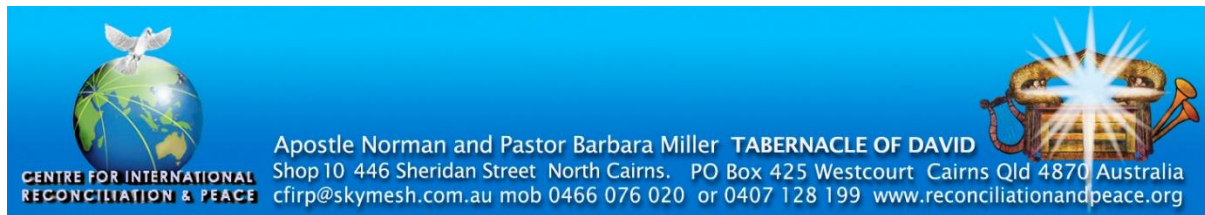


RECONCILIATION NEWS BUZZ

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Email update: cfirp@bigpond.com

Address update: 124 Spence St, Cairns

REPORT SONS OF ABRAHAM & ANZAC TOUR OF ISRAEL 17 OCT - 4 NOV 2017

By Ps Barbara Miller

We had a number of key areas to focus on:

1. Visiting and praying at the sites where God made covenant with Abraham and Abraham built altars to the Lord
2. Hosting a Sons of Abraham conference in Jerusalem with Jewish and Arab pastors as speakers
3. Attending the centenary of the Battle of Beer Sheva on Oct 31 and praying at battle sites throughout Israel and laying wreaths to honour the memory of those who lost their lives
4. Attending an event re the centenary of the Balfour Declaration on November 2
5. Visiting and praying at the sites holy to Christians so that the Bible comes alive and our faith in the Lord is deepened
6. Visiting Messianic Jewish and Arab pastors and hearing them share from their hearts. This included a worship night we organized in Beer Sheva on Oct 30
7. Praying on the borders of Israel for the protection of the people from terrorism
8. Honouring William Cooper and other events

And there is so much more. We will be releasing videos when we can. This will be a short report just to give a flavour of what happened and please check our Centre for International Reconciliation and Peace Facebook page for posts from most days of the tour and conference.

We had 50 people on tour during the conference and less beforehand as a dance team of two from Britain, one from Ireland and their Australian leader joined us just before the conference and for the last half of the tour. We had New Zealanders with us which was great to make it an ANZAC tour. Chinese spiritual ANZACS from Sydney joined us and Indigenous and Pacific Islander Australians as well so it was great people getting to know one another. We had to turn some people away unfortunately as we only wanted to take one bus load. We had a number of elderly with us and one in a wheelchair and one with a recent hip replacement operation who did so well to keep up the pace. Many soldiered on despite colds and chest problems and rested when needed. Little two year old Samuel was a favourite of us all.

One of the ways we prayed at places was to draw in the anointing from places we visited not just be tourists e.g. at Tabgha where there was the miracle of the loaves and fishes, we prayed for miracles especially miracles of provision. There was a focus on our spiritual journey as well as praying through the Holy Land for God's purposes there guided by scriptures Norman and I had prepared to read at each place. As we financially blessed the pastors we met on tour and those who spoke at the Sons of Abraham conference, we believe God will bless us as in Genesis 12.

1. Visiting and praying at the sites where God made covenant with Abraham and Abraham built altars to the Lord

God covenants with Abraham and makes the following promises:

- To make of Abraham a great nation and bless Abraham and make his name great so that he will be a blessing. Those who bless him will be blessed and those who curse him will be cursed and all peoples on earth would be blessed through Abraham. (Gen 12:1-3)
- To give Abraham's descendants all the land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates. (Gen 15:18-21) Later, this land came to be referred to as the Promised Land or the Land of Israel. He was told to count the stars as that is how many descendants he would have though he was childless in his old age.
- To make Abraham the father of many nations and give "the whole land of Canaan" to his descendants. (Gen 17:2-9) Circumcision is to be the permanent sign of this everlasting covenant with Abraham and his male descendants. God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah.

