

Team to Israel 2021.11.1-11.10

■Huldah Yamaguchi (TLEA Tokyo Antioch Online church member)

I am grateful for your intercessory prayer for the Israel dispatch team from my heart. I have been an online member of Tokyo Antioch Church since mid September, 2021. I am living in Osaka with my parents.

I was able to join the Israel team dispatch with God's messages, words from the Bible and furthermore, the situation was made easier for me to go. This is my third time joining the Israel team. My father and I are usually taking care of my mother, who requires level 3 care. I was hesitant to attend the dispatch at first, because those who returned to Japan from Israel were required to do the self-isolation for two weeks. I was afraid that the burden for my father to take care of my mother for more than two weeks was too much for him.

However, expecting that the Lord would shorten the quarantine period, I stepped forward in faith in a way that I applied for the certificate of Covid-19 vaccination to the local government. On the day when I received the certificate, my mother fell down and had her right ankle fractured while she was in a daycare. She needed to undergo an operation.

So it looked like I was unable to go to Israel at that time. And I gave thanks for all that happened to the Lord. In my experience, in such a situation, I have to visit the hospital to take care of my mother every day. However, since no family members were allowed to visit the hospital under Covid-19 pandemic, we could leave everything to the hospital.



Lunch with Pastor Leon's congregation

Ms. Yamaguchi (2nd from the left) singing praises by the Sea of Galilee



The operation was a success. Although other problems occurred, they turned out to be good and finally I was able to join the team without worry, trusting the Lord.

I was blessed a lot all the way in the dispatch. I am so happy that I could join the team. In this dispatch, we visited only a few places where I wanted to visit. In the just nice weather, we visited the Golden Gate and Mount of Olives, which is opposite Seven Arches Hotel and had time with the Lord. I was able to concentrate in prayer. I prayed, "I have nothing. I don't have any skills. There are many things I am weak at. I don't have anything that I can do better than others. I am not young any more and I am really weak." In this prayer, I finally devoted myself to God again. And there was a halo as a sign in the sky.

God blessed us a lot when we had meals during this team. When Pastor Leon's congregation had invited all of us for the meal, the chicken and sides were really delicious. And I was very happy to have a meal with Russian Jewish brothers and sisters. The lunch boxes given to us at Mount of Olives still stay in my good memory. I was happy to have lunch outdoors, because it was like a picnic. Deep presence of the Lord was poured onto us during the holy meetings at the seaside of the Sea of Galilee, and during the new year worship service. The new year word touched my heart. I was touched and spoken to by God during the praise.

On the last day, we could visit Joppa on a tour, which was not in the original plan. This is the very place I wished to go to since I watched this beautiful city on a TV program, produced by a famous TV company before. I was thrilled that I could go there all of a sudden. It must be a surprise present to me from God. I remember the welcome cake of the last hotel we stayed at was very delicious.

I am very grateful that God gave me this blessing to join the dispatch from my heart.

Photos: Tour to Joppa (Jaffa)

