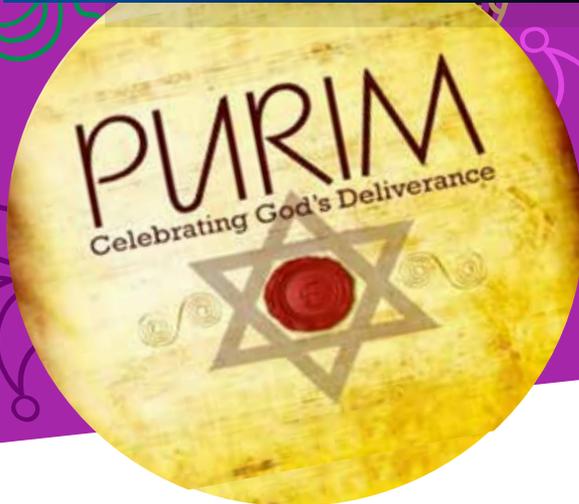


March 2017 - Ministry and Family update

Woods' World

Ministry in Australia & Israel

Friends of Israel | www.foi.org | The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry (Australia) Inc ABN 95 044 801 233



Warmest Greetings...
especially to all our
Jewish friends for a
Chag Sameach Purim!

What is Purim?

The partying festival of *Purim* is celebrated every year on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Adar (12-13 March). It commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot to annihilate all the Jews in the lands in a single day as recorded in the *Book of Esther*. The story follows:

The Persian Empire of the 4th century B.C. extended over 127 lands, and all the Jews were its subjects. When King Ahasuerus had his wife, Queen Vashti, executed for failing to follow his orders, he arranged a beauty pageant to find a new queen. A Jewish girl, *Esther*, found favor in his eyes and became the new queen, though she refused to divulge her nationality.

Meanwhile, the Jew-hating Haman was appointed Prime Minister of the empire. Mordechai, the leader of the Jews (and *Esther's* cousin), defied the king's orders and refused to bow to Haman. Haman was incensed, and he convinced the King to issue a decree ordering the extermination of all the Jews on the 13th of Adar, a date chosen by a lottery Haman made (*Purim* means "Lots"). Mordechai galvanized all the Jews, convincing them to repent, fast and pray to God. Meanwhile, *Esther* asked the king and Haman to join her for a feast. At a subsequent feast, *Esther* revealed her Jewish identity. Haman was hanged, Mordechai was appointed Prime Minister in his place, and a new decree was issued, granting the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies.

On the 13th of Adar, the Jews mobilized and killed many of their enemies. On the 14th of Adar, they rested and celebrated. *Purim* is a time of festive celebration by Jews for their salvation from wicked Haman's deadly plot!

Dear Praying Friends,

Three aspects of our ministries are mentioned in this newsletter to highlight God's goodness and mercies in so many diverse ways, here and abroad.

Firstly, Deane spent three weeks with Kevin Vigus (WA Rep.) leading a team of volunteers working at Kaplan Medical Centre. This 625 bed hospital facility is situated 30 minutes' drive south-east of Tel Aviv. We worked at menial tasks such as washing dishes, cleaning the emergency department, security, ward corridors, stairs and stairwells – all in readiness for the major OH & S audit in late February. What a privilege it is to work alongside our Israel friends and to share with them in their homes each *Shabbat* (Friday night) meal. Needless to say, management and their staff of 2,500 were overjoyed with our help and asked many questions as to why we would spend money, time and effort to do such menial chores. God's love through knowing the *Messiah* (Jesus) in our hearts says it all!

Secondly, meanwhile, Margaret (back home), had a constant stream of emails and calls from Israelis wanting to come and stay at our home. Young men and women in their 20's and just out of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), as well as two couples and a gentleman in his late 70's all came to stay. Time and space do not permit

us mentioning all the blessings these visits afforded us. Literally hours talking around the meal table; travel in the car; family interactions as we relaxed in our lounge chairs and talked about Israel, her people, history and the *Messiah*! Thank our blessed LORD for these God moments of sowing the seed into Jewish hearts and lives!

Thirdly, Deane escorted our Executive Director (Dr. Jim Showers) and the newly appointed Director of International Ministries (Dr. Mike Stallard) around Auckland, NZ; Sydney; Melbourne; Adelaide and Perth, on his return from Israel on 24 January.

The trip was necessary to orientate the new appointees to all the Ministry Representatives and their places. We thank God, too that while Jim and Mike were with us, they appointed Dr Les Crawford as Office Manager in Adelaide. Les is currently in the USA before the Board with a view to being appointed as a Ministry Representative in Adelaide, SA as well as being responsible for the running of the Adelaide Office.



