

With abundant grace, I had a HEAVY lesson – fierce spiritual war on sky of Israel: - HO FUN

恩典之內,亦上了重重的一課 ---- 以色列上空的嚴峻屬靈爭戰: - HO FUN

1# 7th Station of Via Dolorosa – the placed I was most touched at



One of our speakers asked us to ponder at the statement Jesus gave to those women at this spot, “daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” (Luke 23:28) What was in the heart of this dying young man was things had yet to befall on this rebellious nation after his departure!

I had always been narrow-minded, allowing myself to be clouded by trouble, not the solution; allowing myself to listen to the small voice from Satan to only focus on the problem, the wound or the person, not “guarding my heart”. I asked God to broaden my mind, learn to put myself into others’ shoes by God’s love and patience.

It was first time I felt sad & weep for Jesus’ crucifixion on cross when I watched the blockbuster movie “The Passion of Christ”. As God teach me watch forward, I don’t stay at sad mood when finished at 9th station of Via Dolorosa. Instead I just happily said to THE LORD in my heart, ‘JESUS, YOU ARE SO PRECIOUS!’, while a copy of Holy Bible is in my hands.

1# 感觸的苦傷路第 7 站, 也心裡連說: 耶穌, 祢好寶貴!

在此行程中最感動的景點: 苦路第 7 站. 耶穌對為祂哭喊的婦女說該為她們子孫哭(因祂知道猶太人日後所受的許多的苦), 多了 BETSY 的解說, 才願意細想耶穌那大愛廣闊的心腸. 也學習別老是上撒旦的當, 愛聚焦在問題身上(因而怒惱人, 愁煩埋怨. 忘了替他人設想.) 除以神的教導去以愛心處事外(鑑察內心), 也要體諒對方的難處及嘗試明白對方的處境.

由於以前看電影<THE PASSION OF CHRIST> (受難曲) 時已為耶穌所受的苦流過淚. 也因為神教我向前看, 所以走畢苦路全程時, 抱著聖經並想到耶穌已為我們勇敢地成就救恩, 心中只是連連說: 耶穌祢好寶貴!

2# Despite my weakness in communication with others, God granted me prayer partners to communicate by heart

– Before I set off this Israel trip, I already developed my passion for this country, knew a few ministries and attended their prayer meetings. However, God knows me well as a shy person and passive in expressing myself, he grants me brothers and sisters in our church by this trip to enlarge my circle of friends, prayer partners in fact, to pray for Israel.

3# Limited chances to know Jews more

The inadequacy of this trip is limited chances to talk to Jews, who could have offered more practical understanding to Jewish way of living, thus their culture. I thank God to have arranged us with a Cantonese-speaking tour guide, Nee, who has lived in Israel for 30 years, and had given us lots of understanding on the Jewish culture, customs, history & current religious facts of Israel. This really can enrich our minds to pray for Israel.



4# Past-and-future crossover speaker

According to the revelation the honorable speaker had received from studying prophets' books of Holy Bible, we were well fed by all useful information at various spots we visited (e.g. Tremendous war will be erupted at Plain of Megiddo). Future Israel, existing racial & territorial conflict affairs taking place at countries surrounding this Promised Land. A role as Jesus followers nowadays all shed new light to our prayer direction towards this favorable land of God and His chosen people.

5# A trip full of God's grace

- We were allowed briefly 2 hours to share message and pray at Western/ Wailing Wall, while riots took place at the center of Jerusalem



- We were able to visit “Capernaum – The Town of Jesus” – an independent administrative zone in Israel just before the gate closed for the day.



- The whole team of 40 was caught in heavy rain. We were allowed warm towel and space to change our wet clothes, even we left the hotel.



- We tasted the first ever tasty Chinese meal and shared the witness by the first Chinese Pastor at Israel

6# God's creation is amazing! – He “hides parable-teachings about logos of His Kingdom” in various fruits & plants of Israel

- Olive Tree → Eternal life – new olive branch planted in an old dead olive trunk will still live to grow into a big olive tree



- Mustard seed 芥菜種 --→ to have faith as strong as mustard seed to break through stone & rock for grow.



