



## SDA ISRAEL FIELD NEWS

Third quarter 2015

Roger Robertsen, President, Israel Field of Seventh-day Adventists

Email: [roger.robertsen@netvision.net.il](mailto:roger.robertsen@netvision.net.il)

Web: <http://adventist-israel.org/>

### CONTINUED GROWTH IN ISRAEL

Even during the summer months when it is rather hot in Israel, and especially so in the Jordan Valley where baptismal events usually take place, there have been several baptisms since our last newsletter, so we rejoice and praise the Lord!

Some new members were added to the Hebrew-speaking congregation in Tel Aviv, some to the

Filipino congregation in Haifa and others to the Russian congregation in Tel Aviv.

Among the new members are young and old, and from many varied backgrounds. Some subscribers to this newsletter have supported the work in Israel in different ways and can rejoice in a special way to see these tangible results from their active involvement in different capacities.



*Some of the new converts being baptized at Kasr el Yahud and Yardenit in the Jordan River.*

### BAT YAM TEA-PARTY



Bat Yam cannot compare with Boston when it comes to famous tea-parties!

But Pastor Rasim Bakshiyev and his family who came from Azerbaijan to Israel some months ago (he came for medical treatments) have, on a private initiative (he is not employed in the Israel Field) organized neighborhood open home Tea Parties.

It has been nothing less than astonishing to see the house filling up with people of all ages, mainly women, all of them of the same nationality, sharing a light meal and studying the Bible.

They call themselves “the Azeri group” and count 30-40 people! May the Lord continue to bless the activities and the sacrifices of this dedicated family!

New and innovative ideas are being tested, and we pray that the friendship and fellowship established will be a lasting one leading to the Kingdom of God for many of these neighbors and newfound friends.

## ORDINATION TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

When a young person is publicly set aside as a minister of the Gospel in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Israel, then we regard it as an occasion of great joy.



*Raquel, Victoria, Yohanán and Ady Lascu*

On Sabbath, 13 June Pastor Emanuel "Ady" Lascu was ordained at a special service in the Jerusalem Romanian Church.

Pastor Lascu has served in many different capacities outside of Israel before his call to pastor the Romanian churches here and to oversee the work among the Spanish-speaking members in the country. He also serves as Director of the Sabbath School Department in addition to heading the Communication and Media Departments, so it is an active and industrious worker God has called to serve in these areas.

During the service Dr. Reinaldo Siqueira from the South American Division delivered the homily, the undersigned offered the ordination prayer, Pastor Lascu's colleague Elder Oleg Elkin extended a heartfelt welcoming hand of fellowship while Pastor John Lascu, Ady's father and predecessor as a worker in Israel, offered the benediction at the end. Beautiful singing and music created an atmosphere of almost celestial joy and harmony.



*Drs. Reinaldo and Déborah Siqueira with the Lascu family after the ordination service.*

Ady is married to Raquel who is an integral part of all his pastoral activities and they have two children, Yohanán (2 ½ ) and Victoria (1 ½ ). They, and the extended family, participated in the event and we ask the Lord to continue to uphold and bless them as they serve Him wholeheartedly, now with the blessing of the official Seventh-day Adventist Church and the nearness of the Great Shepherd in their daily service for Him. The Israel Field rejoices at this addition to the ordained pastoral staffing and we pray that heaven will always be close to this dedicated family as together they strive to serve and minister wherever the Lord will lead them.

## SPANISH GATHERING at the Study Center in Jerusalem



Spanish-speaking members live scattered in Israel, but Pastor Ady Lascu often organizes inspiring gatherings in order for all of them to meet.

Friendships are renewed and strengthened while newcomers are received into the fellowship. The children enjoy the garden and other outdoor facilities while the adults participate in meetings and share with each other.



The last gathering took place August 28-29. They celebrated the Lord's Supper at the Garden Tomb since the Study Center is located only a few minutes away from this secluded, idyllic and quiet spot in Jerusalem.

Several Spanish-speaking friends have been baptized the last couple of years, and they stay in touch with each other regularly by electronic conferences in-between the gatherings in Jerusalem. There will be more about the Spanish-speaking groups in our next newsletter.

