



# February 2006 House of Light Newsletter



## Christmas 2005 Project

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all of your prayer and support of the House of Light Prison Ministry Project during the 2005 Christmas Season. We have seen so many demonstrations of God's power and faithfulness during this time.



Many volunteers came to help us prepare the gift packages for the prisoners this year. We filled many gift bags with candy, sweets, snacks, Bibles, personal items and Christian literature. We distributed over 400 of these. Praise God!

Every time we would visit a prison, we would fill the van with all of the gifts and items we needed for ministry. However, we didn't have enough space, so we had to hire a taxi. The group would meet outside of the prison for prayer and then we would be filled up to minister. Each visit was special in its own way! After the visits we would meet outside again for food and fellowship.



The night before we started the Christmas Project this year, the enemy tried to attack Anis. He wanted to cancel the visit for the next day and he almost fell down. He was full of fear from the burden. However, the enemy's attacks were in vain as God has worked in each of the 14 prisons we visited.

In the beginning of December, Anis was at the "Headquarters" for prison matters. The Lord blessed his tongue and he spoke honestly about what we have on our hearts regarding a Russian speaker to visit the prisons. The second day the Lord gave the answer and the officials promised to grant a year-round permission to a Russian speaker who will visit with Anis. In a short time we will officially have this permission and we are very happy about it. The officials also allowed us to give them books, cassettes, CD's and DVD's as a sample to be checked. If they approve them, we can give them to all prisons for their library.

At one prison, they told the foreign prisoners that we only want the Christians to attend our meeting, so we had less people come. When we realized what happened we went into the wards and gave presents to all those who didn't attend. We also gave them Bibles in their languages even though some of them were Buddhist or Muslim. Usually we are allowed to speak to prisoners from Christian background only. However, in the prison for foreign workers we are allowed to talk to everyone.



The meeting the same day was especially blessed. We saw Africans sing from all of their hearts and some accepted Jesus as their Messiah. Many of them had tears in their eyes.

Another day in the prison, we had about 15 prisoners coming and it was a real blessed time. The special thing about it was that 7 people gave their lives to Jesus and our hearts were really touched to see prisoners sing and clap their hands so passionately!

One young man didn't really respond, but Anis could see he was struggling inside. So, when he went out, Anis followed him and hugged him and then the young man started crying. The young man thought it shameful to cry, but Anis encouraged him to let it out and he did. He told his story to Anis, confessed his sin before the Lord, asked for forgiveness and then he accepted Jesus into his heart!

The day we went to the juvenile prison, we found someone who was only 13 years old. It was difficult to see children this young already in prison for major crimes. Anis hugged this 13 year old most of the time we were there. The Lord put on our hearts to ask a C.E.F. (Child Evangelism Fellowship) leader to accompany Anis each time he visits this prison to hold a special program for the young ones. We already suggested this to the C.E.F. leaders in our area and they are praying as to how to handle this. We pray that God will open the door for this extra person to go with Anis. It hurts to see that we find more people and children from a Christian background each year. Nowadays, most of the inmates in the prisons have a Russian background.

The women's prison in Hadera phoned us because they had heard about our visits to the other prisons from one of the policeman who works there.

Previously, we were not able to visit this particular prison. So, we were excited when they phoned us!

We visited and it was really a special time... We had over 70 women attend our worship service in different language groups. The Ethiopian group really touched our hearts by the way they worshipped, very enthusiastic and with much

passion. When they worshipped, everyone came to see what was going on because it was so enthusiastic, passionate and loud. Many then also came in the next language group and we praise the Lord for the way everyone was touched. The man who is responsible for the prison, a Jew, came to Anis afterward and asked when we could come again!

Those who are responsible for the prison had a buffet prepared for us after all the worship services. They prepared tables with such a lovely meal; Anis asked if the women in prison could join. They respected our request and invited all of them. We were so touched by all that they did for us while we were there.

One lady, a former Muslim foreign worker from North Africa accepted the Lord through T.V. programs a few months before she was sentenced to prison. When we were there, she kept praising the Lord and crying. She asked him to intervene on her behalf because she doesn't want to return to her country and she wants to get baptized in the Jordan River. She already told her family about her faith by telephone, but she needs the Lord to intervene because her family is not happy. The way she praises the Lord is just amazing, she sings deeply from her heart with tears, bringing glory to the Lord. We were so touched by the words that she used when she praised the Lord and so were many others.

