

Newsletter Jerusalem Baptist Church

Number 6 ~ November/December 2014

COLOFON

This bi-monthly Newsletter is distributed amongst members and visitors of the Jerusalem Baptist House. Please, do not use articles without prior permission from the Editor or Staff. Neither use this Newsletter for evangelistic purposes.

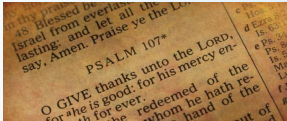
If you'd like to receive an B/W printed version of this newsletter, please write to email: jerbapch@gmail.com

Editorial staff:

Billie Nucciarone

Dianne Hill

Petra van der Zande



Thanksgiving, to be *truly* thanksgiving, is **first** thanks, **then** giving.

Distribution date next issue:
Beginning of January 2015



Happiness comes when we stop complaining about the troubles we have and offer thanks for all the troubles we don't have.

Serving our Lord until He comes...



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR Dr. Al Nucciarone



GREAT LESSONS OF LIFE

I have been doing a series at Jerusalem Baptist on I Timothy and going through the characteristics of a true man of God in I Timothy 2. The time of the Feast of Tabernacles a few weeks ago, was for me a time of celebrating as well as learning what it means to be a true man of God. Let me share with you three principles that I have learned about this being a true man of God.

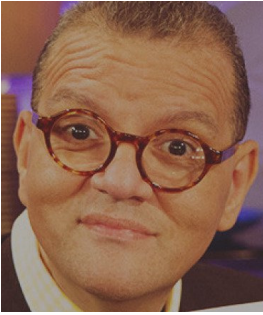
1. GOD'S GOAL FOR OUR LIVES

When God saved us He did it for a purpose. God came down to man in the person of Jesus, so that He could live in the hearts of men by faith. Our purpose is to become like Him. Henry Martyn the great missionary said that, "my number one goal is the sanctification of my own soul". Robert Murray McCheyne, the great Scottish preacher, said "The greatest need of my congregation is my personal holiness". To be holy is to be like Christ. Let us pursue this goal with the all the might that God gives us.

*"For whom He foreknew He also predestined to become conformed to the likeness of His Son."
Romans 8:29*

2. WORTHY EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW

During the week of the Feast of Tabernacles Congress, sponsored by the Christian Embassy Jerusalem, I got a chance to hear Andre White speak. The "Vicar of Baghdad", the Anglican Pastor of St. George's Church in Baghdad, Iraq, frequently comes to Israel to speak. His church has grown greatly with thousands of parishioners but has also lost hundreds to sectarian violence. Not only do they have a health clinic but also a feeding program.



Canon Andrew White

Andrew White is known as a real peace maker. He often tells us that most of the Christians in Iraq are from Nineveh. Many have immigrated to the States and the majority now live in the Chicago area. Last fall, while we were in the States on furlough, I met some Iraqi believers at the College Church in Wheaton in an English language class. I also met a pastor who has a church with many Ninevites in attendance. Currently, Andrew cannot go back to Iraq because of threats on his life. His desire is to be with

his people. He is a worthy example.

He shared this week that he recently got a call from one of his parishioners whose family had been captured by ISIS. The father of the family asked if God could forgive his sins. He had been offered the choice of giving up his faith and embracing Islam. If he did not convert he and his family would be executed. He renounced his faith. When the ISIS terrorists questioned his children, they said, "We will never renounce the Christ that we love". They were immediately executed. Do pray for Andrew and the believers in Iraq.

I am sure you have heard about the UN soldiers from Fiji who were held captive by Islamic terrorists in Syria right by the Israeli border. They were



The recently released 45 Fijian UN Peace keeping soldiers also came to say thank you to the IDF and the Christians for their prayers and devotion. Picture: ICEJ

released after a harrowing experience. I was so delighted to see them in attendance at the Israeli night of the Christian Embassy celebration. They all marched in singing the national song from Fiji. As the Gospel singers led in worship they were all enthusiastically participating. I had been praying for them. Two days later, we met them in Bethany (home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus). We greeted them and told them we were praying for them. They thanked us and told us that for the first three days of captivity they were not fed. After three days, the terrorists fed them grapes and pita bread. They are thankful to God to be alive. They are worthy examples.

