

Road to Zion Newsletter

JULY 2006

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR G-D

As we returned from our seventh work/study trip to Israel we reflected on what G-d is doing through Road to Zion and the generous people who volunteer to go and work in homes of hurting people. We are continually amazed and humbled by the faithfulness of G-d.



This trip, we arrived, after flight delays, late Monday evening, May 28th. We quickly ate dinner at 9:00 pm, unpacked and fell into bed hoping to recover from jet lag and feel refreshed for our first work project early the next morning. There is always a bit of nervousness as we arrive at the first home to work. We do not know the people, we have read their story - their tragedy - but we do not know how we will be received - what we will face.

In the first home we visited, the father had been shot and stabbed by terrorist as he sat in his telephone truck waiting for other workers to arrive early one morning one year ago. Not only had he endured months of recuperation, his wife and children had been traumatized by his near death experience.

When we arrived at the apartment the husband had already left for work - doing the same job with the telephone company - always nervous and wary of his surroundings. The wife invited us in and quickly started showing us work that needed to be done. We assigned tasks and began working and worked until afternoon even though everyone was suffering from jetlag.

It is amazing how G-d brings exactly the right people together each time we make the trip to Israel. Not only do we always have people with the right talents for the work to be done, we seem to have people who can connect with the families in some special way. We had three guys working in our group ages 16, 18, 21. They immediately connected with the three teenage boys of the family. One man in our work group had been a fire fighter - exactly the profession one of the boys was interested in pursuing. Our fire fighter, Ernie, shared his experiences with the boy. By the second work day the young people were chatting about computers, college, and goals for their lives. We were thrilled to have young people in our group that were able to talk so

comfortably with these boys on such a personal level. Before the second day was finished they were playing ping-pong together and having a wonderful time.

The second morning we went back to the same family to finish the work in their apartment. As soon as we arrived, the wife took Jean into her bedroom and began bringing out family picture albums telling her intimate details of her life before the attack and how their life had changed on that day. She brought out pictures of her son's Bar Mitzvah. The family had this festive happy celebration just 5 days before the attack. There are no words to describe the feelings we experience as this type of connection happens almost every time we go into a home to work. We are total strangers, from another culture but a bond quickly forms and we are able to share on a deep level.

We finished our second day and as we said our good byes, the wife began to cry as she hugged each of us. She said she was sad that we were going. She had enjoyed having someone to talk to and enjoyed hearing laughter in her home for two days. Her husband arrived from work and found it difficult to express his appreciation for the work we had done. He offered his home to anyone wanting to come back to visit. We felt he truly meant it. Each home we visited had different obstacles, different stories, different hurts but G-d was doing a work in each experience.

When we finished our days of work we headed to the Galilee to have fun and relax. One fantastic experience was having dinner together on the Sea of Galilee as the sun set behind us. It is an unbelievable, quiet, moving experience. It was a time for each of us to reflect on all that had happened during our time in Israel.

The people of Israel stand in a difficult place and face hard times ahead as their government makes decisions on giving up land for peace. Our goal and vision is to stand with the nation of Israel - to show them our love and support as we work in their homes.

Every trip Israelis ask us why we come and work? It is hard for them to understand why we would go to such expense to help people we do not know. No matter how much is accomplished in home repair - it will never touch us like what we see happening in the repair of hope in hearts because someone cared enough to come.

Would you make yourself available to go and be a part of the next work team? Can you financially support volunteers that are ready to go and work? If you would like to be a part of Road to Zion's next trip to Israel in October 2006 or the trip planned for May 2007 please contact us.

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You may have noticed the "o" missing from the name of G-d in this newsletter. To honor His holy name, religious Jewish people refrain from adding the "o" when writing the name of G-d. We have chosen to respect their traditions by doing the same.