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# 2016-17 Report

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A photograph of a church facade with three spires and a central window with blue shutters. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Loving God Serving People'.

Loving God  
Serving People

**Annual General Meeting**

**14th of October 2017**



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## INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Immanuel Church's 2016-17 Report. In this document you will be presented with the Immanuel Church (IC) vision and mission statement, AC report, reports of the various ministries that take place at and through IC, and an overview of the staff who contribute to the ministry.

As you can see, the Lord is faithful to the ministry of IC. We continue to see His blessing and growth amongst us. It is our desire to see Jesus at the centre of who we are and all that we do. It is our prayer and longing to see IC continue to grow in her worship and mission.

*Rev. Bradley Long*

## VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

### **Vision statement**

*We exist to love God and to serve the people of the city.*

### **Key text**

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." (Romans 1:16)*

### **Mission statement**

*At Immanuel Church, we seek to be:*

- A two-pronged missional church, to reach both locals and internationals with the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah.
- A church that actively contributes to the needs of the city, local diaconal projects and ministries.
- A church that provides a service for the local community, offering a warm welcome and hospitality.
- A church that bridges the messianic movement with the world-wide church, and which recognises and embraces its Jewish roots, seeking to make Israel envious for salvation (Rom.11:11-24).
- A family church that embraces and disciples all ages.
- A church that creatively pursues *fresh expressions* of church to reach the local community.
- A church open for visitors, both local and international, recognising the validity of "first impressions count" and the principle of planting seeds of faith (1 Cor. 3:6-7).

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council (AC) has been, and continues to be the *listening ears* of the congregation. We endeavour to work for the common good of the church and see her life and mission flourish.

### **AC Representatives**

*Elected representatives:*

- Phillip Meyers
- Sergey Shvyrev (left in May)
- Yoel Ben David (previous Secretary & Assistant Pastor)
- Mary Waiharo
- Sahar Sadlovsky (co-opted representative)



### *Ex-officio representatives*

- Bradley Long (Chairman & Senior Pastor)
- Dan Herman (AC Secretary & Church Administrator)
- Leena Honkakari (Staff representative & Deacon)

### **Some of areas the AC has been working on**

- Revision of the AC Constitution (see below)
- IC Vision and Mission Statement (see above).
- Building up of membership.
- Preparing for the AGM (where members can vote AC representatives).
- Encouraging members to service — for example, through the preaching series “Priesthood of all Believers” and filling out the “Opportunities to Serve” form.
- Pastoral Team — consisting of the Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor, and the two authorised deacons.
- Holy Communion Assistants — a team of members authorised by the AC to assist in serving Holy Communion. To date this is: Leena and Rev. Jari Honkakari, Marit Long, Paul Greenham, Phillip Myers, Mary Waiharo, and Sara Fintling.
- Non-alcoholic wine for Holy Communion — The AC approved the option of non-alcoholic wine for Holy Communion.
- Standing Committee — authorised by the AC for the Senior Pastor and Deaconess to make decisions of finance that come up in-between AC meetings.
- Indigenous Church Strategic Committee — commissioned by the AC to consider ways to build up / plant an indigenous congregation. This committee presently consists of Yoel Ben David, Sahar Sadlovsky, and Rev. Bradley Long.

### **Proposed revisions to the Constitution:**

- The Joint Mission to Israel (JMI) changed to Immanuel Ministries (IM) throughout the Constitution.

- **6. Membership:** A new point 6.07 *“IC staff are not eligible to be members while in IC employment”*.

#### **- 4. Governing Structure**

**4.01** The Joint Mission to Israel (JMI) was established on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1997 and held responsibility for the ministry at IC. IC’s constitution was originally ratified by JMI on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2008. Due to changes in the membership of the JMI it subsequently changed its name and structure (see point 4.02).

**4.02** Immanuel Ministries (IM) was established on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015. IM is responsible for the ministry at IC. The IM partners screen, send and finance volunteers and staff workers who serve at IC. The final screening is the responsibility of the Senior Pastor.

**4.03** The Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel (NCMI) is legally responsible for the IC buildings and employment of local staff (staff with Israeli citizenship).

**4.04** The Senior Pastor is accountable to the IM Board.

**4.05** The Senior Pastor serves as the first line manager for the staff at IC, with exception to staff that are directly accountable to the NCMI administrator (or a percentage of their time thereof). Matters relating to buildings and employment terms and conditions fall under the line management of the NCMI Administrator.

