

# WHAT IS A FISHERMAN?

By Debbie Kellogg

"Therefore the days are coming, says the Lord, that it shall no more be said, the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, but the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and front all the lands where He had driven them. For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishermen and they will fish them and afterward I will send for many hunters and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and out holes of the rocks..." Jeremiah 16:14-16

When God is ready to bring His people back to Israel from a certain area of the world, He begins to raise up people, the Bible speaks of as "fishers", to go to the Jewish community with His call for them to return home. We along with many others sense the time for this to happen in North America in an increasing way has come. Although there has been approximately 80,000 Jews who have made Aliyah to Israel from America in past years, over 5,600,000 still remain. Canada has a total of 360,000 remaining. We must add to this number many who do not know they have Jewish blood but are beginning to find this out. When the Jewish people begin to leave America this will surely be the largest exodus back to Israel than from any other area.

In preparing to answer the call to be a fisherman there are several things that we would like to share with you that will help to equip you for this call. These points come from past experience fishing, working with the Jewish people and also from others who have been involved in this area of ministry. The term "Zionism" is the acknowledgment that the land of Israel belongs to and is the covenant home of the Jewish people (Genesis 15:18, 17:8). This has, in history, been the motive for many to settle there and to build up the nation. Several Christians have come along side to help with this. However, the ultimate purpose the Lord has for this restoration is not just for them to move to Israel but that all Israel would be saved (Romans 11:25-26) and the Messiah would come to establish His kingdom on earth. Our motive as fishers must be the love of God for His people and their restoration not only to the Land but also to Him. This is the deep cry of the Lord's heart. Ask the Him to give you His heart for this work.

## **Following are some basic helps in reaching out to Jewish people.**

1) Be familiar with the scripture promises about God bringing His people back and providing for them in the land. (Several are listed on enclosed sheet) Many times you will be prompted to read one of these scriptures or mention the promises God has made to Israel in His Word. Always acknowledge and remind them they are His chosen people. Isaiah 44:24-26

2) Bring a good report about Israel to them. Remember the spies, Joshua and Caleb, who brought a good report about the promised land and told the people even though there were giants in the land they are well able to take possession of it. This glorified the Lord and His faithfulness to give them the victory if they would trust and obey.

The previous spies had brought an evil report which caused fear in the people and a desire to turn back to Egypt, (exile and bondage). Often times this is the only report we hear in the West from the media and other sources so we must bring an encouraging and true word.

Sometimes a good way to start a conversation about this is "Have you ever been to Israel?" "What did you think of it?" or "Why don't Jews in America want to make Aliyah?" Some of the people will not know what Aliyah means so you might have to explain this. (Aliyah in Hebrew means, to go up to. To a Jew it means to obtain citizenship in Israel and to move there.) If you have been to Israel or have read positive things about it, share these. The Lord will lead you. Isaiah 52:7

3) Have no hidden agenda but be honest and open. Let them know you are a Christian/or Believer who loves them, their God and their land. Come with a servant's attitude and with respect for them, never

arrogance. If they ask, explain what you believe; Jesus or Yeshua is the Messiah, and the Passover Lamb who died for my sins. Share as the Lord leads.

4) Speak In terms they can understand when at all possible. Be sensitive to how they sometimes see us. The term Christian and the cross, to many Jews, brings the thought of death and destruction not life. Don't be offended by this. Throughout history Jews have been killed by those who called themselves Christians and were wearing or carrying crosses. They were slaughtered by those who said they were doing it in obedience to God. The Jews have many times been pegged "Christ killers" and because of this are no longer Gods people but have been replaced by the church. Thus the church justified her violence. The Crusades, the Inquisition in Spain, persecutions and anti-Semitic attacks throughout church history were carried out in the name of Jesus. Hitler himself quoted from Martin Luther, one of the founding father of the Protestant reformation, to justify the "final solution" or annihilation of the Jewish race, during World War II.

If this subject happens to come up make it clear you do not believe like this and that this is totally against what the Bible teaches. You might state your thankfulness to them for giving us the Bible and the Messiah and for what you can learn from them about God. You might want to ask forgiveness for the way the Church has treated their people in the past and even sometimes today. That you are committed to stand with them and to be a true friend.

5) Actions speak louder than words. When we show kindness, or offer to help them in some way this speaks more than many words and builds trust. When you do speak to them, speak from your heart, they will pick up on the genuineness. This will open hearts. Isaiah 49:22-23

6) Pray and ask God to lead you and show you where to go and who to talk to. Learn to hear Him and obey, you will learn to trust His leading like never before. Always know in your heart God is with you and will give you what to say. Trust Him. You are not responsible for whether what you say is received. Know that you have done your part as you share this message, God will do the rest.

