

**No. 1**

**August 2015 - January 2016**



**Jerusalem Baptist Church  
Newsletter**

## COLOFON

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"Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith."

Henry Ward Beecher ( 1813 – 1887)

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## THE PLACE OF TRIALS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



Jesus Christ told His disciples, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). The Apostle Paul said that we have been called not only to believe in Him and to suffer for Him (Phil. 1:29). God has a purpose for the suffering that believers have to endure. Since we are identified with Christ we will experience much of what Christ experienced.

How are we to respond to the trials that we face? We, as believers are not immune to the problems and stresses of life that all encounter.

As the Scripture states: The rain falls on the just and the unjust. We will have our share of sickness, financial loss, job loss, and the loss of loved ones. As the children of God we have a Father who loves us and will also discipline us when we stray. Peter spoke of those who suffer for righteousness sake, but also warned us that we may also suffer because we do wrong. (1 Peter 4:15). The Psalmist speaks of the role of affliction to keep us on the right track. He says, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word; It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees" (Psalm 119:67,71). We should be thankful for God's chastening and protective hand.

### A PERSONAL LESSON

How well can I identify with the Psalmist. Even as a young seminary student preparing for the ministry, I had problems with trusting God completely. Sometimes I sought to do things my way and not God's way. In the summer of 1977 after spending a week at my home in New Jersey I went back to Dallas to work the whole summer for a moving company to earn a lot of money for school. I planned to put in around 70 hours a week. I would go to church on Sunday and work and that was about it. After a week on the job God put a halt to those plans. I was working one day with a company worker. He was the driver, I was in the cab with him. We were driving in Dallas toward our work destination, when all of a sudden I found myself in the back of an ambulance. He had driven the moving truck under a bridge that was too low for the truck. The truck had toppled over. I found myself at a local hospital with a broken shoulder blade. I was sent home with some pain killers. The only problem was that I had no-one to go home to.

I was single and living with another guy who was never around. I was in such pain I could not even get out of bed. By the grace of God, I was able to fly back to New Jersey to be with my parents. This turned out to be of the Lord because I was able to see another doctor (who happened to go to college with one of my profs, Dr. Charles Ryrie). He was one of the best orthopedic doctors in New Jersey. They discovered I also had some broken vertebrae. I was in the hospital for 2 weeks and then released to recover at home. As I was lying in bed one day I happened to be listening to a Christian Radio station. The speaker was reading from the biography of Joni Erickson, the young girl who was paralyzed as a result of a diving accident. God used that incident in her life and now she could tell the world that God works all things out for good. I listened and I cried. I knew that God had spared me for a purpose. I could have died or been paralyzed.

As it ended up, I took a year to heal. I was even able to finish up my last year of Seminary. God provided a weekly workman's compensation during my last year and even provided a lump sum of \$4000.00 at the end of my physical therapy. This provided money to go to Israel (something I had prayed for) and money to live on for the next 6 months and even money for a ring for my future wife. God taught me that He will work things out for good even when I make mistakes and do things my way. I know that to overload yourself with work is not God's will. He also used this to help me make a decision to serve Him overseas in whatever capacity. There are those like myself who suffered because of doing things their own way. There are also those who suffer because they want to do thing God's way.

### DOING RIGHT AND SUFFERING

The epistles of Peter and James are helpful letters to those who are suffering because of their Christian faith. Paul tells Timothy that "all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution". (II Tim. 3:12). In both epistles the writers encourage the believers to rejoice when they encounter various trials. Peter encourages them to do this because they are identified with Christ and will share in His glory for their patience.

James gives the reason which is that “knowing that the testing of our faith produces endurance and let endurance have its perfect result that we may be perfect complete lacking in nothing”. (James 1:4,5). I once heard that James is saying that when you have trials and problems that you must organize a party. Just tell your friends that are invited to celebrate your character transforming trials. Phillips translation states to “welcome trials as your friends”. God is in the business of character development and He uses trials as part of the process.

***“Consider all joy my brethren we encounter various trials.”***

***James 1:3***



Official Viennese linen ell and drapery ell length standards embedded in the cathedral wall

### **PASS OR FAIL**

Trials also have other purposes. God uses these to test our faith. How strong is your faith? How genuine is your trust in God?

In the center of the city of Vienna, Austria is situated the great cathedral St. Stephen's. It is the focal point of the city.



In former days it was the religious symbol of the city and the standard for the morals and ethics for the people. As you enter the front door to the left you will see two metal bars and an indented marking. The bars were the exact measurement for a meter and half meter.

If you were sold some rope and paid for 2 meters, you could go down to the cathedral and see if you were given the right amount. It was the standard.

The indented marking was in the shape of a loaf of bread. You could do the same with the bread that you bought. It had to meet the size standard. If these did not meet the standard, you could report the sellers and they would be taken to the Danube river for a good dunking.

***“Every affliction comes with a message from God.”***

***Alexander McLaren***

God uses trials to test our faith to see if it is genuine. We pass the test when we rejoice in Him and give Him thanks. We do not pass when we complain.

Sometimes there is a great lesson to learn. Our prayer after each trial should be, “Lord what you are teaching me here?”

When we learn the lesson and respond in faith and obedience, we pass the test.

***“When the Child of God looks into the Word of God and sees the Son of God, He is changed by the Spirit of God into the Image of God for the Glory of God.”***

***Warren Wiersbe***

## **WORD STUDY**

### ***Ability***

**Daniel 1; Zechariah 4 - "The ability to do something"**

**The Hebrew word '*koah*' means: strength, power, force ability.**

**Septuagint: '*ischus*' = strength, power, might.**

***Dunamis* = power, might, strength, force ability, capability.**

**The basic meaning of '*koach*' is the ability to do something.**

**When Daniel and his friends went into exile in Babylon, they already had wisdom and were cunning in knowledge and even understood science.**

**This formed the basis for their enrollment into the Royal Babylonian School for Higher learning.**

**By His power, God enabled them to learn the difficult Chaldean language and to understand the myriad of subjects the Babylonians were famous for.**

**God delights in helping people  
who are willing to be used as vessels for Him.  
He doesn't tolerate self-sufficiency and pride  
when we become successful.**

**Like Zechariah admonished the people, we must learn to depend upon God's '*koah*' and trust in Him. It is His strength that gives us the ability to do something.**

**And like Daniel and his friends, we should always be willing to keep learning, without compromising our beliefs.**

# GOD'S SCHOOL OF DISCIPLINE - By Pastor Joel McElreath

Scripture references: Psalm 91; Isaiah 43: 1-7

## INTRODUCTION:

All believers are fellow pilgrims in route to the heavenly city of Zion. We learn from each other along the way how the Lord is faithful to be with us in our problems and this is an encouragement to give us hope as we persevere on the road as well as we are able to encourage others. In the past we were studying the Book of First Peter and learning about the sufferings and disciplines endured because of our faith and identity with the Savior. For our study, I want to digress and share some difficulties and insights that have transpired in recent years in Carolyn's and my earthly pilgrimage.

I have outlined our meditation in three points:

## I. THE REALITY OF TRIALS AND INTERRUPTIONS.

"For man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7).

### A. Interruptions are often divine appointments.

1. True maturity in the faith teaches us that disruptive moments are divine instructions. Each ordeal has been permitted, even intended by God. **The sting will go out as you learn to see the Lord in all things.**

2. Both Job and the Apostle Paul learned that God was ultimately in control of events to perfect them. Paul had a "stake" in the flesh.

"There is nothing, no circumstance, no trouble, no testing that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has come past God and past Christ, right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose." Allen Redpath

### B. Progress without pain is usually not possible.

1. Character and substance are shaped in the crucible of adversity.

People who live a carefree life with few trials or problems generally are shallow and weak spiritually.

2. Alexander Solzhenitsyn endured long years of solitude and suffering in prison and wrote, *"It was only when I lay there on rotting prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes, not through states, not between classes, nor between political parties either, but right through every human heart, and through all human hearts. So bless you, prison, for having been in my life."*

**"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run in to it and are safe."  
Proverbs 18:10**

## II. THE RESULT OF TRIALS AND INTERRUPTIONS.

A. The promises of God are the provision of grace and the secret to effective intercessory prayer. Two scripture passages were significant in our "disruptive moment" a few years ago that Carolyn experienced for 35 days in the hospital. (Pastor David Jeremiah from San Diego, California survived a serious ordeal with cancer and called it "A bend in the road.")

**Psalm 91.** A beautiful Psalm listing a number of names of God and His intimate protection and provision for those who know His Name. Note in verse 2, the personal pronouns. In verses 9 & 10, the two dwelling places. In verses 14-16, God's voice and promise to those who know and love His name.

**Isaiah 43:1-7.** The context is for Israel but in verse 7, the promise is to "everyone who is called by my name." Note in verse 1b, "Do not fear... you are mine." Because of our relationship, we can go through deep waters (like the Israelites leaving Egypt) and through extreme fire (like the friends of Daniel in Babylon) and not be destroyed. Carolyn's life was preserved and the resulting huge hospital bill was also resolved by the Lord.