**4.06** The members of IC appoint elected representatives to the Advisory Council (AC). The Senior Pastor is an ex-officio representative and may appoint a staff member to serve on the AC as an ex-officio representative (see point 8).

**4.07** The AC is subject to the IM as the governing body of IC. IM holds the authority to dissolve the AC and/or remove its ability to make budgetary decisions. The AC relates to IM through its minutes and through the Senior Pastor.

## **- 8. Advisory Council (AC)**

### **8.01 Purpose**

- a) The AC exercises an advisory role in consultation with the Senior Pastor on behalf of the congregation.
- b) The purpose of the AC is to help enable IC to fulfil its vision and mission.

### **8.02 Constitution**

- a) The AC consists of five and a maximum of seven elected council representatives.
- b) The Senior Pastor of IC as an ex-officio representative.
- c) The IC Church Administrator may serve as Secretary for the AC (record the minutes), but will have no voting rights.
- d) One representative of the IM staff may be appointed by the Senior Pastor as ex-officio representative of the AC.
- e) The AC shall have the following positions as voted by AC representatives: Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Treasurer.

### **8.03 Election**

- a) New AC representatives are elected on a yearly basis at the AGM (see 8.02.a).
- b) AC representatives are elected from among the members eligible (see point 6.06) by the congregation at the AGM (see point 9).
- c) Candidates may be nominated by any IC member.
- d) A nomination is to be forwarded to the AC Chairperson seven days prior to the AGM. A nomination needs to be in written form as signed by the nominator and nominee.
- e) The full list of nominees shall be available to the congregation following the announcement of the AGM.
- f) Election takes place by secret ballot at the AGM.

### **8.04 Terms of Office**

- a) A term of office runs for a one year.
- b) A representative can run for three consecutive terms of office, and then is required to step down for at least one year before any re-nomination.

### **8.05 Termination of Office**

- a) If an AC representative steps down from the AC before his term of office period is over, the AC may co-opt any eligible member until new elections at the next AGM.
- b) An AC representative may be required to step down from office: According to the clauses stated under 6.04; by the absence from three successive AC meetings without valid cause.

### **8.06. Practices**

- a) The AC shall meet for a minimum of four times a year.
- b) AC meetings shall be announced at least two weeks in advance at the Saturday and Sunday services.
- c) The Chairperson sits for one year of office and is eligible for re-election by the AC. The Chairperson prepares the agenda and calls representatives to AC meetings (in consultation with the Senior Pastor). The Chairperson also leads the AC meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-chairperson will take on the role of the Chairperson.
- d) The Treasurer will give financial updates to the AC and present AC proposals for expenditure to the IM Treasurer. The IM Treasurer may be invited by the AC to serve in the role as AC Treasurer (ex-officio representative).
- e) The Secretary will write the minutes and forward these prior to the next meeting. Approved AC minutes shall be issued two weeks after the meeting by the Secretary. The minutes shall be

made available to members and posted on the IC members only Facebook group. A printed version of the minutes can be made available to members upon request.

**f)** The date of the following AC meeting shall be agreed (and noted in the minutes) at the AC meeting.

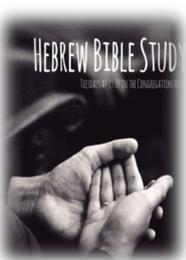
**g)** IC members, IM staff and other relevant persons may attend an AC meeting upon prior invitation of the AC. These visitors to the AC may have the right to observe and contribute, but not the right to vote.

**h)** Decisions at the AC meetings are based upon a 60% majority vote. Decisions can be made when at least three AC representatives are present, of whom one is the Chairperson or Vice-chairperson.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **1. Midweek meetings**

#### **Hebrew Bible Group**



This group had been meeting on Tuesday evenings (7-9pm). On average between three to five attended this meeting. Usually, the evening begins with each one of us sharing where we are at, and then we study the Bible together, finishing off the evening with a time of prayer. At present this group is under review as we consider possible ways forward.

