

Peace on Earth

I witnessed a miracle last summer. It's one thing to be told about miracles, but it's something else to experience one firsthand!

This past summer my husband and I visited relatives in southern California, where we attended a local messianic synagogue. The special guest speakers were Taysir Abu Saada (Tass), a former Fatah fighter and Moran Rosenblit, who fought in the Israeli army. *Together* they shared how God gave them peace, love, and a heart of forgiveness for one another through Jesus (Isa al Masih or Yeshua).

Some people believe that only big, visible miracles are evidence of God's power and if they could only see just one miracle, they would believe. But after working with people in ministry for over twenty years, we recognize that the biggest miracles, the hardest miracles, the most stupendous and faith-building miracles of all are the miracles of changed hearts.

Why can't we have peace in the Middle East? For that matter, why can't we have peace in Bristol? Peace is not merely the absence of war. There are many desolate places whose desolate people are not at war. But neither are they experiencing real peace.

The Hebrew word for peace is *shalom*. This loving greeting does not merely mean "I hope there's no fighting going on for you." It means so much more: may you rest in His care, may you experience fullness in heart, mind, and body, may you truly be at rest and at peace.

This old world needs that kind of peace. Each of us needs that kind of peace. And that kind of peace does not come from peace treaties, *détentes*, politics, or reason. That kind of peace has a single source: the Almighty God.

Tass and Moran recounted how they initially recoiled from any contact with one another. But they also both recounted how Yeshua HaMashiach/Isa al Misah/Jesus the Messiah *created* peace between them. And now they travel all over the place in testimony of His reconciling power.

Some experts have calculated that the chances that one individual could fulfill just 8 of the 300 or so predictions pointing to the Messiah would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. Just how much faith would it take to believe that Jesus, who fulfilled *all* the prophecies of the Messiah in the Tanakh (Old Testament) *wasn't* the Messiah?

And yet, people still don't see it. They don't see it until a miracle happens—the phenomenal miracle of an open heart and mind. That same miraculous power will bring peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Let there be peace on earth, and may you all rest in His *shalom*.