

The Desert Road

March 1, 2005

My cell phone rang and I absently answered it, concentrating on reading my email. I heard, "Susannah? It is Sofia. You gave my man a card for his special day! I want to thank you! You come to us; today or tomorrow? What time do you come?"

It took a moment to register that one of the Holocaust Survivors was calling me! In fact, they were inviting me to come visit with them. I could hardly believe it! In over one year of visiting, I had never received a phone call from one of the survivors. In fact, I don't think I ever expected them to call me. What a breakthrough this was – Praise the Lord!!

After the struggles, the setbacks, doors closed in my face - This was, in fact, real victory. I could almost hear the conversation of the enemy discussing our ministry...

"Reporting on the situation in Arad, sir. It seems our hold is weakening." The demon speaking was tattered and scraped, trembling in anticipation of his master's reaction.

"Weakening????!!! What do you mean, 'weakening?!' Satan's nostrils flared with anger. "I sent you there with enough demons to stop that insufferable Ministry of Kindness to the Holocaust Survivors! What have you been doing? The last I heard no one would open their doors, you sent that 'woman' sliding down the hill injuring her foot and have interfered very nicely with her finances. What could possibly impede our progress?!"

Backing up a step, the demon continued with his report. "Well, Sir, the cold shoulders, the fear from recent burglaries, the ideas of distrust planted by the ultra-orthodox and the apathy to the Messiah all seems to have disappeared in the face of them demonstrating God's love. The Holocaust Survivors are welcoming the Believers as they visit and opening their homes and hearts to them. They are even asking questions about God. All the Believers have been relentlessly returning to visit the Holocaust Survivors, though they went weeks with not being able to see even one. They have been disgustingly persistent and kept going back, doing this for over one year now! Why, just last week they even gave all the Holocaust Survivors hand-knitted lap robes made by Christians in America and Israel! With that unified act of kindness, it loosened our hold and all of us went flying every which way! It was like everyone was suddenly greasy with Grace and we couldn't hold on!

"Not only that, Sir, but they started a program to adopt the lonely Holocaust Survivors into families of Believers. Now they are getting cards, letters, gifts and personal prayers for each one! Lately the air has gotten thick with all the prayers pouring in and a brilliant Light suddenly blinded us! Most of us just barely made it out of there alive. I'm telling you, Sir, something big is happening there. We are waging

many battles in that town, but are losing most of them. I am fearful the war in Arad may be won by those blood-bought Believers!”

With a sound of disgust, the master of demons turned his back on the terrified evil spirit and began contemplating how to handle yet another loss to the Jesus, the Son of God!

Does this seem far-fetched to you? It shouldn't. A real war is waging here – a spiritual one. Our battles in Israel may not be the same as yours, but the perpetrator of them all is the same demonic enemy, the same devil, that we read of in the Word of God. Ephesians 6 says clearly that we are at war! We are all in battles every day, fighting off apathy, fear, and discouragement.

Let me fill you in...

Adoption Program Growing

Streams in the Desert, the program allowing Believers to adopt Holocaust Survivors, has been making a difference in the response of the survivors. So far families have chosen 29 survivors, bringing them into regular contact with Believers and giving them a covering of prayer. We still have 24 lonely people who are waiting. When I visit them, it is heartbreaking when they ask, “Do I have a family yet?” They lean forward with an expectant look and wait for an answer. I cannot describe how my stomach drops when I have to say, “No, not yet. Soon, though, very soon.”

It is a very small thing to do for one of God's own who have suffered at the hands of cruel men. A card or letter once a month, an occasional item such as tea or a warm scarf and, if possible, \$5/mo. But the most important is prayer. They need your prayers for their well-being and to open their hearts and find the Messiah.

“...in you the fatherless find compassion.” (Hosea 14:3b) God is the Author of compassion – and we are created in His image, being encouraged in the Word to follow the example of Christ. Please consider exercising your compassion on a Holocaust Survivor by welcoming them into your heart and family. The Love of God is the only way for them to come out of their horrible past and into a future with Jesus.

