



714/259-4800

ARIEL'S CAMP SHOSHANAH

By Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

Ariel's Camp Shoshanah exists for the purpose of discipling Jewish believers.

I. HISTORY

The idea of Ariel's Camp Shoshanah arose out of the desire to provide an intensive period of training for Jewish believers in the Bible from a Jewish frame of reference. Our intent was to provide an overall knowledge of Scripture and theology from that Jewish perspective. It was also for the purpose of counter-acting teachings and trends in the movement with which many of us were not comfortable. It originally started under the auspices of the American Board of Missions to the Jews, but later continued under Ariel Ministries.

Twelve such discipleship camps have been conducted. The first year was only a trial run to see what the response would be, and lasted for only one week. Things went so well that it was decided for the following year to try it for two weeks. When that succeeded, the third year it was tried for three weeks, and it has continued to be a three-week camp ever since.

The camp is held in the Adirondack Mountains on property that was originally rented, but after our sixth year, the property was transferred on a 99 year lease basis at \$1.00 a year to Ariel Ministries, with Ariel Ministries having full rights to develop the property at will. There is a fascinating history that lies behind all this. For many years, thousands of acres of the Adirondack Mountains were owned by a wealthy woman named Rose Burnham. For awhile she served as a missionary to the Navaho Indians, until her health broke. But deep within her was a real burden for Jewish evangelism. She marked off a section of the property, a total of 240 acres, which included flat land, hills and mountains, and lakefront property, and desired that it be turned into a camp for Jewish believers. It was offered to the American Board of Missions to the Jews on the stipulation that it be used for that purpose and was not to be sold. The ABMJ did not want to receive the property with that stipulation, but under their camp director, Rev. Burl Haynie, the camp was used on a rent basis for Jewish believers, primarily children and teenagers. As Rose Burnham was getting older, she had several men in the area form a corporation entitled, The Clinton-Essex Evangelical Association (CEEA), and she turned the property over to them to be used to provide a Christian camp for the poor children of the Adirondack region. This is purpose for which the camp was used for a number of years. In the course of time, however, the men involved were becoming more and more obligated to their various ministries and church

STREET ADDRESS: 1541 Parkway Loop, Suite D • Tustin, CA 92680

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3723 • Tustin, CA 92681

responsibilities, and were no longer able to spend the time needed to organize such camps, and due to lack of funds, the upkeep of the camp was somewhat neglected. It was about this time that Arnold Fruchtenbaum and Dan Rigney began using the camp under ABMJ auspices, and as stated earlier, continued under Ariel Ministries. The members of the CEEA remembered that Rose Burnham's original desire was that the camp be used for a Jewish ministry, and so voted to lease the property out to Ariel Ministries with full practical control for 99 years, with automatic renewal of the lease after 99 years. Up until that time, the camp was named Camp Heathcote, after the family maiden name of Rose Burnham. When Ariel took the property over, it was renamed Camp Shoshanah. The Hebrew word, "shoshanah" means "rose," and it was named after Rose Burnham.

The property is located in a beautiful area which is now part of the Adirondack Park Authority. However, the accommodations are limited and somewhat on the rustic side. In the past, there were no restrictions as to who or how many could come, but when we allowed 80 people to come one summer, it became evident that that was more than we could accommodate. So since then, the camp has been limited to 50 people, not counting staff. We are erecting more accommodations during this spring, and so we'll be able to increase the number to 60 or 65, not counting staff.

Future plans call for putting up more modern facilities, as well as winterizing the grounds.

II. PURPOSE

As was stated earlier, the primary purpose of Ariel's Camp Shoshanah is to teach Scriptures from a Jewish frame of reference for Jewish believers who are adults. This primary purpose is accomplished by means of five hours a day of biblical studies, which run Monday through Friday. The faculty are seminary-trained Jewish and Gentile believers.

Our secondary purpose is to provide fellowship, interaction, Jewish music and dancing opportunities. The second purpose is largely unstructured and tends to come about extemporaneously.

It has never been, nor is it the purpose of Ariel's Camp Shoshanah to train people in Jewish evangelism. This is already being done by other organizations, and we did not feel that we could really add anything to what was already going on. Nor is the purpose to recruit missionaries for Ariel Ministries, since Ariel Ministries has more applicants than it could accept at the present time.

III. PROGRAM

In order to be comprehensive and yet not to duplicate materials already available in Bible schools and seminaries, the curriculum was based on a five-year cycle with the program repeating itself every five years. So it is necessary for one to attend all five summers in order to get everything that is offered.

