

Dear Friends

I shall shortly be sending you the next edition of Paradox, but in this SPECIAL EDITION I want to tell you about two new developments in the Paradox ministry. As you know, Paradox encourages Christians to pray about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict through the eyes of both people groups involved, taking the needs, fear and pain of both sides seriously. Prayer is fundamental. But is there anything else we can do? There is.

1. I am now associated with a wider ministry of reconciliation and relief in the Middle East, having been invited onto the Advisory Board of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East. FRRME is a Christian organisation which includes senior church leaders, diplomats and politicians and is involved in encouraging and facilitating high level negotiations between very senior politicians and religious leaders in the Middle East, especially in Israel, the Palestinian areas and Iraq. Its aim is to achieve reduction of violence and ultimately peace with justice (it is not about theological dialogue). Please pray for us in this ministry and for the negotiations.
2. Paradox Ministries is providing an opportunity to give practical support to a ministry in Jerusalem which encourages reconciliation to God through Jesus and reconciliation between Jews and Arabs (including Palestinians).

A VERY SPECIAL RECONCILIATION MINISTRY IN JERUSALEM

I want to introduce you to a reconciliation ministry in the Middle East with which I am connected. It is a very strategic ministry and needs your prayers and support – including, if possible – your financial support.

This ministry includes both aspects of reconciliation: reconciliation between people (Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs and Palestinians) and reconciliation with God. It is the ministry of Rachel Netanel, an Israeli Jewish evangelist in Jerusalem who is regularly bringing Jewish and Arab people (Israeli and Palestinian) to faith in Christ. She is the most effective personal evangelist I have ever been associated with. My wife and I worked with her closely in our last two years in Jerusalem.

AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES

The following is typical of what happens quite regularly. Rachel wrote recently: “It is incredible how many opportunities I get to share the Gospel with different people. A friend of mine (not yet a believer) told an Arabic man: ‘If you want to change your life, listen to Rachel and start to read the Bible.’”

“On Shabbat [the Sabbath] I was invited by a family together with 14 of their friends. I had the opportunity to do the Kiddush [blessing of wine] and to share about the Bible. I taught about Melchisedek. He was the first person who blessed the wine. So I had the opportunity to share about God and the Messiah. Many of the guests want to be in contact with me. Praise the Lord! They all are from high society. We pray that they understand that only Yeshua [Jesus] can pour out the real blessing into their lives.

“At the hairdresser’s in Tel Aviv, I had the opportunity to share the Gospel for 4 hours. 11 people were listening. Two of them wanted me to pray for them.

“Lately I met an Arab on the street in Jerusalem. I saw that he was a broken man. I said to him: “God loves you so much!” He was very open to me and at the end I was able to pray and invite him to the Sunday meeting. He came and broke down in tears as he received Yeshua as his Lord. He had a broken heart. After three and a half years in prison he just felt the love of God in our meeting. Yeshua told us that people will see the love and recognize him as the Messiah.”

In 2005 15 Israelis and 4 Muslim Arabs came to faith in Yeshua. In 2006 8 Jews and 5 Muslim Arabs came to faith. Hundreds more heard the Gospel. Those who do not know the resistance to the Gospel in Israel may not appreciate what a wonderful answer to prayer this is. Rachel receives encouragement from a leading Jewish dignitary in Ein Kerem who promotes reconciliation.

Best wishes

Tony Higton