Dance Before the Lord by Ralph LaFlamme

More and more, the Lord appears to be opening doors for us to spread the word of his love and his soon return. We are now able to introduce to you the newest addition to the ministry, our dance team.

Throughout Scriptures, we are reminded of the joy that cannot be contained, and the need to express that joy with our whole being. This is something that David knew, “And, David danced with all of his might before the Lord” (2Sam. 6:14).

This year, at one of our Seders, Zechariah Ministries’ Israeli folk dancers performed for the first time. It was so electrifying that it was difficult for people to stay in their seats when the wonderfully joyful Jewish music began to play. The dancers instantly multiplied ten fold!

The Psalms are great reminders of what a beautiful form of worship it is when we ‘dance before the Lord.’

“Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.” (Ps 149:3)

“Praise him with the tambourine and dancing.” (Ps 150:4)

We are also blessed to be able to introduce to you several new members of our ministry’s core. ‘Malkah Cohen’ is a young single messianic believer who has been attending our Shabbat gatherings. She recently had the opportunity to share the Good News of the Messiah with a young Orthodox rabbi. She recounts her wonderful experience of bringing this young man to an understanding of Yeshua, Jesus, in her article beginning on page four.

Two other couples joining us are Lee and Patricia Whalen, and Lonnie and Christine Shor. Both couples have a love for souls and a love for our Jewish Roots. And, they are a big blessing to us and those to whom we minister.

I also want to remind everyone that all our newsletters are available online on our website either as web pages or downloadable PDF files, in color. I hope you enjoy them!

Like the Days of Noah by ‘Sister Jenny’

As dark clouds bring storms and rain, so the darkness of the world around us points to stormy days ahead. As Christians, this should not be surprising since our Lord warned of this. He told us that immediately before He came back, it would be just like it was in the days of Noah (Mt. 23:37).

Surely, when terrorists behead people on camera, and parents increasingly murder their children, we do not need to look outside to see that “it’s raining now.” It’s time to get in the boat!

Since the Lord spoke of the Kingdom of God being inside of us, it is important to note that He was looking for an inner ‘light,’ a truth to shine forth. It produces peace, a peace that surpasses all understanding, a trust that comes from knowing the Calmer-of-the-Waves lives inside of you, that you are in His boat of safety.

But, where is the boat? It’s not listed in the phone book or on the Internet. Most people are so busy with life... eating, drinking, and marrying, that there is no time to think of storms that are a’comin’ (Luke 17:27).

But, it is not enough to be content (Continued on page 6)
A Little of This...

ill, Donna and Abby Hutchinson continue their new life in Israel. They are no longer at Christ Church in Jerusalem but are now living in Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee. They are preparing to immerse themselves in Hebrew courses to learn the language. They love their new home and the opportunities it provides for learning the Israeli customs as well. We are so blessed to have them as dear friends and to share in their many experiences in the Holy Land. Please continue to pray for their safety and especially for Bill’s health.

Seders 2005

Our Seders this year, were especially joyous occasions as Zechariah Ministries introduced its new Zekharyah Israeli Folk Dancers. The inclusion of Jewish music and dance to the Seders inserted a particularly festive tone to these ancient ceremonies.

Attendees at these Seders felt especially free to join in the spirit of celebration. We were blessed to have more people that were willing to actually participate in the Seder. In the picture above, Roxanne Wilhelm is reciting the ancient Hebrew prayers over the candles, for the first time, at the start of the Seder at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. At another of our Seders, Richard Grosse sang the beautiful Aaronic blessing over the children, while Pastor Penn blessed us all with even more Hebrew songs.

A Little of That

Zechariah Ministries is prepared to give presentations to your church or organization. Contact our office to schedule a date. If desired, our dance team can accompany our presenters to help minister to your group. Here is a list of some of the topics our speakers can address:

- History of the Church
- Creating a Judeo-Christian Home
- Raising a Child in the Ways of the Lord
- Personal Testimonies
- Dealing with Family Crisis
- Inner-Healing from Abuse
- Book of Zechariah
- Jewish Roots of Christianity
- Anti-Semitism
- Jewish Feasts (God’s Appointed Times)
- Jewish Prayers
- Insights Into the Hebrew Language
- Symbols of Israel
- Twelve Tribes of Israel
- Prison Ministry

Also see our website at: www.zechmin.org/dancers

(photo by Bruce Boutineau - used with permission - www.finephotogallery.com)
The Open Door Children’s Home in Rome, Georgia now has two locations. In late 2003, the staff was able to open a second home, one for boys. This was a great accomplishment as the boys in need had previously been housed at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Especially at Christmastime, Zechariah Ministries has made an effort to present the Homes with gifts of a more lasting nature than the traditional toys and candy. The children are well taken care of in this fashion. In the past, the Ministry has donated VCRs, DVD players, and last year two beautifully crafted Christ-in-the-Manger displays.