3. GROWTH THROUGH THE WORD AND TRIALS

God uses different methods in our growth process as we become like Christ. The first is the Word. Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would be sanctified in the truth, and that His Word is truth. God also uses the trials of life. We are to consider it joy when we encounter various trials knowing that the testing of our faith produces endurance and that endurance has its perfect result that we may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:1,2)

We thank God for the opportunity to hear, read, study and share the Word. We also give thanks for the trials and tests that we encounter.

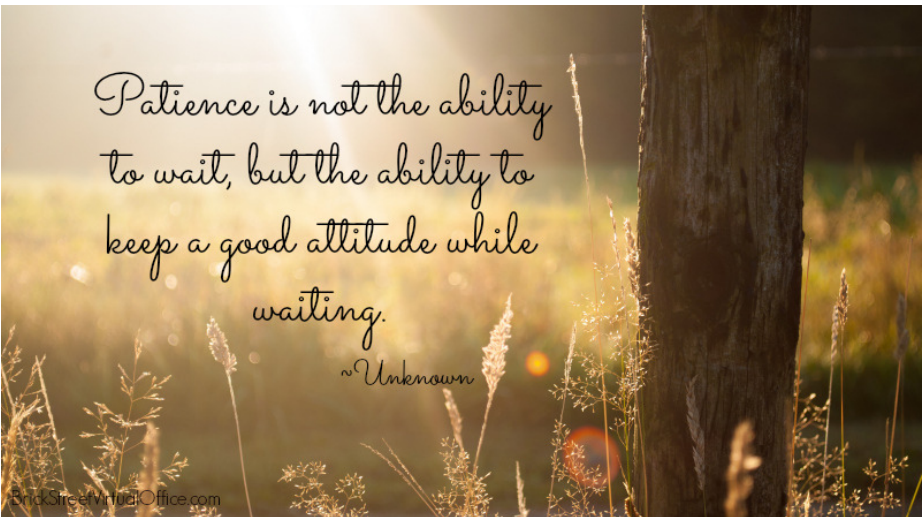
Just last week at the conclusion of the feast, we took a group to Bethany, Jericho and the baptism site of Jesus on the Jordan River.

As we returned home to Jerusalem on the Jericho Road (Highway 1), I noticed that my steering wheel was getting more difficult to turn. God, in His good providence, timed the whole thing. Fortunately there was a service station near by just off the highway, where we could check out the problem. As I turned into the station, I discovered my brakes were not working as well. A red light came on. When we finally stopped we opened the hood and then a nice Israeli man



came over to help. We checked the liquids and everything seemed all right. The Israeli then called me over and showed me that one of the belts on the are was broken. He helped me call the tow service. They came in a half an hour and off we went. My other friends took a cab and Billie and I went with the tow truck. God was so good in protecting us. His timing was perfect. If we had continued we would have been in danger on the highway. Thank the Lord for his angels who watch over us.

The trials continued. A week after the above adventure, I discovered that my reverse gear was not working. As I sought to park the car, smoke began to come out of the engine. That meant trouble. Billie and I pushed the car into a parking space and we headed home (around a 15 minute walk). The next day as I tried to start the car, it turned over somewhat and then died. I called up the tow company again with the help of an Israeli who spoke Hebrew. He was like an angel who came to my rescue. As I waited for the truck many Israeli's came up and offered their help. One even brought me a cup of tea. I made some good acquaintances, thinking, "God is so kind and good and works all things out for our good". Yes, in all these trials my patience was tried, but my faith in our sovereign and loving God has grown.



WELCOME HOME TO THE HILLS!

***"May the Lord bless you and protect you.
May the Lord smile upon you and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord show you His favor and give you His peace."
Numbers 6:24-26***

This is the prayer that was prayed over us as we returned to the States in late April and it's the prayer we pray for each of you today.

Dianne drove nearly 25,000 miles, two trips to Philadelphia, one trip to Miami, two trips to Texas and all in between in the Southeast. We were able to speak in 31 churches and to thousands who were interested in what God is doing in Israel. Now we are finally back home in Israel. We arrived the early morning of Friday the 17th, then joined Kimmie and Sahar on a tour of Northern Israel the following Sunday. It's amazing that we were able to get over the jet lag so quickly. What an amazing opportunity to hear our son-in-law explain the historical facts of each location and also share the Scripture reference that correlated. We were blessed.

I will be back in my routine when I return to my coaches' Bible study on Friday, preaching and singing at Jerusalem Baptist Church - we fit right in again and happy to be so.