**The intercessor's secret is learning to prevail and to "cling" to the Lord.**

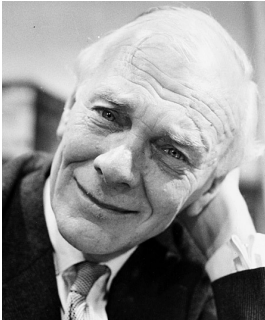
**B. Trials produce dynamic growth.** God allows no pain without purpose. He uses pain to dispense His power, to generate holy living, and to make fruitful lives.

1. **More power** – 2 Cor. 12:7-10. Verse 9, “..that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”
2. **More holiness** – Hebrews 12:10. The theme here is the example of Christ’s endurance for us to not be weary or discouraged by God’s discipline. Note verse 7 & 10. “He disciplines us for good, that we may share His holiness.”
3. **More fruit** – John 15:1-8. Pruning is necessary for fruit.

### III. THE RESPONSE TO TRIALS AND INTERRUPTIONS

#### A. Three general responses:

1. We can despise the moment and be angry. However, the writer of Hebrews says, “Do not regard lightly the chastening of the Lord” (12:5).
2. We can become discouraged, lose heart and give up. God’s goal is our perseverance, for it leads to growth and maturity.
3. We can endure it and be trained by it.



“As an old man looking back on one’s life, it is one of the things that strikes you most forcibly –that the only thing that’s taught one anything is suffering. Not success, not happiness, not anything like that. The only thing that really teaches one what life’s about –the joy of understanding, the joy of coming in contact with what life really signifies—is suffering, affliction.”  
British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge

#### B. What we receive from trials depends on how we respond.

1. It is natural to ask many questions, all beginning with the word “why?”  
“Why this, Lord?” “Why now? Why not later? Why not someone else?”
2. But we can ask better questions – we can ask “what” or “how” questions: “What Lord? What would You have me to do? What are You trying to teach me?”  
“How can I be more conformed to the image of Christ?”
3. **A suggested prayer:**

**“Lord, what do you want to teach me to make me a better person? What are Your plans to make me more effective” Lead me and guide me through this process, O Lord. Be my teacher, show me Your ways. And don’t let me miss any lesson You’ve prepared for me. Amen.”**

#### APPLICATION:

1. We need to remember that Job was a paragon of suffering and discipline and he summarized his trial as like a refining process. He writes, “But He knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10). The refining process required that the metal be heated and the dross excluded seven times.
2. The scriptures show us clearly that nothing in life is wasted if we love and serve God. Everything that happens to us is for the eternal purposes of God. He is training us through the process.

**“The name of the LORD is a strong tower;  
the righteous runs into it and is safe”  
Proverbs 18:10**

**“Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
who have set their hearts on  
pilgrimage” Psalm 84:5**

“I bear witness that I owe more to the fire, and the hammer, and the file, than to anything else in my Lord’s workshop. I sometimes question whether I have ever learned anything except through the rod. When my schoolroom is darkened, I see most.”

Charles Spurgeon

“Tried for a season, pure for eternity.”

Warren Wiersbe

## HILARIOUS GIVING

Excerpt from *The Grace Awakening*,  
by Charles R. Swindoll.

*Strong's # 2431 Hilaros – cheerful, joyous, not grudging. Hilaros (won over, already inclined) is only used in 2 Corinthians 5:7 where it describes spontaneous non reluctant giving.)*

Grace is attractive, for it individualizes the gift. You are an individual. When you give on that basis, your gift is an individual kind of gift.

**First:** We are not all shoved into a tank, blended together, then "required" to give exactly 10 percent. (Though if everyone gave 10 percent, we would have such an enormous surplus in God's work we would not know what to do with the extra . . . but I'm sure we'd quickly find out.) It is much more individualized than that. Grace, remember, brings variety and spontaneity.

**"Not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7**

**Secondly:** Grace makes the action joyfully spontaneous. I never have been able to understand why everyone in the church looks so serious during the offering. Wouldn't it be great if when the offering plates are passed in church next Sunday that instead of grim looks, stoic silence, and soft organ music you heard laughter? I can just imagine: "Can you believe we're doing this?" "Put it in the plate, honey. Isn't this great? Put it in!" . . . followed by little ripples of laughter.



Wonderful! Why not?

The word cheerful is literally a Greek term from which we get the word "hilarious." "God loves a hilarious giver."

**Thirdly:** Grace enables us to link up with God's supply line.

**"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed." 2 Corinthians 8**

Because of grace, we give, ourselves and from what we earn. And He, in turn, gives back in various ways, not matching gift for gift, but in an abundance of ways, He goes beyond.

**Fourthly:** Grace leads to incomparable results.

**"Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you."**

2 Corinthians 9:13–14



**"Every decision I make should be filtered through the Matthey 6:33 filter: where I put my money, how I spend my time, what to buy, sell and give away." Chuck Swindoll**

Life  
is not measured  
by the breaths we take  
but by the *moments*  
that take our  
*breath*  
away.



## SEPTEMBER 2015 News

Our dear brother, Steve Walden, had been helping out at JBC while Pastor Al and Billie were abroad. On **September 13** it was time to say good-bye again. It is always a joy and blessing to have him around. Thank you, Steve, for your servant heart!



On **September 20**, we were blessed with a special group of visitors, all the way from Nagaland, India. Our sister Alemla, who is also from Nagaland, proudly introduced them to us. We also celebrated little Hannah's 1st birthday together!



**Nagaland is known as  
"the only predominantly Baptist state in the world."**

## ABOUT NAGALAND



**Nagaland** was established in 1963 and divided into 11 districts. It is mainly inhabited by the Naga tribes.

Next to tourism, agriculture is the most important economic activity. Today, it is one of the smallest Indian states, located in the far north-eastern part.

To the west it borders the state of Assam and to the east, Mount Saramati, at 3,840 meters, which forms a natural barrier with Burma. Kohima is the capital. Rich in flora and fauna, about one-sixth of Nagaland is covered by tropical and sub-tropical evergreen forests. Blyth's Tragopan, a pheasant, is the State Bird of Nagaland while the Mithun has been adopted as the official seal of the Nagaland Government.

Sixteen main tribes live in Nagaland, where traditions and loyalties continue to play an important part. Naga tribes speak more than 20 different dialects. Because 60% of the population depends on agriculture, most of their festivals revolve around agriculture. The Nagas are simple, straightforward, hard-working and honest people with a high standard of integrity. The Naga tribes were originally referred to as 'Naka' in Burmese (meaning 'people with pierced ears').

In 1816 the area was occupied by Burma until the British took over control in 1892.

The first foreign missionary landed on 6th February 1894. William Pettigrew was sponsored by the American Baptist Mission Union. Together with Dr. Crozier they worked amongst the Kuki – a non-Naga tribe living in Nagaland. Most Christians endeavors were

focused in the north-east of India.

The 1904-1905 Great Revival of Wales greatly influenced the area of Nagaland and the area where the Hmar tribe lived. (See the story of "Mr. Youngman".)

One of the first converts was a young man by the name of Chawnga. As more and more of the tribal people became Christians, he saw the need for the Scriptures in their native language. Chawnga prayed that someday he would have a son who would learn to read and write so that he could translate the Bible into the Hmar language.

Chawnga's son, Rochunga, 'Ro' became the first boy from his village to go to school - a dangerous hike of 96 miles. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Allahabad University he continued his schooling in Glasgow, Scotland. With the help of Dr. Billy Graham and Dr. Bob Pierce, Ro did his graduate work at Wheaton College, Illinois.

Like his father had hoped, Ro was able to translate the Bible into his native language. When the Bible arrived in North-east India, Chawnga and others joyfully distributed the book that had changed their



people from headhunters to heart-hunters.

In 1956 Ro met the Welsh evangelist, Watkin R. Roberts, who brought the gospel to the Hmar people.

Upon finishing his studies, Ro went back to India and married Lalrimawii, (Mawii) which means “the name of the Lord is a beautiful sound”, in 1959. Together they founded the Partnership Mission in Wheaton, IL. This later became Bibles For The World, now headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Even though the Hmar people now had their own Bible, many of them could not read. Ro and Mawii started Christian schools in 85 villages, seven Christian high schools, two junior colleges, and even a seminary for their people. Today the original school (and now the largest of all the schools), located in Chura-chandpur, has over 2,600 students.

Today, the Hmar people have one of the highest literacy rates of any Indian people group. God also led Ro and Mawii to plant more than 350 churches throughout Northeast India, part of the Evangelical Free Church of India.

Dr. Ro passed away in 2015. He is survived by his wife Mawii, their three children and six grandchildren.