This covenant was renewed with Abraham's son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob who was renamed Israel after an encounter with the Lord.

We visited the places where God made covenant with Abraham and/or where Abraham made altars to the Lord. This is the heartland of Israel but is today considered West Bank or occupied territory. It is under the control of the Palestinian Authority and there are Jewish settlements there. We had a Christian Arab tour guide as Jews are not welcome there and we were told Jews with Israeli number plates go there at their own risk.

After Abraham arrived in Canaan, the first place he went to was Shechem where God promised to give the land to his descendants (Gen 12:7) and he built an altar. Then he went to the hill country between Beth El and Ai (Gen 12:8) where he built an altar. He also built an altar at Hebron as he worshipped the Lord. On 18 Oct, we visited Shechem (Nablus) and Beth El (Ramallah) and worshipped, prayed and had communion there, with Norman pouring the communion wine on the ground afterwards for healing of the land. It was a very special time following in the footsteps of the patriarchs.

We also prayed at Beth El where Jacob had the dream of the stairway to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it and God speaking to him from above. As Norman read the scripture (Gen 28), he suggested we lay our heads on the rock and pray for an impartation of dreams and visions and the interpretation of them. A number of us did including me. I often wondered when I read scripture how Jacob could sleep on a rock but this rock was long and flat and not high off the ground so now I can imagine it. It was a special experience.



Prayer at Beth El photo by Barbara Miller

Prayer at Shechem photo by Barbara Miller

On 22 Oct we went to the national park at Tel Dan and prayed at Abraham's Gateway –very imposing.



Abraham's Gate Tel Dan photo by Barbara Miller

Norman & I & Martina & Annie praying & communion at Mt Hermon photo by Barbara Miller

On 22 Oct we also prayed at Mt Hermon including for unity of believers as in Psalm 133. Mt. Hermon is a series of three peaks on the border of Syria and Lebanon so is a good place to pray for peace. It is one of the proposed mountains for the transfiguration of Jesus. Jewish tradition has it as the site of God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15). Our group prayed and took communion and then Norman took Martina, Annie and I aside for more prayer and he poured the communion juice on the ground for healing of the land. Martina and Annie prayed anointed prayers. Sharon Brown said she saw the mountain shake and felt there had been a real shift in the spirit.

On 24 Oct we visited Hebron where Abraham built an altar and it is the Tomb of the Patriarchs. It is a place not often visited but we entered the Jewish side. There is also a Muslim side with a mosque. Last time we were here we did a prophetic act of burying sibling rivalry but this time we could only read one scripture. We also visited Mamre. It was the dwelling place of Abraham and Isaac, near the oak grove belonging to Mamre and the scene of the LORD's appearance (theophany) to Abraham to announce the birth of Isaac (Gen 18). Mamre was also the location of the burial-place of the patriarchs (the field at Machpelah) which was nearby; Genesis 13:18; 18:1; 25:9; 35:27; 49:30. It is now basically ruins. People have tried to grow an oak tree here but it have failed. Nevertheless a shoot has come up near it on its own. There is a school on one side with children playing and on the other side a mosque with a very loud call to prayer. I had to pray very loudly to hear myself over it.

On 24 Oct we visited Mt Moriah or the Temple Mount where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice Isaac (Gen 22). This is a special altar to the Lord. We were told we might not get in but praise the Lord we did. It was also the site of Solomon's temple and the crucifixion of Jesus. We had to pray silently here. We only had a brief time at the Western Wall hoping to go back but time ran out.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque dominates the scene and it is typical of mosques being built over the holy sites of Judaism. Places such as Nazareth and Bethlehem are in the West Bank and Galilee was in the past. The keys to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where many believe Jesus was buried are reportedly held by a Muslim family who open and close it each day due to arguments between the various Christian faiths who share territory inside the church.

On 30 Oct we prayed strategically at Tel Sheva where Abraham and Isaac both made covenant with Abimelech, King of the Philistines. We then visited Abraham's Well in Beer Sheva where we saw a documentary. Uncle Boydie and his son Lance, Abe Schwarz and David Jack met us there re my William Cooper book and did impromptu filming with Norman and me.



