

The Jerusalem Road  
June 1, 2004  
Part 1

The woman sitting across from me is eighty-three years old. Her housedress is faded, once a bright flowered print. Next to one of the buttons can be seen a hole which has been rudely patched with white thread, worn slippers on her feet and an uneven haircut speak of a very frugal life. Clutching a cloth handkerchief, rough hands full of untold labor shake while folded in her lap. We sit on her bed, which doubles as her couch, in her one room efficiency. Speaking quietly in Russian, she tells of being in the concentration camp with her mother and sisters. Her voice breaks and she starts to cry. My translator has been silent, listening to the words as they poured out. When her voice fades, he begins to explain. She has told of being in the camp and there is no food. She is only six years old. Her mother has somehow slipped out of the camp to find something to feed her children. All day she prays for her mother to come back safely. Under cover of darkness, her mother returns with a bit to eat, once again entering the camp to care for her children. That selfless act eventually led to her mother's death. This woman states she has never forgotten how God spared her mother that night, answering her prayer, and thanks God for His goodness. Eventually her entire family succumbed to the horrors of their imprisonment, all except her. Now she is alone here in Israel; alone in the world. .

Repeatedly I hear similar stories as I visit with the Holocaust survivors:

A young girl of 10 sleeping each night under the snow in the forest & working by day;

A child who lay for days under a dying mother who shielded her daughter when they, and others, were lined up and shot in the Ghetto;

A man released after four years in a concentration camp only to be arrested by Stalin for being a Zionist. He enters the mines and stays there for six years, able to leave only because of the death of Stalin;

Or the woman, holding her children in her arms, who stood in freezing water all night waiting to be shot because the soldiers ran out of bullets and sent for more. I am appalled by this last story as she has told of her feet being frozen ankle-deep in the ice, holding her baby the entire night. Her young son survived by sitting on a dead man to stay out of the snow. She and her children were the only ones released of the 2,000 Jews shot and killed in that act of genocide.

Entire blocks of people tell of terrifying lives they have overcome. Many have survived, saved by miraculous events. As they tell of the war, the events are stark and clear, every detail burned into their memories, undimmed by age. They are living each day among those of us who complain the boss doesn't like us, or the church service was changed or we didn't get the gift we wanted. Our 'problems' are nothing compared to what the Holocaust survivors endured... and remember.

Several times a week I have been visiting these phenomenal people, bringing food packages of barley, oatmeal, canned fish, rice and a chocolate bar. The Russian men and women are so grateful; I have been squeezed, hugged, kissed, my face pinched and kisses thrown to me. All the while I hear repeatedly, "Spasiba!" meaning 'thank you.' I think it is not so much the food, as they are thankful for someone taking time to visit. Asking if I can return, the gesture is a hand on their heart, a smile and the word "Please!"

God has been good in providing two more translators. One is a woman who rides the bus one hour each way to come help once a week. Another is a teenager willing to give some of her time out of a busy schedule. My regular translator is a Russian man who accepted Y'shua a few years ago. He has an obvious love for God and these sweet people, and a strong desire to tell them of

Christ, exhibiting great compassion. My ultimate goal is to pair each one of the Holocaust survivors with a believer here in Arad, for each one to be 'adopted.' In this manner each person will receive personal care, love and a real sense of family.

The living conditions of over half the people are less than adequate. A number of them live in small apartments several floors up, with no elevators. One woman, 104 years old and bedridden, lives with her daughter and son-in-law, in their 70's – on the 7th floor. This couple takes complete care of her mother, lifting, bathing and feeding. This building has an elevator, but it, and the stairwell lights, is a separate electric bill - too much for these poor people to pay. So, everyone climbs the stairs, in the dark, 16 flights. They say they rarely go anywhere and I am not surprised. We are now investigating what assistance is available for them through the social system.

I would appreciate your prayers as I visit with these wonderful people. I believe the miracles that saved their lives were not by chance. I hope to give them an opportunity to find Y'shua within their own Jewish faith. Many of them are in very ill health with an average age of 76 years old. I need your prayers as I reach out to them.