Website: <http://biblesfortheworld.org/>



## HEROES OF THE FAITH – “Mr. Youngman”

***“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”***  
Isaiah 55:10,11 NASB.

Watkin R. Roberts was born in 1886 in Wales and brought up by devout Christian parents. While working in the slate quarries of North Wales he eventually became a partner in a slate mining business. Reading the sermons of Reuben A. Torrey, he became increasingly aware of a call to serve the Lord full time. All his free time was used to reading the Scriptures and theology books from well-known scholars of his time.

The 1904-1905 Revival transformed him from a man materialistic man to one who wanted to reach out to those who had not heard the name of Jesus Christ. During the 1906 Keswick Convention he dedicated himself to God for missionary service.



After selling his business interests he went to Liverpool for intensive training in pharmacy and dispensing. At the 1907 Convention one of the speakers spoke about the needs in India. ‘Hundreds of tribes in Assam and North India are in utter darkness. They need Jesus to save them from their heathen darkness’.

Roberts knew he was called to proclaim the good news of salvation to the tribesmen of Northeast India. During the 1908 Convention he was introduced to Dr. and Mrs. Peter Fraser, medical missionaries to India. They invited Watkin Roberts to help them establish a clinic at Aizawl. Together, they sailed for India in October 1908. The twenty-two year old was given the nick-name, ‘Pu Tlangval’ (Mr Youngman).

Deeply touched by a five-pound gift from England in 1909, he used the money to purchase John’s gospel, translated by the pioneer missionaries J.H. Lorains and F.W. Savidge into the Lushai language. He sent the copies as gifts to the village chiefs in the Lushai Hills and the adjoining areas. Roberts believed that if he provided the Word of God in the language of the people, the Holy Spirit would speak to their hearts.

One of the booklets was sent to Chief Kamkhawln of Senvawn village, the biggest Hmar village in the southern part of Manipur State. Roberts and a small number of new believers were praying that these gifts would yield results. Some months later, three men brought back a message from Chief Kamkhawln written in broken Lushai saying, ‘Sir, come yourself and tell us about this book and your God’. He especially wanted to know more about “being born again”.

Roberts perceived this response as a Macedonian call. Against the warning of the British officials not to venture into that dangerous territory, whose people were head-hunters, Roberts was determined to go.



Carrying the necessary travel permits, Roberts and his party reached Senvawn on the afternoon of 5 February 1910. Chief Kamkhawlung and his village gave them a warm welcome. Roberts preached from John 3:16 and concluded by saying, 'Believe in the word of God now'.

Roberts rejoiced to see the Hmar leaders come to know Christ through the powerful words of Jesus. One of the first believers was Chawnga – the father of Ro Pudaite.

One day, Chawnga took his young son to a high mountain and pointed to the next horizon.

**"If I were to go to the next mountain, there would be another, then another beyond that, for the horizon never ends. God's love will go with you, beyond the horizon."**

While Ro went to school, his father and other tribal preachers went throughout the region, sharing the good news with other villages. Three evangelist teachers set up a school in the village, whose main mission to preach the gospel.

Dr. Fraser had become ill, and in October 1912, Watkin and another church leaders were asked to escort him back to Wales. Roberts used the opportunity to visit churches in the United Kingdom to raise funds for the mission in Manipur.

During the Keswick Convention in 1914 he met Gladys Wescott Dobson, who also had a heart for overseas missions. They married in 1915 in Calcutta, India.

In 1913, Roberts had recruited a further thirteen native mission workers and the church continued to grow rapidly through the work of the native evangelists. His mission, the 'Thado Kookie Pioneer Mission' was later renamed 'North East India General Mission'. The Philadelphia headquarters also raised funds to support the native missionaries in North-east India. The mission later spread to many areas in Assam, Tripura and Arunachal states in India, to various tribes in parts of the Sagaing Division and the Chin Hills in Upper Burma and also to many tribes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

Roberts finally settled in Toronto, Canada. The Lord called him home in April 1969.



In Wales, Watkin R. Roberts may be a little known quarryman but in Northeast India and far beyond he is a well-known servant of the Lord. By taking one book – the Bible- one obedient believer made a difference in the lives of untold thousands amongst the Hmar tribe. The impact of a single act of obedience continues to make its mark amongst the nations.

Excerpt from: <https://www.emw.org.uk/magazine-test/a-little-known-quarryman/>

"When Missions shapes the Mission: You and your Church can reach the world." By David Homer.

**"Truth doesn't have to be liked. It only has to be spoken. Speak it out.**

**The truth may hurt you, but it will set you free."**

**"Standing by and doing nothing while a sin is committed is as bad as committing the sin itself"**

**Amish Tripathi, The Secret of the Nagas**

## THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG: I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

As a direct result of the Welsh revival, missionaries were called to Eastern India to preach the Gospel. One tribal family of headhunters became believers, and led others to Christ as well.



Early Naga warriors

When the chief found out, he called a tribal meeting, took husband, wife and two children and told the man to renounce Jesus, or he would kill his children. Looking at his children, the man said, "I have decided to follow Jesus."

Archers killed his children in front of his eyes.

Again, the chief said, "Renounce Jesus or I will kill your wife."

Looking at his dead sons, then at his wife, the man responded, "Though none go with me, still I will follow. No turning back."

The archers killed his wife in front of his eyes.

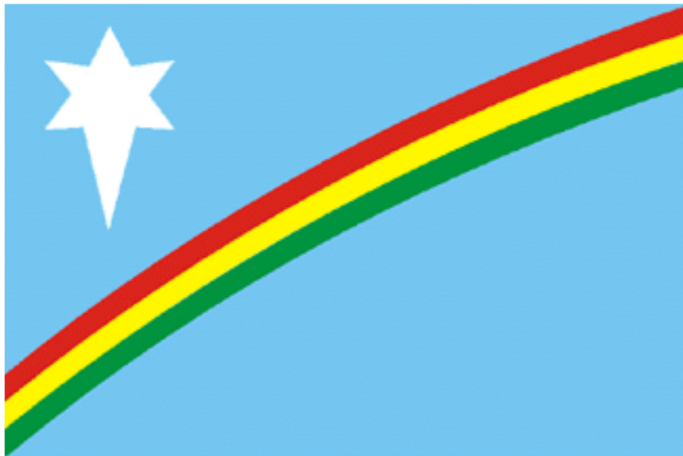
"Renounce Christ or you will die," the Chief yelled.

The brave man looked up at the sky and said, "The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back."

"Kill him!" the chief commanded the archers.

Looking at the dead bodies, the chief shook his head. He couldn't believe someone would be willing to sacrifice himself and his family for God. He came to the conclusion that this Jesus must be real.

On the very spot the chief accepted Jesus as Lord and in the following weeks the whole tribe accepted Jesus – because one man was willing to give up everything for Jesus' sake.



The Nagas believe that their flag has a rainbow with a six-point star, while the other nations have only five-pointed stars on their flags, because "Nagas are children of God."

**I have decided to follow Jesus; (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Though I may wonder, I still will follow; (3x) No  
turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me; (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Though none go with me, still I will follow; (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Will you decide now to follow Jesus? (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**"The opposite of love is not hate, its apathy,  
when you simply don't bother  
about that person!"**

**Amish Tripathi, The Secret of the Nagas**

It is believed that the formation of the original hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" is attributed to the Indian missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh. The original song, entitled "Assam" after the region where the text originated, was updated by an American hymn editor. This version was often sung at Billy Graham's evangelistic meetings in America and elsewhere, spreading its popularity.

## Nagaland, India - Challenges for Prayer

a) Tribal feuds, with each other and against other groups, as well as the long fight for Naga independence reveal that many have been Christianized without being truly changed.

The Naga insurgency has been the main catalyst for most of NE India's other independence-related conflicts. Pray that a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness might replace the politics of hate and violence that have kept the Nagas oppressed for many years.

b) Fragmentation of denominations has created 20 Baptist groups and countless newer, Independent churches. A true sense of Christian unity is lacking.

Pray that the Nagaland for Christ movement might draw churches together.

c) Generations of creeping nominalism have rendered many churches spiritually dead and allowed in liberal teaching and even financial corruption. Pray for another revival to sweep the cobwebs out of the Church, which runs the risk of losing a younger generation to materialism, immorality and substance abuse.

(Source: Operation World)

## DOING THE RIGHT THING

It's never wrong to do the right thing by Neal Jeffrey – excerpt from his book "If I can, y-y-you can!"



"Easy Eddie" was Al Capone's business partner in crime. The rich, successful lawyer and businessman got even richer helping run Capone's crime syndicate. After a change of heart Eddie's testimony helped put Al Capone in prison. Nobody knows the reason for this sudden change of heart, but some believe he decided to try and be a better example for his only son – his pride and joy. Years later, he paid the price for doing the right thing – he was gunned down by the mafia.