There are times when the Lord might have you warn someone. It is important to do this boldly in love, be obedient, it could save a life. Ezekiel 33:3-7

7) We are to comfort and encourage them. Let them know that you want to help them, will pray for them and be there for them if they need you. Have Aliyah information sent if they request it. Isaiah 40:1-9

## **Examples of Fisherman:**

### **Moses -the deliverer**

Read Exodus 3:7-6:8. God called Moses to take a message to His people who are in slavery to Egypt. He was to tell them that God is coming to deliver them out from under the burden of the Egyptians and bring them into the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; a land of milk and honey, their inheritance as children of Israel. God does many signs and wonders through Moses to judge the gods of Egypt and to show His glory to the people. This is a type of fisherman; first going to the people with the message that God is calling them to their land and at the same time breaking down the strongholds that hold them back.

Moses, when he was called, did not feel he was able to do what God asked of him; he was not good at speaking, he did not think anyone would listen to him. Even after God showed Moses signs and wonders with the rod as he was being prepared to go before Pharaoh, he still tried talk God into choosing someone else more suited for the job. God assured Moses he was the one he had chose and told him "I will be with your mouth and teach you what to say. " Trust that if God has put this call on your heart HE will be with you and show you what to say.

### **King Cyrus - the shepherd**

Ezra 1:1-4, Isaiah 44:28-45:4. Isaiah prophesied two centuries before, of Cyrus, a leader God would anoint to be a shepherd to the Jews who were dispersed in Babylon. Cyrus, the powerful king of Persia, overthrows Babylon and is sent by God to tell the Jewish people they called to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Cyrus encouraged people in his kingdom to give. They donated gold, silver, livestock and goods to help the Jews as they traveled to Jerusalem and for the building of the temple. Cyrus actually brought them back to their land, back to destiny, and made sure they were provided for as the temple was built. There was a time of repentance and spiritual awakening to the Jews who returned. Cyrus represents another type of fisherman who calls the Jews out of comfortable Babylon to return to their homeland to build the House of God. He provides financial and practical help for their travel and for them as they work. We believe a majority of the Jewish people will have to return to Israel before the veil is lifted and revival takes place (Ezekiel 36:23-27, 39:27-29, Zechariah 12:10)

### **Esther - the Intercessor**

Another aspect of being a "fisherman" is the call to go before the Lord on behalf of the Jewish people that their lives may be saved while they are in the Diaspora. Esther was a picture of this call. First, she prepared herself, soaking in different oils, beautifying herself before coming before the king. The main oil that she prepared herself with was the oil of myrrh. This oil is a symbol of the fruit of meekness and humility. She found great favor in the king's presence. Esther ended up being willing to risk her own life to save the lives of her people, the Jews, who were in threat of annihilation. She went before the king without an invitation, trusting in God, eventually exposing the truth about this genocide planned by man in the government named Haman. Because of her obedience, humility, and willingness to risk all, the Jews were saved from death and preserved for the day they would return to their land.

## **ALIYAH - PRAYER POINTS**

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burns... Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; Build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples!" Isaiah 62:1, 10

Aliyah - def. To go up to, used to describe a Jewish person obtaining citizenship in Israel and making it their home.

- 1) Praise, proclaim and say, "Oh Lord save your people the remnant of Israel... He who scattered Israel will gather him and keep him as a shepherd does his flock. " Jeremiah. 31:7, 10. We believe God's time for Aliyah to increase from North America is here. He is releasing an Esther anointing to stand in the gap for the safe return of the Jewish people to their
- 2) Ask for God's strategies for breakthrough in your city or area for release of the Jewish people to answer the call to make Aliyah. God will reveal these to you, just be obedient to
- 3) Pray for the Jews to again embrace their God and their heritage Pray for any hidden Jewish identities to be revealed. Zephaniah 3:18-20, Isaiah 49:8-9
- 4) Pray over these four major strongholds that hinder Aliyah from North America - Fear, mammon (materialism, comfort, love of money), false security in the US, Canada & Mexico, loss of identity. Isaiah 43:1-5, Jeremiah 30:10-11
- 5) Pray for the network. Pray over the holy highways that they would be established and the gateways to Israel would be opened. Micah 2:12-13, Isaiah 49:11-12, Isaiah 62:10.
- 6) Pray for Rabbis and Jewish leaders for revelation from the Lord of the call to Aliyah; for the Lord to visit them and to show them the times we are in and their part in calling their people home.

7) Pray for fishers to be raised up who will, in love, go to the Jewish communities with the message of Aliyah. Pray for true repentance to me to the Church for anti-Semitism and wanting to replace Israel in God's plan; to prepare people to serve, love and honor the Jewish people? Jeremiah 16:14-16, Zechariah 2:8, Psalm 105:7-11

8) Blow the sound of alarm (teruah - short blasts) on the shofar. Releases call to return, signals of coming danger, scatters and confuses the enemy.

9) Pray for the Israeli Interior Minister and Absorption Minister that they would open the gateway for all Jews to return to Israel unhindered. Ezekiel 39:27-28

10) Pray for the One New Man, the House of God to be built in your city, for God's love, purpose and glory to come. Ephesians 2:14-22, Isaiah 66