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KETUVIM

HEBREW FOR "WRITINGS"

AMMI MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2013

MISSION REPORT

Report on Witnessing Campaign October 2013

New Campaign Planned

300,000 Jewish People

June - July 2014

Thank you for all those who contributed special gifts to help us with the Oct. 2013 campaign. I've attached a tri-fold brochure for the next campaign from June 27–July 5, 2014. Please e-mail this to people who might want to participate in this short-term mission effort (both campaigners and stewards), and to those who might want to invest in AMMI's evangelism efforts. The approximate cost for full time volunteers will be \$1,100 for hotel, food, tracts, shirts, and public transportation, in addition to their travel expenses to Philadelphia. There will be a training on the 27th and through the 28th. If you have any questions about the cost or details of the campaign, please contact Ron Elkin at the 267-679-9299.

Also, please ask your church to promote this outreach to the 300,000 Jews in the Philadelphia area. They can do this by making the brochure available to their members and announcing this outreach. Letting people know about the 2014 effort ahead of time will give them adequate time to pray about joining AMMI's team and raising support.



Donna Gives Away Bible **Ray Witnessing at Fall Festival** **Ingrid Praying**

Since Philadelphia is the beginning of the celebration of Independence Day, we have many large events leading up to July 4th, and beyond that date. Hundreds of thousands people attend these events so the opportunity to hand out literature and talk to people is strategically increased.

If you're not experienced in public evangelism, but are willing to learn, you are welcome to apply to be part of our team. We work in teams, with experienced persons as team leaders. Also, we are praying for stewards to help with the details of the campaign. Their role is critical to have a smooth running effort, and to enable the campaigners maximum time to be engaged in witnessing.

Obstacles and discouragements that occurred before campaign

1. As I was searching for a campaign headquarters in a church, I found several "evangelical" churches located in downtown Philadelphia, that expressed a distrust of the value of Public Proclamation Evangelism. I find this ironic since the majority of accounts of calling people to repentance and faith in God in both the Old & New Testaments was through Public Witnessing. By this I don't mean to indicate it is the only way of evangelism, but it is one of the major ways to help people learn about Jesus. In spite of this discouragement the Lord gave me the faith to press on and keep on searching for a church that would accommodate us.

2. Two weeks before the campaign, I developed a very severe cold and cough. The coughing became so severe that I lost my voice a week before the campaign was to start. Halfway through my sickness, Donna began feeling ill and developed infections in her sinuses and ears.

3. At the last minute an experienced person we had counted on, could not make the campaign. Other experienced people who said they were going to participate part time were not able to be involved for one reason or another.

We heard from two churches three weeks before the campaign, that they decided to

shift their support to other missionaries or reduce their mission budget, and we would no longer be supported by them. This discouraging news, meant that we lost \$3,300 a year of support. As many of you may know it is not easy to raise support. However, God in His abundant grace gave me strength and faith to carry on with our plans and walk in faith.

God's solution to these obstacles

I became well enough to get my voice back and fully lead and participate in the evangelism. We started with a core group of four people, however my wife Donna had to drop out on the 5th day of the campaign due to her illness. God brought in different people to take her place. The Jews for Jesus Mission, let people in our area know about the campaign, and this brought two additional helpers. A Christian brother in Alabama, made arrangements to join us halfway through the campaign. Altogether, an additional seven people helped us.

A couple of weeks before the campaign, a faithful evangelical church called Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church just north of downtown Philadelphia, opened its doors to AMMI and became our campaign headquarters. We were introduced to this church by Paul Cruz, of Chosen People Ministries. It is good to see how different ministries came along side of us and lent a hand.

Special donations came in to help cover most of our Oct. campaign expenses. We pray God will do the same for our efforts throughout this year, and in 2014 when we are praying for a larger core group and tract distribution.

What were the results of the campaign?

1. Our shirts and six foot banner, with their images of a Jewish Star, Christian Fish, question mark, and the word "Eternity", along with a replica of the Ten Commandments Tablets, reminded tens of thousands of people of the issue of their eternal future and God's Holy Standards.
2. We handed out 12,500 tracts and engaged many people in Gospel conversations. Three of these conversations led to people praying to be saved.
3. We spoke to 10 Jewish people, and obtained 3 Jewish contacts for follow up. Please pray for Jacob, Rich, and a Drexel Univ. Law student

4. We spoke to many unsaved college age students, several of whom gave us their contact information. Their generations has a difficult time being specific in their understanding of God. They have been educated to respect all faiths, and assume that specific spiritual truth cannot be known. If they're not atheist, they think it better to be "spiritual" (a belief there is a higher power) than to believe in a specific god, such as the God of the Bible and Jesus. They believe that if one is specific, then it creates conflict, division, and a lack of acceptance and respect for those with different religious views. I had many conversations with students with this understanding.