Average attendance: 3

*Sara Fintling*

#### **Wednesday Bible Study**

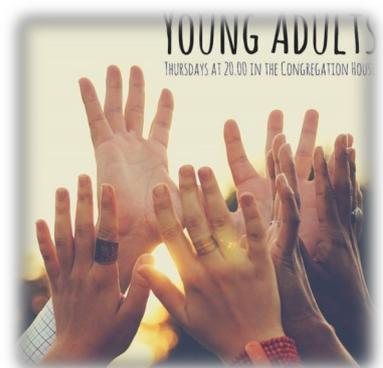
This Bible study group meets every Wednesday from 7-9pm. In the Autumn, we studied the 10 Commandments, the Creed, and continued into the new year by looking at the Lord's Prayer. From February onward, we looked at In the footsteps of Jesus, in accordance with the Church Year Calendar. In the last series we studied Revelation and looked at the Jewish Holy Days. Participants have averaged between 6-16.

Average attendance: 8

*Rev. Jari Honkakari*

#### **Young Adults' Group**

The Young Adults group meets every Thursday 8-10pm, and has continued to experience God's grace as we study God's word, pray, worship, and hang out together. The group consists of 10-15 young adults (ages 18-35) who meet regularly on Thursday evenings for a Bible study and prayer/songs/fellowship. We often organize informal gatherings (meals after church, trips to the beach, cultural events, etc.) and maintain a strong sense of community — aided, of course, by social media. A particular strength of our group has been our rich discussions over Scripture, in which we have wrestled with a range of theological topics and frequently addressed how God's word challenges us to greater love of him and of neighbour. Earlier in the year, we had the great blessing of being a central part of one woman's journey to faith and continue to be a place that encourages people new to the church to become a part of our community. Nonetheless, there are specific challenges. A large portion of our group consists of individuals who are in Israel for only a few months. This reduces our ability to actively engage our membership in committed service or to provide deep discipleship for personal growth in faith. Looking forward, however, we would like to maintain our delightful times together on Thursday evenings, but perhaps include a monthly or bi-monthly time of service to the church and community (picking up rubbish in public areas, assisting with church projects, cleaning up church property, prayer walks, etc.).



We would also like to be more intentional in our discipleship, particularly of the longer-term members of the group, either through informal one-on-one meetings or the encouragement of smaller prayer groups and intentional contact/follow-up between members during the week.

Average attendance: 10

*Paul Greenham*

### **Finnish Ladies' Bible Study**

The Finnish Ladies' Bible Study group meets twice a month on Tuesday mornings in the living room of the Congregation House. In the Autumn, we studied the Gospel and the letters of John. This year we have studied Paul's letters to Timothy and will look at Paul's letter to the Romans this Autumn. Participants have been from 6-10. The Finnish ladies are married to Israelis, and are longstanding residents who are committed to various messianic congregations.

Average attendance: 8

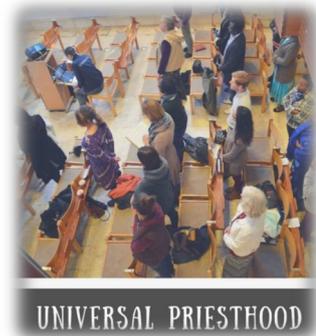
*Rev. Jari Honkakari*

## **2. Services**

We continue to have Saturday services at 11am, where the liturgy is in Hebrew and sermon in English. We have introduced the Children's song earlier in the service, straight after the first hymn. Having been prayed for, the children leave for their groups which meet in the Congregation House, bar the under 5's which meet in the courtyard. "The Peace" has been introduced as a standard part of the service.

The Sunday service is at the same time of 10am and has a devote small following. The preaching series since February has been on the "Priesthood of all Believers". This is with the goal of inspiring believers in their relationship to God, and motivate them to acts of service.

During the summer months we looked at the Book of Deuteronomy in the light of Revelation, and in the Autumn we are looking at being a mission-shaped Church using the Book of Acts as our inspiration.



*Rev. Bradley Long*

### **Church organist**

In my work I try to help create an atmosphere of praise and meditation through music combined with the right context. I'm grateful for having the freedom and trust from the church to do so. It is absolutely necessary for me to have enough quiet practice time after the Open Church hours (as it has always been) so that I could continue fulfilling my purpose and duties.

*Arin Maisky*

### **Saturday Worship Group**

The Shabbat worship team leads three praise songs on the Shabbat service (one in Hebrew and two in English). We practice on Saturday morning, before the Shabbat service. The members of the group are Ines Costaz, Cecilie Bork Sørensen, and Marit Long (leader of the group). We would like to give a big thanks for previous members of the group Anne-Marthe Lillebø and Thomas Jantz! (leader of the group until Autumn 2017).