Hebron Tomb of the Patriarchs photo by Barbara Miller



Praying quietly at Temple Mount photo by Barbara Miller

2. Hosting a Sons of Abraham conference in Jerusalem with Jewish and Arab pastors as speakers

On 25-27 Oct, Norman and Barbara for the Centre for International Reconciliation and Peace hosted a Sons of Abraham conference at King of Great Glory congregation in Jerusalem. We were blessed with wonderful messages by Messianic Jewish pastors Avner Boskey, Shlomy and Miriam Abramov and Oren Lev Ari, Arab pastors Bassem Adranly and Naim Khoury and host pastors Norman and Barbara Miller. We hope to provide a set of conference DVDs to those interested in an inside view of the situation of Jewish and Arab believers in Israel.

A dance team including two British men and an Irish woman led by Mary Jones from Australia got an enthusiastic response with many joining them in dances. Wonderful worship was led by the host congregation, Ruth and Laurie Webb and team from Tabernacle of David Bendigo, Norman Miller and Colleen Burfitt of Tabernacle of David Cairns and Avner and Rachel Boskey from Israel.

In my first message I said I could not stand in the gap (Ezek 22:30) and repent on behalf of Jews or Arabs, not being one but I would stand in identificational repentance for the anti-Semitism and Replacement Theology of the church. I also repented because the Lord showed me that the replacement theology or supersessionism of the church opened a spiritual door for the supersessionism of Islam which co-opts both Judaism and Christianity into its teachings but denies Yahweh is God and denies His Messiah or Saviour.

The last day of the conference saw a huge breakthrough in the spirit with a decree I issued which many attested to as bringing a shift in the heavenlies. This decree is available on request as are conference videos.

Two locations on tour were very special for me to pray at in relation to the conference apart from those places special to Abraham. One was the Shepherd's Fields in Bethlehem as the Lord had given me a prophetic word at our Sons of Abraham conference in Sydney in 2015 that our conference was birthing something in the spirit and I prayed "Be it unto me and be it unto this conference as You have said" recalling the words of Mary when the angel told her about the forthcoming birth of Jesus (Yeshua). (Luke 1:38). Norman had a message at the conference about "Zion is in Labour" and believed the Lord brought about a delivery.

The other was at Tabgha. In January 2017, I asked the Lord why we, a small ministry in faraway Australia should host a conference on reconciliation in Israel when so many others are doing so much. He said just bring your loaves and fishes like that little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus and I'll multiply it and do a miracle. (Mt 14:14-21). And He did.



Rachel & Avner Boskey with Barbara & Norman Miller & Miriam & Shlomy Abramov conference speakers photo by bystander



Bassem Adranly a conference speaker photo by Barbara miller



Tabernacle of David Bendigo & Colleen Burfitt
 Tabernacle of David Cairns leading worship photo by Barbara Miller



Panel on "Reconciling the Brothers" Oren Lev Ari
 Barbara Miller Shlomy & Miriam Abramov photo by Norman Miller

3. Attending the centenary of the Battle of Beer Sheva on Oct 31 and praying at battle sites throughout Israel and laying wreaths to honour the memory of those who lost their lives

On the first day of our tour, 17 Oct, we went to Ness Ziona to see the statue of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles which is in Ben Gurion school. The students greeted us enthusiastically. We then went to Rishon Le Zion and met with Pastors Shlomy and Miriam Abramov and we travelled with them to Ayun Kara where the New Zealanders mostly and some Australians won a decisive battle against the Ottoman empire in 1917. We prayed there and had communion, also using anointing oil and salt.

