

Menorah Ministries

September– October, 2013/ Tishrei-Cheshvan, 5774

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Dateline: New Zealand

Jen was one of our doctoral students at St. Petersburg Seminary and Yeshiva (SPS&Y) several years ago. She also served in the Armed Forces. Not long ago she and her husband moved to New Zealand. An important part of Jen's ministry there now is the leadership of a Messianic synagogue. Just to fill her time, Jen is also overseeing a couple of Messianic congregations 8 hours drive away, as well as one in Melbourne, Australia!

She recently turned her doctoral work with us into a book on the Jewish holidays for Christians (called LIVE YOUR FESTIVE HERITAGE). And now, a number of her congregants want to follow in her footsteps and take courses through SPS&Y.

A footnote: Jen played one of the female dwarves in the new movie THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED ADVENTURE. ☺

Dateline: Latin America

We've known Manuel for many years. Over the past several years, he and his colleagues have developed a Spanish-speaking yeshiva headquartered in Miami. It is the only such institution providing graduate level education for the Spanish-speaking Messianic Jewish world. Manuel asked "to meet for counseling and advice as to how to organize, develop and grow our yeshiva." He drove all the way to Clearwater (5 hours) because he wanted to meet personally to talk about this important endeavor.

The school has been approved by the Florida Department of Education to grant degrees and hopes to have its full curriculum online by the end of the year. They already have three dozen students.

Dateline: Germany

Andreas has taken courses from SPS&Y for several years. This past spring he graduated with his Masters degree in Judaic Studies. He is planning on teaming up with some of our colleagues to establish a Messianic yeshiva in north Germany. In his thank you note he said:

I have really enjoyed studying at the seminary, and in the future I wouldn't mind listening to some other courses I didn't take. They are all valuable. I'm looking forward to working with you in the future.

John met Bettina last year at the Bible and Archaeology conference he spoke at in Stuttgart, Germany. As a result she wrote an article for a German publication based on an interview she did with him there. She wrote us several weeks ago:

Attached you'll find my article (in German) about how to talk to Jews about Jesus, summarizing your book THE OLIVE TREE CONNECTION. We've already gotten several positive responses from our readers.

Dateline: Los Angeles - Mexico

In July John spoke at the annual Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) conference, which this year was in the Los Angeles area. At the conference he also co-taught an 18 hour course that is part of the UMJC program for training rabbis and leaders. The course was on the basics of synagogue worship, and was attended by potential leaders from around the country, in addition to Yisrael, the leader of the Messianic synagogue in Tijuana, Mexico. He was using the Spanish edition of our Messianic prayerbook for the Sabbath in the class. ☺ Yisrael will be translating our Messianic prayerbook for the holidays into Spanish over the next several months.

A number of the students responded:

This was a wonderful course! It was great; I learned a lot that I can use in my congregation.

In the meantime, Patrice was speaking at our Messianic synagogue while John was at the conference. She was also writing short commentaries for the UMJC online readership for a couple of the Torah portions during the last several weeks.

Friends, you have been an important part of this through all these years! Thank you so very much.

Thank you for being part of training leaders who will impact the lives of many others across the country and around the globe. (Remember, most of the Seminary and Yeshiva courses are available as distance courses for those who either want to learn more or who wish to earn a degree.)

Your involvement and investment make a significant impact on many people's lives around the world.

We want to thank you because by partnering with us you help make this ministry possible. Without your faithful financial and prayer support, the events we share with you could not take place.

Most warmly in our Messiah,

John & Patrice