We could not have managed this summer without your prayers and support. Thank you for all you do to help us to be a shining light in this dark place. Please pray for our visa situation: we came in on a 90 days tourist visa and are presently working on our status here.

Blessings to you all, Terry and Dianne

P.s.

It was wonderful to meet Sandy again. She sends her love.



INTRODUCING LORA AND MARCUS PRIDGEN



Marcus and Lora Pridgen met in June 2011 after each being single for over 10 years (both of their previous marriages had failed). They met while attending Central Community Church in Cocoa, Florida, in the audio/visual booth. They mar-

ried in February 2012 and became members of First Baptist Church of Merritt Island, which is their home church.

Marcus was a semi-truck driver for Florida Linen for more than 20 years, driving local, 200 miles a day. Lora worked with Bridges for Peace in Florida, the national headquarters for the United States as their Stewardship Manager for seven years. The Lord called them to be a part of the team at the International headquarters Bridges for Peace. They sold their house, cars and all possessions to come and volunteer with Bridges for Peace Jerusalem.

They have two sons, Chase (23 years old) and Dillon (22 years old). Please pray for them as they are trying to find their purpose in life.

We are grateful for Marcus and Lora's willingness to serve at JBC and for joining the audio/visual team.



Lora receiving some technical advice from Roger Mikel

September/October Activities



Dale Schlafer was guest speaker at JBC. He is Cofounder and President of the Center for World Revival and Awakening, dedicated to building the local church by promoting the revival of the church, the awakening of the lost, and the reformation of our society. The Center especially works with pastors and church leaders. Dale served with Promise Keepers, as a pastor in two churches in the USA, and is a contributing author for several books. Dale and his wife of 49 years, Liz, have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

Dale kindly gave us permission to publish illustration of the sponges he used in his sermon.

The illustration of the sponges is to give a visual of where a person is in their walk with Christ. The Lord says in John 7:38, "that he who believes in me, that is Jesus, from their inmost being will flow streams of living water."



I take a hard sponge and ask people to describe it. I get answers like: hard, dry, unbending, useless. I then take the hard sponge and place it in a bowl of water. As it sits in the water the sponge begins to expand and fill with the water until it is saturated. At that point I pick it up and because the sponge is saturated, water flows out of the sponge into the bowl.

This is what happens in revival. People begin once again to live lives from which "streams of living water" begin to flow.



I keep three sponges there beside the bowl.

1. One sponge is completely hard.
2. One sponge has just a little moisture left in it but is rapidly becoming hard.
3. One is very soft and moist but not leaking any water.
4. The fourth sponge is in the bowl of water.

I ask: "Which of these sponges represents your life right now? Are you leaking Jesus wherever you go—holding up the sponge from the bowl of water? Or are you soft like this sponge but no longer leaking water? Or are you like this one starting to get hard. And of course it is possible to be completely hard like this sponge. Which one are you?"

Jesus says that we are to be men, women and young people who from our inmost beings have streams of living water flowing in abundance. If there is no water flowing from us, then friend you stand in need of revival.

September 18, *Jahrzeit* Gideon Walters



The stone laying ceremony on the *Jahrzeit* of the death of Gerald (Gideon) Walters Z"L took place on September 18, 2013 at 4 p.m. at the CMA cemetery, Emek Rephaim 41 in Jerusalem.



Jewish Mourning Customs (excerpt from the book: *Remember, Observe, Rejoice*)

SHIVA (lit. seven) is the week-long mourning period in Judaism for first-degree relatives: father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister and spouse. The mourning period, also called "sitting shiva," begins immediately after burial, which in Israel has to take place within 24 hours. The Jewish laws on mourning balance emotionalism and philosophic wisdom. Mourners are expected to cry, tear their garments and participate in the burial ceremony. However, they are not allowed to mourn too much or for too long. The emphasis of the mourning period is to recover from the loss and to focus on the business of living. In Israel, mourners only return to work after the shiva. After the death of a parent or a spouse one is considered a mourner for twelve months.

SHLOSHIM – THIRTY DAYS

The thirty-day period following burial (including *shiva*) is known as *shloshim* (thirty). *Shloshim* marks the end of the mourning period for other relatives than parents and spouse.

SHNEM-ASAR CHODESHIM - THE TWELVE MONTHS

Mourners who lost a parent or spouse observe a twelve-month period counted from the day of death. During this period, most activity returns to normal, although mourners continue to recite the mourner's *kaddish* for eleven months. They are not allowed to attend festive occasions and large gatherings where live music is played.