If you would like to have a Holocaust survivor join your family, please email me at suheagy2004@hotmail.com and I will send you a list of survivors with their personal stories. Ask the Lord to show you who it is you are to bless.

Visa expires soon

When you enter Israel you are given a 3-month visa, which is renewable for another 3 months. At the end of those six months, you must leave the country by plane or ship for a minimum of 3 weeks before you may return on another visa. I had originally hoped to be able to apply for citizenship, but the persecution here has decreased my chances of doing that. Some of the ultra-orthodox have targeted me personally as they are

now aware of my showing up all over Arad. When visiting I have to be careful not to lead any of them to the residence of a survivor, not wanting to cause any undue problems.

I am planning to fly out in the first half of April and hope to return in May. This depends on several things – one of them being the cost of a return ticket. The other is arranging for people here in Arad to continue the visitation and adoption program in my absence. This program is at a critical stage of growth and the survivors themselves at a vulnerable time of trusting us. I really need to return as quickly as possible. Please pray. Since I must exit the country for a time, I have decided to return to the US. I have a second reason for doing so...

New Grandbaby!

As of March 1st I am the proud grandma of a new grandson! ☺ His name is Timothy Andrew, weighing 6 lbs, 3.5 oz and is 18 ½ inches long. There were some difficulties in the beginning of the birth, but our God is able and He healed the situation. My daughter, Jennifer, her husband Steve and Timothy's siblings, John, Alyssa and Matthew are all happy and fine.

Holocaust Memorial Day

May 5, 2005, is Holocaust Memorial Day, representing 60 years since the liberation of all prisoners in both concentration camps and ghettos.. This is a day set aside to honor them, honor their strength and fortitude and remember all those who lost their lives during this horrible time in history. Please pray for the hundreds of thousands of survivors still living today. If you know a survivor, or would like to bless the ones here in Arad, send a card of encouragement and tell them what God means to you. It would be such a testimony for the survivors here to see how much the Believers would like to honor them on this special day, their day of recognition.

So what has been happening in Arad...

1. The ultra-orthodox are continuing their intimidation tactics. Shouting in someone's face, walking in big 'mother-may-I' steps measuring off in front of the Believer's houses (don't know why – yet), carrying picket signs, stopping cars to tell people we are "stealing Jewish souls," and continuing to harass everyone at the chess club. Two rallies of about 50 men have been held outside the house of one of the Believers. Several weeks ago the Datim discovered a number of us were meeting each week for prayer at a Believer's home. Even though entrance to the apartment building is locked, they got in and went right to her door, screaming and shouting at everyone attending and interrupting the prayer meeting. They are relentless, but so is the demonic force that is using them. Please continue to pray for the salvation of these men.

2. Each week a praise and worship service is open to anyone at the home of some multi-musical Believers in Omer, a town about 30 minutes from here. It is a bright spot for us and gives us time to just tell the Lord how much we appreciate Him!

3. The dirt path between the neighborhoods did not look treacherous, but was my undoing. I slipped, falling directly down onto my left foot, folding it in half. (Did you know feet could do that?) I apparently cracked a bone or two and bruised it rather badly. I was off my foot for two weeks, but am back to visiting with a hobble. ☺ There is a praise in this – if I had not fallen the way I did, I would have slid another three feet to a drop-off into a wadi (ravine). Below that edge was a rock-strewn slope ending in sharp rocks. No matter what Satan has in mind, God will protect us.

4. In Arad we have two congregations, one Russian and one Hebrew. Both pastors are looking to expand the opportunities for their congregations to minister within the community. I believe I have just the program! ☺ I will be meeting with them both to see how they can help.

