**Come to Zion with Singing**

*A Report from November's Israel Short-term Mission Team*

Those whom the Lord has paid for and set free will return.
They will come to Zion with singing.
Joy that lasts forever will crown their heads.
They will be glad and full of joy. Sorrow and sad voices will be gone.
— Isaiah 35:10

This was the scripture that was to be our guide this short-term mission trip to Israel. When you set out to serve in the Holy Land, there is often a push back. Praise God, Jesus overcame every challenge presented, and we still had a team of 3 DCs (Dr. Larry Kozuback, Dr. Charles Roost and Dr. David Coates) and myself head out on this exciting mission.

We had doors open to us, and we were able to serve in 4 churches (2 Messianic believers and 2 Arab believers.) We were even asked to speak a message in the Assemblies of God church in Bethlehem. We felt that this was a breakthrough that we were able to bring the Word into this city, which is essentially an Arab community. Dr. Larry spoke from Ephesians with the emphasis on “together,” and afterwards we set up our tables and treated the attendees. There were even some non-believers who had been invited. Pastor Mezan, whom we have worked with on each trip, thanked us and commented, “You bring great encouragement each time you come.”

We treated patients at three *Living Israel Homes* as well as the Rehab and Bible Training Center. Our travels took us to Tel Aviv, Haifa, Katzrin and Tiberius, and we served in Ministry Homes where Russian and Ukrainian Jews have come after making Allyaha (*which is the term for when Jews throughout the world decide to return to Israel to live*). Some come with addiction problems, and after rehab, go directly into Bible school and then serve in their communities. Although we sometimes lacked enough translators, the doctors were still able to treat many and their families and have opportunities to pray for those who received care. One translator/participant was a woman named Svetlana, who had just arrived from New York 4 days prior. She had an alcohol problem and had to leave her 2 children at home to come to Israel to receive help. She was the only one in that particular Russian home that spoke English, so we were grateful for her help. I had a moment to share the Gospel with her, and she prayed to receive Yeshua. I could see the emotion in her eyes as I gave her a small gift as a reminder that she was God’s treasure and encouraged her that if she stayed close to the Lord, she would overcome her addiction, as He would never leave her.

At the apartment we rented in Jerusalem and in the Prayer Home where we stayed in Poriya in the Galilee region we held clinics. One couple, who had established a Christian school in Bethlehem (*which is miraculous in itself*), had re-continued on next panel,
Come to Zion, continued,
cently been involved in a hit-and-run collision. They had been praying for God to bring them a chiropractor. They were so blessed when they saw someone share on Facebook about our clinic and knew that God had answered their prayers. Another man, Abraham, who was 71-years-old, came in with a cane and bent over. He left upright with no assistance necessary. Praise God for all the wonderful results!

The highlight of the week for all of the DCs was treating at the Lone Soldier Centre in Jerusalem. This center provides a home for those soldiers that come from other countries to serve or communities away from their families. The soldiers carried in our exam tables, and it was a great blessing to treat these young men and women. *(In Israel girls are enlisted in the Army right out of high school for 2 years and boys for 3 years.)* One young lady, Roschelle, had a tank lid fall down on her head and neck and was also suffering from sciatica. Her parents in the U.S. are both Palmer grads, and she was one of the first to arrive for treatment. Our team was sent a very encouraging email from the commander thanking us for being there. Again, all Glory to the Father for His blessing to serve these young precious ones who are doing a difficult job away from home.

Every morning our team took turns sharing a devotional message, and Dr. Roost brought his guitar to lead us in worship. It is amazing how God uses these times when away on STMs to minister to each of us. While in Israel, we attended four different church services ranging from traditional to charismatic, and the Lord’s Presence was always there.

Thank you all for praying for us as we were able to bless Israel and Israel blessed in return.

Carol Kozuback and her husband, Dr. Larry Kozuback, have been a part of the CCA for many years and participate in several short-term mission trips each year. They reside in Port Alberni, BC, Canada.