

TEOTE ("The Ends of the Earth")

Dear TEOTE supporter,

I left Paihia on the 28th of Jan heading south, and since the 1st of Feb I've been in the South Island. My plan for the South Island trip was to visit as many of you as I possibly could; listening to your hosting experiences; sharing more of the vision of HIT; giving some practical tips concerning hosting and Jewish evangelism, and encouraging you in your labor for Him. I want to use this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of you who hosted me on my travels, and also those who have attended my home-group style meetings.

As I have not been to the South Island for the last 12 years, and since there is such a great need to recruit new hosts there; my mind-set going south was that I must focus 100% of my time and energy on this mission. As naturally I'm a one-track minded kind of a person; I must confess that every evening that I didn't have a meeting felt like a waste of my time... If only 5 people came to my meeting I was disappointed and discouraged... *"Where are all the people?"* I thought... *"Why don't they come to hear me?"* Many days I spent phoning around-the-clock making contacts with pastors and arranging meetings at their churches... Looking back; I think that at times, I have over-worked myself and sometimes even missed an opportunity to really connect with the people I was staying with. At some point I realised that if I'm too busy, that I cannot even see the Lord's people who are hosting me then I must be doing something wrong. If any of you have felt this way in that I have not "seen" you, I would like to use this opportunity to personally ask for your forgiveness.

Gospel meetings in the South Island: Four months has passed since I left Paihia, and I must say that I have found many places in the South Island, with all its natural beauty, very hard places spiritually. Passing through many of the small towns of the South Island felt like driving through (spiritually) ghost-towns... Growing-up in a Kibbutz (only about 700 people), my heart is always for the people of the small places! An idea of going through some of the smaller, lower-economy towns of the South Island; having open gospel meetings, and reaching out to the lost souls there, first came to me when I was in Karama early-on in my tour. Since then, I have started entertaining these thoughts, and at the moment, the idea is to combine these gospel meetings, with the nation-wide tour of New Zealand I'm planning to have together with Jacob Damkani in February 2013. More information about this – in our next newsletter!

Ziv: You may remember me sharing with you in the TEOTE newsletter of May 2011 about Ziv; the Israeli backpacker I met in Paihia last year; who came to faith in Messiah. Ziv wrote to me recently (my own free translation): *"It is strange to think how things have turned out since I slept in my tent at your garden in Paihia... When I returned to Israel; I started talking with family and friends about Yeshua... I saw the way they all responded, and I talked less and less getting weaker and weaker... The only times I remember being encouraged was when Jacob (Damkani) would call me... I was wondering what it was that I was to do; out of all the options I had, nothing sprung out... Jacob had invited me to come to Jaffa for a weekend and without thinking twice I decided to go... That night I went to the congregational meeting and slept in Jaffa. I was convicted by the Spirit that this is where I needed to be in the near future... Two weeks later, I arrived there despite the strong objections of my family who thought that I was joining a cult; following some kind of a guru... I'm now here at the house in Jaffa, meeting believers of all sorts; going into the streets witnessing, and trying as much as possible to study the Scriptures. I have no plans, but I believe that this is where God has called me to be for the time being; a 'trainee time' until it's time for the next stage. Yeshua is working mightily in my life; searching my darkest places; shining His light there and ruling more and more over the throne of my life. Thank God, life with Him is never boring. I remember how every evening you had asked me: 'How is Yeshua doing in your life, Ziv?' and I didn't know what to answer you Omri. Today, I can thank God for the circumstances He brought into my life, including meeting you and Jacob, and Yeshua is growing in my life with each day passing..."* Wow!!! Isn't it wonderful to hear how mightily the Lord has been working in Ziv's life? Ziv has been working as a handy-man in Hotel Gilgal and at the "Jaffa house" in the last 10 months, and, as he himself has put it: *"...feel very blessed to be in the community house and meeting more and more family members from all over the world..."* and a little bird (name Jacob) has whispered to me what a tremendous blessing Ziv is to everyone he comes in contact with... Ziv, I'm so proud of you and so looking forward to see you again the next time I'm in Israel! *Please remember Ziv in your prayers...*

