

## NEWSLETTER # 14

### February 5, 1994

Dear Friends,

It is amazing to look back over the last several months and realize the places we have been and the people we have met. Life is certainly not dull when you step out for the Lord and pursue what he has put into your heart.

In October we had the privilege of the care of our grandsons, Isaak and Ian Lawlor, here in Kidd Island Bay, while Brenda and Jack went to the **Amazon River** for an outreach with their church. After their work team of six arrived at Santarem, Brazil, on the Amazon, they loaded a riverboat with supplies and proceeded on a two day trip up the river to the church camp where they were to help in the construction of a dormitory for the church school there. On the third day Jack came down with amoebic dysentery and a very high fever which they tried to control with wet towels on his body while he lay on the concrete slab in front of their bungalow. In the depths of his fever Jack was able to call out to the Lord and was comforted. What Jack was not able to do professionally for himself, the Lord did, the fever broke and Jack was restored. Brenda helped with the construction and she also helped the camp director's wife with cooking and the washing of clothes. Washing the clothes was done in the bay while sitting on a pallet placed in the water, which gave them some respite from the heat and allowed them some quality time together. Lasting friendships were developed with the camp personal and students as they were able to share some of their free times together and Brenda recorded their activities on film. On their return to Coeur d'Alene, they said that their views and opinions of missionary outreaches like this have been changed for the better. Jack is still full time paramedic along with picking up more classes to teach at North Idaho College plus his home computer business and the remodel of the upstairs of the house and riding herd on two rambunctious boys. Brenda is a busy MOM but also finds time for the community orchestra as lead cello, and keeps her hand in advanced EMT while working with the local ambulance service several times a month.

Sophie, Wayne, Cody and Rio are holding down the fort in Havre, Montana. Wayne has finished his first semester in re-training since the industrial accident that crushed his ankle. He has also just had his ankle operated upon to fuse the joint in hopes it will relieve the pain he has been experiencing. Sophie is working full time as respiratory therapist at the Havre General Hospital. They are hoping for a change in direction in the near future with the prospect of buying a small business in the Plains, Montana area which would also make them much closer to Coeur d'Alene.

By the time Brenda and Jack returned from their Amazon trip Georgia and I had already begun packing our gear for the trip to Israel. We had accepted an invitation from the Cronenbergers to stay on their 50' ketch "GOD'S SPEED" which was moored in Joppa Harbor, Israel, just south of Tel Aviv. Part of our baggage was 70# of home school books, miscellaneous boat parts, and a new pair of roller blades for Jamie.

On October 27, at 3:00PM, we flew from Spokane, Washington to Seattle, then to London and on to Tel Aviv, Israel, arriving there at 5:30AM, October 29. The ten hour lay-over in London added considerable time to our trip.

We were blessed on our arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, by being ushered right through the customs area directly to clear into the country. Waiting to greet us, in the public area, where our friends Paul, Jamie and a smiling face we immediately recognized as Glen Haines. What a warm welcome into "The Holy Land" of Israel. We loaded our baggage into the mini-van that Glen had borrowed from the International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem, (ICEJ) where he volunteers and also writes the "**OPERATION TARSHISH**" news letter. We careened through the traffic towards Joppa Port and within the hour we were sipping coffee in the cockpit of "GOD'S SPEED". **SIGH!!** End of a long 28 hour trip. We had a fine time with Paul, Tina, Jamie and Jody Cronenberger and Glen that morning and then Georgia and I began to fade into the cockpit cushions and Glen had to return to the Embassy. Paul and Tina had some errands to run so we proceeded to move into our new quarters in the forepeak cabin which Jodie and Jamie had so graciously vacated for us. Morris, the marina store owner, had said Jodie, Jamie and their friend Ruth who was also staying onboard, could move aboard his 28' sailboat as temporary quarters while we were there. We slept well!! "GOD'S SPEED" was to be home base for our five weeks in Israel. The many stories Paul and Tina had of God's provision, protection and guidance as they sailed "GOD'S SPEED" from Australia through Indonesia, up the Red Sea and on to Israel were amazing and encouraging to hear.

