

The Jerusalem Road
July 1, 2004

The making of a missionary; ever wonder how people get into that vocation? You hear someone say in a whisper “He’s a *missionary!*” almost like it is an elite corps. “Those are the people who go out to tell people about God - right out loud! Can you imagine? Not only that, but many of them are willing to live in places without a Wal Mart! Talk about sacrifice!”

Really, though, why and how do ordinary people become missionaries? I want to tell you about a man named Sasha. He lived in St. Petersburg, Russia, worked as a taxi driver, making aliyah to Israel 14 years ago.. His life used to be filled with alcohol and drugs, living without any future. Then the Lord pulled him out of that life and put him on a new road leading to Y’shua.

Sasha found a thirst for God, began searching and studying the scriptures, finding he could not keep this Good News to himself. Sasha is my main translator when visiting the Holocaust survivors. Giving of the little free time he has, I have seen an uncommon compassion in Sasha as he ministers to each one, praying with them. He has an inner drive to make sure each one knows how much God loves them.

God has called Sasha to go full-time in ministry for Him. There is a new excitement in his voice, a strong desire to answer this call. This man has faith like I have never seen before. He is a missionary. So, when did this transformation begin? I believe it was before he was born. God says in Psalm 139:15 & 16 that our days were ordained before we were formed. Please pray for Sasha - he has a Holy Spirit intensity to reach his fellow Russian immigrants for Y’shua.

As for things happening closer to home...

“Hey, someone stole our trash again!” It was a few days before trash pick-up and our large trash can was empty. Apparently someone is checking for personal information in our garbage. We are careful not to put any paper in the trash that contains addresses, personal information or anything that could be used in any way. Now we make sure rooting through our garbage is unfruitful – except maybe for the pits and peels. ☺

The Datim are back to picketing on a fairly regular basis at our private homes and the chess club; the night raids are now rare. There has been an increase in Yad L’Achim presence in the town (garbage patrol?) ☺ and the Datim are becoming bolder.

One of the Traditional rabbis stopped me when I was walking to a friend’s house. He recognized me and asked if I knew what was going on at the chess club. I said, “Yes, they play chess.” He said he wanted me to tell him what was really going on, indicating chess was a front. I replied, “The Russians needed a chess club, Eddie and Lura provided a chess club and they come there to play chess.” He informed me as an American I was innocent and too naïve to understand it was actually a huge missionary operation out to steal souls! He even said he doesn’t care if anyone plays chess, but the operation needs to be shut down as it forces people to believe in Jesus. The last I knew it was impossible to force people to believe anything! That’s a heart choice, not to be forced on anyone. God gave each person free will to choose eternal life with Jesus or suffer death because of sin. This particular rabbi was polite, but totally convinced we are out to “steal souls.” It would be so simple if they were willing to talk with us and live together in the land in harmony.

Let’s go back to what started this whole religious war here in Arad...

1. Approximately four years ago a fourteen-year old Jewish girl attended a Messianic congregation with her parent’s consent. Shortly thereafter she accepted the Lord. She wanted to be baptized immediately but was not old enough. Recently reaching eighteen, she was baptized, entering the Army right after. Her parents knew about her faith and

