Iranian people!" he pleaded with us.

As I listened to Reza and heard his amazing testimony, I marveled at the transforming power of the Gospel. This man, raised to hate us, now loves us. This man, who naturally speaking should be my enemy, is my brother. There is no other power in the heavens or on earth that can make such a complete and dramatic transformation. Truly, the Love of God never fails. ✡



Avishalom translating for Reza Safa

Editor's Note: RE Cottage Industries, Oasis Magazine, June 2007

Tikkun International and the Tents of Mercy network do not endorse the doctrinal positions contained in "The Way of The Upright" website. We apologize for any confusion caused by referencing this site in last month's magazine.

EITAN SHISHKOFF'S 2007 SUMMER ITINERARY

July 21st: 10.40am at Baruch HaShem Congregation in Dallas, TX (972-386-0121)

July 22nd: 10am at Glory of Zion in Denton, TX (940-382-1166)

July 27th: UMJC Conference in Chicago, IL

July 29th: 8:00am at River of Life Church in Jacksonville, NC (910-346-1114)

July 29th: 11am & 6pm at Grace Covenant Church in Beulaville, NC (910-298-5816)

August 4th: 10am at Beth Shalom in Rancho Cucamonga, CA (760-955-6065)

August 5th: 9 & 11am at Praise Chapel in Rancho Cucamonga, CA (909-980-5116)

August 7th: 6.30pm at The Light at Mission Viejo in Santa Fe, NM (505-982-2080)

August 8th: 7pm at Calvary Temple in Denver, CO (303-744-7213)

August 10th: 7pm at Roeh Israel Congregation in Denver, CO (303-337-6254)

August 11th: 10am at Yeshuat Tsion Congregation in Greenwood Village, CO (303-740-5413)

August 11th: 6pm at Resurrection Fellowship in Loveland, CO (970-667-5479)

August 12th: 8:30 & 10:30am at Resurrection Fellowship in Loveland, CO (970-667-5479)

August 19th: 9am & 10:45am at Beltway Park Baptist Church in Abilene, TX (325-692-6540)

August 19th: 6.30pm at River of Life Church in Abilene, TX (325-698-8502)

Editor in Chief: *Eitan Shishkoff*
 Managing Editor: *Martin Shoub*
 Graphic Design: *David Coddington*
 P.O.Box 1018 Kiryat Yam 29109, Israel
 Tel: +972 (4) 877-7921, Fax: +972 (4) 875-7792
 E-mail: ohalei@netvision.net.il
 Stateside: c/o Tikkun Ministries
 P.O.Box 2997 Gaithersburg, MD 20886-2997
www.tents-of-mercy.org



Our Vision:

Tents of Mercy - to participate in today's historic exodus by assisting Israel's returning exiles.

No spectators in the Kingdom - to be a worshiping, sharing community based in homes, equipping each one for service.

Come back Yeshua - to welcome Yeshua home to Israel, by restoring the Jewish roots of New Covenant faith.



Worship on the Mountain



Carolyn



Cowboy Moshe



Eric addressing the crowd



Father and Son



Guy sharing his heart

Fire on the Mountain

by Eitan Shishkoff

Nobody knows where the fire fell on Mt. Carmel in the days of Elijah. Nevertheless, gathering our congregations together there on the Day of Shavuot (Pentecost), I couldn't help feeling enhanced expectation for our time.

Fire falling from heaven is a phenomenon signaling God's sovereign intervention. At key moments in history He has sent fire as a demonstration of His power, glory and intervention.

Sinai, Carmel & Zion

Moshe ascended to Mt. Sinai and God descended. While all Israel waited at the foot of the mountain, God sent fire from heaven, forever marking the day that His word was transmitted to mankind. According to well-established Jewish scholarship and tradition, that day was the Day of Shavuot.

When Elijah prophesied Israel was backslidden and drawn to pagan idols; what was God's answer to the spiritual crisis? He inspired the prophet to set up an altar (representing true worship unto the Lord) with a sacrifice that could only burn if fire came from heaven. Elijah waited; and the fire fell.

Again, in the first century, Yeshua's disciples waited, per His instructions, for the coming of the Ruach (God's Spirit). Their

prayers were rewarded by the sound of a rushing mighty wind (wind and spirit are the same word in Hebrew: ruach). It was a clear message to them from heaven. The Most High was filling them with His Ruach, His Spirit. Then, tongues of fire appeared upon the head of each disciple. Fire had indeed come again from heaven in response to expectant hearts.

These three classic incidents are like punctuation marks linking the Torah (Moshe), the Prophets (Elijah) and the Brit Chadasha (New Covenant disciples). I am thoroughly convinced that our era parallels these momentous turning points in spiritual history. What is God saying? What is the message of Shavuot 2007? The message is that we can and must expect the fire of God to fall upon us. Our portion is to pray, seek, intercede and believe for it with all our hearts.

Pine Trees and Praise Teams

On Shavuot our families came from Haifa, Nazareth, Akko, Poriya (near Tiberias) and the Kriyot to give praise to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Our worship was led by praise teams from the interrelated congregations. We

danced and prayed and heard the Word and picnicked. Children and teens, parents and grandparents, all came together, enjoying the pine forest of Carmel Mountain. We see this mountain every day, but few members of the congregations ever get up to the mountain to taste the clean air and feast their eyes on pine boughs and wild flowers.

Together with the festive atmosphere, I felt God speaking this message about fire. How ARE we to prepare for the coming combination of conflict and harvest? How can we follow in the footsteps of Moses, Elijah and the apostles.... waiting upon God, 'till He answers with fire? How can we obey Yeshua's command to make disciples of every nation, proclaim Him in His native Israel and remain victoriously faithful until He comes?

Hearts Aflame: Preparation for the Bridegroom

I believe a simple key is found in Matthew 25. The story of the 10 virgins also contains the element of fire. It is the fire that must burn within our hearts, as we wait

for the Bridegroom, Yeshua, to take up His throne in Jerusalem. He is the man of fire pictured in Ezekiel 1:26-28. Next time, we will not see Him as a hillside rabbi with a simple cloak and sandals, but as the magnificent Sovereign of Revelation 1. His eyes will burn as flames of fire. His countenance will shine like the sun.

The five wise virgins had plenty of oil for their lamps to burn through the long night of waiting for His coming. The foolish ones had too small a supply. Oil burning? This is the fire inside—the passion Yeshua has ignited in our hearts by His awesome sacrificial, suffering love. This is the fire that must be stoked daily. It is the fire that will grow cold ("The love of many will grow cold.") if we do not fan the flames of love for our Lover.

So, here is our part, to again bring God's fiery Presence from heaven to earth, especially Israel.

My partner, Asher Intrater, teaches that each of us receives the fire of God when we are filled with the Spirit. We join those first disciples in catching the fire that falls from heaven. It is continually within us, always to be stirred, fueled by praying in the Spirit, worshiping whole-heartedly and speaking forth the word of God.

As I write these words, some are hearing the winds of war. Further conflict is likely in our region. But whatever happens; let us prepare ourselves, depending wholly on Messiah Yeshua, being filled with His Ruach, seeking/loving/praying/expecting/believing whole-heartedly in His promises of revival in the latter days. ✨



Lifting holy hands



Lena and Sasha sharing a moment



Sasha, Eli and Ygal lead worship



Eitan and Pastor Lev from Uzbekistan



Leon calling for fire