Next morning, Gabriel, Ruth's father, came to take us to Jerusalem. Paul and Tina had some contacts to make there and so we, along with Kerry, Gabriel's friend, hopped in and headed 'up to Jerusalem'. You can imagine all six of us in the little Suzuki 4x4! We arrived in Jerusalem without incident and found a parking spot just outside the Jaffa Gate entrance to the 'Old City'.

While walking through the 'Old City' we visited Christ Church, which, having been built in 1849, is one of the newer buildings in the 'Old City'. While there we met Michael who gave us a tour and also shared his testimony. He had been a promising student studying to become a rabbi in the Jewish faith and while studying the "Torah" he discovered the Messiah that the Jews are **still** longing and waiting for. Everything in the 'Torah' pointed to Jesus as the Messiah! When the rabbis and priests learned of his discovery they tried to dissuade him and said he had a great future as a rabbi if only he would denounce his discovery. Michael could not turn away from his new found Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. The '**veil**' had been removed from his heart!

We moved on to the 'market' which was fascinating and challenging as you wound your way through the crowds of Israelis, Arabs and a mixture of tourists. You feel as though you are in a long winding tunnel as you walk down the narrow streets and look into the various shops along each side. These shops have changed very little in the last couple thousand years with the hawkers shouting to attract you into their den to interest you in their goods. As we moved from the 'Jewish Quarter' into the 'Arab Quarter' there was a distinct difference in cleanliness and a feeling of darkness prevailed. We didn't spend much time in the 'Arab Quarter'.

The Citadel of David was built of massive stone blocks and gave you a feeling of security as you walked the ramparts and looked down on the deep mote which encircled the fortification. It was truly impressive to see the engineering which was necessary to put it all together. The newest parts of the fort were probably built by the Romans when they destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD. You can still see parts of walls which King David built 3000 years ago. Herod also rebuilt the Citadel in Jesus day and you can recognize the stones he quarried by a narrow smooth border around each stone.

Back in Joppa we spent several days prepping and painting the decks on "GOD'S SPEED" since the weather was warm and clear, quite unusual for this time of year. Then Georgia and I made plans to 'go up to Jerusalem' and gave Glen a call at the ICEJ to see if there was a possibility for some housing for the week. He said he would make some arrangements and we should stop in the next day for lunch.

The bus ride to Jerusalem was spectacular from our vantage in the top level of the double decked bus. The busses in Israel are the most modern and the long distance busses have jet airliner type seats and are very comfortable. The bus station in Tel Aviv is the largest and most modern bus terminal in the world. It is six stories high and the freeway runs right into it. Their ability to move masses of people efficiently is amazing. In Matthew 24:20, Jesus is telling his disciples of the end time persecution which is to come upon Israel and He says..."But pray your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath;..." **The busses do not run on the Sabbath!!**

We met Glen at the ICEJ and during lunch we were asked to be interviewed by the ICEJ newsletter staff which we were pleased to do. We were also interviewed by Joan McWhirter, who does "A Word From Jerusalem", a 15 minute tape interview which is sent all over the world to be aired on Christian radio. After all this activity we were ready when Myra and Carlos showed us the way to their apartment which was only five blocks away from the ICEJ and two blocks from the Prime Ministers home. (One evening while heading to the flat (apartment) we walked into the midst of a demonstration in front of the Prime Ministers home and had to jump out of the way as they brought the water cannon and paddy wagons into the area—we didn't wait to see what happened).

While in Jerusalem we also visited with Ramon and Zipporah Bennett whom we had not seen since they had visited us in 1987 onboard "AMERICAN FLYER" in Auckland N.Z. I had just recently finished reading his book "When Day And Night Cease" and found it to be extremely informative and helpful in understanding Israel in these 'end times'. Ramon had just finished his latest book, "Saga" and we were able to get a copy from him.

