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NEWSLETTER— April 2023



Referral Ministry of  
Transformation Ministries Alliance

*He rescued me because He delighted in me. Ps 18:19b*

**THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE:** *For you are a holy people to the Lord your God the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Deut. 7:6-8*

### [Passover in Jerusalem](#)

Trip to Israel, check!

During the first week in April, my wife and I got to receive one of the best gifts from the Lord we have ever gotten: Holy Week in the Holy Land, a bucket list trip. Joining a friend from our church who was going to visit his sister and her husband, we had an amazing time engaging in two Sabbaths and Passover during our visit. The couple have been living in Jerusalem for over a year, and were able to act both as hosts and tour guides.

We had always wanted to travel to Israel one day, and kind of thought 'one day' we would. But the Lord dropped this trip right into our laps. Once the opportunity presented itself, we had our tickets booked within two days.

We arrived in Tel Aviv on the morning of April 1<sup>st</sup> during the Sabbath. Our friend's brother-in-law met us at the airport and helped us by giving instructions how to navigate Customs. In no time we were on our way to their apartment for the day, because our hotel in Jerusalem would not check us in until after 3pm because of it being the Sabbath. It was really good to see them again after so long, and we had a great time catching up. We were so exhausted from the nearly twelve-hour flight and seven-hour time gain that we decided to head to our hotel when we could, and rest for the evening. My wife and I walked to a wonderful restaurant close to our hotel, and the lamb meal I had was amazing.

The next day was Palm Sunday. The five of us joined thousands of other Christians who had come from all over the world in a procession over/around/through the Mount of Olives, singing and worshipping all along the way. It was several hours later when we broke away from the masses, walking the Via Dolorosa, through The Old City, and then down to a Palm Sunday evening service in an Anglican church, where the worship was incredible for me. It is the oldest Protestant church in the Middle East. We passed the place where Simon of Cyrene was believed to have helped Jesus carry His cross. We walked and walked and walked and walked, but everything was so amazing.

The next day, we went to the Mehane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem, and stopped at a restaurant for an authentic Israeli meal. We went to The Western Wall, a remnant of The Temple, and prayed. We also wrote a short prayer on a piece of paper and stuck it into the wall. Later that day we also went to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Another day we went to the Mediterranean Sea and had a day at the beach. It was so beautiful. The water was very clear and the weather was just right for a relaxing time, with a beautiful blue sky and no clouds. We had a great meal at a restaurant overlooking the beach, and then went back to our hotel for the night.

The next day, Shabbat had begun and Fran and I decided to take a day just to relax with no sight-seeing. We simply didn't have the energy that the other three had who are half our age. They went to the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River, both of which we'd have liked to see, but we just didn't have it in us. We had a really nice day, though, just staying around our hotel neighborhood. Many of the shops and stores were closed for Shabbat, but we did find a nice Chinese restaurant for lunch that was close. After sitting at our table for a few minutes, I realized that I recognized the music being played over the speaker in the restaurant. It was an instrumental version of Give Thanks (with a grateful heart). When the owner came by our table, I mentioned I was enjoying her music. She said in her sweet Chinese-English voice, "Oh, you Christians! This is the only kind of music I play here." We enjoyed our chat and the food was good!

Our final day we spent visiting The Garden Tomb and the site where it is believed Golgotha is located. That evening Fran and I treated our friends to dinner at the spot where Fran and I went the first night. Though our hosts have lived in Jerusalem for over a year, this was one place they'd not yet discovered for themselves, and were grateful for a new date-night spot.

During our entire Israel visit, there was never a time when we did not feel completely safe; even with reports of unrest and terrorist attacks, and super crowded marketplace areas where there were wall-to-wall crowds. In the natural, we attributed that sense to the Israeli culture of intact families, and a healthy military presence in every day living. In the Spirit, we knew the Spirit of God was with us.

For me, this trip wasn't at all a touristy thing to do. It was a time to connect both with the Christian/Biblical side of my life to see the places Jesus, the apostles, and the early church lived; and to see the roots of my Jewish heritage. It all carried a sense of reverence for me, and

I will always be grateful to the Lord for the blessing this time there was. Will we go back? I don't know. Next year in Jerusalem? Maybe.

### [Responses From You](#)

From a Mom in KY: Thank you for sharing.

From and Overcomer in OH: A daily surrender. God is SO faithful!!

From a long time brother and friend: Thank you for helping those of us who do not experience this particular battle to understand the warfare you face. I highly respect your walk and know I am also a recipient of His grace.

From a brother on Facebook: I am with you brother! 10 years walking with the Lord and his Grace is sufficient. God is faithful. I always say, the object isn't to be sexually straight or gay, but to believe in Jesus Christ and follow him. I appreciate this post, as so many I meet seem to feel if you truly redeemed you will not be tempted with sexual immorality. Not true of any sexual perversion. But in Christ is deliverance and strength to endure. Thank you for the post.

### [Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Overcomers Group: Thursday, May 11, 2023; Thursday, May 25, 2023

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, May 2, 2023

### [Upcoming Conference](#)

Transformation Ministries Alliance first annual conference "Epic Transformation", June 22-24, 2023 at The Ark Encounter in Williamsburg, KY. To register, go to [www.TMAcorp.org](http://www.TMAcorp.org). This conference is for overcomers, parents/family/friends of LGBTQ-identified loved ones, pastor and church leaders, Christian counselors, anyone who has a heart for and wants to know how to love those who are struggling with identity and unwanted LGBTQ issues.

### [Ongoing Prayer Requests](#)

New Participants for Overcomers Group and new online lay-counselees • New members for our Family & Friends Group (especially wives) • Ministry Finances • Open doors to churches, so pastor and staff can be effectively equipped • Those currently being served by Abba's Delight ministry, both Overcomers and Family & Friends • Continued freedom to operate ministry in KY

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

***Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25***