

Makings Disciples International UK
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Dear Friends

The time we spent in Israel in November and December was fantastic. It was good to be back in Israel - the Land of Promise, renewing our commitment to love God's people, Israel and pray for the fulfilment of all that God has promised her in covenant. We had special opportunities to encourage Jewish and Arab people.

We acted as caregivers to Rita in Poria Elite for 2 1/2 weeks and enjoyed many happy hours of fellowship together.



We are reminded of Psalm 133:

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing — Life forevermore.
NKJV*

It was just like that. Anointed and overflowing. What we prayed in the morning had been fulfilled by nightfall. God commanded His blessing. Our days were a mixture of spiritual service and practical help. Rita needed us to be available and so we were - sent by our heavenly Father to be a supporting loving presence. Even the four cats at our accommodation benefited from active prayer! While staying in Poria, we were also able to reach out to other local Christian workers, offer counsel and pass on financial blessings.

The trip ended with five days in Jerusalem where we gathered the single workers together for two meetings of fellowship, hospitality and prayer. The stories of God's faithfulness in the lives of these courageous and bold women filled us with hope and expectancy for 2019. We are definitely inclining our hearts, at full tilt, towards the Lord and we are expecting great things.

Faithful God provided all that was needed in Israel. When we met needs we had not accounted for, there was still money in the "jar of oil". How often we have heard friends say, "I pray for you two every day" ... well we want you to know that your prayers filled our jar of oil. And, that jar of oil fills the jars of others. Let's keep passing on the oil!

EXPECT GREAT THINGS

Last week a missionary visited us in our home for a time of fellowship. Years ago, she attended one of our MET Retreats for single missionaries in Israel, and recently we renewed contact because we "bumped into her" whilst attending a hospital appointment for Mintie's RA (as you do!). She is on leave and soon returning to China. We had a powerful time together, spurring one another on. She revealed various irritating symptoms of illness and still sensing the overflow of the anointing and blessing that we experienced in Israel, we reached out to pray for healing. Later she wrote: "*All skin patches and swellings gone now and my tongue, if you hadn't noticed from my speech, was fine before I left yours.*"

Are you reaching out for more of the Lord Jesus in your life? We sense we have entered an extraordinary year where suddenly we will see many a break-through in prayer, both in our lives and those we minister to. First, however, we must rededicate our lives to the King and the Kingdom of God - seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness, then, the rest is added.

HE HEARS AND ANSWERS OUR CRIES

Thank you for supporting the outreach to Israel. Thank you for supporting us. Thank you for keeping the MDI ministry fund fed because when we hear of needs we are able to send money straight away.

Before we left for Israel, we were praying for a worker in Israel. Immediately, we both felt a sense of urgency in our spirits – we believed she needed funds. Frustratingly, did not have enough to give - all our MDI funds were allocated to the Israel trip. However, we certainly prayed with great conviction and faith.

The next day a couple from the Isle of Wight called at our house with two envelopes. They said that one was for a need in Israel and the other for us. Over a period of 12 months Frank had been putting aside a certain sum of money each month, as directed by the Lord. The Lord said "Hold onto it - He would have need of it". Two days earlier feeling a sense of urgency in his spirit Frank heard, "the fund should now be given to someone in Israel". However, he did not know "who" the recipient was. Thinking that we would know - he contacted us and presented us with the "fund". We knew exactly who it was for – we had been praying for that person! That evening we wired £1000 into the worker's bank account in Jerusalem, Israel.

Just before Christmas, that worker joined us for a meal and fellowship in Jerusalem. After everyone else in the group left, she told us that the timing of the money was truly amazing - it came exactly on her birthday. Seemingly, everyone had forgotten her birthday - no cards or gifts. Feeling let down and forgotten, she cried out to the Lord for comfort. Then our text message popped into her phone. "£1000 has just been deposited into your Israel account. We believe you have need. God's blessing." We had no idea it was her birthday, however, how would a Father God forget His daughters birth-day? So extravagantly, He sent her a birthday gift of £1000. How wonderful is that.

NOW SOME HOME TIME

The promised disability adaptations to our home have started. All of a sudden, we are invaded by workmen, shovels and cement and, how thankful we are for Father God's help and provision. The conservatory is being raised to the level of the house, removing the dangers presented by steps and creating a large space for discipleship groups. The adaptation of Mintie's bathroom which has been appointed to Access Mobility UK should be in the next four weeks. Access Mobility is a local building company specialising in home adaptations for disability. Clearly, the first months of 2019 are going to be at home making lots of cups of tea and trying to be flexible to the schedules of workmen. So, although we are receiving enquiries for missionary debriefings it makes practical sense not have guests in our Annex until the building work is completed. For now, we are recharging our batteries, increasing our study and prayer times and reaching out from our MDI Office to those we know and love on the mission field, serving believers locally with prayer counselling and being faithful with our discipleship group. This home season also gives us timely opportunity to get to know folk in our own church and bed-in. It feels good and right.

Please continue to pray for us - that this time at home will be rich and replenishing in every way and as 2019 progresses, we will keep you informed of how God is leading.

With so much love
Jan & Mintie