Once again Glen rounded up a vehicle and with his friend Julia we went touring. Up into the Territories through the 'wilderness' toward Jericho we went. Along the road every so often would be a Bedouin encampment with several Bedouin tents which were about 10' to 12' wide and 50' to 60' long looking like long low sausages following the sloping contours of the ground. The whole area was devoid of any vegetation, very dry and dusty. You wondered how anybody could survive in such conditions. The shepherds with their flocks of goats would be strung out along the hills looking for the stray clump of vegetation in this their very dry pasture.

Up the road a bit further we stopped and hiked up and over the brow of a hill to a vantage point. We looked down into a 500' to 600' deep canyon and there carved into the opposite vertical canyon wall was a most picturesque monastery, a veritable fortress. In the bottom of the canyon was an aqueduct which was running with water. This particular canyon leads from Jericho to Jerusalem and is the one which Jesus used in His travels.

On to Jericho where we didn't stop very long because it is definitely in the Arab Territories and not being with a tour bus group we felt a little vulnerable. While driving through Jericho we looked for Arafat's palace which he was readying for his kingship. (I think he confiscated the property from a rich Arab) We didn't see it.

The Dead Sea was our next stop and it was the lowest I have ever been. 1400 feet below sea level!! The water was so dense with minerals that it felt like oil. The people in the water were bobbing around like corks. There were several people standing up and I thought they were touching bottom since the water was only up to mid chest height but they were actually floating.

About mid-way along the west side of the Dead Sea is Massada. King Herod, being a bit paranoid, built several escape fortresses and Massada was his maximum security fortress palace. A butte or plateau which stands clear of all the other high ground in the area and rises 1200 to 1400 feet above the valley floor was his chosen site. ( This put his fortress slightly above sea level!) The only access to the top was a serpentine path which led to the final stage of ascent which were stairs hewn into the solid rock walls. With fortifications all around the top perimeter it was relatively easy to defend themselves. We took the easy way up. The cablecar, carrying 30 passengers, leaped off the canyon rim opposite Massada on a cable span three-quarters mile long climbing about 900 feet. When the Romans sacked Jerusalem in 70 A.D. a small band of about 1000 Jews fled to Massada and in a surprise attack took it from the Roman guards. The Roman Legion then laid siege against them but were held off for two years. In that time, the Romans built an earth ramp up the western side of the butte using Jewish prisoners as slaves. The night before the Romans were to break through into the fortress all the Jewish defenders committed suicide so they would not have to be brutalized by the Romans. There was one survivor!

Back again in Jerusalem Glen, Georgia and I went to 'Yad Vashem', the Holocaust Museum. It is difficult to find words appropriate to describe the atrocities that were done against the Jewish people to bring about Hitler's "**FINAL SOLUTION**". I chose not to look at all the displays. It is a dreadful thing to realize that our nation turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to their plight. The reason for 'Yad Vashem' isn't to point the finger but rather to warn and implore the nations... **not to ever let it happen again!.....Could it happen again???**

We arrived back in Joppa in the afternoon and there was a south-wester blowing with 12' waves hitting the beaches and ports in Tel Aviv and Joppa. "GOD'S SPEED" was chafing at her mooring lines and spray was flying over the breakwater but Paul had it under control. We spent a rock'n roll night which made us think we were on a passage to some far off island. The following day the weather moderated and the sun was out again.

It was our turn to go to market and cook dinner. Georgia and I rode the bikes one mile up the beach path toward Tel Aviv and then one-half mile inland to the market. Crossing the major streets can be a little hair raising as the Israelis are very aggressive drivers. Market spreads over an area of four to five blocks and is a mass of people scurrying from shop to shop, bumping into one another. A push here, a shove there but never mind. Bread stands, fruit stands, meat markets and vegetable stands, fish stands, turkey stands and chocolate stands. Then there were the many seed & grain stands and of course the pasta stands. There was just about everything you could think of and also a number of things you would **rather not think of**. Canned goods are hard to find since people buy most everything fresh. Eggs, on the other hand, can be like playing chicken roulette. They are sold singly or by the flat of 36 and it is difficult to tell if they are this weeks or last weeks batch until you get them home! Dinner was a success. Georgia had not lost her galley legs! (That is not a derogatory statement...honestly.)