During WWII, Lt. Commander E.H. "Butch" O'Hare and five other fighter pilots spotted Japanese bombers approaching a USA carrier they were to protect. The rest of his squad were out of reach, and even though they were outnumbered nine to two, Butch and his wingman attacked alone. When the wingman's guns jammed, Butch could have called off the attack but instead decided to take on all nine enemy planes alone. By the time the other fighters arrived Butch had shot down five enemy bombers and damaged a sixth. Butch was awarded the Medal of Honor for doing the right thing in the face of deadly odds. Two years later, Butch was shot down and perished during combat over the South Pacific.



Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, named after him, was in the same city where Butch's father, Edward J. "Easy Eddie" O'Hare paid the ultimate price to bring down Al Capone.



**"Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest."  
Mark Twain.**

**"It doesn't matter what your dreams or calling from God may be – it won't come easy.  
You will have to battle for God's best in your life.  
And a big part of that battle will be "doing the right thing" consistently against all odds."**

## October 2015 News

**Sunday, October 4:** THE SINGING MEN AND WOMEN OF GEORGIA were in town! 10.45 a.m.: 40 "Jubalheirs" (Women's choir) sang at our morning service and there was a hand-bell ensemble. Pastor Butch Butcher was our guest speaker. A shuttle service brought everyone from JBC to the YMCA for the next concert at 12.30 p.m. The Sons of Jubal (150 male voice choir) performed at the YMCA (King David Street). And again, at 7.30 p.m. we enjoyed another Sons of Jubal concert at the Citadel (Tower of David) in Old City of Jerusalem. WHAT A DAY THAT WAS!



**Sunday, October 25:** Our brother Milad Khoury from the Gaza Baptist Church gave his testimony and we prayed for his upcoming mission trip to Iraq, to work amongst the refugees.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES IN THE HOLY LAND

Trees are symbols of life. God loves His trees, and even established a law to protect them. In war time, Israel was not allowed to cut down fruit trees to make siege works (Deut. 20:19-20). What other nation has a God who is so compassionate towards trees?

During the Ottoman Empire, landowners were taxed according to how many trees were on their property. By cutting down the trees the Promised Land was denuded.

Mark Twain described 1867 Ottoman Palestine saying, *“Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince. The hills are barren, they are dull of color, they are unpicturesque in shape. The valleys are unsightly deserts fringed with a feeble vegetation that has an expression about it of being sorrowful and despondent. The Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee sleep in the midst of a vast stretch of hill and plain wherein the eye rests upon no pleasant tint, no striking object, no soft picture dreaming in a purple haze or mottled with the shadows of the clouds. Every outline is harsh, every feature is distinct, there is no perspective--distance works no enchantment here. It is a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land....”* (From the book *“Innocents Abroad”*.)

Tree-planting is an ancient Jewish tradition. The Talmudic rabbi Yohanan ben Zakai used to say that if a person planting a tree heard that the Messiah had arrived, he should finish planting before going to greet him.

With over 240 million planted trees since 1908, Israel is one of only two countries that entered the 21st century with a net gain in the number of trees.



Tree planting in the Galilee in the 1960s.  
(Source: [www.pikiwiki.org.il](http://www.pikiwiki.org.il))

## TREES IN THE BIBLE - The Almond - By Petra van der Zande



In January, the gnarled, leafless almond tree begins to bloom; its pinkish white flowers provide ample nectar for the wild bees.

The almond belongs to the peach family. Growing wild in Israel, it can reach a height of 4.5 to 6 meters. The fruit is a drupe – that is, it has a soft, fleshy part around an inner stone that contains the seed. When it ripens, its dry or woody husk splits into two halves. The unripe, greenish fruits are a delicacy to some, but most people prefer the dried stone - the almond we know so well, eaten either salted or ground into a sugary pulp known as marzipan.

Almond buds and blossoms modelled for the Tabernacle's candelabra. Aaron's rod miraculously sprouted leaves and almond blossoms at the same time - God's sign that he and his tribe were chosen as priests. During the seven years of famine, Jacob sent almonds to the Egyptian ruler – a delicacy for them. In Ecclesiastes, the almond symbolizes old age because the white blossoms are reminiscent of white hair. Genesis 28:19 mentions Luz. The village probably received its name because the surrounding hills were full of almond trees.

In ancient times, dried fruits were either ground into a paste or used for their oil. Almonds were an exclusive cooking ingredient in Roman times. The bitter taste was removed by cooking them in water and the husks were used as fuel.

The root from the Hebrew **shaked** (almond) is the word **shoked** (to watch diligently or to wait). In Jeremiah 1:8 it is used as a wordplay. God asks Jeremiah, Israel's watchman, what he sees, "An almond (**shaked**) tree-branch", he answers. The Lord replies, "I will watch (**shoked**) over my word to perform it."



## LESSONS FROM THE MAGNOLIA TREE – John O’Leary



At the age of nine, John O’Leary was severely burned on 98% of his body. No one expected him to survive the first night. But he did. He then survived months in a hospital bed, dozens of surgeries, and years of therapy. Before his tenth birthday, John lost all of his fingers to amputation. This wasn’t the end. John’s journey was just beginning.

From this tragedy, John received the greatest gift – embracing the truth that regardless of our personal and professional challenges, we choose how to:

- ⇒ Navigate adversity through decision-making
- ⇒ Reveal a brighter vision for what’s possible
- ⇒ Live boldly to impact others

As a boy in that hospital bed, John could not have foreseen the amazing things he would accomplish. But his journey proved more empowering and rewarding than he could have ever imagined. It gave him strength. It fueled and drove him on. It provided hope. It taught him compassion and understanding, and it gave him a solid foundation for living. Some call John a survivor, but he is so much more than that - a beacon of hope to many.



The following excerpt, Lessons from the Magnolia Tree, is from John’s Blog: “Live Inspired”.

Some of the greatest life lessons come from the most surprising of places. While John was playing with his kids, a football got lodged into their Magnolia tree. After carefully navigating through the bright blossoms decorating the branches to recover the ball, he thought about the beautiful lesson magnolia trees can teach us about life, death and the possibility within each day.

### Lesson 1: Life is seasonal.

Each spring brilliant whites, red, purple and pinks flowers pop to life from the magnolia tree. But during each of the four seasons, it has a different look. There are desolate brown branches in winter but then it springs to life with flowers that make way for green leaves that wave all during the summer. During the Fall the leaves turn yellow, then red, then brown, and fall.

Seasons changes. Everything is cyclical. Mighty empires have risen and fallen throughout history. A successful business today becomes tomorrow’s failure. A winning sports team has players that age, break down, and must rebuilds. Nothing in life is stagnant.

So we can bemoan the difficult season we’re in or we can acknowledge this too shall pass. Spring will indeed come again.

### Lesson 2: Death produces life.

The tree looks completely dead for six months of the year. No life. It is dark, gray, motionless, lifeless. And yet, the spring sunshine coaxes small buds to pop on the branches.

Oftentimes overnight a tree that seemed barren and dead ignites into abundant life and beauty.

This truth plays in all of nature. Painful loss leads to new opportunities for growth. The end of one relationship creates space for the beginning of a new one; the loss of one job paves the way for chance at another. And on Resurrection Sunday, we are reassured that even the greatest loss in life, death, is not final. Jesus death on the cross and His resurrection three days later, gives birth to a new, vibrant and perfect new life.

### Lesson 3: Don’t miss it.

A few years ago John had 166 speaking engagements in 40 states and six countries. (His company is called ‘Rising Above’.) It was crazy and awesome and wonderful but he decided that the trade-off wasn’t worth it because he had traded a year of his family for a year on the road.

Early Spring he kissed his family good-bye and returned home a week later. His children were a little bigger, his wife Beth more tired. The Magnolia tree had been dormant when he left, but in one week’s time, it had woken up, fully blossomed and dropped its petals. It made John realize that Life happened quickly. So now, he tells people:

*“Don’t miss the incredible beauty that is there for you to see out your window today. More than that, don’t miss the incredible beauty sitting across from you, pulling on your pant leg, asking you for five more minutes of stories. These are blessed times – see within them the miracle and brevity of this moment. So my friends, today, take some lessons from nature blossoming in front of you. Life is seasonal, death leads to life and don’t miss the gift of today!”*

<http://johnolearyinspires.com/2015/04/three-life-lessons-magnolia-tree>



## November 2015 News

**November 26** we celebrated our annual Thanksgiving dinner at JBC with guests, friends and our Church family. The food and fellowship were great, as usual. Billie wrote a quiz, and we also welcomed friends from Poland from Pastor Marian Pawlas' church in Palowice!



**November 29** our sister **Eliane Matheydezan** recited several Scripture verses by heart in French.

For **Pedro and Helena Collier** the time had come to say good-bye - they were retiring from their UN jobs and moving to Canada.

It's always a joy to see (and hear) the singing sisters: **Allison and Emily Nucciarione** who had flown to Israel to spend Christmas with their parents.



**November 29** we welcomed a group of visiting pastors from India and Pakistan, who now live in Texas, USA. Some of the caregivers who come to JBC are from the same region, and for them it was great to catch up. The brother on the right was on his way to a ministry trip in India. Our sister Priya (center) is from Sri Lanka.



