

Ohio Visions – The Beginning of Haverim.org

By Nancy Montgomery, Founder and President

I am not given too many visions. However, two visions have been instrumental in moving my life forward as a Christian to help and support Israel and the Jewish people.

The first vision came fairly early in my walk as a newly recommitted Christian in the winter of 1986. Deep in my spirit I wondered why the Lord would place a concern for Israel and the Jewish people so deeply in my Gentile heart. A very dear Christian lady learned of my concern and invited me to pay a visit to her home for prayer.

Bunny Parks was a very special lady who belonged to a full gospel church in the rolling hills of Ohio. I accepted her offer. When I arrived at her home I found she had prepared a special place to pray with pillows for our knees and pillows for our elbows when we knelt. As we began to pray, Bunny prayed with so much might and such an anointing that I truly wanted to grab her arm and *just* hang on! Instead, I joined my voice with hers and began praising God. Suddenly I had a very clear vision. In awe, I began to speak the vision out loud as it happened:

I saw a little group of Christians. (The only person I could recognize was me!) We were holding a battering-ram and facing an ornate door which appeared to be a synagogue door. We pulled the battering-ram back intending to batter down the door when suddenly it opened. Inside Jewish people were gathered. Excitedly they invited us in. We seemed to be celebrating something together. Then we all returned to the door and opened it. We then turned the battering-ram around. Suddenly a white screen appeared with an outline of the State of Ohio. Then dots began to pop up on the screen in locations all around the state. When a dot popped up the name of a city would appear. They were Canton, Akron, Youngstown, Cleveland, Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati and Columbus. Finally a tiny star appeared and with the name of my little city.

When I finished speaking, the scroll rolled up slowly. My host thanked and praised God; and our prayer session was over. I was rather stunned and asked her what the vision meant. Bunny patted my arm and told me to write the vision down, tuck it away and wait for God to reveal the meaning.

Six weeks later I received a letter from the Government Affairs Committee of Ohio's Jewish Communities. I was invited to be a Christian liaison for their eight Ohio cities. My purpose would be to find Christians to join the local Jewish community in the fight to free Soviet Jews. The eight cities listed in the right margin of the letterhead were the eight cities in my vision. I knew for His own purpose God chose for us to work together. I have worked with each of these cities numerous times throughout the years.

One of the most amazing things to come out of our partnership came in October of 1986. There was to be a Summit Meeting in Iceland between our United States President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet Union Chairman of the Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev. Because the Jewish community planned to gather in-mass to demonstrate for the freedom of Soviet Jews, I was aware that a Summit was expected to happen in Washington, DC. Evidently the Soviet Union became aware of a planned demonstration in Washington and refused to come to the United States. Instead they chose to meet in Iceland.

The Reykjavík Summit was to be held in **Höfði** in Reykjavík, the capital city of Iceland, on October 11–12, 1986. In Reykjavík, President Reagan would seek to include discussion of human rights, emigration of Soviet Jews and dissidents, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. On the other hand, Gorbachev sought to limit the talks solely to arms control.¹

As it happened, I needed to clarify a planned radio program taping with a Jewish official in Columbus, Ohio and gave him a call. As soon as he answered his phone, he told me of the great distress happening in Jewish communities all over the U.S. due to their disrupted plans to head to Washington for the Summit. He also shared more distressful news: no Jews were allowed to come into Iceland. I promised to pray concerning the Summit and hung up with a heavy heart.

While I was praying the Lord reminded me of a Christian ministry in Israel I connected with to help Ohio's Jewish communities. I called their U.S. office and spoke with Anne, sister of Bridges for Peace President Clarence H. Wagner, Jr. Anne suggested I call her brother in Israel and share the Jewish dilemma with Clarence. Armed with his number I made my first phone call to Israel.

Clarence answered just as he was leaving home for a church service. He promised to pray during the service and call me back. When Clarence called back, he was very excited and had good news. He prayed while at church. As he and his family were leaving a friend stopped him at the door, and Clarence shared the Iceland problem. Standing beside his friend was a woman who had just come from Iceland. It seems her plane was coming to Israel and was forced to land in Iceland because of mechanical problems. While there she met the heads of the Iceland airport who happened to be leaders of Iceland's Charismatic Christian community. They were having a meeting that evening and invited their new found friend to come along. At the meeting she was able to bring a new understanding to the group about God's great love for the Jewish people and the plight of Christian and Soviet Jews.

Hearing of the Jewish dilemma with the Iceland Summit, she pulled out her address book and gave their names and phone number to Clarence. He shared the information with me. We decided to both would contact the Iceland Christians; he would contact Israeli officials and I would contact my friends in Ohio's Jewish community. And so we *did!*

God's grace in this situation was simply amazing. In a compromise reached with 10 Jewish activists from the United States, the Americans were allowed to hold a news conference in Iceland on Friday of the Summit.² American Jews were not allowed to leave the airport; the Christian airport heads made sure they were comfortable. Members of Iceland's Christian community went to the site of the Summit and demonstrated for them! Through Clarence and members of the Christian community, invitations were extended to stay in Iceland homes for an Israeli delegation. There was a question of the Israelis being allowed to leave the airport and take their concerns and messages to the Summit site, so Christian Clarence was invited to attend the Iceland Summit with them.

¹ New York Times Article Published: October 10, 1986

² AP , Associated Press ,Oct. 9, 1986 9:10 AM ET
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, <http://www.apnewsarchive.com/1986/Soviet-Jewish-Immigrants-Leave-to-Protest-in-Iceland-With-PM-US-Summit-Rdp-Bjt/id-857ef539147f72bb7829efd1fedf77e3>

When the Jews were free to leave the Soviet Union in 1989, Israel began welcoming hundreds of thousands of Jews home to The Promised Land. Many Christians rejoiced with Jewish communities as we witnessed fulfillment of God's promise to bring His people back to Zion.

Seven years after the "Battering-ram" vision, it was late in the evening and all were asleep in the Montgomery home except for an exhausted Nancy. I was sitting in our darkened living room praying and going over the past few days when I heard the Lord speaking to me deep within my heart. I remember our conversation. He said,

"I would like you to create a radio program named 'Haverim' and I would like you to use it to introduce My people the Christians to My people the Jews."

By then I was a veteran of years of Christian/Jewish relations and of hosting/creating Christian radio programs, Well aware of the deep of spiritual warfare which comes to those called to such ministry, I actually gasped and said,

"Oh Lord, I don't think I could do *that* and live!"

(In my defense, I can only say I am not an extremely melodramatic woman.) Immediately I had a vision:

I saw a life-sized piece of artwork well-known to Christians. It was our Savior at the Garden Gate knocking. The picture was very brilliant and in full blown color. Never have I seen such beautiful flowers and greenery. The Lord was wearing a hooded robe and I couldn't see a face. Suddenly He turned around and looked me directly in the face and said,

"Well, if not you who?"

He looked very Israeli and sounded very much like an elderly rabbi who had taught me Hebrew. My reaction was instant shame and a cry to be forgiven for my unbelief. And my answer was,

"Yes, Lord."

Eleven days later I was seated in the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C. recording my first interview with an Israeli official for the new Haverim radio program.

This was my second trip to Washington. My first was a number of years earlier on a bus trip with members of the Canton, Ohio Jewish community to rally for the freedom of Soviet Jews. I never imagined that God would send me back as the result of a second vision!

And the LORD answered me, and said,

*"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it.
For the vision is yet for an appointed time,
but at the end it shall speak, and not lie:
though it tarry, wait for it;
because it will surely come,
it will not tarry.*

Habakkuk 2: 2-3