HAZKARAH AND YAHRZEIT

Hazkarah is the last memorial service of the first 12 months of mourning. The *Yahrzeit* ((Yiddish, "time of year") refers to the anniversary of the day of death of a relative. This is usually commemorated by lighting a memorial candle at home and visiting the grave, where a family member recites the *Kaddish* and the *El Maleh Rachamim* prayer.



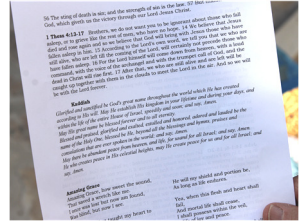


KADDISH

(Lit. sanctification) is an Aramaic prayer of praise to God. Originally it was a brief prayer in synagogue. The mourner's *Kaddish* became accepted practice in the 13th century, at the time of the Crusades. From the 15th century, the prayer began to be used as a recitation on the anniversary of the death of a family member. *Kaddish* can be recited both by men and women,

including non-religious Jews.

“Glorified and sanctified be God’s great Name throughout the world which He has created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days and within the life of the entire house of Israel, speedily and soon. Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honoured, adored and lauded be the Name of the Holy One blessed be He, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world, and let us say Amen.”



In Biblical times, graves were marked with mounds of stones.



By placing (or replacing) them, the visitor helped maintain the gravesite. When visiting a Jewish grave, it is customary to place a small stone on the slab with the left hand. It shows others visited the gravesite, and participated in the mitzvah of burial.

JBC family news



It's never easy having to say good-bye to people who've been living in the Land for many years. September 28, Pastor Al succeeded in lightening up the sadness a bit before praying for a dear couple, Terri and Dave McInnes.



But we stayed in touch. This is what Terri wrote:

"We are settling in here in the U.S. and find that this country is as unstable as Israel. However, it is wonderful to see our family and friends. The weather is lovely and the trees here in North Carolina are turning beautiful Fall colors. We do miss our friends in Israel and being so close to all the biblical places. We spent four years as managers of the Baptist Village and then almost three years in Jerusalem added to our time in Senegal and the Czech Republic. We feel so blessed to have been able to serve in these special places and come to know so many wonderful people. In Israel and especially Jerusalem, we learned so much about Judaism and how the Old Testament spoke of our Messiah in all the Law and Prophets. The Jewish roots of Christianity are so rich and add so much to our understanding of the Lord. We will certainly be talking about these things to the people here. To think that we were walking in places where the biblical people lived is so very amazing! We will never be the same!

We also met some wonderful Arab Christians and some great Muslim Arabs also. We came to understand more fully the many complications of the peoples of Israel and the political and religious tension. We are so thankful that our Lord is the One who loves all the people of Israel and wants them all to know about the message of salvation that he won for all of them. It was awesome sitting in church with so many believers not only Jewish and Arab but also of almost every nation.

Israel as a Third World country that has rapidly changed into a First World country, has both worlds woven into its fabric as well as the cultures of many groups. It is a unique and wonderful place, so important to each one of

us. It is a place that has changed us forever. We do pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for you who live there.

We miss and love you all and thank you for your warmth and concern for us.

Update on David's surgery on October 29.

We are praising our Lord for the success of David's surgery. We are so grateful for all the prayers and our awesome Father who answered with His grace and mercy. The surgery went as well as it possibly could have. The old implant was removed without much trouble. Not much bone had been lost during the infection. A spacer of antibiotics has been put in to clear the infection. This spacer will allow David to bend his "knee" as he recovers. After five or six weeks he will have the final implant. We ask for your continued prayers as we wait for this surgery. We are praying that this will be the end of all these knee problems for David. Again we cannot thank you enough for your wonderful prayer support, encouragement and concern.

Thank you all of for. We miss being in Jerusalem.

Blessings, Terri and Dave McInnis

You can write to Terri and Dave. Email: dtmcinnis@gmail.com



CELEBRATING SUKKOT AT JBC

Like every year, we had refreshments in our *Succah* outside the Church. On October 11, an old-time church member surprised us with a visit. Imelda, who now lives in Canada, was thrilled to see at least a few known faces. Below, the JBC congregation around 2003.