This season, the Open Door home expressed a need for blankets, so we offered to donate them. Robin Miller started a funding drive for the blankets that netted $400 from family and friends. On the afternoon of December 21st, we were privileged to deliver twenty blankets to the girls’ home and sixteen blankets to the boys’ home. These were the numbers that Open Door Home had suggested to fill their needs.

We took pictures of the blankets at our home prior to delivering them, since pictures are not allowed near the children, for security reasons. It was a wondrous season of giving. Thanks to our generous family and friends for their support of Zechariah Ministries and the great work that they do.

### Jamaica Mission Trip

Because of the wonderful people of St. Michael’s Roman Catholic Church, Zechariah Ministries was able to send several large boxes of towels as well as adult and baby diapers to the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica. St. Joseph’s Hospital, where Roxie works as a nurse, also contributed much-needed medical supplies to the brothers as well.

Bob is going to Haiti with a group of men in June and Roxie will be going back to Jamaica in July with another group. The poverty that the missionaries are dealing with is unbelievable and we are so blessed to be able to help. Please remember to pray for all of the people that are working for the Lord in the worst of conditions. They are truly living the gospel of love, reaching out to the poorest of the poor.

If you would like some more information on this outreach by the Missionaries of the Poor, please go to our website to see the article in our Fall 2004 issue written by Bob.
Several months ago, while in a religious Internet chat room, a man had some questions for me about “this Jesus guy.” Naturally, I was willing to answer any questions that this stranger had about God. I was even more interested when he told me that he was Jewish! He went on to ask me why I believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

I explained that Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecies in the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), and gave him a few examples. More importantly though, I explained how Jesus changed my life. When I asked him if he was religious, he said, “No.” I did not expect to ever hear from Aaron (not his real name) again.

A couple of months later, Aaron wrote me an email apologizing for having lied to me. He had been afraid to admit that he was indeed religious. In fact, he was a young Orthodox rabbi!

Over the next few weeks, through instant messaging and emails, he continued to pepper me with questions about “this Jesus guy.” He asked me about heaven and hell and how Jesus fulfilled the ancient prophecies, all the while pleading with me to be blunt with him in answering these difficult questions. He wanted to know the truth.

Aaron asked me about my own Jewish practices, since I am a Messianic Jew, and about the traditions that I kept. What about the rabbis, the Talmud and the Torah? When I challenged him to read the New Testament for himself, he responded that he would never be able to read such an anti-Semitic book! I told him that what he had been taught about the New Testament was not true. In fact, I told him that the New Testament was very Jewish because Jesus was a rabbi and never gave up his Jewish identity. The way that Jesus taught was so very Jewish!

I reminded Aaron about God’s promise, through the Prophet Jeremiah, that He would, one day, make a new covenant with the House of Israel and write the law (the Torah) on our hearts. I explained that a man could observe all 613 commandments in the Torah as best he could and still be a wicked person. The law does not change the heart of men! I pointed out that Jesus made the law a matter of the heart. Where the Torah says that we must not murder, Jesus says that even if we hate our brother in our heart, we have committed murder. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy in Jeremiah 31:31. Aaron was completely dumbfounded. He had never heard such amazing teachings! This “Jesus guy” really WAS a great rabbi!

Because he lived in a very closed Orthodox Jewish community, Aaron would not be able to bring a New Testament into his home. I prayed with all my heart that God would begin to draw him by His Spirit and

(Continued on page 7)
How do I begin to tell you how much God has done for me? When I reflect on my past, I am in awe of how much God loves me.

There was a time in my life when I thought I wasn’t worthy of God’s love. You see, I had been sexually molested from the time I was three until I was seventeen. My life was full of guilt, shame, and condemnation. How could God possibly love someone like me?