One of the ways I challenged this view was to explain how believing in a vague non-personal god, frees them of the responsibility and accountability of obeying biblical standards. They are free to call evil good, and good evil. If there is no specific god to be concerned about, then why repent. Why not decide for yourself what is right and wrong. Their relativism removes the most fundamental spiritual need to repent, submit, and respect God's standards. They are missing the understanding that the "beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord." Pray that God in His mercy will bring revival to this agnostic and secular younger generation.

5. The Prayer Post and Eternity Banner Tables, created opportunities to pray for people and explain the Gospel. They were set up a very busy areas so many people saw and took our information including Bibles, and Gospels of John.

6. There was unity and joy among the campaigners even though the schedule was intense and tiring.

7. We obtained permits from the city to have tables in a transportation hub, and above ground at two busy locations.

We are grateful that even with it raining on two days, we had a busy time underground at three regional rail and AMTRAK locations. These locations have a constant flow of people.



TIA & MARIANNA AT WITNESS TABLE IN TRAIN STATION

The following are brief accounts of some of the campaigners experiences.

Tia Lyshom is a member of the Doylestown Baptist Church, and lives in Warrington, PA

"Ron, Thank you so much for allowing me to participate with you in this campaign. What a privilege to serve the Lord and to tell people about Jesus and His love.

There were several high points during the campaign that I

would like to share.

First of all on Saturday Oct. 5th, on South St. I met Adam. He had an English accent and was somewhat confused. He mentioned that some Christians had told that he was born again but he was confused about the Gospel. I tried to explain the gospel of salvation by grace offered by Jesus Christ. He still seemed confused. He took a tract and needs prayer.



Steve, Tia, Marianna near City Hall

Saturday night on South St. I met a young man who was trying to get drugs. He took a tract and asked if I believe this. I said yes. He looked at me with tears in his eyes. Pray that the Lord would speak to his heart.

Then came Sunday. We handed out tracts at a Fall Festival in Midtown Philadelphia. It was incredibly crowded, and there were many opportunities to witness and distribute tracts. It was a blessing to watch the new spiritual birth of Carlos as Ron spoke to him while eating lunch.

The next memorable event occurred on Thursday morning when we disturbed thousands of tracts at 30th St. Station. The interest from the people was high and they many took tracts. Ron preached the Gospel as he gave out tracts.

That afternoon at the Suburban Station another campaigner (Chuck from Alabama) and I started talking with a women by the name of Susan. It ended with Susan praying to receive Christ. There is no higher work on earth than to serve the Lord.”

Steve Moustise is the mission pastor at The Evangelical Free Church of Lititz, in Lancaster County, PA

“We took an elevator down to Suburban station and met Susanne on the elevator. She was the first person that I talked to. As we exited the elevator, I handed her a tract, and she seemed willing to to talk further. I asked her if I could ask her something and she said, “yes.” I engaged her in a Gospel question. As she answered the question, it sounded like she had some knowledge of what is in the Bible. After discussing the Gospel I asked her if she understood and recognized her need of forgiveness. She indicated she wanted salvation, so the other campaigners and I led her in a prayer of repentance and faith.

Roxanne was sitting on the floor near where we were talking to Susanne, and after walking back and forth a time or two, I approached her, handed her a tract and

asked her the same question. She said that she was a Christian but was “in and out” (of the church I guess) and that she was currently “out.” She smiled a lot and was very open to talking. She needs prayer for either salvation or to become a stable Christian with the ability to find a home.”

Marianna Cymbala is a member of a PCA church in St. Louis, MO

“Recently, I was able to go on a mission trip to Philadelphia. I participated in an AMMI Ministry’s street-witnessing campaign, where I saw the Lord do great things. We all passed out tracts, had many conversations, were encouraged by fellow believers, and made follow-up contacts.

Some highlights stick out in my mind. I met two Russian-speaking Israelis named Mony and Zuby. They weren’t really open to the Gospel, please pray for them. My favorite aspect of the trip was witnessing at the train stations. People are in a hurry. Most rush off after taking a tract, but there are still divine appointments. I was encouraged when I met a young Jewish man, named Daniel, who said he was an atheist but was curious and willing to explore Jewish people’s faith in Jesus. He didn’t have time to give me his

contact information but promised to contact AMMI. I am praying that he does.