## HEROES OF FAITH - Ann Hasseltine Judson

Ann Hasseltine Judson (1789-1826) was one of the first female American foreign missionaries.

Ann also wrote a catechism in Burmese, translated the Bible books of Daniel and Jonah in Burmese.



In 1812, two weeks after her marriage to Adoniram, they embarked on their mission trip to India.

In 1819 she translated the Gospel of Matthew into Thai, therefore becoming the first protestant (woman!) to do so.

She miscarried while moving from India to Burma; after they had a son, he died at eight months of age, and their third child died six months after her mother (Ann).

Ann's letters home was published in "The American Baptist Magazine" and later became devotionals. Her work and writings made the role of missionary wife a 'legitimate' calling for 19th century Americans.

After learning the local language in Burma the couple began sharing the Gospel. There was great joy when the first local converted to Christianity in 1819.

Judson College, the Baptist women's college in Marion, Alabama, is named after Ann Hasseltine Judson. The Baptist Judson University in Illinois is named after her husband, Adoniram Judson.



During the first Anglo-Burmese war (1824-1826), Adoniram was believed to be a British spy and imprisoned for 17 months. Ann moved into a shack outside the prison gates to be able to support her husband. She sent food and sleeping mats to the prisoners and lobbied unsuccessfully to get her husband released. When her husband was moved to a new location, she was nursing a new born.

The strenuous travel and living conditions were detrimental for her already weak body. After her husband's release they continued to work in Burma.

Ann died of smallpox in 1826. She left behind a legacy of publications about life on the mission field, about child marriages, female infanticide and the trials of the Burmese women.

### QUOTES from Ann and Adoniram

"A little while, we are in eternity; before we find ourselves there, let us do much for Christ."

"There is no success without sacrifice. If you succeed without sacrifice it is because someone has suffered before you. If you sacrifice without success it is because someone will succeed after."

## December 2015 News

**DECEMBER 13**, Sunday school Christmas Musical "A Night in Bethlehem". Billie and Maureen, assisted by a team of wonderful ladies and a few men, did a fantastic job in putting everything together. After the service we had our annual Christmas Fellowship Dinner.





**Josh** had been participating in many Christmas Musicals, this year for the last time.

This precious young man is now spreading his wings and attending College in the USA.

We'll miss him!



## The 2015 Bethlehem Christmas Experience by Wim van der Zande

After living in Israel for more than 26 years, it was the first time I underwent the Bethlehem Christmas 'experience'.

For many years now, JBC has not only sung Christmas songs on Manger Square on Christmas Eve (December 24) but has tried to share the Gospel too. In the evening, the 'impromptu choir' is usually invited to sing from the big podium. Because of the much needed tourism, the Muslim leadership of Bethlehem puts up a nice 'Christian' front. That is also the reason that churches are still tolerated and the main street is filled with souvenir shops selling olive wood Christian symbols.

I noticed that all the shops gave special discounts, even up to 50% (Due to the violence, business is bad.)

Our little group departed around 1 p.m. from Narkis street in our own bus. We had many different nationalities on board: A Japanese man, women from Jamaica, Nagaland (India), the Philippines, but the biggest group were the Americans.

Upon arrival in the center of Bethlehem our driver needed all his skills to reach the right parking area. We first enjoyed the view of the Shepherds Fields from the beautiful hotel from the Russian Orthodox Church. That night we were going to have dinner there. They were very happy to have us because there were no guests!

From the hotel it was a short walk via the "Milk Grotto Road" to Manger Square. This square was decorated with a 10-meter-high Christmas tree, and all the buildings surrounding the square were decorated with garlands of lights. There were a lot of Palestinian police and Israeli army units in town.

Everyone was free to choose how to spend the afternoon, but most of our group joined pastor Al and trumpeter David to sing on Manger Square.

Amongst the at least 1,000 people that were already there, many teenagers were drawn to the singing and music. Not to listen, but to disturb, and I needed eyes in the back of my head to keep an eye on our belongings.

What we didn't realize was that, amongst the Arabic literature that had been given us, one specific flyer spoke rather negatively about Muslims. When the police found out, Pastor Al was summoned to come with them to the police station. A few others joined him, not understanding what this was all about. Eventually it was just a matter of formality, the flyer was confiscated, and we were free to return to the Square.

By that time it was 4 p.m. – time for the sound check on the podium. We were supposed to sing around 6 p.m. – the first 'choir' of that evening.

Our "impromptu" choir was able to sing the Gospel to the now large public filling Manger Square.

Thanks to Bruce Mills, everything was well organized, and dinner was ready for us at the hotel. Again, our bus driver had to use all his expertise to bring us safely out of Bethlehem. He managed without a scratch. We were the second group to use his brand-new, extra-long tour bus.

Christmas in Bethlehem – it sure was an experience!



The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside just before putting him into the box. "There are five things you need to know," he told the pencil, "before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be.

**ONE:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in Someone's hand.

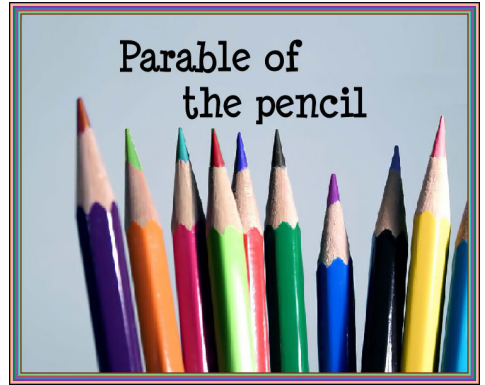
**TWO:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.



**THREE:** You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

**FOUR:** The most important part of you will always be what's inside.

**AND FIVE:** On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write."



The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in his heart.

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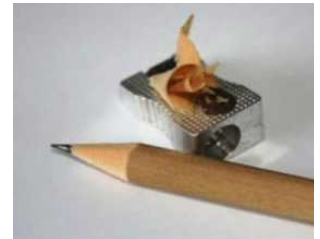
Now replacing the place of the pencil with you; always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.



**ONE:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.

**TWO:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems, but you'll need it to become a stronger person.

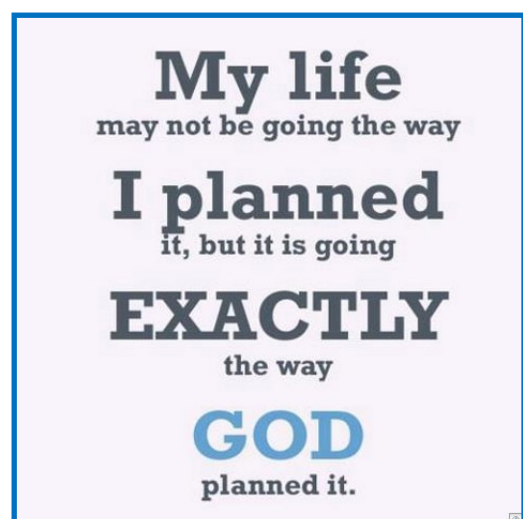
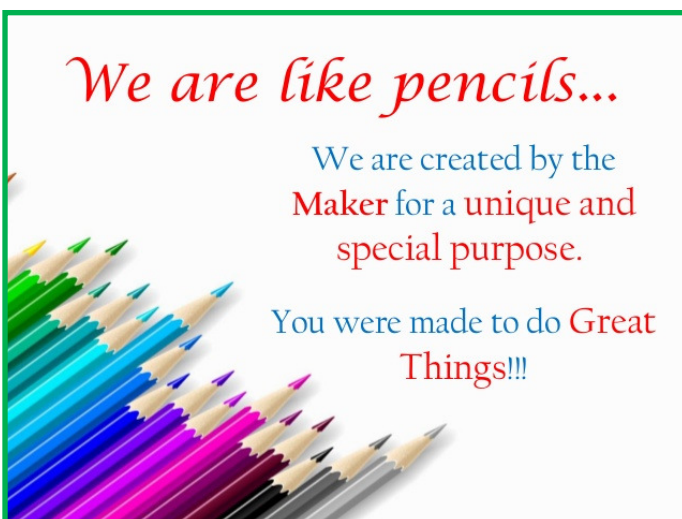
**THREE:** You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.



**FOUR :**The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside.

**AND FIVE:** On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties. By understanding and remembering, let us proceed with our life on this earth having a meaningful purpose in our heart.

Author Unknown



### SANDY WINGATE

Sandy was offered a full-time position at the English Language Center at the College of Continuing Education and Special Programs at the University of South Alabama.

*"I want to thank you all for praying about this. I am really excited and believe this is the Lord's will for me. Please pray that I will shine for Jesus in a place where there are not many Christians."*



Picture left:  
Sandy with a 7 ft. 1 in.  
student from Serbia.

Picture right:  
Whenever Bob and Suzanne have an opportunity they will promote Israel and talk about their experiences.