Before leaving Australia, the Lord gave me a word “A time to shine and a time of shame.” Beer Sheva is the time for shine for the ANZACs and Surafend is a time of shame. A special part of our visit was to go to Surafend. In 1918, after the war, the ANZAC Mounted Division were stationed nearby at Rishon Le Zion and a New Zealand soldier, Leslie Lowry, 21 years old, kept his kitbag under his head while sleeping as there had been a lot of theft. His kitbag was stolen, waking him and he chased the intruder who killed him. As the soldiers had experienced theft and even murder in Egypt and then Palestine from Arabs over a long period with no action by their British commanders, the New Zealanders took things into their own hands about 24 hours after reporting this to the British. They initially asked the sheikhs of Surafend to hand the man responsible over as Lowry is reported to have said his attacker came from there. As no knowledge of this was voiced by the sheikhs, the soldiers later surrounded the village on 10 December, got the old people, women and children out and massacred the men and torched the village and a nearby Bedouin village. Reports vary as to whether Australians were involved or not but they were at least cheering the New Zealanders on and/or in the know about it. Reports vary as to the number of men killed – 40 to over 100. General Allenby was furious but no one was charged because the men closed ranks as to who was responsible. All the ANZACs there lost their previous bravery citations. The British government extracted money from the New Zealand and Australian governments to rebuild Surafend.

Norman and I led an ANZAC Lighthorse tour of 14 Australians and 7 New Zealanders to Israel in 2010 including to the Oct 31 anniversary of Beer Sheva, and we repented to the Lord at Surafend for this massacre. Shlomy and Miriam Abramov helped us find the place. At the time, we could not find an Arab group to say sorry to. Miriam suggested we write an apology on paper to go into the archives of Rishon Le Zion which we did but it didn't get used.

This visit I wrote on a plaque of apology (2 copies) to go into the Rishon Le Zion museum which they declined to receive as to the sensitivity of it. Shlomy had translated it into Hebrew for me and Bassem Adranly translated it into Arabic. We had a time of prayer and communion about the event at Surafend also using anointing and salt. Pastor Victor Bahbah, who was to attend to accept the plaque of apology on behalf of Arabs, was not able to attend. However Shlomy, his good friend, has passed it onto him by agreement. Shlomy and Miriam will safeguard the copy of the plaque meant for the museum until the Lord leads them what to do with it.

Jacqueline prepared four wreaths of poppies to lay at cemeteries around Israel and we laid one at Ramleh cemetery which is where British, New Zealander and Australian soldiers are buried. Jacqueline and the New Zealanders with us laid the wreath at Leslie Lowry's grave.



Prayer at Ayun Kara with Ps Shlomy & Miriam Abramov of Rishon Le Zion (back Right) Marjorie Leatua Left & Joye Alit front photo by Barbara Miller



Statute to NZ mounted Rifles at Ness Ziona photo by Barbara Miller



Ramleh cemetery Jacqueline Bedson, Australia & Margaret & John Rozmus etc. of NZ laying wreath photo by Barbara Miller



Plaque written by Barbara pictured and translated into Arabic by Bassem Adranly pictured photo by Norman Miller

I can only list what we did because there is so much and I can't do it justice:

- On 20 Oct we went to Haifa cemetery and Jacqueline laid a wreath there.
- On 20 Oct we prayed at Megiddo, a key place for the Australian Lighthorse and key biblically
- On 23 Oct we joined the Australian Lighthorse Association (ALHA) for an event at Semakh (Tzemach). There was a successful Australian Lighthorse charge here in 1918 at the Turkish railway station. There will be a centenary of this charge next year and a statue erected to the Australian soldier with an Indigenous face. We met the riders, including Indigenous riders here.
- On 24 Oct we went to the ALHA event at the Tower of David where there was a sound and light show, a great event.
- On 28 Oct we prayed at Mt Scopus and laid a wreath there. It was very moving.
- On 30 Oct we followed the JNF ANZAC Trail – very special
- On 30 Oct we prayed extensively at Tel Sheva re redigging the wells of revival. Also it is the place of the first peace treaty or covenant between Jew and Gentile, Jews and Philistines so we called forth peace and reconciliation at this place. Isaac renewed the peace treaty his father had made with Abimelech.
- Oct 31 Beer Sheva centenary celebrations. This was so special I need a few pages to write on it but see the photos below. The Prime Ministers of Israel and Australia attended and the Governor General of NZ. David Hudson opened with a didgeridoo and it was world class. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PX5QedBaS_0 for the whole opening ceremony.
- On 2 Nov it was too dark to visit the three ANZAC battle sites at Tel Aviv but some of the tour group did on the following day, a rest day being the last day of the tour.