- accepted it. She shared her testimony with a Yeshiva student who, in turn, told the rabbis here in Arad. Soon after an announcement was made by the Datim that Christians in Arad are stealing children's souls and the ultra-orthodox began picketing believers here.
2. For years a number of the believers have been persecuted either in other towns or here in Arad. They have endured cursing, slander, being threatened personally (by name), their lives and their families' lives threatened; cars were damaged, one burned; a man forced from his job; women and children stoned and spit on by a mob; picketing outside their homes, taking pictures of their children and interference with their business. A Bedouin family (former Muslims) became believers and their tires have been slashed three times since. Yad L'Achim set up a web site displaying pictures of believers here, identifying them as targets. Thank God, recently that web site was pulled offline. A congregation in Tiberias was burned out and two women in Jerusalem, here to study, were assaulted and their apartment destroyed while the police stood by. No charges filed in any instance.
 3. Two years ago Lura and Eddie's van and car were vandalized with spray paint and the tires were slashed. They saw the man doing it, his face clear in the light, and tracked him to his home. He returned another day, left a signed note threatening their lives and threatened them a third time in person. Even though caught in the act, the police refused to charge him. He was Dati. Last month enamel paint was thrown all over their van.
 4. Five months ago the chess club opened. Prior to this there was no place provided for the Russian players in Arad, despite repeated requests by the players. Other cities in Israel have provided clubs for their residents and formal teams have been formed for competition. Eddie, being a chess enthusiast, wanted to open a free club for them in Arad. Lura and Eddie made it happen. The idea was also to provide a multi-purpose building for the believers in the area to use. Christian books were placed on shelves inside for anyone who was interested. This last item was done at the suggestion of the mayor. To avoid books being given out personally he told Lura to get a shop and put any Christian books inside. He also informed her that if the Datim chose to beat her up for her beliefs he would not send any police to protect her. The chess/book shop has been repeatedly vandalized, an escalating cost in time and money for repairs.
 5. Both Rabbi Lipsker (ultra-orthodox) and Mayor Moti Brill have publicly announced they want all Christians and Messianic Jews forced from Arad. While at a public rally, Rabbi Lipsker also called for the blood of Christians here in Arad. Yad L'Achim was asked to help in this effort, resulting in pictures of believers on their web site designated as targets.
 6. Disagreements have formed between the ultra-orthodox and the conservative rabbis, the latter believing in freedom of religion in Israel. There is now division between them, and it is over the right of people to worship Y'shua. All other religions are tolerated. The believers here have done nothing to deserve this persecution, except to believe in Jesus Christ, not even retaliating in any way. A line is being drawn in the sand.
 7. The latest tactic is a call to all Datim, to move here to Arad, and make this a Haradim community. This is being organized by the mayor, the one who is supposed to be representing all peoples in his town. Obviously anyone is free to move where they so choose, but the purpose of this call is not for the community's good. Let me explain:

The Datim believe they are the new priesthood for Israel. They do not believe in the State of Israel as it exists, but do claim they are the only ones preserving the country. The Datim do not recognize the Israeli government as being legal and have their own rules. The Haredim (ultra-orthodox) receive monetary compensation from the government for studying and praying, receiving this money as the priesthood of Levi was supported by the Israelis in Bible days. Any Jewish man, whose mother's lineage is proven, can join this sect, and study Torah and Talmud as a vocation. The question the government is now asking: "With the rising numbers, when the Datim reaches 40% on the government payroll, without them paying taxes, serving in the military, working or supporting the State of Israel, where will the government get the money?" If these men are truly the priesthood for Israel, how is it their prayers and behavior are based on the Rabbinical commentary and not the Holy Scriptures? They have appointed themselves as the ultimate decision-makers in all affairs of every person. I was informed by several of the Datim

that anyone can make a heart decision concerning God, except the Jewish people. Jews have no rights in that area and they must follow what the Datim tell them. When asked concerning the Jews who live here and already believe in Y'shua, they tell me those Jews are no longer Jews and need to leave Israel, along with every Christian living here, citizens or not. They contend the only people that should be in Israel are the ultra-orthodox. Is this not the same method of purging used in WWII? But this time it is against their own people. These men need our prayers! The secular population here in Israel is rejecting their own religious roots, based on the Haredim, expressing their distaste for this particular sect who tries to force their own people into a mold, an attempt to clone themselves.

How can this be? Do we all realize the importance of praying for these men and their families? A priesthood for Israel needs to follow their own Torah, following God's laws, not their own. How sad that these groups have no idea of the Truth, even though they read from their Torah each day! The Answer is right in their hands! **Their leaders, as told to me personally by one of their rabbis, teach that the Rabbinical law (man's opinions/commentaries on the Torah) supercedes anything written in the Holy Scriptures!** So blind and so lost! We must pray for them. These men could be such a powerful witness for the Lord.

As for my visits with the Holocaust people... it is so hard some days and so joyful on others. One woman we re-visited last week was so ecstatic to see us. I was the first one to the door and on seeing me she screamed "Susannah!" I got hugged, kissed and hugged again! After welcoming us, she went and changed into a bright pink dress and sat down to entertain us. And entertain she did! She used to be a professional singer and gave us a beautiful repertoire of Yiddish and Jewish songs! What a voice! The last time we saw her she was in much pain and could barely walk or breathe from the effort. We prayed for her healing and had not seen her in four weeks. Now she was happy, walking, singing, a bright smile on her face - God is so good!