*Marit Long*

### **Sunday Worship Group**

The Sunday worship is on average 4-5 persons (with piano, flute and vocals). Our goal is to integrate some contemporary worship songs in our service, and help lead the congregational singing. I choose the worship songs beforehand (before it was Sara Fintling), and send them to the group. At 9:15 on Sunday, we rehearse as a group. What I like about this "praise" section of the service is that it gives us the chance to share songs that we believe are inspirational to us personally with our brothers and sisters in the flock. The biggest challenge is to have continuity when people go on vacation or are sick, but usually we can plan ahead for these instanc-

es. The only recommendation I can think of for the future is to continue recruiting interns that play the piano/keyboards.

John Malas

### Children's Church

The Children's Church continues to grow. We presently have 13 wonderful children, spread across the three different groups of 0-5; 6-9; 10-14. We are very thankful to God for bringing two new families in September to join our Church. We have 13 amazing leaders, who are doing an incredible job teaching the kids about Jesus. It's great to have both online resources and other materials available for use in this ministry, which have been well received by the leaders. We are still praying for more families to come to our church, especially for girls to come to the Children's Church.



Cecilie Bork Sørensen

### Special Services

#### Christmas

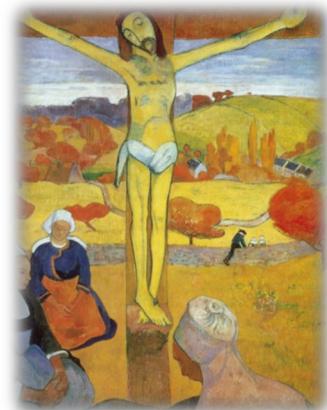
The Christmas services were well attended by local Israelis. It is amazing to see the church full of people who would not ordinarily attend church. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel message. For the sermon I *unpacked* Christmas using the metaphor of “pass the parcel” with different layers to unwrap (Father Christmas, Christmas tree, presents, Christmas food etc.,) before revealing the present in the centre — the real meaning of Christmas — the sending of the Jewish Messiah.

Attendance: Christmas Eve 200; Midnight Service: 50; Christmas Day: 70

#### Easter

Palm Sunday — There was a festive spirit in the church. We started with a procession led by the children waving palms and carrying the Bible. The sermon focused on the Palm Sunday event and the Messianic fulfilment, with reflections of the *bitter-sweet* nature of Palm Sunday: sweet, in that it declares the coming of the Messiah and bitter, in that the majority of Jews did not recognise their Messiah. I brought this reflection into a contemporary context as well.

Attendance: 30



Good Friday: “The way of the cross” — For this service I took a more reflective approach by using art, music, silence, reflections and Scripture readings. It was a journey of “The way of the cross”. During the journey, just before the crucifixion scene, people were given the opportunity to hammer their sins on a wooden cross placed on the floor beneath the altar-table (a pencil, paper and a nail was given to each congregant upon their arrival and instructions were given at the beginning of service that this opportunity would be made available). When the congregants had finished nailing their sins on to the cross, the cross was lifted up against the altar-table. As this is the only time of the year that a cross is seen in the church, this proved to be a very powerful experience / image.

Attendance: 30

Easter Day — as to be expected, the Easter services attracted both regular churchgoers and the occasional churchgoer, tourist and diplomats. The service began in darkness, with nothing placed upon the altar-table. An angel appeared to declare, “He is risen!” Then started the procession to decorate the altar-table with the menorah, Bible, the Holy Communion elements for worship to begin.

Attendance: 100

Rev. Bradley Long

### **3. Other Church Ministries**

#### **Holocaust survivors' Concert**

The Holocaust survivors' Concert was held in Immanuel Church on Sunday, March the 5<sup>th</sup> in cooperation with the Beit Sar Shalom Ministry. The Lavrenchuk family from Finland, originally from Russia, gave the performance (accordion, violins, piano, and trumpet). The church was filled with Russian speaking Israelis, enjoying Slavic and Hebrew music and songs with encouraging message of God's love and care.

*Rev. Jari Honkakari*

#### **Pastoral Team**

The Pastoral Team consists of the Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor, and the two deacons. We meet every week after the staff meeting to give each other updates on the pastoral welfare of the congregation. Our mutual support of each other is proving invaluable, as we endeavour to make wise decisions in the pastoral care of IC.