Beer Sheva Oct 31 2017 Millers with David Hudson who blew the didjeridoo for the opening ceremony and laid a wreath for Indigenous servicemen photo by bystander

Millers lay a wreath at Beer Sheva for the Centre for International Reconciliation & Peace. Uncle Boydie (William Cooper's grandson) and Abe Schwarz behind us as Luke Webb captures the ABC coverage.



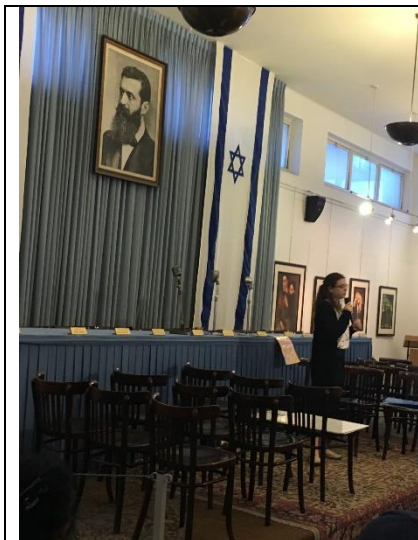
Lighthorse charge re-enactment Beer Sheva 31.10.2017 photo by Barbara Miller



Some of our group Jerusalem War Cemetery Mt Scopus ready to lay a wreath after prayers photo by Barbara Miller

4. Attending an event re the centenary of the Balfour Declaration on November 2

I found visiting Independence Hall in Tel Aviv was an emotional experience for me as much of the tour was but I was particularly teary here as there was a re-enactment of sorts by photos and sound recordings of the declaration of the state of Israel and the playing of the national anthem.



Independence Hall Tel Aviv photo by Barbara Miller



Balfour Declaration Centenary lecture Tel Aviv Uni – Barbara Miller, former Lord Mayor of Brisbane Sallyanne Atkinson, Jeanne Pratt, widow of Richard Pratt who built the Park of the Australian Soldier at Beer Sheva, Norman Miller, Sarina Russo & Mrs James, widow of Digger James whose face is on the statue of the Australian Soldier at Pratt Park photo by bystander

We attended two lectures at the Tel Aviv University for the centenary of the Balfour Declaration. This was a declaration of the British Parliament supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine and passed on Oct 31, the same day as the successful Battle of Beer Sheva. It was communicated to the Jewish community on Nov 2 1917. The Battle of Beer Sheva opened the way to the liberation of Jerusalem from 400 years of rule by the Ottoman empire. The League of Nations then approved a British mandate in Palestine and in 1948, Israel became a modern nation.

A duo entertained us with songs between lectures that would have been familiar to ANZAC and British troops e.g. "It's a long way to Tipperary" and they also sang "Waltzing Matilda."

5. Visiting and praying at the sites holy to Christians so that the Bible comes alive and our faith in the Lord is deepened.

Again I can only list these at this point:

- On 18 Oct we visited Jacob's Well and Shiloh in the West Bank. The worship we had at Jacob's well was amazing after Norman read the scripture about the Samaritan woman meeting Jesus at the well. It was a highlight for many as we worshipped in spirit and in truth
- On 19 Oct we prayed at Mt Carmel where Elijah challenged idol worship – very stirring.
- On 20 Oct we visited Nazareth Village, Galilee and Cana walking in the steps of Jesus.



Prayer at Mt of Beatitudes photo by Barbara Miller



Rennae with flag on boat on Sea of Galilee photo Barbara Miller

- On 21 Oct we had a boat ride on the Galilee, and prayed at Mt of Beatitudes, Capernaum and Tabgha. The peace of Mt Beatitudes and the joy on the boat ride on the Galilee stand out. Norman got a bucket of water and got us to prophetically walk on water. We were dancing on the boat to the songs.
- On 28 Oct we saw the Shepherds Fields and the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem.
- On 28 Oct we went to the Garden Tomb, a moving experience.

