

# The Desert Road

December 1, 2004

“Open up! Police!!” It is 2 o’clock in the morning and there is pounding on the door and incessant ringing of the doorbell. Since my bedroom is downstairs I get to the door first. Looking through the peephole I see several men and what looks like the hair of a woman. Being roused from a deep sleep, I am disoriented and not sure what to do. The only thing I *am* sure of is I am NOT going to open the door without knowing who is out there. With the continued pounding on the door, visibly causing it to shake, Eddie and Lura are soon roused. We discover there are two police cars and a police van filled with officers outside the house. In addition, a very large policeman, with his legs planted wide apart, and arms crossed, is standing at the outside stairs blocking the only exit from the yard. Eddie now opens the door. Immediately five police personnel quickly enter, eyes turning on me. The policewoman approaches me and sharply demands in English, “Where are you from?” Seeming like a bad dream, in a daze I answer, “America.” The response is, “Get your passport.” I ask her, “Who are you?” There is no smiling, all business – Lura is the one to answer, “Immigration.” I retrieve my passport and hand it to the female officer. Suddenly realizing I am standing in the midst of everyone clad only in my pajamas, I feel very vulnerable. Retreating to my room, I put a shirt on over my nightclothes.

Upon returning to the group, I find several of the police huddled together examining my passport. A form is signed and handed to me. The spot for their identifying stamp is barely marked, not enough to prove who had been here. After returning my passport, they turn without one word of apology and leave. Feeling targeted and harassed, I return to my room. I truly had expected an order to pack immediately and be deported. Before going back to bed I thank the Lord for His safety and protection. Placing it all in His hands, since there is nothing else I can do, I am soon back to sleep.

The following morning I discover I was not the only one forced from bed in the middle of the night. It seems immigration checked on other Americans in Arad, as well as a Romanian family who made aliyah to Israel and are citizens. In fact, they even searched his house. The common denominator is all are Believers. As we share stories we find each of us have also received a phone call in the last week. Someone claiming to be a ‘neighbor’ called everyone complaining about the Datim picketing and suggested we move or stop “missionary activities.” In addition, several landlords call to check on their tenants after receiving warnings from the Datim. Sounds like once again the Ultra-orthodox are making phone calls, including sending the Immigration Police our way. If Satan is that upset, we must all be doing something right. ☺

There are other indications of things heating up here:

1. One of the Russian chess players, an elderly man I dubbed “The Kissing Rabbi” (he has a penchant for kissing ladies hands and cheeks ☺), has been fired from his job at the synagogue. The Datim have harassed him ever since he began coming to the chess club. The Ultra-orthodox have threatened him with losing his job, would pronounce him a mamzer (illegitimate) and not be allowed burial

in a Jewish cemetery. He continued to stand against them and stood with the Believers. Yesterday we found out why. He is a Believer! Lura and I ran into him in the kenyon (mall) and sat talking. Lura and he spoke in Hebrew and we heard his story. He was led to Y'shua while he was in Germany and said to her, "Y'shua is Lord!" He told how he had just been fired and that he replied to the rabbi that he would pray God gives them what they need! Hallelujah! Now we understand the sweet spirit we always felt whenever he was around. This gentle man even said he is not worried about his needs because Y'shua will provide all. Such faith is growing and expanding under persecution! Please pray the Lord will show Himself to be Jehovah Rophi, our Provider, to our little 'Kissing Rabbi'!

2. The Bedouin family of Believers I have mentioned before continue to struggle financially. Schooling here is expensive in that books, school trips, note books and extra items needed for school projects all have to be paid for by the family. Children who do not have the funds to pay for an educational school trip are not allowed to go if they do not have the money. With four children this family has a difficult time meeting these needs since the father is ill and cannot work. So, what do they do? They pray to Y'shua for help and trust Him to make up the difference and provide what they need. This past week their 14 yr old daughter was able to go on an overnight school trip, which consisted of a lot of walking. While out with the group, her shoes fell apart right on her feet! She returned home barefoot. Now they will pray for shoes, knowing and believing God will provide. Will you please join them in this prayer for provision?
3. Another family of believers has been experiencing more health problems and financial difficulties of late. He works hard twelve-hours days/six days a week doing manual labor outside, year round. He has injured his back. She has been very sick for almost two weeks. Now, with him not working, they are facing great difficulties. Once again, won't you pray for provision?
4. As requested by the Ultra-orthodox, more of the Haredim are moving into Arad. We see many more of them are moving onto our street and in the neighborhoods around each of the Believers. They are back to picketing our homes as well as businesses. We have all become aware of being followed and watched daily. A Jewish woman (not a Believer) working for the social service as a Big Sister was recently visiting a foster child in a Believer's home. Several Datim followed her home and began harassing her and her parents. They kept asking her why she was entering the home of a Believer and made threats against her and her parents. She is now afraid to continue visiting this child. So sad that something good is derailed through the actions of a group persecuting their own people!
5. A new development here in Arad is the closing of the gates to the city on Shabbat. This is something you will find typical of a Haredim town. Cities that are all, or mostly, Orthodox, close up and block off the streets so no one can go in or out during the Sabbath. It is a way of enforcing their rules and the Mosaic Law, that no one may go further than "a Sabbath days journey." They do not understand that God gave us the Law to show us our sin, not to be enslaved by it! The Ultra-orthodox need prayer for revelation from God! They are lost, and miserable without their Messiah, trying desperately to make sure everyone follows their interpretation of Biblical Law.