5. Many praises concerning the Holocaust Survivors!

a. A turnaround with two survivors, mother and son. I had visited her before, and she has been ill off and on. Her son, L., is very devoted to her and would not allow me to come see her when she was sick over the past year. Two weeks ago he surprised me by asking me to come visit because she was sick! We went to see her and her son; they began asking questions about Jesus and I prayed for her health.

b. The same man, L., who asked us to visit his mother, accompanied us to visit another survivor. Before we left I offered to pray for her. She hesitated and L. jumped right in. He told her how I had prayed in the name of Jesus for his mother, that it works, and she needs to let me pray for her too! How is that for a testimony!

c. A survivor that was refusing me entrance for the past four months, did an about face. We visited with her as she spoke to us for over one hour! The last time I was there she told me she is not allowed to accept anything from the Christians. This time she thanked us, the Christians, for being willing to do such nice things for the survivors and tell others about the Holocaust.

d. One year ago I went to see a survivor who was very depressed, would not look at us and only shrugged her shoulders when spoken to. Our visit this week – she greeted us with a big smile and began talking to us – for over 30 minutes. She joked and laughed with us and then invited me to her birthday party. This is a huge honor as birthdays are highly important to the Russian people. When we left her apartment as I closed the door, I saw her grin. A true miracle. ☺

e. There is real excitement among the survivors, welcoming us into their homes and pouring their hearts out. They are anxious to hear of being adopted and love receiving gifts, cards and letters. Truly, the prayers of the Saints are opening each door and each heart.

f. In the past weeks I have met ten more survivors added to my list, hearing stories more heart-rending than anything I have heard before. One of the survivors I saw cries constantly, in pain – both physical and emotional. My heart hurts for the devastation in their lives. I want to make a difference but need your help.

I Need Help

When I write my newsletter I very much enjoy telling you of what is happening with this ministry. One of the items I rarely address is the

support end of this ministry. I am of the belief that God will provide what we need if we have faith. I have that faith. I am always encouraged to see those who are supporting me, and the ministry to the Holocaust Survivors.

I also believe we have an obligation to let others know what our needs are. I can tell you for certain that Satan has been robbing and destroying in various areas, including finances, trying to discourage us. But it is not going to work! This is a good thing because it lets me know I am on the right track! ☺

It also creates the opportunity for you to help me with a special need – that of a return flight ticket. It will cost me about \$1200 for a round-trip ticket, which I must have to return and continue this work. When it is broken down into increments of \$10 to \$20 donations over the next two months, it is attainable.

Would you be willing to give to this special need? I know the Lord rewards those who invest in His people. Your help will make sure this ministry becomes solid and strong. This Kindness and Visitation ministry is at a vulnerable point and I need to return as quickly as I can.

A Change in Support Address

Circumstances have created the need to ask for all donations to now be sent to the **MHCF** address below. Cindy Dillingham, my ministry coordinator, is a hard worker and I would be totally lost without her wisdom and tireless efforts. We have decided to separate the various duties as this ministry is rapidly growing. In keeping with that decision, please send all support, gifts and Holocaust Survivor monies to the MHCF address below. Thank you!

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The other day I was speaking to my mission coordinator, Cindy. She was telling me about something God had given her, a profound word-picture. She told me to imagine a magnifying glass as it is held in the sun. “If you hold it steady, a ray of sunlight shining through it focused on one spot will eventually make that area burst into flame. It can take a long time, but if you are persistent, fire will be your result.” I am sure you all picked up on the word “focused.”

That is what we need to be doing with our lives; focusing our efforts in the direction the Lord has planned. But it wasn't that part of the message that really drew me, but what she said after. “The funny thing about using a magnifying glass like that is, if you move the focus to another point, you have to start all over again.” Wow! If we start doing something the Lord called us to and get discouraged, looking or walking away, when we come back to it we have to start all over again!

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...”
(Hebrews 12:2) What better place to put our focus than on Jesus! He knows the plan for our life- what we are to do, where we are to go – so doesn't it make sense to watch closely the One who can answer all our questions? Taking our eyes off Jesus just means we have to start that particular lesson, or work, all over again. Taking our focus off the

