

Many people assume it is not safe to go to Israel. Please read this article written for our September 2004 newsletter.

It's Not Safe!

The Christian Objection



I have been doing a series on typical Jewish Objections to the Good news. In our last issue, I dealt with the objection that Christians worship three Gods, and Jews only whoship one. However, I just returned from our first ministry trip to Israel with a team of volunteers who joined me in tangibly blessing the people of the Land. With that trip so fresh in my mind, I can't help but deal in this issue, with a Christian objection...the objection that it is unsafe to travel to Israel,

Bret, who was one of the members of our team said this about his trip:

"I've told everyone I know that there never really seemed to be any danger and at no time did I

ever feel threatened. Even though the political climate is what it is, the people of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem just seem to go on about their life...it was clear that we were very safe and in God's hands."

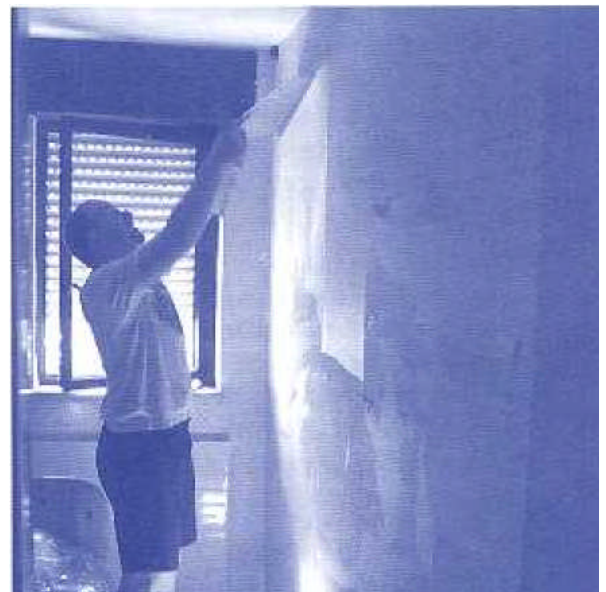
Television news stories and photos of strife and conflict in the Middle East capture our attention and heighten our concerns. But the media tends to ignore the quiet coexistence between Jews and Arabs that is a part of everyday life inside Israel. We traveled without fear and experienced the joy of walking in the steps of Jesus.

Neighbors still shop and work together in special dialogue efforts. The "day after," however, doesn't sell newspapers or boost television ratings. The media doesn't report on events like reconciliation meetings taking place regularly in mixed Jewish and Arab communities of Jaffa, Acre, and Nazareth. The story of bridge-building efforts

underway today in the Land of Israel remains largely untold.

Israeli Arabs as well as Christian Arabs with Messianic and non-

Messianic Jews are working hard to create peace and quiet in their homeland and to dialogue in ways that engender peace and defuse some of the tensions that exist. Middle East Ministries is contributing a small part in those efforts. You, too, can be a part of these efforts by joining us on our "Light to Israel" ministry tours to Israel. On these tours we spend about five days doing much needed repairs and upkeep in the homes of needy residents of Israel showing the love of Jesus to the children of Abraham. The



balance of the time we visit historical sites with our Bibles open, seeing where the events in its pages actually happened.

On our last tour, we were involved in helping an elderly Jewish woman who badly needed her apartment painted. The woman is not yet a believer, but she vividly saw the love of Jesus in action as we painted her home. The woman's daughter is a believer who works among single mothers in Israel.

We also worked on the home of the prayer coordinator for Israel who was overwhelmed by our willingness to bless her by removing wallpaper and repainting. We were blessed to be a blessing to this dear lady serving our King and his ancient people by mobilizing the Israeli believers to prayer.

Were we safe? Yes, beyond what words could describe. All of us

sensed the presence and blessing of God while we were in Israel, and none of us at any time felt that we were in danger. Last year, I was in Israel with three hundred Jewish believers and again, at no time did we feel any anxiety or worries.

Going to Israel is an incredible blessing to the nation of Israel. God has a promise in His Word to bless those who will bless the children of Abraham. Throughout history those nations and people who have blessed his children have themselves been blessed. I urge you to join that happy company and join us as we serve and tour God's promised land. You will not be disappointed.

-Roy Schwarcz



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