Sitting on the low wall:
A group of Scottish
'Lassies',
enjoying food and
fellowship at JBC

LIVIUS & TATIANA

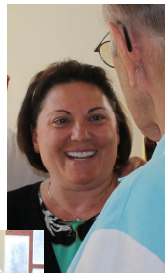


During the summer, our brother Livius went to the USA for a couple of months to visit relatives. Only a few people knew the reason why he looked so radiant upon his return. The rest of the JBC family found out when he introduced his bride, Tatiana during the service on October 19. Both came from Rumania, and had been widowed for a few years. Tatiana gave a testimony on how the Lord brought them together. Sharing in their joy we blessed the happy couple with a real wedding cake, cards, presents and refreshments after the service on October 26.



Our amazing catering team





DVD & BOOK REVIEW



Max Lucado's *The Christmas Candle* DVD

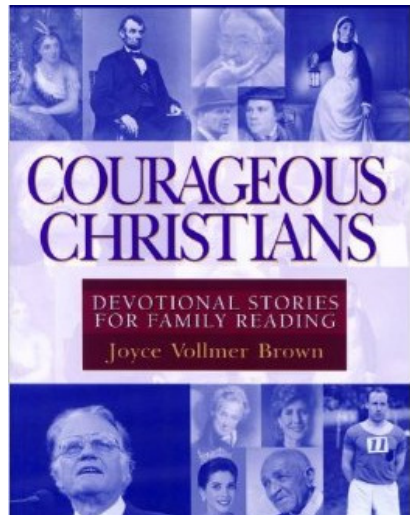
Gladstone is an ordinary 19th-century English village---except at Christmastime, when an angel visits the home of humble candle maker Edward Haddington and bestows a precious gift. The divinely blessed taper can impart an extraordinary blessing. But with the dawn of the electric age will this centuries-old tradition fade away? Features singing sensation Susan Boyle. Rated PG. Approx. 100 minutes.

Available through Christianbook.com

COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANS

All parents want their children to have solid Christian role models outside the home, so introduce your kids to some real-life Christian heroes. In this delightful family reader, Brown provides 60 daily devotions based on the lives of inspiring Christians, including Billy Graham, Joni Eareckson Tada, Corrie ten Boom, Amy Carmichael, Elisabeth Elliot, and D.L. Moody!

Paperback, 128 pages, Moody Publishers
ISBN: 0802443486



CALENDAR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

THANKSGIVING: the expression of gratitude, especially to God.

In North America Thanksgiving is an annual national holiday marked by religious observances and a traditional meal including turkey. The holiday commemorates a harvest festival celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621, and is held in the US on the fourth Thursday in November. A similar holiday is held in Canada, usually on the second Monday in October. Thanksgiving has its historical roots in religious and cultural traditions, and has long been celebrated in a secular manner as well.

While not an inherently religious holiday, Thanksgiving celebration has caused debate within the Jewish community and illuminates the delicate balance that American Jews hold between their Jewish and American identities.

That first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621, mirrored ancient harvest feasts such as the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. It continued to be one-time events until in 1863, when during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national holiday for the last Thursday of each November as a "day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."



In 1868, feeling that the holiday was "apparently intended to exclude Israelites" from the celebration, Philadelphia's rabbis condemned the encroachment on the freedom of religion and expressed the sentiment that national holidays should be devoid of religious content.

As decades have passed, Thanksgiving has retained less of its original English Pilgrim origins and most American Jews have absorbed the holiday into their own traditions.



Unlike other celebrations, such as Halloween, *halacha* does not prohibit Jewish participation in Thanksgiving because the holiday has secular, not religious origins and undertones. Jews are forbidden by the Torah to partake in "gentile customs," a prohibition derived from Leviticus 18:3, but most do not consider Thanksgiving to fall into this

category and therefore celebrate it as well.



DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

December 16 – Lighting first candle for Chanukah

December 24 – Lighting last candle for Chanukah

December 21 – Christmas Play at JBC and Fellowship Dinner

December 24 – Bethlehem Christmas outreach

December 25 & 26 – Christmas

Details of specific events will be announced on JBC's Facebook page and in the Weekly Update.

CHANUKKAH AND THE SUFGANIYAH

A *sufganiyah* (plural, *sufganiyot*) is a round jelly doughnut eaten in Israel and around the world on the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

The doughnut is deep-fried, filled with jelly or custard, and then topped with powdered sugar. At Hanukkah, Jewish people observe the custom of eating fried foods in commemoration of the miracle associated with the Temple oil. The Hebrew word *sufganiyah* and Arabic word *sfenj* derive from the words for sponge (*sfog*; *isfanj*, Arabic).