All types of abuse hurt, but sexual abuse is the most damaging, because it brings more guilt and shame on the victim than on the perpetrator.

I’ve often heard people say that when the enemy gets bold, God gets bolder. I look at my life and see evidence of where God poured strength into me and gave me gifts that offset the abuse that was happening to me, so that I was blessed as well.

One of those gifts was the ability to dance. I have always been fascinated by folkloric dancing of all nations. The heart of the nation is seen in its ethnic dancing. Ever since I can remember, I have been able to watch someone dance and duplicate the dance steps. My mother could not afford to give me dance lessons, so I gave myself dance lessons. I would practice in front of a mirror until I was happy with what I could do and then perform for my family.

The ability to perform kept me going while my world crumbled around me. I lived in a perpetual daydream. Somehow, I made my way through school, got married at seventeen, had three sons, and survived two divorces. I am married again to a wonderful man of God and we will celebrate our twelfth Anniversary this August.

I always felt like I was on the outside looking in. My life felt that it was controlled by forces outside of myself and never could see more than two choices. It wasn’t until I got involved in the Elijah House School of Inner Healing and Prayer Ministry that my life started to make sense. God has delivered me from the guilt, shame, and condemnation. I am now able to stand in the presence of God and know that He loves me.

The devil tried to destroy me through attacks on my body, yet God has taken that same body and is now using it to bring Him glory! He instilled in me a natural ability and talent to dance.

Since 1974, I have studied Middle Eastern dance forms from Egypt, Greece, Morocco, Persia, Turkey, Arabia, and Israel, and have been blessed to study under some very famous choreographers. So, when God called Zechariah Ministries to put together an Israeli dance troupe, our paths crossed. God has blessed me with my heart’s desire, to be a part of Zechariah Ministries’ folkloric dance troupe, and now, I get the added privilege of helping to put together an Israeli dance troupe. WOW!

What a joy to be able to dance and represent the Israeli Heritage as well! If anyone knows how to dance with the heart, it’s the Jewish people. Life is so precious, and the joy that comes out of their music is so contagious, that there is no other way to truly express the joy of life than to dance with every cell of our being, in other words, to dance from our heart. L’chaim…To Life!

We are blessed to have Lee and Patricia Whalen as members of Zechariah Ministries’ core. For more information on scheduling our speakers and dancers, please contact us or visit our website for more information:

www.zechmin.org/dancers
with being safe ourselves. Just as the animals went into the Ark two by two, so we also must think of others to be protected in the Ark also.

Find someone that is not at peace, who does not know the Lord and has no idea that there are stormy clouds overhead. Point to the boat. Sound the alarm, for sooner than we can imagine, the boat will begin to float! So we must take others with us into the safety of God’s covering. After all, true love never focuses only on “self.”

I am reminded of a passage in Joshua that speaks of the need to go back and rescue loved ones. In the first chapter of Joshua we read:

“The Lord your God is giving you rest and has granted you this land. Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, fully armed, must cross over ahead of your brothers. You are to help your brothers as He has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.” (Joshua 1:13-15)

Years ago I found it hard to talk to others, especially strangers about the Lord. It was then that the words of the Lord, in the Book of Mark, would scare me:

If any man is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” (Mark 8:38)

Hello Dollies!

Every year, Zechariah Ministries receives an abundance of incredibly beautiful dolls, Beanie Babies and stuffed animals that we distribute to hospitals for abused and sick children, a home for girls that have been rescued from their pimps on the streets of Atlanta, and area poor families, especially at Christmas time.

These dolls come to us from a wonderfully generous woman that we have never met but have only spoken to on the telephone. The girls that receive her dolls will one day thank her in heaven. Thank you, our precious Mrs. Riebe for the enormous blessing you are to so many!
make a way for Aaron to come to
faith in Jesus. I very much wanted
this to happen but did not want to
push him too quickly for fear that, if I
pushed too hard, I would simply push
him away entirely.

One night, feeling led to share
what was on my heart, I ex-
plained to Aaron that my
friends and I, mostly singles in our
twenties, meet a couple of times a
month to pray. We have a list of Jew-
ish friends, family members and ac-
quaintances that we pray for by name,
asking God to reveal Himself to them
in dreams and visions. We ask God to
set us up on divine appointments with
other Jews to enable us to share the
gospel with them. We also pray for
all Jews to be drawn by the Spirit of
God. “Aaron,” I said, “you are an an-
swer to our prayers!” He could not
understand how a group of strangers
would take the time to pray for him
and started to weep!