I believe the Lord provides for our needs when we are within His will. I also know He uses people to accomplish His goals. I would ask you to pray and see if the Lord would have you be a part of this ministry. My main goal is to bless the Holocaust survivors with improved lifestyles and encourage anyone else the Lord puts in my path. God has been gracious to provide a few volunteers interested in this same project with a willingness to help. Now I am in need of people who desire to help me give to the widows and fatherless. Scripture tells us to care for them. These sweet souls are elderly and nearing the end of their lives, but they have been orphans for decades, their parents killed, losing their childhood - just for being one of God's Chosen People.

Thank you for allowing me to share my heart. I pray my words will speak to yours.

A servant of Christ – Sue Heagy

The Jerusalem Road  
June 4, 2004  
Part 2

Shalom! I have so much to tell you!

Here is an update for the month of May ...

- Almost daily the orthodox were picketing the widow's house, with unexpected results. The neighbors took up her cause and began refuting the attacks. When the Datim show up, the neighbors surround them. These people defending this widow are unbelievers! As Moses told the Israelites, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still" (Ex 14:14)
- On market day it is the women and children of the Datim that are sent to demonstrate, standing in the hot sun. It upsets us that the children are used. We offer water, but are refused. Many insults are cast our way. (Matt.5:11&12) Just today I was photographing the women outside for identification (per instructions of police and our lawyer) and was physically attacked. I retreated into the club – but only temporarily. Returning with my Bible, I read and prayed a blessing over them. (Rom 12:14)
- One day four Datim (one very BIG guy from out of town!) showed up and threatened to muscle their way into the club. God is good – they backed down as we stood our ground. They continue to attempt to get into the club and take books and Bibles. At Passover the rabbi burned the ones they earlier grabbed from our tables.
- Several nights a week about 15 of the Datim showed up at our house, making noise, screaming insults, spitting. Our neighbors finally tired of it and called the police.
- Just this last week a new development - Yad L'Achim placed Eddie's picture on their web site, marking him as a target. Keep in mind the head rabbi of Arad has publicly called for the blood of the believers in our town. They have also put out an internet call to all their members worldwide to come to Arad and begin posing as believers. Their game plan now is to go undercover to find, harass and target the believers. This method has been used by Yad L'Achim all over the world to destroy congregations, families and believers. In the past Lura has had to deal with this same group and same tactics in the USA. Please pray for discernment concerning our safety and wisdom.
- The vandalism at the chess club continues in the form of stones thrown and metal rods shoved, through the back door – glass and metal. A few days ago graffiti was scrawled on our back wall, the restaurant next door and the public cement benches nearby. Praise God, it brought the police and the media! With pictures and an excellent article, the reporter gave a sympathetic view of how the Datim are harassing the Christians who are only helping the community! Last night they pasted their anti-missionary fliers on our front windows. All the vandalism takes place at night. "Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." (Matt. 3:19)
- One of the believers here has filed a lawsuit. He has turned a video in to the police of the Datim going to his neighbors and telling lies about him. They were quite willing to be taped and are heard falsely accusing this believer as a practicing Nazi, that his family killed the Jews in the Holocaust and to beware of him. (Psalm 5:9) Even the newspaper reporter here has filed a suit against them for attacking and cursing him.
- Good things happening as a result of the persecution!
  1. One Russian chess player is a photographer for Channel 10 and did an interview asking many questions about the Christian faith. All the chess players sent a signed petition of their support to the Knesset.
  2. Two of the city councilmen of Arad have pledged their support and help.

3. The chess master here is also the director for the Holocaust Survivor association. He stands with us and is appealing through the political system on our behalf.
4. Questions are now flying daily as the chess players want to know more about Y'shua. Before the persecution there was no interest from them concerning our faith. Now even the shopkeepers in the area are curious! We thank God for putting His name out front and glorifying Himself. What we endure is small compared with the privilege of testifying of Y'shua.
5. Boldness is entering the believers with some of them coming to the club, introducing themselves and offering spiritual support. We also are discovering more boldness and strength within ourselves, knowing it comes from the Lord.