### BOB & SUZANNE JAMESON

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Hurricane (pronounced "Her-ah-cun" and rhymes with "gun") invited Bob to be their bi-vocational pastor.

*"Please continue to pray for Suzanne and me as we try to provide the love and care for these people as Christ, the Great Shepherd, would have us do."*



### INTRODUCING: RON & CINDY

We are Ron and Cindy Youde from Kalispell, Montana and are pleased to call Jerusalem Baptist Church our home when in Jerusalem.

Beginning in 2013 we have been coming to Jerusalem for 2-3 months annually to help at the Garden Tomb. That first trip came while Ron was still the Pastor at Central Bible Church in Kalispell.

We then retired in 2014 after 23 years in Kalispell and 19 years in 2 other Pastorates in Colorado (Walsh) and Montana (Lewistown).

Cindy's retirement was from the office of a local Pediatrician where she had worked for 22 years.

We have four grown children and nine grandchildren all of whom live in Montana.

The Garden Tomb is a tourist site with a special ministry opportunity in Israel. Over 250,000 people a year come through the Garden and in one way or another each has an opportunity to hear the gospel. We use the special features of the Garden, a view of Gordon's Calvary and an empty tomb, each of which fits the accounts in the Gospels where Jesus was crucified and risen from the dead.

While most of the visitors would profess faith in Christ we know that often in Christian groups there are some who join in who don't know the Lord.

We occasionally hear of tour-group members who come to faith in Christ after visiting the Garden.

We also see occasional visits from locals. For example just this last week a group of 18 Muslim young ladies came in and were escorted around the Garden by one of our Arabic speaking ladies who shared the gospel with them and fielded their questions and discussion. Please pray for this ministry constantly. The special opportunities come, often when we least expect them.

And pray for us. We will be in Israel until mid-March and Lord willing will then leave for Ukraine to teach at a Bible College/Seminary in Zaparozhye.

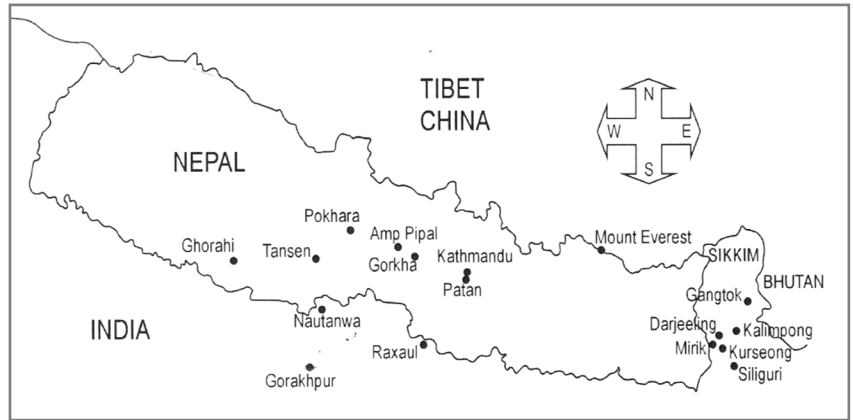
Cindy will be hostess for other visiting teachers during our two-month stint.

Thanks for giving us such a good welcome at JBC!





**Kalimpong means Land of Kings. The village, a hill station in the Indian state of West Bengal, has an altitude of 1,250 metres (4,101 ft). The Indian district lies between Nepal and Bhutan, near the Himalayan Mountains.**



### INTRODUCING: Mercy Gaynoor

Mercy was born and raised in Kalimpong. As a child, she loved to listen to the Bible stories in Sunday school. "Mom, does that country where Jesus lived really exist(s)?" she wanted to know. When her mother told her about Israel, Mercy responded that she'd love to go there. "If God wants you to be there, He will take you," her mother said.

Through the years Mercy worked as a DTS staff member at YWAM. While working among(st) drug addicts, prostitutes, and street children she put her desire to visit Israel on the backburner. Later she also worked as a geriatric nurse.

Mercy's mother didn't live long enough to see God opening the door for her to come to Israel. When she arrived in March 2011, Mercy learned that, instead of working in an old-age home during the day and staying in a hostel at night, she had to live in with an elderly woman and be available 24 hours a day! The first three months were very difficult and she became so discouraged that she thought of returning to India. By God's grace Mercy found the strength to stay in Tel Aviv.

From the time she began working in Jerusalem in October 2011, things began to change for the better. While looking for a church service to attend, Mercy ended up in the JBC Friday evening Russian service. "Do you know there is also a Sunday morning English service?" somebody asked her. The day Mercy went to the service she also found a new friend – Alemla (from Nagaland). Joining the Jerusalem Baptist Church in the spring of 2013 tremendously blessed and encouraged her.

***"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes." Isaiah 54:2***

Two years later, while planning a trip to India to visit her family, Mercy prayed for God to enlarge her tent, without knowing how or in which direction. Was she to volunteer more at the "Door of Hope" organization in Tel Aviv, that worked with drug addicts and prostitutes? While living in Tel Aviv she had been there often.

"I feel something is missing," Mercy confided to her Christian and Jewish friends.

After meeting Nepali girls who also worked as caregivers, Mercy was invited to a service in Tel Aviv. She noticed there were many new believers – all of whom worked as caregivers to Israeli people. She began to visit the congregation once a month. Through Skype she studied the Bible with the new believers and prayed with and for them. One Sunday, the lady pastor told Mercy that she wanted to open a Nepalese fellowship in Jerusalem.

"Is this part of enlarging my tent, Lord?" Mercy prayed. She felt a burden for the Jewish people, but also for the Indian and Nepalese caregivers working in Israel. These women were her mission-field.

God answered the prayers for a location where the Nepalese believers could worship together. The employer of the Nepali pastor heard about their need and offered her home to be used by the Nepalese fellowship on Sunday. Presently, the afternoon services are held in the Prayer Tower of the Clal building in Jerusalem.

After working five years in Israel, Mercy began to prepare for her return to India. But God had other plans. The moment she met Leonardo (Leo), also a fervent photographer, Mercy felt prompted to pray for him. This was later confirmed by a friend.

"Mercy! There is something you need to do for this guy! He needs prayer." Even her sister in India, said, "Mercy! Pray for this man. He needs a breakthrough in his life!"

Even though Leo was not her type (a punk and heavy metal type of guy), they stayed in touch. During one of their meetings Mercy shared about her faith in Jesus. She was in for a big surprise.

"Actually, I know Jesus very well!" Leo told her. "But I haven't been to church for over 10 years."

Mercy kept praying for the backsliding man and gradually began to see real changes in Leo's life. One of the highlights was when Leo joined her for the JBC service! Slowly but surely, their friendship blossomed into a romantic relationship.

"Would you like to marry me, Mercy?" Leo asked her.

"Yes!" Mercy responded. "But on one condition: that we won't sleep together until we are married."

Without hesitation Leo agreed. From that moment on, God became the center of their relationship.

The couple plan to fly to Cyprus in July for their civil marriage license (Leo is Jewish) and have the real wedding in November 2016.

Mercy and Leo look for God's guidance and how they can work for Him. Perhaps their mission field is amongst the punk and heavy-metal crowd?

In the meantime, Mercy continues to work as caregiver for Savta (grandmother) Sara Shamir, is part of the JBC congregation and also serves at the Jerusalem Nepalese Fellowship.

Thanks to the fellowship with believers and her prayer partners, Paul and Eleanor and Alemla at Jerusalem Baptist Church, the 'fire' from India is still burning in her heart.

"Glory and honor to God for everything He has done in my life so far!" Mercy exclaimed at the end of the interview.

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD - Sing with me: how great is our God!**

**Hebrew: Gadol Elohai, shiri: Gadol Elohai. Kol Ehad Yerai: Gadol Elohai!**

**Nepali: Mahan Parmeshour, Aow Hami Sab gaw – Mahn Permेशor.**



Top left: Alemla and Mercy in 2013 at JBC; center: Mercy leading worship at the Nepali service; Right: Leonardo (Leo) Rafael Berenstein. Bottom: Nepali fellowship at the Prayer Tower.

**"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."**

**Edward Everett Hale**

**"The tragedy of life is often not in our failure, but rather in our complacency; not in our doing too much, but rather in our doing too little; not in our living above our ability, but rather in our living below our capacities."**

**Benjamin E. Mays**

## NEPAL PRAYER POINTS



The Kingdom of Nepal is a mountainous Himalayan state between China (Tibet) and India. It contains 8 of the 10 highest mountain peaks in the world.