- Hyssop 牛膝草 → Strong will for survival & Humility – the elasticity of hyssop branch allows one to step it to the ground without damaging the plant

7# Learned the toughness of spiritual situation in Israel:

- ¼ of people in this tour were badly affected by diarrhea, illness or bad news of family member sickness. This seriously alerted about spiritual war to our pastor, so she held a mini 'Harp & Bowl' worship gathering at hotel function room in an evening after dinner.
- When we engaged in outreach activity in Haifa (distributing leaflets into residential mailboxes), it rained heavily. No matter it stopped a while after we prayed, the heavy rain was still on until we finished on time & gathered all to coach. Most teammates said this's sign God listened to our prayer for raining on Israel. Yes, definitely this's God's Great Grace to Israel coz it's low rainfall level in the past few years.

- But I thought it's 1 side of a coin only. I asked God why You made it rained **exactly** in the time of distributing leaflets.
- **WHY NOT** rained **before** this activity? (so then we can learn to pray hardly to You & u let the rain stop. Then we can learn how important of praying.)
- **WHY NOT** rained **after** distributing leaflets? (So that it's a win-win situation: we can know You're protecting us & also let us finished leaflet distribution smoothly)
- Seem I haven't very solid answer from God yet, but in my mind I guess it seems God showed us Israel is a very tough place in spiritual aspect.

8# Got more facts & faith to enrich my prayers for Israel

I used to pray for Israel in prayer meetings in Hong Kong and by other printed information, which would eventually outdate. Though this had not been a missionary trip, we had gone there for sightseeing and fun, I get to know Israel so much more by myself after this visit. I know I am a Christian, but Messianic Jews are they since they do not need to be converted, they are born Jews. Even they are Jews, not every one of them believes Jesus Christ had died on the Cross to save their lives, and ,in Israel, there is an unbelievably low portion of them are Messianic Jews or Jesus followers. We were not allowed to openly giving the gospel on the street. So, I can now pray for the Israelis more practically with memories & pictures in my mind.



9# Training my faith towards God

Frankly, my heart was not well prepared to seek God in peace & respect because I was extremely busy before the trip, partly, maybe because my hidden sinful mind wheeled me away from seeking God. But I knew God still showered me with his blessing throughout the trip. By this trip, I learned I have to build better relationship with God, say, by praying more and more; I also need to pray more as support to the ministries. Moreover, I learned I would not allow my emotion to get over me (the Spirit that is inside me) when seeking God, i.e. pursue “abnormal phenomena” (e.g. weeping, body shaking, laying down on floor etc). I would learn to seek God in Spirit and in truth.



10# Weeped after reviewed the cover of Israel Today (Issue: 2009 Oct)



Do you remember the cover of Israel Today (issue: 2009 Oct)? It was distributed by our tour guide Nee. I was so touched when seeing this cover & the bible verse on the cover again at home:

Proverbs25:21

If your hater is in need of food, give him bread; and if he is in need of drink, give him water

I was really touched by Israeli's helping heart even to residents of their hostile, no matter Israelites are also economically and politically needy, and especially Israel is also limited in water & its water-saving policy is prevailing.

I will tear off this magazine cover and keep it after finish this magazine.

10# 令我感動莫名的 Israel Today10 月號封面

還記得 Israel Today10 月號月刊封面嗎?(當時阿 NEE 派給我們的). 回港細看此封面及封面上的經文時, 很感動, 尤是聽了不少猶太人的辛酸歷史及經常四面受敵的苦況. 以及以色列亦是處於中東缺少雨水之地. 國家常有節約用水的措施.

跟你們分享封面上的經文:

箴言 25:21

你的仇敵、若餓了就給他飯喫・若渴了就給他水喝。

如此美麗的封面構圖, 當自會撕下封面留念.