

## **2007! HAPPY NEW YEAR! MANY BLESSINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS!**

Wow, 2007, is here! As we write this greeting to you, we are brought back to snap shots of faces of this past year. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness, joy and love for the friendships of those who stood by us in prayer and support. We are overwhelmed by the radical love of Jesus that you displayed towards us as we stepped out in radical faith and believed for more in 2006! We have so much to be thankful for this past year as His endless amounts of grace, mercy and protection were upon us as we stepped into a new season.

Our time in Africa, Israel, London and Scotland was amazing. In Israel we were there to pray and start the process of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem while starting up Iris Israel. In London friendships were made stronger. In Scotland many were radically touched by the Father's heart in Whiteinch, Glasgow, they are hungry for more of Holy Spirit. We have made friends there that will last a life time. Our time in California has been awesome. Celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus with family was such a tremendous time as we had not celebrated Christmas with family in three years. We are receiving much needed rest as we now get ready for our long term status in Jerusalem with our departure on January 15th.

## **A PRAISE REPORT FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP AT BACKDOOR, SO. AFRICA.**

Our Bible School and family in Africa has been blessed with many Father's and Mother's who the Lord has sent to come and take care of our children and Pastors on the mountain. We miss our African family tremendously however Brenda and I know that some are called to till the ground and plant and some are called to water. We were called to the mountain to till and plant. We feel that we have fulfilled exactly what the Lord had us do and continuing to do. Mama Margaret got her new house and is very comfortable and happy.

Biggy (Bheckisizwe) graduated High School and now is looking forward to working in a small business and possibly working in our Partners in Harvest Church. Little Surprise is struggling with school however he finds his strength in the Lord. Their Auntie Jane has taken in Jabul, Sanele and Duana into her home and cares for them. All of this was done in 2006 before our departure to Jerusalem! Yeah God! We continue to support them with phone calls of love, prayers and finances.

## **THE MANDATE FOR ISRAEL.**

We are broken for them all and cannot take sides. We are drawn to both Jew and Arab as we stop for whoever the Lord places in front of us and give away His love to prepare the Highway of Holiness. Our desire is to bring the fire of the Holy Spirit from Africa to Israel in signs, wonders, miracles and the spirit of adoption. The vision has been simple and our hearts have been laid bare before many sharing what the Lord is doing as we cry out for the one "new man". (Read Eph 2:1-22). The mystery now revealed by Messianic Jew, the Apostle Paul.

It is our hearts desire to obey the Lord as we bring the Father and Mother's heart to Israel. We have been blessed in October of 2005 to be broken and ruined for the people of Israel in such a short time. Jesus showed us a vision that was prophetically spoken over us from people that did not know us from a bar of soap. This past year we answered the call and were commissioned this past May by the Founders of our ministry, Rolland & Heidi Baker, Pastor Surpresa Sithole

(Surprise) and the founder of Master Potter Ministries, Jill Austin. We moved to Israel on August 9th, during the war to start to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

### **OUR TIME IN THE OLD CITY**

As we went about praying in and around the Old City and we began to see the needs beyond anything we could imagine in God's Holy City...the poor, an endless generation of war torn people. Most have hardened blank expressions of emptiness of hope deferred hearts. Many will not speak to you unless they are a shop keeper wanting to sell their wares. Brenda and I were blessed to meet many wonderful Arabs, and Jewish people. Many are open to talk to you if they know you are really interested.

Secularism has consumed many, the Muslim, Jew & Christian alike. Those that are following their faith tend to be radical Muslims or Greek, Jewish Orthodox. Most families that live in the Old City live in converted 1000 + year old buildings and water cisterns that are 16'X24' approximate in size. The living conditions remind me of Africa where families are living in cramped spaces, too small to raise a family of 5 or 7 children. The air in these places are damp and musty. Unemployment is high, though I do not know the official number if there is one.

Most of the Christian Quarter of the Old City is occupied by Muslims. There are Muslim prayer towers and many places of prayer when the call is made five times a day. There are only 2% Arab Christians living in Jerusalem. One man I met said many are moving out to Canada, South Africa or America. I asked him why, he exclaimed "*Many of our daughters and sons are marrying Muslims and that leaves us with no power as we are not accepted unless we convert to Islam. There are very few of us now. I am glad God is sending people like you and your wife to come and bring hope to us*". **(we never told him what we are doing there).**

Many Jews are returning to Israel from around the world. The Jews like the Arabs, live within their own communities, buying and selling from their own people. One Israeli (Jewish) youth that we met at the Western wall was open enough to answer my question about the Lebanon war. He spoke of tolerance and peace. Another two youth we met on the bus a few days later were angry over a situation where someone made fun of their "culture". There was nothing said about offending God. Culture was the offense of these two youth. *F.Y.I. Every Israeli youth is called to serve three years defending their country after they graduate high school. These are 18 to 21 year old Israeli youth. The Arab youth do not serve in the Israeli Army...there is conflict and resentment over this but understandable. I was shaken by the sobering calmness of these heroic youth who serve.*