*Rev. Bradley Long*

#### **Open Church**



Open Church is a ministry in Immanuel Church from Tuesday to Friday 10am until 2pm. It has been a privilege to be serving in the ministry the last four months. I've had the opportunity to share about the history of the church, my testimony and the Gospel message with visiting groups. We have had a variety of groups visiting the church such as Israeli Student Groups, groups with a tour guide, and visitors from abroad. One of the challenges is trying to overcome the prejudices that the Jewish people have about the church. Many Israelis are struck by the beauty of the church with the stained-glass windows and the organ but they still express their insecurities about being present in the church building. Perhaps it would be beneficial in the future to have some sort of discussion time in the church about a certain topic and to invite people from the community. It has been an encouraging time to be involved with the Open Church Ministry and it would be beneficial to have a number where someone can call if they have questions about the faith.

*Dan Herman*

#### **Musical/Concert Director**

Creating and directing the concert series is very challenging. A large number of musicians (soloists, ensembles, choirs) send requests with CV's, recordings and programme proposals, which I need to go through and narrow down to only a few per season. Then I create a schedule that is well balanced, both musically and fits within the calendar year. I need to make sure that the programmes are correct, advertised, and that the church's instruments are well maintained and in good shape. On the evening of the performance, I make sure that everything is in good order, I introduce the concert and later give payment to the musicians. I do this work voluntarily and am happy to continue. However, this is dependent upon things working as normal — with the church administrator taking responsibility to print the programmes, the staff volunteers helping with setting up the church, letting people in, collecting the donation at the door, etc.



*Arin Maisky*

#### **Diaconal Ministry**

Diaconal Ministry in Immanuel Church has consisted of:

- Counselling — bringing hope and encouragement for those who struggle with all kinds of challenges in their lives.
- Home visits on a regular basis and when needed to congregants/non-congregants due to sickness, loneliness, mental and family issues.
- Providing a support to those with financial difficulties.

- Serving female prostitutes and drug addicts at the Red Carpet Day Center on Thursdays in co-operation with the Abundant Life Ministries.

It has been rewarding to get to know more people and build relationships with them. Some of the challenges are to be able to communicate in Hebrew, to get to know the local social services and their providers. For the future I would like to see the congregants given the possibilities to take part in the diaconal work, i.e. offer practical assistance, volunteer work at Red Carpet, Mesila, Shevet Achim, etc.

*Leena Honkakari*

### **The volunteers**

Rasmus and Louise Kiilerich Breindahl served in Immanuel Ministries as interns from August 2016-January 2017. Rasmus preached at many services as well as leading/teaching at Wordship. Louise was in charge of social media and Reshet, the church magazine.



Silje Grimstad arrived in September 2016, serving as an au pair for the Long family until the beginning of February 2017. After that, she stayed on to serve as a volunteer in Immanuel Ministries, with her main focus being work on social media and film/photographing.



Anne-Marthe Lillebø arrived in January-17 and her main focus was worship leading and leading the Children's church. She also worked in the bible shop of the Israel Bible Society every Friday.

In the autumn of 2017 Sondre Nikolaisen Masvie, Julie Kajgaard and Cecilie Bork Sørensen arrived. Sondre is focusing on film and photography, Julie is focusing on social media, teaching at Wednesdays Bible Study group and working with the Israel Bible Society in the bible shop and Cecilie is in charge of Children's Church, working with the Palestinian Bible Society in Betlehem and being part of the worship team.



We're blessed to have volunteers/interns (Julie & Cecilie) who are positive and reliable. They see needs and do something about it, they contribute actively to the life of the church with their

focus on building relationships, as well as doing the practical tasks needed to prepare for the services and concerts, and the weekly activities in the Congregation House. The volunteers are highly estimated members of the staff at Immanuel Ministries.

*Marit Long*

### **RESHET**

I would like our church magazine RESHET to be a magazine every member of our church can't wait to read when a new issue comes out! RESHET has undergone some design changes in the last year. The new edition is no exception – RESHET for October till December has a new design-upgrade, while keeping its familiar layout of interesting articles. In this issue, we will particularly focus the church's vision and mission. RESHET is available in both printed form and electronically. Former members and mission partners will be sent an electronic version so it is easier for them to keep us in their prayers. I also hope RESHET can be a magazine where visitors at Open Church will get a glimpse of church life at Immanuel, and how we are here serving the local community. Enjoy RESHET and do come back to me with any feedback and ideas about the design!

