

# Rolling Stone

## *ministries*

*"An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it... And the angel...said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who as been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen just as He said.'" Matthew 28:2, 5-6*

Newsletter

JANUARY 2011

## Israel Mission 2011



Almost two years ago to the day I am writing this, Laurie and I were in southern India, teaching in Chennai. Providentially, an American author named Joel Rosenberg was on his way through India at the same time we were there, and he stopped by the Bible school to speak to the student body. Laurie and I had lunch with Joel, and heard his first-hand account of how the church in Israel was growing, but in great need of solid teaching (see the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament, chapter 5, verses 11-14, and how some things never change). His words resonated with us, and we began praying for open doors if we were supposed to teach in Israel.



About a month ago our prayers came to fruition when we received two invitations to teach in Israel in February, first in Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv, and next in Golan in north-east Israel. In addition to the teaching, we have meetings with the president of the Jerusalem Bible School (where our hosts in Rishon LeZion graduated from), with a former student of mine who is a pastor of one of the largest Messianic congregations in Israel (in Haifa, on the northern coast), and with a man from the Jerusalem Institute for Justice, a legal ministry similar to the Alliance Defense Fund. We will be gone from February 14 until March 5.



We are not sure what else might be in store, as we endeavor not only to teach, but also to make strategic contacts for future ministry opportunities. We even envision the possibility of taking a group with us to Israel in the future to assist with ministry and walk where the Lord walked.

We are excited about this opportunity to encourage the saints, make new friends, and strengthen believers among God's chosen people in the Holy Land. Now, more than ever, it is time to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6), and we are humbled to be called to this mission to Israel. Your interest in Rolling Stone Ministries, your prayers, and your financial support make our missions possible. Thank you for your partnership with RSM. Please pray for strength, effectiveness, sensitivity to the leading of the Lord, and safety while we are in Israel.

Shalom,

*John*

**NOW AVAILABLE!**



**TEXT MESSAGES FROM GOD**

By John Stewart

[www.rollingstoneministries.org/store](http://www.rollingstoneministries.org/store)

# Servants for the Kingdom

*“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few” (Matt. 9:37).*

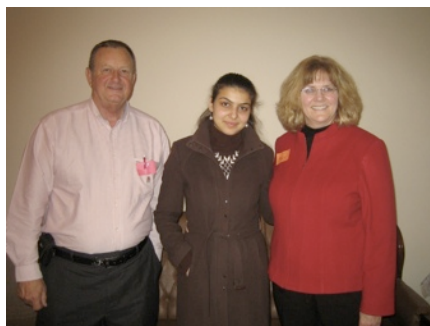
**Giving away Bibles in India**



John and I are privileged to introduce some dear friends of ours from Iowa whom we invited to join in the work of RSM. We first met this couple one summer in Panora, Iowa at the town square event following the annual Panorama Days parade. After listening to the Big Band play at the Gazebo, watching the local talent perform in a variety show, and eating walking tacos, funnel cakes and root beer floats, we wandered through the booths filled with arts, crafts and advertisements for local businesses and politicians. Naturally John was drawn to a Pro-Life table and engaged the cheerful woman handing out Pro-Life pins and flyers. That was how we met Mary. Soon after we met her wonderful husband Denny. We found we had a lot in common. Especially our love of serving God.

For the past few years we have grown to know Denny and Mary through Bible studies, dinners, parades and other ministry service. When John flew to Iowa a while ago to participate in a debate on the marriage issue at Simpson College, Denny and Mary and another couple drove over an hour to participate in the event by praying during the entire debate, both in the room and around the building. Talk about a heart for service! What committed prayer warriors!

**Denny and Mary with Eurasian college student**



Denny and Mary have been serving the Lord in a variety of ways all over the world, including mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Israel, India, China, Africa, and other countries better left unnamed for security reasons. (In fact, security is the reason we are not disclosing the last name of Denny & Mary in this public newsletter.) They've worked extensively with other international ministries teaching, and distributing Bibles and copies of the JESUS film, especially to Muslims. Both are very active in the Iowa Right to Life organization---Mary formed the local chapter and serves on the state board. They actively support the persecuted in other countries through Voice of the Martyrs, including collecting and shipping clothing directly overseas. Denny has served in prison ministry conducting Bible studies with inmates. Since 9/11, Mary has successfully been able to enlist the help of the schools, businesses and churches to send over a thousand boxes filled with supplies and faith messages to our military stationed overseas. I was blessed to help pack some of the boxes one summer and pray over them before they were shipped out. Denny and Mary work tirelessly for the Kingdom. We are blessed to call them our friends!

