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April 9, 2012

Dear Roger,

Greetings! We are writing this thank you letter from Jerusalem. It is the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread. Yesterday was also the "Western Easter" (there is an "Eastern Easter" as well—the Western Easter is based on the Gregorian calendar and the Eastern, or Orthodox Easter, is based on the Julian calendar, and occasionally they are celebrated on the same Sunday). So, this gives you an idea of how busy the City has been this last week. Many of the streets of Jerusalem are closed, especially those along the Old City walls. We were in the Old City yesterday and it was packed solid with people. Walking through the narrow streets was very difficult, but very interesting as we passed so many different nationalities and languages. Truly Jerusalem is a "city compact together!"

We have had such an amazing last two weeks! The **Middle East 'Net' Conference** in Cyprus was a real success. We had 55 people from many different nations. By the end of the three-day conference there were goals set for the "Isaiah 19" working groups that included Israel, Egypt, and one for the Assyrian nations. We are looking forward to watching what the Lord will do over this next year between these individuals. We had such a positive response to this conference. We had one couple that came from Thessaloniki, Greece and who have a house of prayer there. They have been establishing this house of prayer for a few years and feel they are weary and have felt isolated. Our 'Net' Conference helped to bring them into an environment where they could share their hearts and their hurts, and as a group, we were able to pray over them and bless them.

There was another couple that had come from Switzerland—the husband was Egyptian and the wife was Syrian. They had been laboring in Switzerland for a number of years and were also weary. Again, we had the privilege as a group to bring them forward, pray over them and encourage them that they were not alone in their lives and ministry. It was really satisfying to Tom and I, deep in our hearts to see the Lord bring these precious laborers together and watch the Body minister to one another. This is exactly the purpose of the 'Net' Conference—to link the houses of prayer together for encouragement, training, prayer and support. We saw more and more of the Lord's heart from John 17 and His prayer for the Body to be one.

We left Cyprus last Monday and arrived here very late in the night, actually early on Tuesday morning. The early morning air in Jerusalem was crisp and clean. It was fun showing some of the team the sites around us—The Mount of Olives to the east of us. Mount Zion just to the west of us a bit; the Old City walls of Jerusalem...and the lights of the city. It made the Scriptures come alive so quickly. We had a couple hours of sleep and then the team joined in at Succat

Hallel for an "Isaiah 19" Prayer Watch. We were able to pray over the nations of the region and meet people who have the same heart. It was a really refreshing time for our souls.

Over the last five-six days, we've taken our team from the U.S., which ranged from 9 of us to 13 of us, depending on where we were going, to the various sites of the Old City. We took them to the Temple Mount to pray together as a team, then to the City of David archaeological site and pray there; we walked through the Old City—between the Muslim Quarter and the Christian Quarter, the Armenian Quarter and the Jewish Quarter. The Quarters are fairly seamless, so unless you know the various areas, it is hard to know which Quarter you are in. We walked through the beginning of the Via Dolorosa, near the Lion Gate (or Stephen's Gate) yesterday and realized it was still in the Muslim Quarter, which seems odd, as it seems it should all be in the Christian Quarter, but it does end up in the Christian Quarter at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Fascinating! The narrow streets through the Old City have to be seen to be understood; people pressing in from all different directions, shopkeepers selling their wares in the compact spaces— some of these shopkeepers have been in their shops for generations and have amazing stories to tell. It is really an experience!

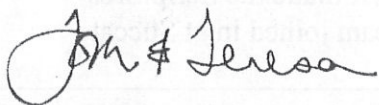
It is now Monday morning, the 9th of April, and the members of the larger team have left to return to the States. Tom and I feel a bit bittersweet, as it was such an amazing team and such a great time together. Our core team of Mary Ann and Heidi are with us and we are planning over the next 12 days while we remain here in Jerusalem, to have some quality debrief time together, as well as some good prayer over all the Lord did these last few weeks, as well as hearing His heart regarding the future for the Lighthouse Network. Many things were confirmed in our hearts while in Cyprus regarding the future need of a House of Prayer and Ministry Center in the region to network the houses of prayer together. Words came out very strongly about Cyprus, as well as how people were behind us and the Lighthouse Network to help to see something like this established.

As you know, this vision has been in our hearts for so many years. We are treading very slowly with this encouragement though. We want to be sure that any steps we take for the future are the steps that HE has directed us to take and not ourselves. We are cautiously waiting upon the Lord. So, we look forward to having a good time of prayer together as a team here in Jerusalem. Please do pray for us that all of this comes together the way He desires.

We return to the U.S. on the 21st of April and will begin to move into a new phase as a ministry team. Pray that we know exactly what the next steps are for us...

Thank you so much again for being apart of our lives and for standing with us and behind us as we continue to be involved in the Middle East and the peoples of Isaiah 19. We bless you from Jerusalem!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom & Teresa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom and Teresa