*Julie Kajgaard*

## **Media & Communication**

Time and again, we find that people hear about Immanuel Church via Google or through social media. At our last concert, when a woman was asked how she had heard about this event, she said, "It was through Facebook". This just goes to show, that social media is a vital means to reach out to people. Our Facebook page, "Immanuel Church - Jaffa, Tel Aviv" and Instagram profile give regular snippets of Immanuel life and invitations to forthcoming events. These platforms provide a vital link to the people of Tel Aviv-Jaffa and further afield.

We are in process of redesigning the Immanuel Church webpage. It is hoped to launch this upgraded, attractive, and easy-to-use site, by the end of December! As it says in our mission statement, we recognise "the validity of 'first impressions count' and the principle of planting seeds of faith (1 Cor. 3:6-7)." This is so true of the Immanuel Church webpage, where most newcomers get their first impression of who we are. We are also working on creating flyers and posters that will give information about our weekly meetings and the means to contact us.

We are very happy to announce that the list for media production equipment has been approved by the AC. This will aid our production for making film clips and photographic images for our media and communication platforms. This equipment will also help us create podcasts and an easy accessible library of sermons online – so you can listen to your favourite sermons again and again! If you happen to be away for a service to can simply click-on to the sermon of the day.

We are really excited about how we as church can use visual media to enhance our communication and promote the Gospel in Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

*Julie Kajgaard & Sondre Masvie*

## **Worship Evening**

Immanuel Church hosted a worship night on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017. This was a new project for IC. Anne-Marthe Lillebø, Dan Herman, Chaim Birnbaum and Marit Long were in the planning committee. Joel Ben David led the evening. We advertised through an event on Facebook, as well as giving flyers to Beit Immanuel and Jews for Jesus. There was a mix of Hebrew and English songs. The event was well attended (approx.65 people), many of them Israelis who had never been to a church before. It was a great experience of gathering people from different contexts worshipping the Lord together.

We also organised another worship night on Saturday the 17th June 2017. The planning committee was the same as the first time, and Chaim Birnbaum led the evening. This time we also included the sharing of a testimony as well as a few more songs. We also enjoyed cakes and soft drinks in the church garden afterwards, which set the frame for a great social time. The event was well attended with about 75 people.

We are looking forward to planning more worship events in the autumn 2017, and would like to see this become a regular happening at Immanuel Church.

*Marit Long*

## **4. Local Ministries**

### **Tel Aviv Bible Society Shop**

I have been to the Israeli Bible Society every Friday. It has been exciting, inspiring and enjoyable to see how significant this store is for Israelis and visitors. I am grateful for the meetings and the good talks with both customers and with Andy Ball, who is the manager of the shop. I would certainly recommend Immanuel Ministries to continue this important link with the Bible Society.

*Anne-Marte Lillebø*

## **Tabeetha School**

The relationships with Tabetha School has really developed. The principal of the school wants to nurture a more clearly defined Christian profile and welcomes our input. Marit and I have taken school assemblies for both the Primary and Secondary schools. We have given classes on "The real meaning of Christmas" in the Secondary School. I have also given classes on "The real meaning of Easter" as well. In addition, I have been welcomed on to the Board and am a school chaplain. We have already seen more of the fruits of our collaboration with two families joining us at our Seder meal.

*Rev. Bradley Long*

## **Report of the Red Carpet Day Center Ministry**

The Red Carpet Day Center is located in the area of the old Central Bus Station in TLV, which is sadly famous of its open street prostitution, drug abuse and illegal refugees. The center, run by the Abundant Life Ministries, is a beacon of light for the female prostitutes in the middle of the horrible darkness. It is open on Mondays and Thursdays, four hours a day. There are approx. 20-40 women who visit the center during the day. Some of them have been victims of the human trafficking and many of them have been sexually abused in their childhood. The center provides a possibility to be in a safe and loving place, where they are fully respected and treated with dignity as God's beloved ones. There is a possibility to have a shower and get clean clothes, to have hair cuts and colorings, manicure and pedicure and also medical attendance to minor physical issues; purulent wounds, aches etc. Also a hot meal, provided by the hotel Gilgal, is served.



We also share the unconditional love of Jesus with those who are able/willing to listen and pray with them. "I sense here a different... loving atmosphere...", said one newcomer tears in her eyes. "It's the Spirit of God", we clarified to her. She promised to come again.