Angel Bakeries, the largest bakery in Israel, reportedly fries up more than 250,000 sufganiyot every day during the eight-day Hanukkah festival. Each batch uses 100 kilograms of dough and makes 1,600 sufganiyot. Local newspapers add to the excitement by sending out food critics each year to rate the "best sufganiyah in town." In recent years, Israeli bakeries began downsizing sufganiyot to appeal to health-conscious consumers. The usual 100 grams (3.5 oz)

size, packing 400 to 600 calories (1700 to 2500 kJ) now appears in 50 grams (1.8 oz) size with different fillings and toppings, earning the name "mini".

The eight days of *Chanukkah* begin on the 25th of Kislev. It is the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights.

Chanukkah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas. Many non-Jews (and even many assimilated Jews) think of this holiday as the Jewish Christmas, adopting many of the Christmas customs, such as elaborate gift-giving and decoration. It is bitterly ironic that this holiday, which has its roots in a revolution against assimilation and the suppression of Jewish religion, has become the most assimilated, secular holiday on the

Jewish calendar.

Chanukkah is not an important religious holiday, roughly equivalent to Purim. The holiday is not mentioned in Jewish scripture; the story is related in the book of Maccabees, which Jews do not accept as scripture. John 10:22-23 mentions the "Feast of Dedication".

The only religious observance related to the holiday is the lighting of candles. The candles are arranged in a candelabrum called a menorah (or sometimes called a *chanukkiyah*) that holds nine candles: one for each night, plus a *shammash* (servant) at a different height.



***There is always, always, ALWAYS
Something to be thankful for!***

CHANUKAH BINGO

To play this game print all 5 Chanukah Bingo sheets. Each player gets a different Bingo board. Use one of the Chanukah Bingo sheets to cut every square out separately. Place these cut squares in a hat or box. When the "caller" pulls an image out of the box or hat and it is on a player's board, the player colors that image. When one player gets five colored squares in a row or diagonally that person wins!



“For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them.” - Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD)

"I will thank Him for the pleasures given me through my senses, for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children.

I will thank Him for the pleasures of seeing, for the delights through color, for the awe of the sunset, the beauty of flowers, the smile of friendship and the look of love; for the changing beauty of the clouds, for the wild roses in the hedges, for the form and beauty of birds, for the leaves on the trees in spring and autumn, for the witness of the leafless trees through the winter, teaching us that death is sleep and not destruction, for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay. Truly, O Lord, the earth is full of thy riches!"

Edward King



JBC NEWS 2015

For two years now, we've been publishing a bi-monthly magazine. In 2015 you will receive JBC news every THREE months. The magazine will have more pages and contains lots of news, articles, testimonies, pictures and more!

**"Commitment is doing the thing
you said you were going to do
long after the mood you said it
in has left you."**

- Unknown

Established in 1925, the **Baptist House in Jerusalem** is one of Jerusalem's oldest Protestant institutions. Jerusalem Baptist Church (JBC) is a member of the Baptist Convention of Israel and is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States. We operate under the *amuta* of the Baptist Convention of Israel.

Over the years, faithful congregants have joyfully served in many positions throughout Israel and partnered with many denominations and organizations to serve the Savior here. Each Sunday, the worship service is filled with people from many nations, and visitors from around the globe. You may be surprised to find someone from your hometown worshipping with us when you visit!

The purpose of JBC is to serve the interest of Jesus Christ in this city until He returns.

Sunday morning Prayer Meeting at 9.30 A.M.

Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.

Children's Sunday School ages K-6. Older children are invited to attend the main service.

Communion: every first Sunday of the month.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Friday Ladies' Bible Study at 9.30 a.m.

**4 Narkis Street, Jerusalem
P.O. Box 154, Jerusalem, Israel.**

SENIOR PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
DEACON
DEACON

Dr. Al Nucciarone
Rev. Joel McElreath
Coach Terry Hill
Bruce Mills

Phone: 02- 672 3250 Mobile: 050 8193060 (Pastor Al)
Email: jerbapch@netvision.net.il or jerbapch@gmail.com
Website: www.jerusalemchristianchurch.org

**J
B
C**



**CHECK US OUT ON
FACEBOOK**

Jerusalem Baptist Church in Jerusalem, Israel