**Church they helped build in South India**



After 30 years with the Iowa State Patrol, Denny retired. But he stays busy working security for Lake Panorama. With years of experience as an elementary school teacher, Mary now has the privilege and challenge of teaching severe and profound behavior students, and coaching Special Olympics in the local public schools. They have three grown children.

RSM recently decided to partner with these two dynamos. We are delighted to make them a part of the RSM family! If you want to send them a note of encouragement or ask for their prayer requests, you can send it through the "Contact Us" page on the RSM website and they will be sure to get your communication. May we never tire of encouraging and supporting one another!

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26*

*Laurie*

# SEND A PASTOR TO BIBLE SCHOOL



Jesus taught a parable about a faithful servant, recorded in Luke 12:35-48. In that parable we are told, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

There is no question that God has prospered America. In 1893 Katharine Lee Bates, a professor of English literature at Wellesley College, Massachusetts, after an inspiring trip to the top of Pikes Peak, Colorado, wrote the lyrics to the song "America the Beautiful." The chorus begins, "America, America, God shed His grace on thee...." Indeed, God has shed His undeserved favor on our land. With the privilege of blessing comes the responsibility of stewardship. We are privileged to have an abundance out of which we can bless others.

About a month ago it was brought to my attention that there are several pastors in Kenya who are wanting to attend Manna Bible Institute (where I teach each year) but are unable to due to lacking the funds to attend.

I asked my friend George Muguro, the principal of Manna, to send me a list of these pastors, and he did. In all there are about 20 pastors that cannot enroll at Manna solely due to a shortage of money. I told George that I felt lead to start a campaign entitled, "Send a Pastor to Bible School." This newsletter marks the official launch of the campaign, and I am asking everyone who reads this newsletter to consider a sacrificial gift that will go directly to sending a pastor to Bible School.



Laurie and I will be in Kenya in early April to teach again at Manna (our fifth consecutive year). By the time we go, we are believing that our fundraising campaign will raise enough to provide at least half scholarships to all 20 pastors. The annual tuition at Manna for these intense "marathon" sessions (two weeks of full-time instruction three times per year) is \$900, which includes room and board (let me add that the accommodations are spartan by our standards). Thus, our goal is to raise at least \$9,000 by April 1, 2011.

If you would like to help Send a Pastor to Bible School ("SPBS") send your tax-deductible donations to Rolling Stone

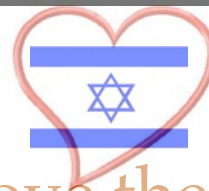
Ministries, and either write on the legend line of the check or on a separate note that you want some or all of your donation to go to the SPBS campaign. If you wish for a portion to go to scholarships for pastors and a portion to Rolling Stone's general fund, please tell us how you want the donation divided. General fund contributions allow Laurie and me to pay for the costs of our mission trips, and provide us with a partial housing allowance (we have not taken a salary from Rolling Stone Ministries to date).

I hope you will partner with us in our Send a Pastor to Bible School campaign. Please prayerfully consider what you can do. Your support is an investment in the lives and ministries of fellow-believers in Africa who have been called to serve in some of the poorest areas of the world, but where there is a richness of faith. God has shed His grace on us--let us use our abundance for His glory.

Bwana asifiwe ("Praise the Lord" in Swahili, the common language of Kenya),

*John*





# Do You Love the Land?

# Or Do You Love the People?

By Laurie Stewart

The question echoed in my mind. A friend in my Christian writer's group went to Israel earlier this month and she relayed this story. While at the airport on her way to the Holy Land, a couple asked her, "Do you love the land? Or do you love the people?" Surprised by the question, my friend replied that she loved the people, of course. Sometimes loving is easier said than done.

Why are John and I going to Israel? It is different from Kenya and India--it is not third world. (Although approximately 25% of the Israelis currently live below the poverty line.) Despite Israel's rich Holy Land heritage, to some it seems even more secular than America, spiritually poor. It is hard to imagine a country that exists against all odds, due to faith, miracles, and God's promises, and yet so many people there do not know the one true living God. Less than 1/10 of 1% of Israeli Jews believe in Y'shua, Jesus.