Population: almost 30 million  
People groups: 380 (93% unreached)  
Official language: Nepali  
Languages: 127  
Largest Religion: Hinduism

### Challenge for Prayer:

a) Poverty and unemployment keep Nepal from progressing. Fully 47% are underemployed (working less than 40% of their available working hours). Pray for creative and sustainable means of gainful employment.

b) Young people comprise two-thirds of Nepal's population, which is one of the world's youngest and fastest growing. Most live in rural areas, deprived of education and opportunity. Illiteracy is widespread. Young people are vulnerable to economic exploitation, sex trafficking, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS and radicalization (political or religious). Pray for changes here that offer young people hope and a future.

c) Despite becoming a secular democracy, Nepal's social structures remain dominated by Hinduism. This perpetuates the caste system, which oppresses many, most notably Dalits who make up as much as 14% of the population. Caste discrimination is technically illegal but ubiquitous nonetheless. Converts from Hinduism to Christ usually become out-castes as well. Pray for the shattering of this unjust system.

Source: Operation World



## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

March 20 – Palm Sunday

March 23 – Fast of Esther

March 24 – Purim

March 25 – *Shushan Purim*

Good Friday

March 27 - Resurrection Sunday

April 22 – Passover Eve (*Erev Pesach*)

April 23 – First day of Pesach (Feast of Unleavened bread)

April 24-29 – *Chol haMoed* – intermediate days of Pesach

April 30 - 8th day of Pesach

May 5 – *Yom HaShoa* – Holocaust memorial day

Ascension Day

May 11 – *Yom HaZikaron* –

Remembrance Day

May 12 – *Yom HaAtsma'ut* –

Independence Day

May 15 – Pentecost

May 26 – Lag BeOmer

June 5 – Jerusalem Day

June 11 – *Erev Shavuot* (Pentecost)

June 12 – Shavuot

We will inform you about these activities either through our weekly bulletin or JBC's Facebook page.



Picture: Mercy Gaynoor

*"And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil."*  
Deuteronomy 11:13-14 (NIV)

*"Dew, precious dew... fall upon the land. From heaven's treasury be this recorded..."*  
Ashkenazi prayer

At the end of the Pesach holiday, prayers for dew are inserted into the synagogue services. Passover occurs at the end of the rainy season and heralds the beginning of summer. The first rain (Yoreh) can only be expected in October or November. In Israel, dew was (and still is) of utmost importance during the hot, dry summer months. Life-giving dew continues to be seen as a blessing from heaven.

## RAIN AND DEW IN THE BIBLE

The **Joreh** is the first rain after the long, dry summer. Usually falls end of October, beginning of November. Always a reason for joy and gratefulness, as the fields now can be ploughed and prepared for next year's harvests.

**Geshem** - the winter rains, usually pouring down between mid-December and March.

**Melkosh** - are the 'latter (spring) rains'. Needed for the barley and grain harvest.

Between Pesach and Shavuot, the seven species (date, olive, fig, grape, barley wheat and pomegranate) are in various stages of maturing. Each type of fruit needs different climatic situations to ensure an abundant harvest. At this time of the year, the weather is often unstable - sudden heat-waves can be followed by cold spells. Therefore, the outcome of the season's crop is never sure. During Temple times, farmers brought **Bikkurim** (first fruits) from the seven species. They had to depend on the One true God, as opposed to the heathen people who believed pagan gods controlled the climate.

## Ta'anit Esther Fast of Esther

*"They had established for themselves and their descendants the matters of the fasts and their cry."* Esther 9:31 (KJV)

The Fast of Esther (Ta'anit Esther) on the 13th of Adar (before Purim) commemorates the three-day fast observed by the Jewish people in the book of Esther.

Purim is the celebration of the deliverance of the Jews from an enemy bent on their destruction. It is celebrated on the 14th and 15th days of Adar (usually in March).

Purim is the plural of the Hebrew word "pur", which means lot (used to determine something by chance). It refers to Haman's use of lots to choose the date for his intended destruction of the Jews.

Throughout the book of Esther, "...the name of God is not there, but His finger certainly is," wrote Matthew Henry. "His providence is obvious – quietly, but sovereignly at work in the lives of men and women."

Although Purim is a minor festival from a religious point of view (it is not mentioned in the Torah as a Feast of the Lord), people celebrate it with fervor.



## PURIM KATAN - Adar I and II

Because the Jewish year is based on the lunar calendar, an ordinary year has 353 to 355 days. As Jewish holidays are always celebrated on the same lunar calendar day, this means that in certain years Pesach would be either celebrated in summer, autumn or in winter, instead of in spring. To balance out the drift, an extra month was added every three years - Adar I, while the regular month was called Adar II. The "pregnant" or leap year has 383 to 385 days.

Purim is always celebrated on the 14th (or 15th) of Adar, therefore some communities celebrate a "Purim Katan" (a small Purim) when there is a leap year, in addition to the real Purim.

It is believed that Moses was born on the 7th day of Adar I and died on the same day in Adar II.

*"So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished."*  
Deuteronomy 34:5-7 (NKJV)

Orthodox Jews fast on this day, and add a special prayer prior to synagogue services. Jewish burial societies often meet on the seventh of Adar.

No one knows the exact place of Moses' death, therefore the IDF has chosen the 7th of Adar to conduct a special memorial service for soldiers whose bodies have not been found or could not be identified. On Mount Herzl's IDF cemetery is a wall bearing the names of 588 fallen Israeli soldiers whose graves are unknown.



Empty Grave markers in the Garden of the Missing Soldiers, Mt. Herzl Cemetery, Jerusalem.

## COUNTING THE OMER

*"Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD."* Leviticus 23:16 (NIV)

In ancient times, the first sheaf of barley was harvested at the end of the first day of Pesach, after sundown (the beginning of a new day for the Jewish people). Orthodox Jews continue this practice even today.



The barley was brought to the Temple as a thank offering. From that day onwards, the barley could be harvested and used. After harvesting the first sheaf, 49 days were counted, and on the 50th day, Shavuot (= weeks) began. This also heralded the beginning of the wheat harvest. By "counting the Omer", the two major agricultural events were connected with each other.

The Omer is a Biblical measure of volume of grain. During their wanderings in the desert, the Israelites received the Torah on Mount Sinai, on the day of Shavuot.

Today, many observant Jews use the period of the Counting of the Omer to prepare themselves spiritually for the second pilgrim festival. It is a time of semi-mourning in which they don't shave, cut their hair, listen to music, conduct weddings, or attend parties and dinners with dancing.

According to the Talmud, 12,000 pairs of Torah study partners died during Roman occupation – either because of a plague, or because of Roman oppression. On Lag Ba'omer (33rd day of Counting the Omer) the plague lifted (or the rebellion saw a victory), which is celebrated in Israel with great bonfires. Things that were first prohibited can now be enjoyed to the full.

Some people use this time of mourning to remember Jews who were murdered during the Crusades, pogroms and blood libels that occurred in Europe during the Middle Ages.

## Passover or Pesach Poem by Irene Levi

(Outside for salvation)

God halted over each house  
Where He saw The Blood,  
(the Lamb sacrificed in man's stead)  
GOD, righteous Judge,  
Would not strike there at all.  
He'd that house pass over;  
No 'first-born' there dead.

(Inside – for fellowship)

Inside that house,  
GOD, the SPIRIT would dwell  
Giving assurance that all there was well  
True 'celebration', united, set free,  
Led by His 'unleavened' life – Purity!

Note:

The Tri-une GOD

(See 'halted' in 1 Kings 18:21 – PASACH)

In August 2015, Irene celebrated her 96th birthday, together with her friends from the USA, Gwen Carpenter and Dottie Lamont.



## THE EMPTY EGG

*"Do You hear what these children are saying?"*  
*"Yes," Jesus told them. "Have you never read:*  
*You have prepared praise from the mouths of*  
*children and nursing infants?"*  
Matthew 21:16 Holman

Twelve year-old Jeremy was slightly retarded. His teacher, Miss Miller, tried to explain to his parents that he had not progressed beyond second grade.

"I think he would do much better in a special class," she told them. When the parents told her they wanted their son to stay in a regular class Miss Miller felt frustrated, as she had eighteen other children to teach.

After teaching the children about Resurrection Miss Miller handed each child a large plastic egg.

"Tomorrow, I want you to bring it to school with something inside that shows new life." Everyone was enthusiastic, except for Jeremy. Miss Miller wondered if he understood the assignment.

The next morning, she began to open the plastic eggs the children brought back to school. Inside one, she found a flower; another contained a plastic butterfly; she smiled when she saw a piece of rock with moss.

When Miss Miller opened Jeremy's egg she found it to be empty. He didn't understand the assignment, she thought. Not wanting to embarrass her special pupil, she quietly set it aside.

"Aren't you going to talk about my egg, Miss Miller?" Jeremy asked.

"It was empty, Jeremy."

"Yes, but the tomb of Jesus was empty too."

The recess bell rang and the children rushed to play outside. Miss Miller stayed behind to wipe her tears. *All this time I thought it was a waste of time to teach Jeremy*, she thought. The child developed a wisdom far beyond that of his classmates.

It came as a shock to everyone when Jeremy passed away suddenly three months later. People who came to pay their respect at the funeral home looked puzzled when they saw nineteen plastic eggs on top of Jeremy's casket. All of them were empty.