Contacts

AUSTRALIA:
PO Box 1916, Castle Hill, NSW
1765 Australia
Ph: +61 2 8884 7525 (Office)
+61 2 9894 2778 (Home)

0400 777 660 (Mobile)
Fax: +61 2 8884 7526
Email: dwoods@foi.org (Deane)
yeslord@bigpond.com (Margaret)

USA: c/o Kathy Charles
1692 E Beringer Drive
San Jacinto, CA 92583 USA
Ph: 951 658 0705
Email: rainbowfls@verizon.net

Top: Dr Jim Showers
Middle: Dr Mike
Stallard
Bottom: Dr Les
Crawford



Woods' World



Marg's Memorable Moments for 2017

- ▶ **A few days in Melbourne** – As Deane flew to Israel, I flew to Melbourne and spent a special few days with Mike, Judy, Brayden and Kayla. The joys of being an “Oma” to the Grandies!
- ▶ **Inundated with requests from Israelis to come and stay** – It’s backpacker season here and in NZ; we’ve had more people contact us at this time than ever before. What a privilege to serve our Israeli guests! I spent literally hours talking with them and sharing my life’s journey and the things from scripture that we as Believers hold dear!
- ▶ **Spending time with Cam** – No comment needed here, wonderful!
- ▶ **Time alone with God** – Worship, reading the Word and prayer were other January highlights for me!

It was gratifying to pray for the *Hesed Project* team in Israel at Kaplan Hospital, plus other FOI colleagues and long-time friends around the world!

- ▶ **Thanking God for the growing FOI-A team he has put together over the last few years** – Welcome, Les and Elizabeth and to others making application to come on board with us. God bless you!

To those who have prayed, encouraged and supported us in so many ways over the years, we express our grateful THANKS!

With His love, and mine:

Margaret

Cameron's Corner

Boy, oh boy, am I excited! I received some Christmas cards in the mail, just as I asked. Thank You!

Santa brought me a hover board as one of my presents! Now Dad is helping me to learn how to ride it but it's pretty hard trying to balance on it.

Mum isn't too sure if it's a good idea at all. She told me it's easy to fall off and break some bones. It's only happened once, but the helmet and other gear stopped me from hurting myself. Dad said he would ask our friends to pray for me as I try and learn.

Anyway, here is a picture of it, just after I opened the box and plugged it in to charge the battery.

Bye and love for now!

Cam



continued from p1

God has truly blessed us with the visits of Jim and Mike from the Home Office, and with Les coming on board with The FRIENDS OF ISRAEL Gospel Ministry (Australia) Inc. We believe great times are ahead!

Thanks for praying for us in these wonderful days of opportunity for the gospel amongst Jewish folk, and the ministry of God's Word amongst non-Jewish believers, here and overseas!

Deane, Margaret & Cam.



Our team at work scouring walls, stairwells and steps in two wings of a seven storey building at Kaplan Medical Centre, plus emergency, security and ward corridors.

Combined Prayer/Praise Points & Ministry Schedule

Thanks for using the current FRIENDS OF ISRAEL's (Six Monthly) *Praise & Prayer Notes* for daily intercessions. The current edition is available from the Adelaide Office (08) 8276 1333 or Deane and Margaret (0400 777 660), Kevin and Lorene (0423 138 459), or Mark and Kathy (0474 026 997).

Call Deane on 0400 777 660 for all his personal meeting details. Thanks!

March

- 1-4** Singapore: holiday break
- 5** Kim Keat Christian Church services
- 6** *Prophecy Up Close* (PUC) Seminar: (3 day sessions & evening meeting)
- 7-10** Sydney: contacts & administration
- 11** Fly to Adelaide
- 12** *Messiah in the Passover* (Seder) – Seaford Assembly. Contact Jim Kennedy on 0434 570 523.

12-13 The joyous Jewish festival of *Purim*. Pray for them at this time!

13 With SA family (Deane's mum & twin: 95; brother: 97; cousin: 104)

14-31 Sydney: contacts & writing

April

- 1-10** Sydney: writing & administration.
- 11-12** Jewish *Pesach* (Passover)
- 14-17** Easter in Sydney with family

18-23 Sydney: administration

24 *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance)

25 ANZAC Day

26 - 30 Writing & administration, Jewish contacts

May

- 1-14** Sydney
- 15-23** SE & Central Qld
- 23** Jerusalem Day
- 24-30** Prep. for USA Staff Conference
- 31** *Feast of Weeks* (Pentecost)

June

- 1** *Feast of Weeks* (Pentecost) cont'd.
- 2-5** Fly to LAX: Services that weekend
- 5** Fly with FOI-A Ministry Reps. & staff to Philadelphia
- 17** Home