Marianna Fall Festival—30,000 People

On my last day, I was able to witness to an elderly Jewish man, named Moshe. At first he wasn’t open but with his permission, I told him why I thought that Jesus is the

Messiah. He patiently listened, as I told about the coming judgment, using Daniel 12:1-3. This passage shows the resurrection and judgment that awaits Jews and Gentiles. I explained the seriousness of sin, and the remedy, illustrated by Isaiah 6:1-6. Then, I explained how Jesus is the final sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. He didn’t understand what I was explaining to him. He told me he respected what I was doing because I told him that we were motivated by love. Please pray for Moishe.”

Donna Elkin, Ron Elkin’s wife and member of Calvary PCA Church in Willow Grove, PA

“While seating at the Prayer Post Table at 16th and Chest-

nut, a young woman named Vanessa (see picture 1st Pg). approached the table and asked for a Bible. Ron spoke to her and it became clear that she is a Christian. She did not have a Bible, so I gave her one. Then I asked her how could we pray for her. Her answer broke my heart. In her quiet way, she explained that she had severe family problems and also needed a job. Ron and I prayed for her and her situation. Please pray that God will strengthen and provide for her (see photo).

Other Highlights of Witnessing Experiences

Ingrid Benikis, a member of Messianic Congregation Beth Yeshua in Philadelphia, helped distribute tracts and stay by the Prayer Post Table. She was like a magnate. Many people came to her and asked for prayer (see pictures).

Michael Considine, a local lawyer, came several times. In his cheerful way, he gave out tracts and spoke to people about the Lord. Also, **Chuck Kirkland**, a friend of Michaels, flew in from Alabama to help us. He gave out tracts and spoke to many people.

I (Ron) and **Hanan Itescu**, a volunteer from Messianic Congregation Beth Yeshua (House of Jesus) spoke to a young Jewish man named Lewis (see photo). Lewis was debating Hanan, however when I spoke to him, his attitude softened and he respectfully listened to my explanation of the Gospel probably because of my white beard and very Jewish facial features. Then Hanan spent time showing him the prophecy of Jesus in Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 (see pictures). Lewis would not give us his contact information. Please pray the half hour of seed planting will be watered by others, and bear fruit.

I spoke to a Jewish law student from Drexel University. He was very open and gave me his e-mail address. I with AA. He took a copy of all the tracts and pamphlets we had on our table. Pray, he will read the literature and be moved towards faith in Jesus.

I had a long conversation with a student named John.. His religious view fit the description of the non-specific spirituality I described above. He was respectful and listened to me but did not give his contact information.

We witnessed on South St. This area of Philadelphia has street musicians, outdoor restaurants, and unusual bohemian stores. This five block area draws large crowds of tourist and young people. I met a young Jewish man named Rich, who had heard the Gospel before but was not convinced it was true. He listened to me, and gave me his contact information as I gave him the Gospel of John. Please pray he will respond to my follow up communication.



Hanan Shows Isa. 53 to a Jewish man

Bill Geating and Ray Frantz were very helpful. They both helped several times, and were effective in handing out tracts and talking to people. We also had the Help of **Dan Levy and Daniel Klein**.. Thank God for these believers willing to bring the Gospel to people.

Our Freedom to Publically Proclaim Jesus is Slowly Eroding. [Time is Short - Recognize the Signs of the Times.](#)

Increasingly Christianity is being seen as a hateful religion because it labels certain life styles as sinful and under the Judgment of God. In reality we are speaking the truth in love by warning people. The secular society is living out Psalm 2 by wanting to throw off God's reality and replace it with their sinful own. Christians are increasingly being seen as obstacles to a more fair and free society, unencumbered by God's biblical standards. At present there still is the freedom to disturb people's complacency by sowing God's word, and publically preaching and conversing with people. Jesus proclaimed the need for laborers to go into the field ready for harvest. All of us who go into the public square to remind people of the Gospel have moments of fear. What motivates us is a love for God and a love for our lost neighbors. We are fulfilling the command of God to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Many Christians allow fear of man's rejection, inadequacy, and failure, to imprison their souls. Philadelphia area and elsewhere need an army of people lifting up the Lord in love to a dying world. Every where God's children go to speak the truth in His power and love, we challenge Satan's Kingdom, and offer Jesus' Freedom. May God help you press pass any fears. And, let love for the spiritual blind, move you to take bold steps of faith to become a laborer in the field of lost souls.

God bless you, and keep you, and make His face to shine upon you; Ron & Donna Elkin,

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