One night, I came home to find an
urgent email from Aaron asking to
speak to me right away. I had never
spoken on the phone with him and
felt very nervous and inadequate to be
sharing Jesus with him. I prayed for
God to be able to give me the words
to speak. I was literally shaking by
the time the phone rang.

Aaron had to walk out of his
neighborhood so as not to be discover-
ed. The moment I heard his voice I
knew he was nervous. Unmarried Or-
thodox men are not permitted to even
look a girl in the face, let alone speak
with a girl on the phone. He kept
thanking me for taking the time to
speak with him. We talked for a while
about Jesus. I asked if he ever talked
to God. Orthodox Jews pray all the
time, but the prayers are always the
same, and are repeated at the appro-
priate occasion. A conversation with
God was not something that Aaron
had ever considered before. I ex-
plained that when I pray to God, I
talk to Him, like I would a close
friend. Aaron told me that he had
been sneaking into a bookstore and
reading the New Testament.

I felt led by God to show how Jesus is
evident in the Passover holiday. I ex-
plained to Aaron that Jesus was
wounded for our transgressions; he
was bruised for our iniquities, by his
stripes we are healed. At Passover,
the unleavened bread that we eat has
bruises, stripes and holes, just like Je-
sus. Then I felt led to ask him, “When
our people were in their homes on the first Passover in Egypt,
what was it that saved the lives of the firstborn children?” After a long
pause, he replied, “The blood.” I
knew then that he really understood.

He then asked me what he had to do
to accept Jesus as the Messiah. I
could hardly believe what was hap-
pening. I told him that all he had to
do was to pray. I was as scared as he
was. I had never led anyone to the
Lord before. He asked me to help him
to pray to accept Jesus as the Mes-
siah. Together, we both cried as we
prayed for Jesus to enter Aaron’s
heart and for God to fill him with the
Holy Spirit. “There is no turning back
now,” he said.

It has been a couple of months since
Aaron prayed to receive Jesus into his
heart. For most of us, accepting Jesus
as our Savior only carries a small
price but for Aaron, as an orthodox
Jew and Rabbi, the price is far higher.
If anyone finds out what Aaron did,
he will be cast out of his community.
He wanted to know the Truth no mat-
ter what it cost him. And in reality, it
is going to cost him everything. He
could lose his family, his friends, his
congregation, and his reputation
I am still in contact with Aaron, and I
continue to pray for him. He is strug-
gling and is being attacked from
every angle. Satan hates it when
someone comes to know Jesus. Yet,
when a Jew accepts Jesus, he hates it
all the more. God has made a cove-
nant with the Jewish people, and he
will fulfill it. However, the Jewish
people must still exist in order for
God to keep his promises to them.
This is why Satan wants to extermi-
nate the Jews. If he can kill us, then
he can prove God a liar. This, we
know, will never happen! Satan also
knows that in the End-of-Days the
blinders will fall off the eyes of the
Jewish people and they will be saved.
Satan knows his time is short, espe-
cially when the children of Israel are
returning to the God of their fathers!

God is a God of miracles, and
Aaron’s salvation story is a miracle.
There are thousands more people just
like Aaron who are searching. Con-
tinue to pray for him and his fellow
Jews. Continue to share your faith be-
cause God will use you, if your heart
is willing!
A Great Way To Start The Day!

Awhile back, the Lord led us to Psalm 143:8-10 as a starting point for our morning intercession and prayer time. We have been so blessed by it and wanted to pass it on to you! Try it, you’ll be blessed too.

[Lord] let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.
Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in you.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith. (Heb. 11:7)

Warriors Needed

From the beginning, Zechariah Ministries has been blessed with wonderful and powerful intercessors. But, as we continue to move into new territory for the Lord, there is a need for more intercessors.

We recently added a web page for our intercessors containing a list of current needs that we are bringing before the Lord. This page will be updated as needed.

If you would like to be an intercessor, please contact us and we will give you the address to the intentions online, so you can begin interceding.

We are deeply grateful to all who have lovingly supported this ministry’s mission of hope and restoration. May the Lord bless them abundantly.