Of course, not all our visits are so joyful. We visit with many who are sad and lonely, in much pain physically as well as emotionally. We had a bittersweet time with the couple taking care of her mother who is 104 yrs old. She was awake, sitting up and spoke a blessing over us as we visited! Her eyes did not reflect her age as they sparkled and shined. Before leaving we prayed for her, and what an incredible experience! We were aware she is not able to understand enough for an explanation of salvation and I have been asking God to speak to her in the expanse of her own soul. When we prayed for her this time, she immediately looked above her, lifted her hands like she was touching something there, and began to smile and laugh. She just kept saying in Russian, "Beautiful! Beautiful!" When the prayer was over she smiled broadly and thanked us profusely. I do not know what she saw, but I personally believe she was visited by God's angels. We spent more time with them, speaking to the daughter and her husband. It has been such a difficult time for them, physically, being the sole caregivers for this sweet centenarian. They are in their seventies, tired, and in spite of having some help, can no longer do this at their age. They are very sad, but are arranging for a nursing home. Discovering their need for some assistance with the process, we are arranging the travel needed to visit the doctor for her medical exam.

Please keep these special people in your prayers. They need love, they need compassion - they need the Lord!

As some of you know I am returning to the States on July 16th. My tentative itinerary is:

- Central Pennsylvania – July 16 to July 30
- San Antonio, Texas – July 31 to August 18
- Tallahassee, Florida – August 19 to August 27
- Pennsylvania – August 28 to September 5
- Return to Israel – September 6

If anyone would like to have me speak at their church, congregation or a group of believers to tell of the persecution here in Arad, how to pray for the Datim and tell of the Holocaust survivors ministry, just email me at sueheagy2004@hotmail.com We are in the process of accepting speaking engagements and some are already scheduled.

I would appreciate prayer concerning this trip. Please pray for His provision, for my discernment of His messages and for strength to complete this ambitious travel tour. I am so very much looking forward to seeing each of you again as well as putting faces to new email friends!

I would like to end with a humorous story about a neighbor. Lura and Eddie's house is located in a neighborhood with a brick walkway between their house and another. People use this particular route to walk their dogs. A few weeks ago Lura taped up a printed open letter to everyone called "What if..." It is in Hebrew and asks people how they would feel if all the things the Datim are doing to believers were done to them. The Datim ripped the first one off the fence, so Lura replaced it. It began disappearing every day and we assumed the Datim were continuing to take it. Yesterday I was in the living room and heard it being ripped from the fence. I went out in time to see a neighbor walking her dog and holding the paper in her hand. She shook the paper in the air. She said (in English!), "These rabbis keep taping something to your fence! I can't read it but they have no right to do that! They come here and picket every week and they need to stop. Every time I see they have put up another sign against you, I rip it down. It is not right!" I did not have the heart to tell her otherwise. We are just so pleased to have our neighbors standing with us and we thank God. I guess the sign has achieved its purpose. ☺

A few weeks ago someone sent me a Word from the Lord. In it he said "He will never withhold any good thing from you, because you haven't withheld even your life..." Such a promise from our Lord! It is so simple, but we all miss it most of the time. "...because you haven't withheld even your life..." In Psalm 91:1 it says "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." Verse 9, "If you make the Most High your dwelling... no harm will come to you..." In verse 14 the Lord says, "Because he loves me, I will rescue him;" It is our decision! We must take action. We need to *dwell* in the Lord, to *love* Him, and He will marshal everything He has around us! His angels will guard and minister to us! Don't stand out in the pounding rain – take shelter under the wings of the Lord. Let Him be your shield and salvation. He is waiting... reach out to Him. Salvation is a gift and He wants to give it to you. You, too, can have peace in the midst of any storm.

Dwelling in His sheltering wings – Susan Heagy

Please visit my web page at www.angelfire.com/journal2/holyland/index.html to learn about me, the latest on what is happening here and see pictures of some places I have visited in Israel. I am in the process of adding a few new pages with stories of the individual Holocaust survivors.

- **All donations** should now be made out to the **Messianic Hebrew Christian Fellowship, Inc. (MHCF) and designated for "Susan Heagy/Israel"**
They can be sent to: MHCF, Inc, 2792 N. Cherry Lane, Ronks, PA 17572 *or*
Cindy Dillingham, P.O. Box 65228, San Antonio, TX 78265
- If you would like to make a donation to help the Holocaust survivors, designate it "Holocaust survivors" including any special instructions you may have for its use.
- Donations are tax deductible, receipts available upon request. You can also help continue this ministry with a credit card through Pay Pal on my new website.

