

Reflections on the message by David Davis on Sunday 13th June 2010

“Why be in Israel?”

David and Karen Davis live in Haifa, on Mt. Carmel (see 1 Kings 18:19-41). Only 20 miles away are five brigades of Hezbollah, with their rockets aimed into Israel. They live in a war zone, both physical and spiritual. But as Israel is threatened, the people will cry out to God, and when they do, Jesus will come back to the Mount of Olives which is in east Jerusalem.

David lived in New York city as an actor, in which role he thought that art could change racism, including anti-Semitism. He appeared in a Broadway play about the holocaust. He did the necessary research for the part and in consequence began to ask why so-called Christians could kill so many Jews in the holocaust. He concluded that his life didn't mean anything—nothing was changing— and he went out to find God. A fellow actor who was born again invited him to a meeting in a recording studio where other people in the entertainment world who were believers came together to worship the Lord. As David came in to the room, he fell on his knees and met Jesus there. His guilt and condemnation were lifted and he knew he was forgiven. And yet he had not been told the gospel in “Christian” America.

He read Luke 15:4. He knew that Jesus had gone looking for David, as the one lost sheep, in New York. He is after you, too. He is the Good Shepherd. He wants a deeper relationship with you. He lays the found sheep on his shoulders and comes home rejoicing. And then he read Luke 15:20. The Father was looking for David, and found him. He had compassion on him. The Father *ran out* to look for us. It is the only place where we read of God running.

The Lord told David to go to Israel. There he prayed for an Arab lady who was healed of cancer. He also experienced a “visitation of fire” on Mt. Carmel. When he came back he met Karen, a Jew who was born again, and the Holy Spirit said, “This is your wife”. And so they were married. They got involved with David Wilkerson in drug rehabilitation. They visited Israel and the Arab lady asked them if they could bring this drug rehab work to Israel. A year later they started a drug rehab work for Jews and Arabs at the foot of Mt. Carmel. People said, you can't do this. David told them, No but God can! It has continued for 18 years.

Then a congregation of believers began to grow in their home. They acquired land at the very top of Mt. Carmel and built a church there. It now has one of the largest congregations in Israel. Jews and Arabs meet there and are reconciled—they are “one new man”(Ephesians 2:15). *New* means pure, fresh, virgin, clean. Many Jews and Arabs in Israel are being born again, and Arabs all over the middle east are coming to the Lord.