Katharina: Katharina is a German Backpacker who stayed at my small home-stay in Paihia in December last year. On the morning of the third day of her stay, she said something about love, and so I asked her what is the greatest act of love any human being can do. *"Go, think about it, and we can talk about this in the evening..."* I said to Katharina. Coming back home that evening, Katharina said to me: *"I thought about your question, Omri, but I'm not sure what the answer is..."*, so I replied: *"Jesus said: 'no man has a greater love than to die for his friends'. So He said and so He did..."* Now I've met quite a lot of backpackers in the last 15 years of my life, they all come and go, and you're never quite sure what kind of impact (if any) you had over their lives, but this time it was different and I could see in my own eyes, how the 'penny has dropped' for Katharina... Those simple words I spoke, was all that Katharina needed to hear... She picked up the Bible from the shelf, started reading, and came to faith in Messiah! I offered Katharina to do some "cleaning for accommodation" at my place so that she can take as much time as she needed to learn about Him. Katharina accepted my offer and stayed at my place for 5-6 weeks until I went on my South Island tour. What a delight it was to see her grow with each day passing! Just like a sponge, Katharina was soaking everything she could, spending hours upon hours reading the Bible, watching DVD's of Dave Hunt, Roger Oakland, Creation Ministries and even Arnold Fruchtenbaum... And I can't remember the last time that my house was so clean! *Please pray for Katharina; Pray that she will keep being such a blessing wherever she may go; that she will keep growing in her faith with each day passing; that she will have clear guidance from Him what is the next step she should take – should she continue travelling in New Zealand, or maybe go to Bible school?* Katharina, I count it such a privilege that the Lord has allowed me to be the one He used to bring you to Himself! WOW!!!

Yif'at: On April 6th, I received the following text message: *"Hi Omri! My name is Yif'at. I live in Methven. Just seen in the local paper that you are coming over to our little town. Will be nice to meet you. I heard lots about you in the last 12 years in NZ..."* As I had only met two other Israelis living in NZ during my South Island tour, and was driving through Methven the following day on my way to Oxford, I used the opportunity to call-in for a cuppa. Living previously in Tauranga; Yif'at has moved to Methven with her two young children about a year ago, looking for a new start. To be honest, I can't really remember how it all went, but Yif'at had so many questions about Yeshua... We talked for a few hours, but as I had to get to Oxford, I left Yif'at with Jacob Damkani's book "Why Me?" Two days later I received another text from Yif'at: *"I've read 'Lama Davka Ani' (i.e. 'Why Me?'). Was interesting. Come back because now I have even more questions for you..."* I came back to Methven the following Sunday for meetings at both the Elim and Presbyterian churches. Yif'at came to my evening meeting and we spent a considerable time together talking specifically about Messiah but also about life in general. Yif'at is a beautiful young woman, whom, most importantly, I've found to be genuine. While still searching; I have no doubt that it is only a matter of time before Yif'at will meet her Messiah... *Please pray for Yif'at and her children Oliver and Bayley. Pray that the Lord will lead her to Himself; that in Him she will find the lasting peace, love and joy she's longing for; that the Lord will bring the right people over her path that would help her on her journey...* Yif'at, I know that I have made a friend for life!

Giora Jaakobovich: As you can probably read by the surname, Giora is my father. My father was born in June 1948, so he's the same age as the modern state of Israel and so, relatively young. I've just been informed that my father had been diagnosed with Acute Leukemia (Leukemia Subtype is not yet determined) and has just started chemotherapy treatment. While this is quite a violent blood cancer, the fact that my father's disease has been discovered at a very early stage gives hope for recovery. Those of you, who have heard my testimony, may recall that it was my earthly father, who upon my request has sent me the Bible (Old and New Testaments in Hebrew) to Paihia some 15 years ago which has led me to saving faith in Messiah. I would like to ask you to pray for my father! *Please pray that while at the hospital, the Lord will send the right person/people to minister to my father; that if at-all possible, the Lord will have mercy and will choose to heal my father; that my father will start to earnestly seek for Him and as he does so, that the Lord will open his eyes to the truth and reality of Messiah; that if the Lord in His wisdom will not grant my father complete healing; that He will not let my father die before coming to saving faith; that the Lord will use this awful situation to bring other members of my family and people from Kibbutz Ramat Hashofet (where I grew-up) closer to Himself; that His will be done.* Thank you!!! Dad, I love you...