We pitched in with Paul and Kerry and rented a car for a week so we could tour some of the sea ports and the Territories.

Our first objective was Galtronics, Inc. in Tiberias, on the shores of "The Sea Of Galilee". We had seen a prototype of a 'MegaVoice' card while in California and Galtronics is the company developing it. 'MegaVoice' is the size of a credit card and about 1/8 inch thick. It has a speaker, micro-chips, batteries/solar panel and is water and weather proof. A verbal message of up to 30 minutes may be encoded on the micro-chip. The vision Galtronics has for the 'MegaVoice' is to use it to take the Gospel to the remote tribes and people groups.

It has been commonly taught that for the Gospel to reach each language group it will be necessary to translate the Bible into their language, in which Wycliff Bible Translators and others are doing a commendable job. However, once the translation has been printed, it will most likely be necessary to teach the people how to read, which would be another hurdle to face.

The 'MegaVoice' concept is to go to the country and tribe you are targeting and find someone who can translate a gospel message or perhaps the whole Bible onto a digital recorder. The recording would then be sent to Galtronics and be encoded into as many cards as needed and returned to the tribe and they would hear the Gospel of Salvation in their own tongue.

Our visit to Galtronics was very interesting and we did see an advanced 'MegaVoice' card which had a gospel message in English, Mandarin Chinese and Russian all on the same card! They have manufactured 3000 cards so far which are battery powered and will play the message about 1,000 times. They are hoping to develop the solar-powered model soon and the whole project is still in the research & development stages.

As we approached the Sea of Galilee we could see the Golan Heights looming high above the sea. After seeing this high strategic position just seven miles across the Sea of Galilee we could understand why the Israelis, who paid so dearly for that high ground in the Yom Kippur War, do not want to give it away. The whole western side of the Sea of Galilee is well within range of cannon and mortar fire from the 'Heights'.

We had a late lunch by the shores of the 'Sea' and then headed back to Joppa via Nazareth. It was just about dark as we passed through Nazareth and being an Arab city we didn't stop. I believe the only way to see Nazareth would be on a guided bus tour since the city is so built up and very densely populated. It would be impossible to find your way around with all the signs in Arabic.

The next day we went up the coast past Hifa to Akko. This is an ancient and quaint little harbor just outside the walls of a Roman fortification. I'm sure that in the Roman occupation the harbor was much larger but now can hold about 150 boats. There is a small fishing fleet and the remainder are sailboats and pleasure craft. About this time, getting a bit hungry, we were checking out the seaside restaurants and the prices were too high. We decided to look in the Arab market place inside the fort and there we found a falafel stand. They were the best falafels we had eaten in Israel and only 3 shekels, about half the price as the restaurants. The Romans sure knew how to build strong forts. If I didn't know better, I would think they had used a laser beam to lay out the massive stone ramparts and dry moats, they were so accurate and straight. It was very interesting to me to poke around and try to figure out how these things were built.

On our way back to Joppa we stopped at Caesarea. On the edge of the sea a rather impressive Roman theater has been restored and they have plays and presentations regularly. Near by, excavation and

restoration is underway on a fortress. Caesarea was the Roman capitol during their occupation of Israel in Jesus day. It was also the sea port city in which the Apostle Paul was imprisoned and in which he “appealed to Caesar” so that he would not be turned over to the Orthodox Jews who wanted to murder him for preaching the Gospel. The Roman seaport here was probably the largest and most developed at that time. Now there aren’t any visible remains of a seaport.

