

## Israel July 2006

We're pleased to report that a successful and blessed trip was made to visit our brothers and sisters under bombardment in Northern Israel. We were able to visit most of them who've not temporarily relocated to the South or returned to relatives in Russia and the Ukraine. They were all thrilled and encouraged to have a visit at this hard time for them. We gave help where appropriate but the main need was encouragement. In towns like Akko and Nahariya the sirens were wailing several times per hour. People simply can't run into the bomb shelters all the time- they'd end up living there 24/24. So to some extent life goes on as usual. In our days there we observed a general pattern- sirens wail, everyone goes tense knowing there will be a thud somewhere, then the thud happens, ambulance and fire sirens go, then back to normal. Until next time. The disruption to employment and life in general is of course significant, but we didn't encounter the extent of material need we'd expected, apart from in a couple of cases.

Some definite prayer points emerge:

- Sister Galina is nursing her husband who's dying of cancer. So they never go into the bomb shelters not even at night, when many families sleep down there. A katyusha landed nearby and the shrapnel went through the window into their front room, and this is a daily risk as we write this.

Photo: Sis Galina pointing out where the shrapnel came through



- Sister Ilana is finding it really trying keeping her two young boys entertained in the bomb shelter most of the time.

Photo: Restless boys, tired of being couped up all the time



- Three of our sisters have sons or a grandson now serving in Lebanon. They ask for your prayers for them. One gets text messages from her son via satellite, she bursts into tears for quite a while every time a text comes through on her phone. He's right at the front and she's terribly eaten up by worry.

- All our brothers and sisters have tales of 'close shaves' too numerous to relate. We give thanks and ask for their continued projection, although presumably by the time you get this the IDF will have reduced the risk of bombardment. Here's an example: We were with Brother Vladimir in his apartment. Sirens wailed as usual, that time we prayed together. No sooner had we said 'Amen' than there was an explosion nearby and the building shook from the blast. We went outside to see the damage and see if we could help anyone who'd been hurt. The sirens wailed again, and we ran under a half built building. The 2nd hit was [Vladimir later calculated] 70 metres from us.

That's close. Within minutes excavators and bulldozers arrived and covered everything over. In the photo you can see Vladimir with the shrapnel marks in the wall behind him. Another 30 metres, and it would've been a direct hit on the apartment block with big loss of life. As it happened, several women and children were hit by the shrapnel but no fatalities.

Photo: Brother Vladimir taking shelter under bombardment



Photo: Brother Vladimir inspecting after the bomb site had been filled in



But through all this, there was a twinkle in Vladimir's eye. We've known Vladimir nearly 10 years, and he's always had a twinkle in his eye, but it was really big this time. Vladimir has a 'young lady', ZLATA, who does the Bible readings with him every day from the Bible Companion reading plan. Along with many Israelis, the present crisis has made her turn even more strongly to the Lord. What she went through, we believe Israel as a whole must yet pass through in the last days. We pray they will do it soon. Anyway, having studied Bible Basics with Vladimir, she asked to be baptized. Neither she nor Vladimir have a bath tub in their tiny apartments, so we drove to the sea and it was a pleasure to perform the baptism there, with IDF helicopters buzzing close overhead wondering what we were up to.

Photo: Baptism of Sis Zlata



Photo: A delighted Vladimir with his Zlata after her baptism



They intend to marry soon and our very best wishes are with them.

The strange thing about war is the way life in a way goes on as usual. It was a perfect day, the water was warm. But the beach was deserted. The sirens were wailing in the distance, and once we felt a 'thud' as a missed rocket slammed into waste land. We drove back with the happy

couple in the back seat, and had a lovely breaking of bread, again with sirens wailing and katyusha thudding elsewhere in the town. They were both just SO happy!

Elsewhere, the situation with Sis Ilana and her group isn't at all good. We took children's clothes there as they are suffering badly as there is almost hourly bombardment there at the moment and wages not being paid as no work. Sis Galina gathered together her grandchildren's old clothes and gave them to us [in the pink bag] to take them to her. It was a pleasure to take them to Akko for Ilana and the others.

Photo: Sis Galina quickly packing her grandchildren's old clothes [in the pink bag] for Sis Ilana



Photo: Those clothes delivered



There is without doubt a great interest in the true Gospel in Israel and we were encouraged to step up our efforts in assisting the Jewish people to come to know their Messiah. We visited with the ecclesia in Tel Aviv, and Sis Lota now displays Bible Basics and the series of Bible Basics leaflets in her hairdresser's salon:

Photo: Bible Basics for clients to read in Sis Lota's salon



In a special attempt to reach out to Jewish people world-wide, CCM have launched another website- see [www.elijah.info](http://www.elijah.info)

We ask for your continued prayers for the peace of Jerusalem to soon come, and for special blessing upon the faithful remnant in the land. We also wish to remember our Lebanese brothers and sister and their families at this even more difficult time for them.

With love from your brothers and sisters of CCM