- On 28 Oct we retraced the steps of Jesus to the crucifixion on the Via Dolorosa and went to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It was moving to put our hand where Jesus may have put his and to follow His passion though having to go through the Arab markets to do it is distracting.
- On 22 Oct we prayed at Baniyas/Caesarea Philippi where the great confession took place ((Mt 16:13). I had not visited this site before so it has taken on a whole new meaning for me with a cave of the god Pan nearby with sacrifices that took place in the cave. This was a natural not just a spiritual gate of hell Jesus was talking about.
- On 23 Oct Norman baptised people in the Jordan River. This was so special. The women who were to be baptised sang so beautifully beforehand that as I sang with them and prayed, I was weeping.
- On 2 Nov we visited Jaffa/Yafo prayed and read scriptures and enjoyed the view of the ocean and city.



10 baptised at Jordan River photo by Barbara Miller

Norman praying before baptising people photo by bystander

6. Visiting Messianic Jewish and Arab pastors and hearing them share from their hearts. This included a worship night we organized in Beer Sheva on Oct 30.

Again I can only make a list:

- 17 Oct Rishon Le Zion with Ps Shlomy and Miriam Abramov as above.
- 19 Oct at Tel Aviv Prayer Tower with Ps Avi Mizrachi – great view of city to pray over.
- 19 Oct at Kehilat HaCarmel with worship leader Karen Davis – amazing worship and Norman and I both had a prophetic word for Karen.
- 19 Oct at Great Southlands House of Prayer at Isifya – great initiative and peaceful surrounds in a Druze area.
- 28 Oct at Bethlehem with Ps Naim Khoury – hearing of his great faith under persecution.
- 30 Oct at Beer Sheva with Ps Howard and Randi Bass. This was organised by Norman and I and we both spoke briefly. Howard was the MC and Randi organised people to pray over the flags of each city in the Negev. We were blessed with worship led by Avner and Rachel Boskey and Ruth and Laurie Webb and team from Tabernacle of David Bendigo joined by Norman, Colleen and myself from Tabernacle of David Cairns. Ross and Bronwyn Poulton's

team did a dance. About 200-250 people attended the worship night held at Nachalat Yeshua congregation and we are grateful to Howard and Randi for making their congregation venue available. They are the go-to people in Beer Sheva for Australians.

- 2 Nov with Ps Evan Thomas in Netanya where we he led a regrouping of our visit which our tour group appreciated a lot.



Tel Aviv Prayer Tower some of our group photo by Barbara Miller



Ps Naim Khoury at his Bethlehem church photo by Barbara Miller

7. Praying on the borders of Israel for the protection of the people from terrorism.

Again a list:

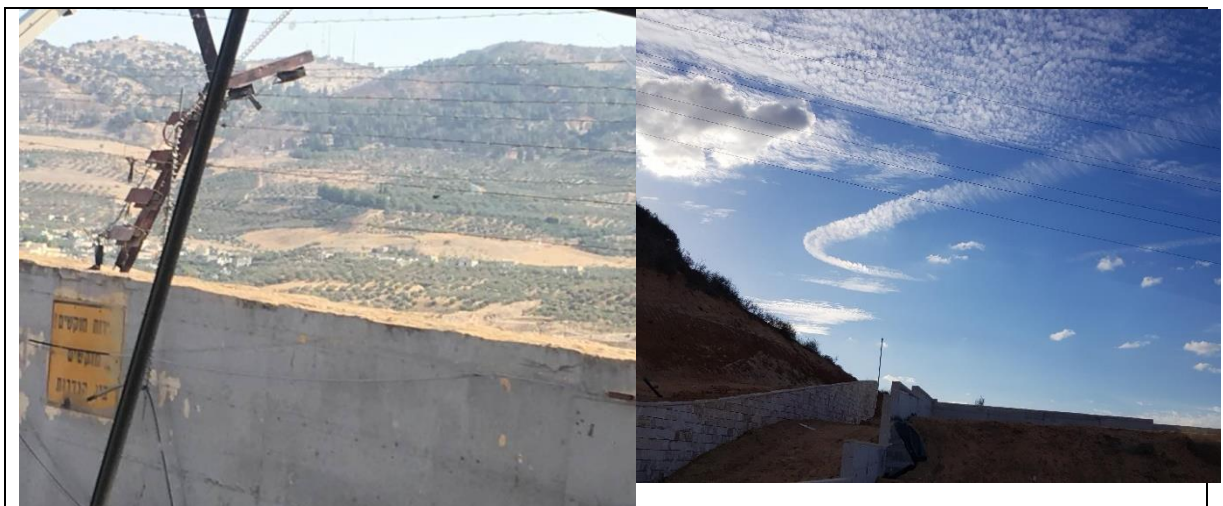
- On 22 Oct we visited the Golan Heights and prayed on the border of Syria.
- On 22 Oct we prayed on the border with Lebanon and also at Hamat Junction where Israel borders Syria and Lebanon. We heard gunshots and saw a military helicopter on the border with Lebanon.
- On 23 Oct we prayed on the border with Jordan.
- On 1 Nov we prayed on the border with Gaza at Sderot. Our tour guide checked with the police where we could pray and they said a hill where Norman and I have prayed before a number of times. We had ground-breaking prayer there and Veronica Coutts saw a cloud over each person who prayed. Angel wings were seen in the sky and ticks. Then the owner of the hill drove up and told us the army had told him to tell us to move because there were snipers 150 metres away and they had guns trained in our direction. We quickly ran down the hill praying. I was so under the anointing I ran lightning fast praying loudly in tongues and a couple were surprised I didn't fall I ran so fast. I'm glad I started the prayer on the hill off with covering prayers of protection. It was the first time for the tour guide to be there and she said later that now she and us had a taste of what it's like for the people of Sederot to live 150 metres from terrorists. She said many of the children there are traumatised by having to go regularly to bomb shelters from the missiles coming in.

In 2010, we visited a school in Beer Sheva which had been hit by a missile from Gaza. No one had been injured. We were feted with a banquet and entertained by students and spoke to some classrooms. It was a highlight of our visit. The Municipality of Beer Sheva arranged the visit for us and we met Mayor Ruvik Danilovich at the time. We had been visiting Beer Sheva a number of years at this point.



Prayer on border with Jordan Norman & Annette etc. photo by Barbara Miller

Praying on border with Lebanon photo by Barbara Miller



Hamat Junction where we prayed on Israel's border with Syria & Lebanon photo Barbara Miller

Unusual cloud formations at Sderot as we prayed on border with Gaza photo Veronica Coutts

8. Honouring William Cooper and other events

On 23 Oct we visited Belvoir Castle, a Crusader fortress.

On 24 Oct we visited Yad Vashem and saw the plaque in honour of Aboriginal Australian Christian William Cooper who led the only known private protest worldwide against Kristallnacht, the start of the Holocaust, in 1938.

On 24 Oct we visited Christchurch Heritage Museum. Christchurch was the first Protestant Church in the Holy Land and has a good historical collection and was connected to Christian Zionists from England. It is placing a large plaque on its roof to commemorate the day General Allenby entered Jerusalem near Christchurch in December 1917 along with British and ANZAC troops.

On 1 Nov, we enjoyed a 2 hour visit to the Dead Sea with a float for those who wished to. Norman read relevant scriptures on the bus so people could just have time out to relax.

On 1 Nov we visited the Fountain of Tears at Arad. This was very moving for all of us and is a sculpture depicting a dialogue of suffering between Jesus' last seven statements before His crucifixion and WW11 holocaust survivors. The name comes from Jeremiah 9:1. We watched a documentary of the artist's exploration of the issues.



Norman and staff of Yad Vashem at William Cooper plaque photo by Colleen Burfitt



Fountain of Tears Arad photo by Barbara Miller

Conclusion

On 3 Nov we had a farewell dinner at St George's restaurant in Jaffa/Yafo. It is going to take a while for us all to process all that we were a part of because the tour was so rich in our experiences of the Lord, the land and the people. I hope to have a more detailed report on each aspect of the tour to follow. Norman and I want to thank all those who toured with us and contributed to this wonderful outcome. The seeds we planted will be bearing fruit for many years to come.