Several days later we headed back toward the Sea of Galilee and up over the Golan Heights. My, what a torturously steep and winding road we had to negotiate to get to the top, but once there it was smooth going. The Golan Heights is a fertile plain, now that the Israelis have brought irrigation there. As long as the Arabs had control it was a waste land. Since the Yom Kippur War the plain has sprouted and Israeli communities have been established. We drove through a new housing project, on the brow of the ‘Heights’, that hadn’t been occupied yet. We also stopped at a ‘moshiev’ which is similar to a ‘kibbutz’ except that they do business in manufacturing as well as farming. Family life is encouraged here with individual housing. ‘Kibbutzim’, on the other hand, is typically farming oriented, communal in nature and the children are under the care of the commune and not the parents.

From there we dropped down from the ‘Heights’ to Ein Gev located on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. This was Jody’s and my opportunity to take a swim in the ‘Sea’. While Paul, Tina and Georgia looked on, we dove in and the water was excellent. We had a nice picnic on the edge of the lake and then it was time to head back to Joppa. On our way back, Tina suggested we drive up Mt. Tabor to catch the sunset and we almost made it to the top before the sun disappeared from view. It was a good idea though.

On the Sabbath (Saturday) we drove to Mount Carmel, near Haifa, to fellowship with a Messianic congregation at Stella Carmel Church. The time was sweet and the Jewish songs of praise and worship were exciting and powerful. The church is built on the site where the prophet Elijah had the confrontation with King Ahab and his 450 prophets of Baal. Elijah’s sacrifice was accepted by God and then Elijah killed all of Ahab’s false prophets with a sword.

One morning during our prayer time we prayed “Lord, we need to wash our clothes, can you help us? Later in the morning we went on deck and found Paul visiting with a Jewish man who is an evangelist living in Joppa. It was interesting to hear of the apparent freedom his group has in sharing the Gospel on the streets of Tel Aviv and Joppa. Apparently the Orthodox Jews don’t have as much power in these very secular and humanistic cities. As he was leaving the boat he said, “Oh, by the way if any of you need to wash some clothes just bring them up to our house and use our machines, its just five blocks away.” **Thank You Lord!**

I really enjoyed walking up through the old city of Joppa, which was right off the stern of “GOD’S SPEED”. In fact, just 200 feet up the hill behind us was the house of ‘Simon the Tanner’ which is mentioned in Acts 9:43 as the house where Peter had the vision which opened the way for the Gospel to go to the gentiles. In my wanderings through the area I picked out an abandoned house which would be a great place to move to if we ever did move there to help organize boat ministry in the Mediterranean Sea.

The day before we were to leave Israel, both Georgia and I felt there was some unfinished business in Jerusalem. So we loaded our little backpacks and caught the bus to Jerusalem. On our way, I had the impression that we should go to the Mount of Olives. We arrived at the ICEJ in time to show our 18

minute video of the outreach to Vanuatu to Stan Goodenough, of Operation Tarshish, and a few others. This was our first chance to meet with Stan and he was quite challenged by the video. We had some excellent prayer for the boat ministries. During lunch we mentioned that we wanted to go to the Mount of Olives but didn't know just where. Glen suggested that we might start at the 'House of Prayer' which is run by an American, Tom Hess. That sounds good, lets do it!

Georgia and I walked the mile and a half to the Damascus Gate to catch an Arab taxi. The Mount of Olives is in the Arab section of Jerusalem and the Jewish taxis don't go there. We told the driver where we wanted to go and he said he thought he knew how to get there. We headed up the Mount of Olives and near the top we turned down what appeared to be a side road heading away from the top. We had been told that Tom Hess's was on the top of the mount. We were definitely in Arab territory and wondered if we were going to be hijacked. We said a silent prayer, **HELP!** We cruised around a bend and then we stopped and the driver asked a passer-by for directions and he pointed across a ravine to a house on top of a hill. We drove there and a man stuck his head out of a third floor window and confirmed that we had arrived at the right place.