We view the Jews with love as the Bible describes them--God's chosen people (Deut. 7:6). And there is a blessing for those who bless Israel (Gen. 12:3). The prophet Isaiah urges us to proclaim Good News to the Jews: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7). Paul tells us "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Rom. 1:16).

For two years I've been praying and waiting for the day for God to call us to Israel to teach. Here we are, Lord! Send us! I knew it was coming. I just didn't know when. The time is now. Hallelujah! So off we go! This trip to Israel will be my first, and John's second. I have high hopes but I try not to have expectations. We are called to serve. We are called to love and bless God's chosen people.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13).

## PRAYER REQUESTS FROM ISRAEL

*"I will bless those who bless you" (Gen. 12:3).*

We asked our hosts in Israel if their congregation had any needs we could pray for. Here are a few items they shared:

- ♣ A van for transporting the congregants
- ♣ Ongoing rent for their meeting place
- ♣ Weekly expenses for coffee, cakes etc for fellowship of the congregants
- ♣ Help to bless their helpers and worship people
- ♣ Blessings for their faithful driver
- ♣ Gas expense for the ministry
- ♣ Costs to keep the center going with the school so believers may be discipled.
- ♣ Costs for tracts to be printed sharing the Gospel.
- ♣ Costs to translate Israeli Jew's testimony into Hebrew (to give away freely in Israel)
- ♣ Cost for the internet
- ♣ Miscellaneous costs for paper for tracts, pens for the school, etc.



Please pray the Lord provides for all their ministry needs. If you are moved to help, please specify "Awake Israel" in the memo section of your donation check to Rolling Stone Ministries. 100% of designated gifts will go to their designated purpose.

# Events 2011

January-June ~ John teaches "The Cutting Edge" adult class Sundays 10:30 am at Covenant Pres. Church (CPC) in Orange, CA.

January 26 ~ John teaches on "The Rapture" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

February 14-March 5 ~ John and Laurie travel to Israel for teaching mission.

March 9 ~ Laurie teaches on "Resolving Conflict Biblically" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

March 23 ~ John teaches at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

March 30 ~ Laurie teaches on "Peace with God, with Others, & with Ourselves" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

April ~ John and Laurie travel to Kenya for teaching mission.

April 30 ~ Laurie speaks on "Daughters of the King" at Bethany Bible Fellowship's Women's Spring Brunch in Westminster, CA.

May 4 ~ John teaches at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

June-August ~ writing sabbatical in Iowa



## PARTNER WITH ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES

We invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with RSM today. When you offer support, you partner with RSM in the mission field and share in building the Kingdom. Becoming a Treasure Builder (a monthly partner with RSM) will go a long way to provide for basic needs to help minister more effectively to fulfill the Great Commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matt. 28:19-20*



\_\_\_\_ I will pray for RSM

\_\_\_\_ I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly to RSM to enable it to be a full time ministry.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution to RSM in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

RSM is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Send your gifts to: **ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES, INC.**

P.O. Box 6271

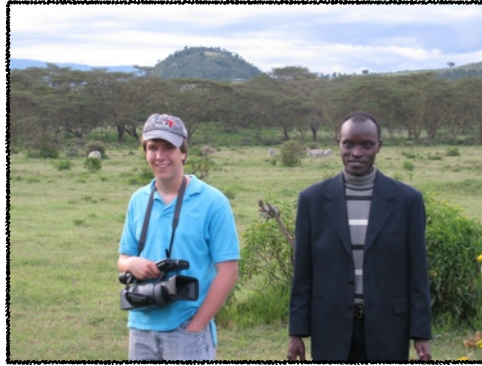
Orange, CA 92863-6271

# Search for Rolling Stone Ministries on

While we have resisted Facebook, many of our faithful supporters have asked us to create a page for RSM. Not wanting to spend any more time on the computer than we already do, we enlisted our teenager to help us out, setting it up and administrating it for us. Primarily it is designed to drive people to our website: [www.rollingtonministries.org](http://www.rollingtonministries.org) Our priority remains relating to people in person. In our age of ever-increasing technology with websites, blogs, Facebook, My Space, Twitter, online news, online games, web TV, email, text messages, and voicemail, nothing will ever replace face to face communication and live voice conversation.

So, if you are on Facebook, search for us and if you “like” us, click on the “Like” button.

***“I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete” (2 John 1:12).***



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*ministries*

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