There is one course that is offered every year because of its importance, and that is, "The Life of the Messiah from a Jewish Perspective." This is an intensive survey of the gospels, bringing in many of the rabbinic and Jewish cultures

of first century Israel along the lines of Alfred Edersheim's, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, but also updated. The students leave this study with a great appreciation of the Jewish framework in which the gospels took place.

All other courses are on a five-year cycle, and so they are taught only once every five years, and they are in several categories. One category is the prophets, and it includes the following courses: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the Minor Prophets.

A second category of courses concerns the spiritual life, which includes the following: Proverbs, Principles of the Spiritual Life, The Design for Discipleship, The Ministries of the Holy Spirit, The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and Jewish Family Life.

A third category is New Testament studies, which includes: Acts, Galatians, and The Hebrew Christian Epistles of Hebrews, James, First Peter, Second Peter, and Jude.

A fourth category is theological studies, which includes the following: Bible Study Methods, Eschatology, The Church, Dispensationalism, and The Covenants.

A fifth category of studies is known as messianic studies, which includes The History and Theology of Hebrew Christianity, The Law of Moses, The Sabbath, The Rabbinic and Hebrew Christian Views of Messianic Prophecy, and The Election of Israel.

A sixth category is Jewish subjects, which includes: The Feasts of Israel, The History of the Jews, The Holocaust, and Zionism and the History of Israel.

IV. SCHEDULE

The Monday through Friday schedule contains two classes each morning (9-10 a.m., 10:30-11:30 a.m., with a coffee break in between) and two evening sessions (7:00-8:00 p.m., 8:30-9:30 p.m., with a coffee break in between). These four hours of biblical studies are required for all attendees throughout the week.

Also every afternoon (1:00-2:15 p.m.), there is the Life of the Messiah class, which is mandatory for those who have not been to camp before. The rest of the afternoon is free for resting, exploring, swimming, etc.

There's a different program over the weekends. Every Friday night there is a special Shabbat meal and service. Saturdays are totally free, with nothing planned. Since not everybody is able to come for all three weeks, many come for one or two weeks, and Saturdays are the days that people either leave or arrive.

On Sunday morning there is a morning service provided for those who wish to stay on the grounds. The service is not mandatory, and campers are free to go to one of the local churches in the area as well. Sunday evening there is a cookout at the lakefront, and a song fest that follows.

Another thing involved is music. Every morning and evening class begins with an opening song, and our songbook consists primarily of the popular messianic

songs produced by the Liberated Wailing Wall, Lamb, among others. Every Wednesday night there is a concert, as campers show their talents doing skits and displaying musical abilities. The last night of camp, classes are cancelled and there is a two to three hour extravaganza, as everyone lets loose after three weeks of intensive material. At this time there is music, skits, and other presentations, containing a mixture of the serious and the fun. Many of the skits are satires of things that went on during the preceding three weeks.

Many other things happen at camp on an extemporaneous basis as well.

V. FINANCES

Because biblical training for Jewish believers is so important to Ariel Ministries, Ariel Ministries has voted to subsidize the cost by 75%. So the three weeks of camp now costs \$200 for each person attending. The total cost of a summer camp is in the neighborhood of \$25,000, 75% of which is subsidized by Ariel Ministries.

VI. THE RESULTS

Ariel Ministries feels that the subsidizing of the camp has been well worth the cost. Over 40 to 50 people who have been discipled at this camp have gone on to full-time Christian service, both within Jewish work and outside Jewish work. Others who have chosen to stay in the secular field have become active in existing local churches or involved in planting new churches.

Every year, at least half of those who come are returnees who have returned because they felt they benefited from previous camps.

Since it is not our purpose either to recruit missionaries through the camp program or to train missionaries, our program is unique enough so that other Jewish ministries have been involved actively in sending people and attending. These include the Messianic Hebrew Christian Fellowship of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, The Messengers of the New Covenant of New Jersey, which is an outreach of the Conservative Baptist Home Mission Board, the Jewish Outreach of the First Baptist Church of Flushing, New York, and the American Board of Missions to the Jews. There is an open invitation for all Jewish ministries to send Jewish believers to these camps for discipleship training.

VII. FUTURE PLANS

As mentioned earlier, one of our future goals is to modernize and winterize our New York camp on the east coast. Most likely, this will remain our main camping ministry for the foreseeable future.

We have a second goal of hoping to establish a similar camp on the west coast, though this may be a few years away yet.

Included with this report are the information sheets for the Thirteenth Discipleship Camp.