## **FILIPINO-GHANAIAN GATHERING**

On Sabbath 5 September Filipinos and Ghanaians gathered in the Jerusalem International Church to celebrate fellowship and to "rejoice in the Lord."

This usually happens about three times a year and these are always occasions of great joy and a lot of singing.



They all now live far away from home and the fellowship they establish in Israel is extremely important for them, for their families and for their personal faith. The two communities have seen many baptisms the last



year, but many have also returned to the country of origin.

While in Israel they continue to witness and to share their faith. Those who have joined their churches also include persons of the major faith in Israel, so they are an active and inspiring element in the Israel Field.

## **ISRAELI STUDENT FULLY SPONSORED for her Bachelor program in Brazil.**



Drs. Reinaldo and Déborah Siqueira, representatives from the South American Division (SAD) visited Israel in June. We worked together for several days trying to find new and innovative ways we can cooperate in order to benefit both organizations, SAD and the Israel Field. It was a very active time and we agreed to continue exploring several potentially important avenues of cooperation.

One of the tangible results from the conversations is that Patty Cabrera, a young Israeli student, is now being fully sponsored by UNASP, Engenheiro Coelho Campus for the whole BA program. University President, Dr. Paulo Martini has initiated a sponsorship program and has graciously offered the Israel Field to send one of our active young church members to the university to complete a BA program there.

The Israel Field needs more young members with an academic background in different areas and we want to express our gratitude for this kind gesture from our friends in South America.

## **NEW LIFE HOPE CENTERS IN ISRAEL**

In our last Newsletter we shared the great news about the new Life Hope Center in Haifa.

Now we have another one in Nazareth where Pastor Wisam Ali and his wife Adri are running language and health-programs for the community in which they live.

Years ago Nazareth Church Health and Language School had dedicated foreign workers performing community services to the people of Nazareth in the form of a language school and by teaching health principles and healthful living.

After their departure the programs were left dormant for some years, but people in the community still fondly remember the workers and have longed for such programs to restart.

This month, Wisam and Adri restarted the once popular programs to serve the community needs once more. They present weekly programs on health issues, currently presenting the eight health principles and an exercise program. Another active church member, Eugenia Dovstogan, a former handball athlete on the Russian national team, leads out in the exercise program.



*Young Arabs participating in the language course*

They plan to present other programs in the coming months as well. The attendees at the health programs are all Arab women.

The news of the program is spreading by word of mouth and they find new members attending weekly. Some of the attendees are astounded to find that there are no idols in the church – they are used to seeing images and relics in other Christian settings in Nazareth. Some told Pastor Ali: “Your place of worship is better than that of any other religion.”

When teaching children English, Pastor Ali uses computers and the course has become so popular that the students eagerly return every week.

As the informed reader will understand, there are many obstacles along the road for activities like these. Cultural and religious limitations are rampant, and we pray that the Lord will bless and protect Wisam, Adri and their daughter Rachel (8) as they continue to witness and serve in the Nazareth community.

## **OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Among other exciting news the next newsletter (to be published in December) will give an update from the Haifa Project where we are now collecting money to buy the plot of land we need in order to start our kindergarten.

We will also include pictures from the first pathfinder meeting in the new center, and you will be able to read about the first Seventh-day Adventist service ever held in that building!

Many things are happening in the Israel Field and we pray that the Lord will continue to lead people to the Messiah so we will see more growth than ever before.

## **TODA RABA – THANK YOU!**

The Israel Field is not a self-supporting “Conference” or a “Union”, but a “mission field”. It means we are still dependent on external financial support for our daily operation.

When we receive donations from members and friends abroad it means a lot to us, and it helps the work grow. If you feel that the Lord is calling on you to contribute to projects like the publication of the Great Controversy series for a Hebrew audience, then please get in touch with us, and we will be happy to assist in all practical details.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If you received this newsletter directly from us, then you are a registered subscriber. To unsubscribe: Please tell us, and your name will be removed.

If a friend forwarded it to you, and you want to become a regular subscriber, then just send us an e-mail, and you will be registered. There are “no strings attached”, and your e-mail address will be used solely for this purpose.



**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).**