

Kingdom Thoughts!

Maranatha Ministries Unlimited

Volume 30

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Dear Friends,

What an amazing trip to Israel! Betty Jo and I, along with 36 other folks, have just experienced one of the most incredible times of our lives.



Rev. John Hobbs

As we landed in Tel Aviv and made a quick trip over to Joppa, it was obvious that we were going to have an awesome experience. Betty Jo and I have made a number of trips to Israel and usually you can get a feel for the people pretty quickly as to what kind of experience you are going to have as a group. It was obvious as we made our way past Caesarea by the Sea on up toward Haifa that we had a group of very independent, highly motivated, and very excited people. In other words, I knew it was going to be a great trip. I was not disappointed!

The weather for this experience was probably the best I have had since I have been going to the Holy Land—it was amazing—warm, flowers blooming, the desert coming alive. As we toured in the warmth of His Presence there were many very special moments and experiences, so I thought I might just share a few of them with you. Betty Jo and I went on this trip knowing that the Lord wanted to speak specifically to us about a number of things that we are facing—personal issues, ministry issues, things going on in the lives of people that we love. Consequently, we went with some real expectancy to hear the Lord, and He was so gracious to meet us there.

As we stood on Mt. Carmel, where the prophet Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal and Asherath, our friend Jim Jones reminded us that there is no other God like our God. Jo and I were also

challenged with the knowledge of how vulnerable we can be after a great victory when we let our guard down and get our eyes off Him and get our eyes on ourselves. Our Victory and our Salvation is always and forever in Him! When we were on our boat ride out on the Galilee, the Lord spoke to my spirit, “Is there anything too hard for Me?” I was quickly reminded of Mark 4 and 5 where Jesus reveals in a powerful way that He is Lord over nature, the spirit realm, sickness, and death. How encouraging it is every time I revisit those Scriptures!

At the Galilee we visited the site for the Sermon on the Mount, and a place when Jesus might have met with Peter following the Resurrection when He healed, challenged, and commissioned Peter in John 21, and while we were in the area we visited Capernaum. At Capernaum I had the joy of sharing from Mark 2, and we had a sweet visitation from the Lord as we stood in the ruins of an old synagogue and prayed prayers for healing as we anointed folks with oil—an absolutely awesome time!

One of the real highlights for me came at an evening worship experience that we had while in the Galilee. We had invited young Jewish Believer, Daniel Carmel, to come to our hotel and lead us in a time of worship in song. Danny captains one of the touring fishing boats on the Galilee, and he received Jesus as his personal Savior after listening to Christians on his boats for five years sing and share about the incredible Love of God found in Jesus. Is that cool or not?

The worship time with Danny was anointed from the git go! What a sweet time of worship—I’m telling you—I was at Home in My Father’s Presence while sitting in a hotel in the Galilee looking at

the Lake! I heard Him say, “It’s all right!” When He says that it’s all right, it doesn’t mean that things are going to necessarily turn out the way you want them to, but it does mean that He’s got it—and if He’s got it then it means I have let it go—if I have let it go and He’s got it—that means, “It’s all right!”

We baptized folks in the Jordan River, and we made our way to Jerusalem! What a magnificent city! The view from the Mount of Olives looking toward the Eastern Gate and the Temple Mount is breath taking. My good friend, Jay Hurley, was sharing in the Garden of Gethsemane and I had misplaced my Bible and had also misplaced one of our members so I was a little distracted, but I heard Jay make a comment about Jesus saying to His disciples, “could you not watch with me for one hour?” As I found my missing tour member and located my Bible, I had a chance to have a few moments alone with my Daddy in the garden. What I heard was very simple, “sit with Me, listen to Me, just be with Me—it’s not what you do for me that’s important but who you are to Me that is really the issue. You are My son and I am your Father and God—learn to be content in that.” I couldn’t figure why I had to go so far to hear something that I already knew, but the warmth of that renewed Truth brought freedom and rest to my spirit.

Today, as I was writing this I received a phone message from our son, Scott. He was giving me a quote from Franny Crosby, who wrote some 100 or so hymns—amazing lady who was blind from a very early age, where she was saying that when she was young she thought about all her blindness prevented her from seeing but in her old age she thought about the jewel that she had

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Kingdom Thoughts

continued

hidden in her heart called “contentment.” What a timely word from my son!

We saw so much in Jerusalem, but the highlight for me was being able to go to the Garden Tomb. As we walked through the Garden area and saw the hill called Golgotha, a tomb that was empty, and shared the Lord’s Supper together as we sang songs of praise, I knew our pilgrimage was drawing to an awesome conclusion.

We had shared so much, grown so much, laughed and cried so much—we had just been through the experience of a lifetime! I bring home the joy of new friends, the fellowship of new brothers and sisters, the gratitude of a heart changed by a loving God—and a “jewel” hidden in my heart—a fresh contentment found in the knowledge that “He is my Father and my God, and I am His Son!”

Next Year In Jerusalem!

Much Love In Jesus

John

John is available for ministry! Call or write us to schedule a meeting . . . and please join us as we visit your area!

JOHN’S SCHEDULE

March 30-April 2	Moore’s Chapel UMC	North East, MD	
April	4-6	Liberty Christian Fellowship	Kill Devil Hills, NC
	13 AM	Liberty Christian Fellowship	Kill Devil Hills, NC
	13 PM—15	Church of the Good Shepherd	Washington, NC
		Contact: Dick Barbour	252-721-3061
	20-24	East Stone Gap UMC	East Stone Gap, VA
	27 AM	Liberty Christian Fellowship	Kill Devil Hills, NC
	27 PM-May 1	North East UMC	North East, MD
May	4 AM	Liberty Christian Fellowship	Kill Devil Hills, NC
	4 PM—7	Stevenson UMC	Berlin, MD

Our Finances

Every month as Betty Jo and I review the finances for Maranatha we find ourselves in awe of the goodness of our God and the wonderful faithfulness of the people He has given to us to love, support, and walk with us in this ministry. We praise Him and we thank you from the absolute bottom of our hearts.

We find ourselves, like many other ministries at this time, in a very difficult place with our finances. We don’t question the One who is our Provision for He never Fails—we just want to hear rightly and obey what He says. We could use any extra support you could give us at this time, and we are so very grateful for the faithful support so many of you have given over the years. Thank you for helping us as you can and as He leads. May the God of Peace, even our Lord Jesus, keep you and strengthen and bless you in all your days!

Update from Delaware

Scott and Lisa, Victoria and Joseph are doing well. Young Olivia is to be born in the last of April or the first of May. Yes, for those of you who didn’t know Scott and Lisa will be having a little girl. She will be their sixth child—three are with Jesus! They are

excited and getting things ready for the new addition.

As a result of the new birth Scott is having to change some of his summer Higher Place schedule, but they will still be doing a number of camps. Scott is writing and working on fresh direc-

tion for the ministry the Lord has given to him and Lisa. Things are going really well for them at Eagles Nest and the truth is that they are both growing tremendously in the Lord. Please pray for them as the Lord continues to draw them in to new avenues of ministry.