### **STARVATION IN BETHLEHEM**

Those that live in **Bethlehem** cannot come to Jerusalem to work as they are kept from entering by the government. We met an Arab Pastor and His wife during a time of prayer. They Pastor has one of the few Christian churches in Bethlehem. He informed us that many people are starving. They have no money to buy food as their food pantry is empty. Shop keepers cannot get supplies like food and clothing. Milk for babies is hard to get. It pains him to see his people go hungry...this will be one of our focuses upon our arrival, to partner with him and help meet the needs. **(We don't hear about this in the news)!**

## **BELIEVING FOR A BUILDING.**

We are believing in the Lord for a building for a missions base and childrens center for the poor, the widows and the terrorist victims of people in the Old City of Jerusalem and the surrounding area of the Negev. A safe house where Jew and Arab can be strengthened and introduce them to the heart of the Father, not religion. To be a store house for the people of the city, for immediate needs of the impoverished now and during the time of great need when it comes. A place large enough to pray and worship, seeking God for His strategies. There will be a War room where the strategies of God will be revealed, planned out and executed. A place where teams can come visit and be poured out upon the walls of Jerusalem. We pray that you will partner with us for this new season in our lives.

*Jerusalem; I will not be silent until she is saved, And her victory shines like a torch in the night. Jerusalem, the nations will see you victorious! All their kings will see your glory. You will be called by a new name, A name given by the LORD himself. You will be like a beautiful crown for the LORD. No longer will you be called "Forsaken," Or your land be called "The Deserted Wife." Your new name will be "God Is Pleased with Her." Your land will be called "Happily Married," Because the LORD is pleased with you And will be like a husband to your land. Like a young man taking a virgin as his bride, He who formed you will marry you. As a groom is delighted with his bride, So your God will delight in you. Isaiah 62:1-5. (GNB)*

## **2007 DARE TO DREAM! Will you dream BIG with us?**

Brenda and I never thought in our wildest dreams we would live in Israel. Not by our own efforts but by Jesus as He has taken and shaken us over places where He lays our heads. Fear is not an option as our lives are not our own. We have nothing to loose, but everything to gain as we say yes to Jesus. I know for some of you our transition from Africa to Israel has been a bit of a challenge, however we are all called to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and to stand with the people of Israel. Psalm 122:6 & Eph 2.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

- \* travel mercies as we travel through roads and airports.
- \* our health and safety as we travel in and out.
- \* our small apartment. Please pray that no one entered it while we were away.
- \* finances to meet the needs and for a large building. A Monastery was mentioned to us that is up for sale (We will see if this is accurate) & a ministry vehicle
- \* Ministry staff with the same DNA to come and be poured out long term with us. We need an Israeli to be a part of the ministry for Non Profit Organization status.
- \* peace of the Lord to be upon our families as we step out in faith even more.
- \* the peace of Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; those who love you shall be blessed).

*On your walls, Jerusalem, I have placed sentries; They must never be silent day or night. They must remind the LORD of his promises And never let him forget them. They must give him no rest until he restores Jerusalem And makes it a city the whole world praises. The LORD has made a solemn promise, And by his power he will carry it out: "Your grain will no longer be food for your*

***enemies, And foreigners will no longer drink your wine. But you that planted and harvested the grain Will eat the bread and praise the LORD. You that tended and gathered the grapes Will drink the wine in the courts of my Temple." People of Jerusalem, go out of the city And build a road for your returning people! Prepare a highway; clear it of stones! Put up a signal so that the nations can know That the LORD is announcing to all the earth: "Tell the people of Jerusalem That the LORD is coming to save you, Bringing with him the people he has rescued." You will be called "God's Holy People," "The People the LORD Has Saved." Jerusalem will be called "The City That God Loves," "The City That God Did Not Forsake." Isaiah 62:6-12. (GNB).***

Brenda and I are expecting to see such a move of the Holy Spirit inside the old city and Israel in salvations as we pray and give away the Father and Mother's hearts. We feel a need to mobilize and get ready! Will you stand with us in such a time as this? We are asking you to dream big and believe with us that Yeshua will do exceedingly and abundantly as we step into this new season! 2007 is a new season of release and daring to dream BIG!

We love you and thank you!

Shalom,

*Aaron & Brenda McKenzie*

Directors, Iris Israel, Jerusalem.

Israel Cell: 011-972-52-507-7174

U.S.A. 1-209-352-8502

U.K. Cell +44-792-225-8854

Mozambique/South Africa: +27-73-656-4062 For information you can log onto:

[www.irismin.com](http://www.irismin.com) or [www.irismin.com](http://www.irismin.com)

U.S. Support: Rivers of Life Christian Fellowship

14535 Peaceful Valley Road

Sonora, CA. 95370 USA.