Every woman has a possibility to go to a Christian Rehab Center for a longer rehab programme. At the moment two of the women are undergoing the rehab programme.

One day a beautiful lady in her early 40's came to visit the center. We were told that 6-7 yrs ago she was one of the women of the streets. The Lord touched her and she got the strength and courage to leave her hell in TLV and go through the rehab programme. By the grace of our Lord, she was able to leave the heavy drugs. Step by step her life was fully restored. Today she is a loving mother to her little son and is a living sign of hope to many other women whom she is helping and supporting.

*Leena Honkakari*

## **Outreach - Messiahcode**

Through Immanuel ministries I have got the opportunity to join the missionary couple: Aron and Rebecca on some of their outreach projects. The outreaches basically involve going around in the main streets to talk to people and give out different flyers on different themes, for example: "Does God exist, and in that case where is He in all the painful things around us?" "When is the war going to end? (spiritually)" and "How can Jesus be the Messiah according to the prophecies?"

My impression is that people in Tel Aviv are really open, and it is amazing to see that most of the flyers we give out are being received positively. But of course, some get really upset and throw them away. We have learned to not give to Jews wearing a kippah, because they get really angry at us. The first outreach I went to I think I gave out over 200 flyers and got to talk to some interesting people about Jesus. I remember specially one woman who we talk to for a

long time. She had lost one in her family and couldn't understand how God could let that happen. We got to share the gospel with her!

On the back of every flyer you can see a phone number, website and an e-mail, where people can contact and receive a free book if they want to know more. The team is really good on following up and are registering everyone that orders the free book. They try to arrange home visits where they can ask questions and are also offering bible studying. *Silje Grimstad*

### STAFF

#### **Tel Aviv**

Rev. Bradley Long	Senior Pastor	NCMI
Marit Long	Deacon	NCMI
Rev. Jari Honkakari	Assistant Pastor	FLOM
Leena Honkakari	Deacon	FLOM
Sondre Nikolaisen Masvie	Volunteer	NCMI
Julie Kajgaard	Volunteer	DIM
Cecilie Bork Sørensen	Volunteer/placement student	DIM
Dan Herman (100%)	Church Administrator	NCMI (20%) / IM (80%)
Arin Maisky (33%)	Organist	IM
Tony Maron (50%)	Maintenance/Cleaner	NCMI
Nillie Perry	Translator	IM (2 hours per week)

#### **Haifa**

Peter Aweida (22%)	Building Supervisor	NCMI
Pnina Lizorkin (5%)	Secretary	NCMI
Bjorg Aweida (14%)	Accountant	NCMI
Tor Arne Grimstad (20%)	NCMI Administrator	NCMI

#### **Previous staff**

Eti Zadok (46%) (Dec. 2016)	Church Administrator	NCMI (40%)/IM (60%)
Juan Onasiss (50%)	Open Church	IM (Feb. 2017)
Rev. Andreas Johansson (20%)	NCMI Representative	NCMI (Sept. 2017)
Rasmus Breindahl	Volunteer/placement student	DIM (mid Jan. 2017)
Louise K. Breindahl	Volunteer/placement student	DIM (mid Jan. 2017)
Silje Grimstad	Volunteer	NCMI (Sept.-June 2017)
Anne-Marte Lillebø	Volunteer	NCMI (Sept.-July 2017)

#### **Comments**

In my mind, we have a great staff! When we consider the list of staff members above, this gives us a pretty good overview of the resources we have in the staff who are committed to the life and ministry of IC.

For the Tel Aviv staff, we have our regular staff meetings on Wednesdays (8:15-9:30). Our meetings are a good opportunity for fellowship — we open with a devotion given by a member of staff, have a good cup of coffee, before we go through the business of the church. We follow an agenda (sent out beforehand) and our Church Administrator records the minutes. Occasionally, one staff member is invited to briefly share about his or her ministry. They describe an average week, the challenges and highlights and how we can best help that staff member. This has proved to be a very beneficial exercise, where we can learn from each other

and encourage each other in ministry. In addition, we come together for morning prayer on Monday and Thursday, where we pray for the needs of the IM, our partners, Israel and the world. We also join the Church morning prayer on Friday's.

As the staff leader, I try to work with the principle of body ministry as prescribed in 1 Corinthians 12, the preferring of another in an atmosphere encouragement and praise. I am very thankful for the staff God has given us!

*Rev. Bradley Long*