The Lord blessed us with the finances to cover the cost of the project. These finances came through donations, which exceeded the 18,000 NIS (approx €3200 or \$3900) we needed for the prisoners and their families for the presents, food and clothing.



On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, the House of Light hosted a luncheon meeting to honor all those who had served in the prison ministry in the recent years. We had a nice time of fellowship together at St. Margaret's in Nazareth. We were honored that Souheil Ramadan, the first one who served in prison ministry in Israel, was able by the grace of the Lord to be with us and lift a prayer for each and every one who has this ministry on his or her heart. We shared a

meal, stories and a video of pictures from years past to 2005. We played a fun game together with trivia questions regarding the prison ministry and then we learned several worship songs in Russian for use next year. We at House of Light wanted to show our appreciation of all the hard work that makes the prison ministry possible. Everyone got a gift, a cup with prison logo and scripture on it. One thing is certain: God was glorified in the 2005 Prison ministry Christmas project.



### *Other news*

- Once a month we show a movie for the youth. One evening around 45 people came to see it. It was a fun time of fellowship and laughter. Nawal and Anis were able to share about Jesus with the group that came. Some time later we had a worship night and we had only 8 or 10 people, but the Lord brought those He wanted to be here, so we praise Him for what He did in their hearts!
- Regularly we have a "B1" evening, our youth program when they are to "bring-a-friend". We borrow a ping pong table to have a tournament and we also play other games. Then we have a time when someone shares his or her testimony and the message of salvation is shared. Last month we had 28 youth come to B1 and we are hoping that we will have even more this month!
- Our theme this year for the older King's Kids is from Romans 12:1-2. We are currently studying Part 1: To offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to the Lord! We have been studying different "body parts" and how to submit them fully to Christ's Lordship. We already studied the mouth, eyes, hands, feet and heart. Later we will move on to Part 2: Be not conformed to this world...
- On December 22, the younger KK group performed at the annual House of Light Christmas party. The performance was really beautiful as it was their gift to the Newborn King!
- On December 23, the older KK group performed at a Christmas Celebration in Kfar Yasif. The performance there was likewise beautiful...
- Of course, the food assistance program has continued, with extra emphasis at Christmastime. In addition to our normal assistance, we also gave 13 gift



baskets with food and other things to the families of some of the prisoners. We also gave over 100 small gift bags to family members of those families we work with on a regular basis.

- We had a great time at the annual House of Light Christmas party here in Shefa-Amr (Shfar-Am). It was held at the local Anglican Church hall and we had 70 people in attendance. We had a time of worship, sharing and a message from Naeem and Fareed. Ies & Jeane put together some wonderful games for us to play and we had so much fun! Then we enjoyed a nice meal all together. It was a special time to celebrate all together the gift of Jesus to the world.



- On 17-19<sup>th</sup> January Anis and Nawal were in Jerusalem for a conference. This conference is for reconciliation between German and Israeli believers and lately they began to invite some Arab families and pastors as well. The Barhoums were one of three Arab families who attended.



- Our van needed to go to the garage as all other cars for a winter check. We were surprised to know how great our Lord is for protecting us as the steering mechanism was totally damaged without any sign or warning. It would cost 5600 NIS (approx € 1000 or \$1200) yet the owner of the garage took less. He wants to help with his handwork.
- A girl 17 years old is coming to Nawal for pastoral care. Her parents asked me to take care of her. Some youths aged 19-21 regularly visit Christiane for pastoral support.
- Some time ago we had a fun day with 20 children from single parent families. Someone gave a special program for them with gifts like a jacket and some sweets.
- Last but not least: the responsible for volunteers at Ministry of Interior came and checked how things are going at the House of Light. She renewed the visas for all our volunteers.

Thank you for all of your support both financially and in prayer. God used you mightily in this year's Christmas project.

Philippians 1:3-6.

In Him,  
Anis & Nawal Barhoum, House of Light