

HOLY LAND MINISTRIES

Spring 2008



Blessing and Shalom to you, dear friends from your brothers and sisters from Holy Land Ministries in Israel! The great season of Lord's spring holy days has begun!

These are the Feasts that the Lord calls in His Word "My Feasts" and it is His command and His Word for Israel to observe His appointed times.

What a joy and blessings to be in His Special Land of Covenant during this time and to witness our Lord faithfulness to His people.

In spite of constant turmoil and testing that Israel is going through at this time in the history, the reality and the sense of God's Sovereign Reign is overwhelming in His Holy Land.

Recently we finished the last Purim Celebration (taken from the Book of Esther), with all its excitement, special festival time and costume dressing for the children; and now the Pesach is already at the door. The people of the Land are going through major preparation times in order to celebrate this awesome Event.

Pesach is a time of celebrating and remembering of the Lord's mighty redemption of His Covenant people, His faithfulness, love and mercy to the children of Israel.

It is proper to go through major "nikajon" (cleansing) in your house and in your soul during the Pesach preparation in Israel. It is also right to sum up all that the Lord has done for us and brought us through during the last year. Remember the Lord has commanded to Israelis to make the month of Nisan (during April) the beginning of the year. Exodus 12:2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you".

There are some updates and results of the passed year that we would like to share with you:

About the same time a year ago, just before the Pesach, we made a long awaited move and changed the location of our shelters from Tel-Aviv to the Negev area.

All our people with their families and children who were living in HLM's shelters in Tel-Aviv and were willing to move to the desert, came with us and moved to the agricultural area of the Northern Negev. It was a difficult but fruitful and an exciting year! "Thus far the Lord has helped us". 1st Samuel 12b!



Regular homeless outreach



Regular meal distribution

Although we have moved, our commitment to the homeless outreach in Tel-Aviv continues. Every Shabbat we bring the food to the homeless and needy people of the area, thus seeking to manifest the practical faithful love of our Blessed Messiah. "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" Matthew 25:40.

The regular spot we use for the soup-kitchen has also become the meeting place for candidates for our community in the Negev. This is where we have met most of our precious

people who are living today in our community in the Negev. Some of these people stay with us as long as they need to in order to put their life in order. We will bless them and help them to move on afterward. Others choose to stay with us for life, raise their children, work and live with us together in the community, waiting for the return of our great King.

This year is the 10th anniversary of our efforts and ministry to the homeless and needy people as we are seeking to help them with their practical needs and to share with them the Good News of our King. It is also very significant for us that this year is a Sabbatical Year in Israel; the year of the Lord's special blessings and an appointed Time in Israel.

First Wedding in our Community

Within the first year of our move to Negev, we celebrated the first wedding in our young community. The Lord has truly blessed us with "...the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride..." Jeremiah 33:11

Avi and Betty were married last October in the presence of many witnesses and signed the Ketubah (Jewish Marital Contract) according to the Law



Avi & Betty under the "Chuppa"

of Israel. Messianic Rabbi Ariel Berkovitch, who had previously taught our people in the shelters when we were in Tel-Aviv, came with his wife and friends to perform this first wedding in our community.



Avi and Betty under the "Chuppa"

Sukkoth

Soon after the first wedding we celebrated our first Sukkoth in the Negev. Adults and children were feasting during all the days of the Feast in a community Sukkah (special cabin), that we built in our garden according to the instructions from the Scriptures.

The Feast of Sukkoth is yet to be fulfilled in the history. This feast is about the perfect dwelling of the Lord and His redeemed people, His abundant blessing and His Eternal Provision for His children.



**Community Sukkah
which also has served as children
play ground during the Sukkoth period**

**Adults and children celebrate
Feast of Sukkoth together in
The Negev**



HLM International Projects

We are tremendously blessed to have the ongoing ministry projects and co-operation with the brothers and sisters in different countries. The Lord God of Israel has brought us together and united us through His Word and His ministry in the name of His precious Messiah.

Ongoing Project with The Brezzano Community

One of these projects is the Christian Rehabilitation Ministry in Italy and Switzerland. We met about 10 years ago in Israel. At that time we at the Holy Land Ministries team had just began our homeless outreach and had been challenged and overwhelmed with the great need amongst our local needy people. Many of these people have struggled with alcohol and drug abuse, which besides the spiritual needs, required therapy and a lot of practical help. Then the Lord sent us these wonderful friends. They agreed to receive our people from Israel for rehabilitation and training. Their support has literally has saved many lives in Israel. This ministry in Italy is directed by our dear Christian sister and friend Maria Meier. For many years Maria has dedicated her life to the most desperate and rejected people, many of them are Israelis. The ministry team which she has raised over many years is helping us in Israel today by receiving and ministering to our people. It takes a lot of time, patience, love, sacrifice and commitment to show the needy and suffering people the way of God in this world and to help them to grow into the people He meant them to be, trained and prepared for His service.