Keren Ahvah Meshihit (KAM): Romans 15:27 says: "... and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things..." - If you've been looking for a Jewish ministry that you would like to support and/or contribute financially toward the work they do, then I would highly recommend you to consider supporting KAM who faithfully has been serving the wider body of Messiah in Israel for the last +55 years. Please find attached KAM's latest newsletter (and in it, KAM bank Account details in Israel). Alternatively, if you do not want to waste your financial contribution on rate exchange and bank fees you can put it directly into the TEOTE account (see details at the bottom of this page), as selling their English books, I wait for a large sum to accumulate in the TEOTE account before transferring it to KAM, and so can add your contribution to it. *However, if you choose this option, please make sure that on the Bank Statement, at "Particular", "Code" and "Reference" it would say "4 KAM ministry" otherwise I will not know that the money is earmarked for KAM, and will use it for TEOTE's on-going expenses.* A great way to support KAM ministry is by purchasing their English titles. In this way, you're not only giving, but actually receiving so much yourself! KAM has a wide-range of books written by anointed Messianic Jews between the years 1830 - 1920. These writers had such an in-depth understanding of the Scriptures, writing from a Jewish frame of reference. Such knowledge of the Scriptures is not something that you often come across in this day and age; when apostasy abounds everywhere, even in the church. Please go to: www.kerenahvah.org (click on the American flag to view the website in English) from here you can view the KAM on-line English Catalog. Available through us as PDF files are the *KAM English Books Catalog* and *KAM English Books Prices*. Also, please note that the *KAM Hebrew Books Catalog* which I have translated into English is finally available as a PDF file as well. I trust that this will help you to discern which book (if any) to give to which Israeli traveler that come and stays with you. Please send your request to: omrij@yahoo.com if you would like me to email you any of these PDF files.

Hebrew/English Bibles: *The Society for Distributing Hebrew Scriptures* is making their bi-lingual Hebrew/English Bibles (Old Testament and New Testament in separate volumes) available *free of charge* to every Israeli or Jewish person who may be interested in receiving them. HIT hosts can also get a free copy of both volumes to make it easier for them when talking to their Israeli visitors about certain passages of the Bible. So, if you know of any Israeli/Jewish people living in New Zealand, and would like to gift them these Bibles, or want to order a copy for your own use, please ask me when I pass through your area, or alternatively contact the NZ contact person, *Christina Mitchell* on (09) 416 3013 / (027) 365 5521 or email her neveshalom@slingshot.co.nz - Please note that these Bibles are gifted free of charge to Israeli/Jewish people and HIT hosts only (there is a small cost of \$5 for postage within New Zealand). If you're not hosting Israelis, but would like to obtain these Bibles, please contact Christina to find out more about the costs involved.

Facebook: As I have tried spending the least time possible on the computer; I have concluded that I must go with the times that we're living in... Yes, Facebook can be a great tool in advancing our beliefs, ministry; business or anything else... I have just created (separate) Facebook pages for both TEOTE ministry and the HIT network. Just go to: www.facebook.com/teote.ministry or to view the HIT page, go through my own personal Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/omri.jaakobovich (become my "Friend"!!!) and give us a "Like". If any of you are interested to take a more active role in running these pages, please let me know, as I'm exploring ways to do it...

Share your stories with us: As from the next TEOTE newsletter onwards I would like to add a new section, where I'll share a story or two from various hosts about their experiences with their Israeli visitors. It's been a long time now since I wanted to do this as this will get you more involved with our newsletter, and I'm sure will also encourage other hosts tremendously... So, I would greatly appreciate if you will write to me sharing specific experiences that you had with specific Israeli visitors. You can share a story from this past season or from any of the last 10 years... Please give as much details as possible (In the case that we lack space, we'll edit it if necessary).

Volunteers (strangely, while I was still in the Kibbutz, this same word carried a completely different meaning...): More and more I see that to carry out this work, I need help from various people at various areas of ministry. From secretarial help (such as sending TEOTE newsletters; arranging meetings; sending KAM English books, etc) to more professional help (such as setting-up a website, or helping setting-up TEOTE ministry as a trust) your help would be much appreciated. If there is any area that you think you may be able to use some of your time and talents (also in areas that have not been mentioned above) in order to help us advance our work, then all you need to do is email us...

One last thing: While there's still plenty of time before going to the next HIT publication, I would like to ask those of you who came to any of my South Island meetings and who have showed interest to host Israeli backpackers to send us back their completed Application Form ASAP. Every year, when working on the new HIT directory, I spend hours upon hours chasing people, spending un-necessary time, energy and money contacting HIT hosts and prospective hosts. You can really help me! Dear prospective hosts, please, do not let me chase after you... PLEASE, read the "HIT Travel Club - Introduction" and "HIT Travel Club - Terms and Conditions", fill-in the "Application Form" and send them back to **PO Box 99, Paihia, 0247, TODAY!** Thank you so much for your co-operation!!! In the case that you have lost the forms that I have given you, just let me know and I'll be able to email those forms to you.

Until the next time, may the Lord bless you and direct your path as you seek to follow Him...

Thank you all for your on-going prayer and support.

Together for the salvation of Israel,

Omri Jaakobovich,

TEOTE ("The Ends of the Earth")

omrij@yahoo.com / (027) 61 61 450

If you want to support this work... TEOTE bank account details are as follows:

Bank: Bank of New Zealand (BNZ)

Branch: Paihia

Account Name: TEOTE ("The Ends of the Earth")

Account Number: 02-0386-0093421-000