We were invited in and offered some tea, then the hostess asked us why we were there. I told her that we had come to meet Tom Hess. She said that Tom was in Cyprus leading a prayer conference of Arab and Israeli pastors who were praying for the unity of the Christian Church of Israel. I told her if Tom wasn't there then I didn't know just why we had come. As we were finishing our tea a man came in from another room and we were introduced. His name was Bryce and he had just arrived from Germany that afternoon. His purpose for being in Jerusalem **was to promote and organize boats and airplanes to help in the rescue of the Jewish people from the former Soviet Union!!** Needless to say, our two hours of visiting was full of like minded concerns, and visions. We know that this was why we went to Jerusalem that day.

On our bus ride back to Joppa, our heads were spinning from all the meetings and information we had received and our prayer on the bus was that the Lord would help us to remember it when needed.

It was time to pack up and get ready to leave in the morning and as we reflected on the past five weeks we remembered the stream of people who would stop by "GOD'S SPEED" and always be welcomed aboard. The testimonies and hospitality shared with strangers and friends was always spontaneous and on target to speak into their lives. Paul, Tina, Jamie and Jodie have a capacity to take each day at a time, reach out to someone in need, assist someone needing help and be neighbors, in the finest sense, to those around them. It was a blessing to have them as 'home base, Israel'.

On our return to Coeur d'Alene on December 1, we had a stack of mail to deal with.

Among the letters was one from Avi and Jeanette Heyns who are in South Africa. They were asking if it might be possible for us to come down and help them do the final rigging and fitting out of their new boat "PETACH TIKVA". We have been corresponding with them the past several years as they have been building their boat. Since we are 'boat less' at this time, it looks like we are free to go. We have responded to their letter. Now the waiting begins.

Toward the end of January we were able to put a trip together through Portland and Rainier, Oregon then Port Angeles, Sedro Woolley and Camano Island, Washington. The purpose was to meet with people on the West Coast who are interested in boat ministry.

While in Portland we met with Joe and Janet Joncas, co-founders, with Georgia and I, of **MARITIME MINISTRIES-WORLD WIDE**. The following day Joe and I had a live 20 minute interview on **TBN TV**, concerning boat ministry. It was fun.

Next was to the Bowens in Rainier. They had purchased "AMERICAN FLYER" from us last year and it was good to see them again and hear of the progress they are making toward their dream of sailing the South Pacific.

In Port Angeles, we stayed with Lloyd and Sue who have ministered to the remote villages on Vancouver Island. They would like to have a steel vessel in the near future. At present, they are planning to build a retreat on the Straights of Juan de Fuca for tired and burned out pastors and missionaries. They are waiting for their offer on the property to close.

From Port Angeles we drove to Port Townsend and caught the ferry to Whidbey Island. From there we drove to Sedro Woolley and stayed with our missionary friends Jim and Stephanie. Jim is pastoring a church in Sedro Woolley and he said they were having an evening service and would I like to speak? Rather short notice, but certainly. Afterwards a number of people questioned both Georgia and I about missions and boats and how they could get involved. One man in particular, said he knew the Lord was calling him into missionary ministry but he had been putting it off. Now he has been challenged to step out. The following morning Jim told many stories of how God had protected their family and directed them most specifically in certain situations and in their obeying His leadings their lives were saved time and again. They had been missionaries in Africa, Lebanon and most recently, Indonesia.

On Camano Island we met Toni and Deb. We had been put in touch with them by Jeff Rooks of '**CHRISTIAN BOATERS ASSOCIATION**' on the East Coast. They had arranged a potluck so we could meet four other couples who were also being led to use boats for the Lord's purposes. It was a good meeting and we all learned more of the scope of what the Lord is doing on the West Coast and in other countries.

Here we are, back in Kidd Island Bay, trying to sort out all that we have seen and heard over the last four months and as you can see it is a formidable task. Lord willing, some sense will come out of it all.

This report should pretty well bring you all up to date on our recent activities and travel adventures.

Georgia and I do love and appreciate you, our friends

May God's peace and blessings abound to you.

In His service,

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