Adapted from a story published in Guideposts magazine.



## Women's Column - A GOOD WORD

From Priscilla Shirer's blog; excerpt written by Petra. gave us long ago have expired. So much time has passed that we wonder if that, what we were certain of, is not going to happen in the end.

***"God is not a man, that he should lie. He is not a human, that he should change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?"***  
Numbers 23:19

In March 2005, Priscilla and her husband waited for their order at a seafood restaurant. As the waiter put their plates on the table he too noticed the lack of vegetables, mini portions and almost cold food. Apologizing, he quickly returned the plates to the kitchen.

When he returned with new plates, he stumbled and most of the food ended up on the floor. Both couple and waiter felt bad for each other. Apologizing profusely, again he returned to the kitchen.

This time a well-dressed man came to their table. The general manager expressed his regret for this unfortunate experience and promised their hot meal would arrive in a minute. Handing them a signed business card he said, "This is good for two meals. Next time, I promise you we will take better care of you."  
He gave them his word.

Priscilla carried that business card in her wallet for five years until the opportunity came to visit the restaurant anew.

In July 2010, when they parked the car they noticed the restaurant seemed different. The interior had been renovated, the menu revamped and nothing was the same as five years previously.

When Priscilla showed the general manager the business card, he told her that the previous manager had left the business more than three years ago. Disappointed, the couple wondered if they had waited too long to receive their promised benefit.

However, the new manager assured them that, even though a lot of things had changed in the restaurant, they always did what they had promised. "Enjoy your meal!" he told them.

Even though everything had changed through the years, this didn't devalue the signed promise that had been given by the previous manager. His word had been good enough.

Sometimes our life's circumstances change so drastically that we wonder if God's word to us will apply. Looking at the dramatic changes we can become discouraged, afraid that the promises he

The good news is that, despite the fact that everything has changed, one thing won't – God's Word. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He gave it in writing and He always keeps His word.

We may pull up our chairs and enjoy the meal!

***"Faithful is He who calls you and He will also bring it to pass."***  
1 Thessalonians 5:24

### ABOUT PRISCILLA

Priscilla Shirer is a wife and a mom first. She has been married to Jerry for 16 years and have three boys. A graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, Priscilla holds a Master's degree in Biblical Studies and loves to teach her sisters in Christ about God's Word.

Priscilla has published numerous books including *Discerning the Voice of God*, and *God is Able* (the New York Times Bestseller), *The Resolution for Women* and *Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer*. (See Book & DVD section.)



***Going Beyond Ministries*** is focused on the expository teaching of the Word of God. They are committed to teaching the uncompromising truths of His Word. Their desire is not only to see all

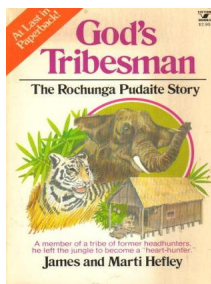


understand His written Word but for all to experience His Power!

***"We thank our Lord and Savior for the honor and privilege of serving Him! "It is for freedom that we have been set free."*** Galatians 5:1

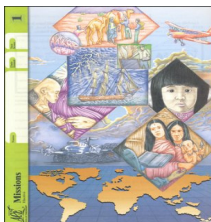
Further reading: <http://www.goingbeyond.com/jewelry-box>

## BOOKS AND DVD'S REVIEW



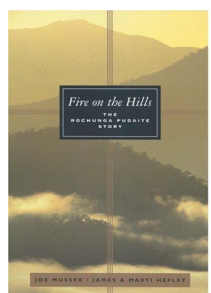
**God's Tribesman**, by James C. and Marti Hefley, is an ACE/PACE/School of Tomorrow Grade 10 required English 2 resource book.

For many years, the Hmar had waited patiently for a Bible in their own language-and it had finally arrived. A young man from Wales had gone to preach the Gospel to the Hmar, but because of unusual circumstances, he quickly needed to leave. However, the small band of Christians began to grow under their pastor Chawnga. Chawnga began to pray for a Bible in the Hmar language, and his son, Rochunga, felt God's calling to the assignment. *God's Tribesman*. Available through [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)



**Introduction To Missions PACE 3, Grade 9-12**

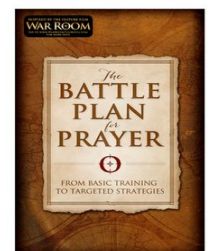
In ACE's Introduction to Mission 3 the student reads *Beyond the Next Mountain* by Mawii Pudaite, the story of Rochunga Pudaite, native of India, who translated the Bible into the Hmar language. A variety of exercises help with review and retention. pictures. 26 pages, paperback booklet. Grades 9-12. Answers are in the sold-separate PACE SCORE Key booklet. Available through [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)



**Fire on the Hills : The Rochunga Pudaite Story** by Joe Musser, James C. and Marti Hefley

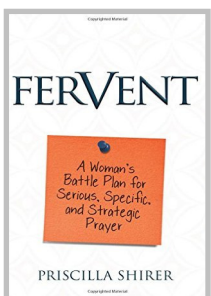
*Fire on the Hills* is the amazing biography of Rochunga Pudaite, who felt the call of God upon his life from the time he was a child. Through many trials and complete dependence on God, he received an education and translated the Bible into his native tongue. Rochunga became the founder of an organization that today sends out God's Word in many languages to thousands around the world.

Only available through [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [Abebooks.com](http://Abebooks.com)



**The Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies**

By: Stephen Kendrick, Alex Kendrick. Inspired by the Kendrick brothers' hit film *War Room*, this strategic prayer manual is your ticket to spiritual boot camp! Enlist in a devotional campaign of targeted intercession addressing every facet of your life---and revolutionize your heart, family, spiritual growth, and everyday effectiveness as a mission-minded soldier of Christ. 264 pages, softcover from B&H. ISBN-13: 9781433688669 also available as e-Book through [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)

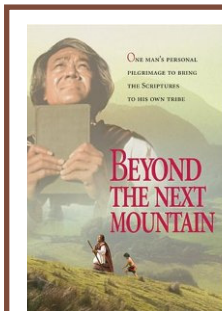


**Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer**

By: Priscilla Shirer

Satan isn't your enemy in an impersonal way; he specifically wants to destroy you! In her book, *Fervent*, author Priscilla Shirer brings her recent debut role in *War Room* into the lives of real women to show them how to renew their passion, refocus their identity, deal with regrets, defeat temptation, weather fears, and uproot bitterness. *Fervent* is a woman's battle plan for serious, specific, and strategic prayer.

ISBN-13: 9781433688676 also available as e-Book through [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)



**"Beyond the Next Mountain" DVD**

In this true-life missionary thriller, a single copy of the Gospel of John finds its way to one of the most violent tribes in India, transforming its leaders from headhunters into heart-hunters totally committed to God. One convert, Rochunga Pudaite, was so inspired by his new life in

Christ that he launched Bibles for the World so others could hear the gospel. 97 minutes. Available through [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)



**"WAR ROOM" DVD** Tony and Elizabeth have it all---good jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream home. But their marriage is crumbling, and Tony is flirting with temptation. When Elizabeth meets her new client, Miss Clara, she's challenged to establish a "war room" and a battle plan for prayer. What will happen if she steps out in

faith? Rated PG. Dove faith-friendly. Approx. 120 minutes plus more than 3 hours of special features. Available through [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com)



## Purim Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with Purim.

T N G E L E K E H S I C K B V P T  
 H P H N E C R A D A X H I N M O L  
 S A Y A O V K Y T X D A N K U J M  
 I R R H V H S I Q T R R G Z L A G  
 N T E S J X A K E S X V V Q N R V  
 A Y H U D R M U I H J O U O V Q S  
 A W T H M C Q N C A D N T J S U S  
 T J S S X N O S H T C A L N C E P  
 T B E Z A M A S S A G E X U C E B  
 M F I B J T I A T G L Q D Y W N H  
 J R Z R N C X R D U R L X R G N S  
 L L E A Q F E Y U U M O I W O G E  
 P F M C M C T Q H P E E G G K M R  
 U A P A I S R E P X R S F G E K E  
 H T M M I S H L O A C H E A E M Z  
 A W O W F S S R F A S T I N G R E  
 V A S H T I D H E G A I A F A E A

ADAR  
 BANQUET  
 CHARVONA  
 COSTUME  
 ESTHER  
 FASTING  
 GROGGER  
 HAMANTASCH  
 HEGAI  
 KING  
 MANOT  
 MASK  
 MEGILLAH  
 MISHLOACH  
 MORDECAI  
 PARTY  
 PERSIA  
 PURIM  
 QUEEN  
 SEUDA  
 SHEKEL  
 SHUSHAN  
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 VASHTI  
 ZERESH

AKEARQUTHE



NGALE



ENHVEA



CABK



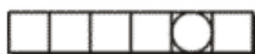
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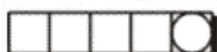
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LTEL



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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.

Serving our Lord  
until He comes...