As you can see, the need for prayer here is varied, but coveted!

The visitation program with the Holocaust Survivors has resumed, and grown! We have more names added, now totaling 49, even with the recent deaths of

two of the ladies. Pesiy, 104 yrs, passed away in October and Maniy, a very sweet lady, died a few days ago. We had the pleasure of praying for Pesiy in July. Since she had limited capacity for understanding conversation, we asked the Lord to speak to her where she was and tell her about Himself. While we prayed we had the pleasure of seeing her reach above her, repeatedly say "Beautiful!" while touching something. After our prayer, she put her hands on us and blessed us. Did she see angels, or the Lord? I felt very peaceful concerning her salvation afterward and fully expect to see her in heaven among the saints!

As for Maniy, we had stopped in to see her and Nicham, her nephew, and found they were just leaving for the hospital. She was in much pain.

We quickly prayed for her and for Basia, Nicham's wife, who was already in the hospital. It is very sad to see a Holocaust survivors pass away without knowing if they found their Messiah, Y'shua. After such a harsh time during the war, I want to help them discover the peace that can only be found through Jesus.

I am very excited about a new program God is putting together. Along with the theme of "The Desert Ministry," we have now launched a new program called "*Streams in the Desert.*" The idea is based on Psalms 68:5&6, "...setting the lonely in families..." Through this program people can adopt Holocaust Survivors, essentially becoming their family. It has gotten off to a good start with 13 Survivors adopted and more in transition. If anyone would like more information on what is involved to adopt a Holocaust Survivor, email me at [sueheagy2004@hotmail.com](mailto:sueheagy2004@hotmail.com) or send me a letter at Susan Heagy c/o Lura Beckford, 50/2 Nahal St, Arad 89087 ISRAEL. I will be happy to send you a letter outlining how you can be a part of this wonderful outreach and include a list of the Holocaust Survivors for you to choose a name. The nine new names I have been given are not yet mentioned as I still need to meet them! As soon as I do, the list will be expanded. ☺

As for the lap robe project, it is going well. We have 20 lap robes completed with several women working on more. As soon as we have another 15 done we will begin handing them out! I am so looking forward to blessing them with your work! We will be taking pictures of all the completed lap robes and posting it on the web site. Thank you so very much for all your work! ☺

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Have you ever thought about or struggled with the context of keeping the Law of Moses and salvation? After all, we do have the Ten Commandments and they are good moral laws to help us know right from wrong – right? Whenever I mention the Ultra-orthodox, keep in mind they spend their entire lives trying to follow and conform to all the Mosaic Law as well as the rules written by rabbis for the past 2000 years. Could you remember every single rule for every thing you do? The other day I heard something that really put this into perspective for me. Think about it – what came first?

1. The Blood – The blood of the Lamb was sacrificed first, so death would Pass over us. In Egypt the lamb they used is the symbol of the true Lamb of God, the One who took away our sins.
2. Salvation – the Israelites were saved from bondage, taken out of Egypt, representing our sins. In the same way Jesus death and resurrection saved us from the bondage of sin, and the Law.

3. Baptism – even as the Israelites passed through the waters of the Red Sea, we also need to go under the water for our baptism into freedom from sin and receive everlasting life.
4. The Law at Mt Sinai was given last. The Law exists to show us our sin so we can see the Light of Jesus in the darkness of our deeds. No man can ever reach perfection in keeping the Law, because we are imperfect. There is only One who is Perfect enough to bring redemption, and His name is Jesus, Y’shua, our Messiah.

The Orthodox Jews believe the Law is their salvation, not understanding their Messiah was already here and now sits with his Heavenly Father. They do not realize He has already brought salvation. They are not willing to see for they are blind. Please pray for the Lord to give them revelation as to who He is that they too may kneel and worship the true Lord and King. They need Jesus. Keep in mind the same attitude they have toward us, they are also teaching all to whom we offer help. Keep us in prayer as we demonstrate kindness and love to the Holocaust Survivors, that they see the Spirit of Love and Truth.

Thank you to each prayer partner of this ministry. Do you have any idea of the value and importance you have concerning the work and people involved? I thank God for you. I praise His name for your faithfulness and compassion. Your names are truly written on the palm of His hand. May He bless you and fill you with His peace and love.

In His service - Susan Heagy

If you have any questions or comments, you can email me at [sueheagy2004@hotmail.com](mailto:sueheagy2004@hotmail.com) Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to others. You may also be interested in visiting my web page at [angelfire.com/journal2/holyland/html](http://angelfire.com/journal2/holyland/html) (add www. before the web site address when pasting into your browser) to learn about what is happening in Israel with the Holocaust survivors as well as the current persecution.

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**For all donations to directly help the Holocaust Survivors, please designate  
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