

PART ONE

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ALIYAH

But were afraid (or didn't know) to ask....

Introduction: Passover and the Three Sons

In the readings during the Pesach (Passover) seder¹ the rabbis tell a tale about three sons – one good and smart son who knew all the answers, one bad and wicked son who didn't care to know, and one simple, but ignorant son who didn't even know the questions to ask. This book is written for us simple people, who want to obey the call of God to make Aliyah (immigrate to Israel), but don't even know where to begin. It is also written for those lovers of Israel, Christian Zionists, who want to come to a better understanding of the plight of Messianic Jews whose desire is to 'come home'. Hopefully you will come to this place of understanding and connection through reading about our antics. In coming home, we made many blunders – some with humorous consequences, and some not so easy to laugh about, even

1 A Passover Seder is the traditional ritual meal used to celebrate Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

now. But through it all, God has been faithful; our story is a testimony to God's grace.

I once watched a Disney movie about Goofy competing in a race. Poor Goofy bumbled and fumbled his way through the entire obstacle course, making every mistake possible. But somehow, despite his ineptitude, he came up the winner holding the gold trophy. Such it so often seems with us; we are called to run the race set before us – to obey and follow the call of God on our lives - and yet we seem to fumble the ball every time. But it is God that gives us the victory in the end and causes us to triumph through His Messiah, Yeshua!² And so this book is not written in order that someone may have the perfect Aliyah experience and make no mistakes, but just to perhaps prepare the way a bit – to smooth over some of the potential rocky places and help avoid some of the sand traps.

Everyone must come to Israel with his or her own personal scripture. This was ours and I give it to you in your journey to fulfill your destiny:

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
(Josh. 1:9)

You Didn't Ask...!

I especially remember one particularly frustrating encounter. Had I, at the time, known that such experiences were to be fairly typical of daily life in Israel, we may not have attempted the Herculean effort of making aliyah as

² Yeshua is the Hebrew name for Jesus. It means God saves or salvation.

Messianic Jews from a North American country. We were sitting in the absorption office in Petach Tikvah. The local office in Ariel had insisted that we make the journey to their larger branch office (for some unknown reason). Buses in Israel cause me to feel sick to my stomach at the best of times; and my condition of being five months pregnant at the time didn't help matters either. But if we have to we have to, so we endured the hour and a half bus ride up and down the mountains, in and out of barbed wire enclosed settlements. Finally we found the office...waited a couple more hours for our number to be called...met with the absorption counselor...she sent us back to Ariel. Why? We didn't know and couldn't find out. There, we would have to wait for the one day a week that the local office opened. Finally the day arrived. We waited another couple of hours until they called our number - again...met with the absorption counselor - again. Here, the clerk dutifully informed us that we didn't get the right papers in Petach Tikvah and would have to return there to obtain the correct forms. Now I was starting to lose my cool. "*Why were we not given the right papers in Petach Tikvah?*", I demanded to know. "*You didn't ask!!*", was her straight faced reply.

I hope that this book will help answer some of the questions about Israel that you didn't even know to ask. Thank you for the privilege of sharing the story of our journey to Jerusalem, a testimony of the amazing grace of the God of Israel.

***“And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me, nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with*”**