On a different note, we were invited to join the Black Hebrews in a celebration at their community in Dimona. We have been learning more about this group in the past weeks as contact with them has increased. One of their leaders has made friends with Eddie and has offered his support in the form of a physical presence at the chess club. Since he is just as tall as Eddie, his being there does help with protection. Chess is the other drawing card with him and others in his group. There are approximately 5000 Black Hebrews (self-named) living here in Israel. They claim to be the real Jews (not those in Israel) and that all the people mentioned in the Bible were actually black. We already know of the Ethiopian Jews here, but they are not related. The Black Hebrews have built a closed community with schools, shops, their own ruling class and laws. They state that Jesus was the Messiah for his generation only, not for all time. Ben Ami, their leader from Chicago, was here in Israel for their celebration. Posters were displayed with pictures of Ben Ami and the statements "Ben Ami, the Lamb of God; Our Lord and Savior; The Messiah." It certainly brought to mind Matt 24:23 &24, warning of false prophets who will claim to be the Christ, and not to believe them. Many are deceived and few will find the Way. We have supplied their community with hundreds of Bibles for their schools and pray their people will find the Truth as they read. Wouldn't it be wonderful if revival began in their community?! It can happen, with you helping to pray it through.

As I am writing this newsletter I can hear the sound of gunfire and explosions. It is 10 o'clock in the evening and a firefight has broken out in Hebron, about 20 miles away. It is a mostly Palestinian town with a small cadre of ultra-orthodox Jews in the center. Unfortunately, soldiers often lose their lives in these conflicts. We also constantly read of Jews who are picked off during the day by snipers along the roads in that area. Last month it was a young couple as well as a mother with two small children, the latter killed at close range. The fighting between Jews and Palestinians is over land and the right to exist. The fighting between Jews and Jews here in Arad is over Y'shua.

On a personal note, after much prayer, I feel the Lord is calling me to stay in Israel for an extended period of time. This will involve applying for citizenship, attending Ulpan (Hebrew lessons), taking driving lessons (in Hebrew – oh, joy!) and taking care of some things back in the USA. Besides selling my car and other items, I also need to make other arrangements for my continued financial support. Selling my possessions will allow me to clear most of my financial obligations, but my monthly support for living expenses needs to be put in place.

To provide enough for basics here in Israel, I would need approximately \$1000 a month. That means for each person giving \$18/month, I would only need 56 people in my support group. ☺ (grin) It would be 'first come, first serve.' ☺ Of course, if someone wants to do above the \$18/month, I would need fewer people on my team. Naturally, this is not an exclusive club, so anyone is welcome to join. ☺ (grin) In fact, in Hebrew circles '18' means "life." Their fundraising is done in increments of '18.'

I am currently arranging for a Missions covering with the Messianic Hebrew Christian Fellowship Corporation. By being under a mission board all donations will be tax deductible. Gifts of support can still be sent to Cindy Dillingham or MHCF at the addresses below. You can also help continue this ministry with a credit card through Pay Pal at my new website: [www.angelfire.com/journal2/holyland/index.html](http://www.angelfire.com/journal2/holyland/index.html) . Please visit my web page to learn a little more about me, the latest on what is happening here and see pictures of some places I have seen in Israel.

Before I end this newsletter, I want to tell you of my visit to David Wadi. This is where David was hiding while being pursued by King Saul. In this area is the cave where David cut a piece out of King Saul's skirt. I went hiking and climbing with friends up to the waterfall in this wadi. The scenery was spectacular with a narrow white waterfall dropping hundreds of feet into a small secluded pool, surrounded by ferns and brilliant green vegetation growing out of the huge rocks. Far down below was the Dead Sea, brilliant blue and green with white salt sparkling in the sun along the shore. High on the cliffs above us were the Ibex mountain goats, surefooted on a seemingly impossible rock face. I was in awe of the beauty I saw, but my companions were terribly disappointed. They had not visited this place for years and remembered when the waterfall was large with a deep pool for swimming at the base. They were sad to see how it changed over the years. We were all in one place, experiencing two different emotions.

Life is like that for a lot of people. We all have our own lives filled with ups and downs, joys and sorrows. But there is One God who is always the same. Even if different areas of our lives change, sometimes bringing disappointments and sadness, we can always return to that safe haven, Jesus Christ. He never lets us down, continues to refresh us with the Living Water and gives us a haven of rest.

My friends shared their special place with me. Won't you help me share Jesus Christ with others and let them also find rest and peace within the shadow of the Almighty God?

Resting in His peace, speaking with His boldness – A servant of Christ - Sue Heagy

Send all donations to:

Cindy Dillingham c/o Sue Heagy, P.O. Box 65228, San Antonio, TX 78265

or

MHCF, Inc., 2792 N. Cherry Lane, Ronks, PA 17572 (**Mark donation for Susan Heagy**)