It warms our hearts to see some of our formely "hopeless" people become strong and reliable servants of the living God, who are ready to receive and serve others who are just like themselves several years ago.

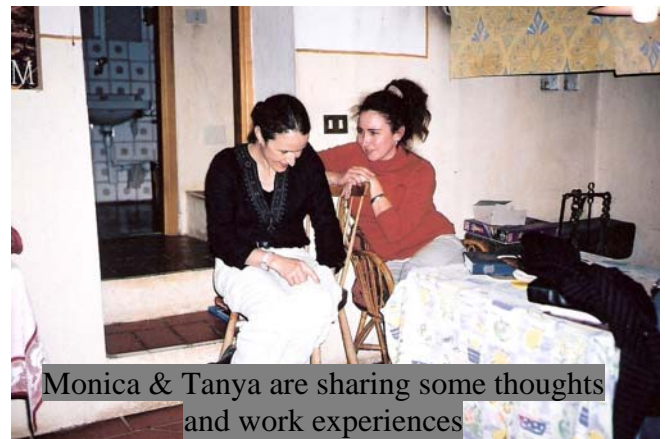
Visit to Italy

Last fall Tanya Topiliere, HLM director, visited our friends "Comunita Brezzano" in Toscana, Italy under leadership of Maria Meier. It was a wonderful time of sharing the previous experiences of the past and discussing some essential strategies for the future.

The community rehab is located at the top of the beautiful mountain in Toscana, which in itself is a great inspiration for any artist. The daily routine and activities in the centre are planned in a way that teaches people to learn God's structure, order, discipline and wisdom, as well as His provision and care of every area of life. Men learn to develop strength, reliability and patience which make them a blessing in every community where the Lord places them.

Monica (left in the picture) is one of our dear old friends of the ministry. She is serving as a Christian therapist in the community and rehabs of Italy and Switzerland.

Boris, Sasha and Sergei were rescued by our friends in Brezzano Community, Italy. Boris was received there in 1999, Sasha in 2004 and Sergei in 2007.



Monica & Tanya are sharing some thoughts and work experiences



Boris, Sasha, Sergei and Tanya at "Kabalat Shabbat" in the Community Centre in Italy

In the last few years Boris took up the position of the community leader which became a tremendous help for Maria, Ministry Director. Our prayers for all our dear friends in Italy are that the Lord will continue to bless them with strength, vision and wisdom as He has done until this day.

Co-operation with The Christian friends in Japan

We are also very grateful for our working relationship with Christian Zionists from Japan. Some years ago the Lord brought our way a Pastor Akira and his team who are with "Japan Israel Mission". For the last 9 years they have been supporting the work of Holy Land Ministries with their faithful prayers and finances. Last fall, during the Sukkoth period, Pastor Akira and Pastor Hamano visited our community in the Negev and various greenhouses in the area where some of our people are learning to develop agricultural skills.



In the near future we plan to build our own greenhouse which will allow us to sustain our community financially and provide work for many people. This summer Pastor Akira will be seeking to raise financial support in Japan towards establishing an agricultural project for our community. Previously we have visited many agricultural projects in our area so that our Japanese friends would have a clear vision about the specifics of this task. One of the easiest and most rewarding products to grow in the greenhouses is pepper and that is why we are thinking of starting our first agricultural project by growing them.



Praise the Lord for all these wonderful connections and visions that He gives us to share with our brothers and sisters outside of Israel!

Dear friends,

We are so blessed and grateful for all your prayers, support and care. We wouldn't be

able to continue this work without your faithful partnership.

May the Lord God of Israel strengthen you and bless you abundantly in the name of His Precious Messiah.

Blessings and Shalom,

Your brothers and sisters in "Holy Land Ministries" team, Israel

Mail in Israel:
Jaffa Court 4-102, Jerusalem Ave. 15,
Tel-Avi /Jaffa 68111, Israel

Mail in USA:
P.O.Box 1913, MD 21158, USA
Email: holyland29@bezeqint.net
Alternative email: hlmnegevproject@yahoo.com

Telephone: +972 8 6754044

Notice ministry earth line is changed; as we moved the main HLM office towards the rest of our facilities in the Negev

Fax: +972 3 5188419

Mobile: +972 544405547

Website: www.holylandministry.org