

November 2009

*"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor has the eye seen, any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him. You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, who remembers You in Your ways." Isaiah 64:4-5*

Dear Friends,

Shalom!

November in Israel begins with the long awaited rains. Every day this week, the rains have fallen, and there have been fantastic thunder and lightning storms. To me, it is all a display of God's majesty and power and a reminder that our God is greater than anything on earth. He is amazing!

I've been enjoying being back in Israel, since the end of September. It's definitely been an adjustment and transition going from life in England as a student, to being back in ministry - living in a completely different culture and world. It has been a challenge, and I've felt lots of opposition and attacks from the enemy.

But God is faithful and He is teaching me lots about patience, trust, endurance, and drawing me so much closer to Himself in the process!

I've been staying in Haifa, in the same guest house, *Beit Yedidia*, where I lived 14 years ago, my first 6 months in Israel! I have stayed here, as a guest over the years at different times, but it would seem this would be home for the year. It's centrally located—and is a guesthouse for Believers.

The biggest change in my life has come in the form of working with Ellel Israel's ministry *Sha'arei Tikva*. During my last week of school I was offered a part time position to work with them, as they pioneer a new work of teaching and equipping Arab and Jewish Believers all over the Land, in discipling, healing, deliverance, and all the subjects that I just studied. My congregation, Tents of Mercy, is one of 2 supporting Congregations, behind this work and project. After much prayer, it became very clear that this was a door God was opening. And so I'm working pretty much full time with them! It's really a bridge position, as I'm a member of Tents of Mercy, but have close relationships with Leaders from all over the country that are coming, because of youth and young adults work over the years. I'm using all my languages, and really enjoying everything I do. It's a position that almost seemed made for me, and I love it!

We had our second modular course at the end of October. A ministry team including 2 of my former teachers came from England for the week. Over 100 Arab and Jewish Israelis attended the 2 days of teaching and it was amazing!!! The teaching impacted me too -- hearing it again, and things went remarkably well. It was BUSY keeping everything organised, but God was so with me, and He anointed everything.

For me a highlight was the night of ministry, being able to pray with people. So many leaders here are weary with the pressures of life and ministry. To pray and to see the Holy Spirit come

and to really refresh their spirits, and build them up—is so amazing! I love seeing the changing work of God in people's lives.

This new work will stretch out over this next year and so I am planning, God willing, to stay in Israel for the year. This will require much prayer and grace to extend my visas. I will be home from the 13<sup>th</sup> of December for 3 weeks to visit, renew tickets/med insurance and to prepare for another season in the Land.

I'm really excited and I believe God has good things in store! I think that it's a time when we can't even perceive or imagine what God is going to do, in and through His children. Even in the midst of hard times all around the world, for sure in Israel and maybe even personally, He is still faithfully working. Thank you for your love, prayers and support and for being a part of what God is doing in my life and in the Land of Israel too! You all mean so much to me and I always love hearing from you!

Blessings and love,

Merida



Mt. Carmel, overlooking the Valley of Megiddo



3 of the team from England