

■John Taniguchi (Pastor, TLEA Tokyo Antioch Church)

I have participated in the Israel mission team which was dispatched from 31 October to 12 November.

I used to pray to God so that I could join the team if it is his will every year. However, I was not able to join the team for several years. The situation this year looked like it was almost impossible for me to join the team, because it seemed to cost about double of the usual cost by the influence of Russia-Ukraine war, weak Japanese yen and so on.

However, I remembered Pastor Paul Akimoto's word, "Every time people with faith go to Israel, not those who have money", when he was calling for people to join the team. And when I was confessing my faith as well as praying thanksgiving prayer, I was given the confirmation feeling that I would be able to participate in the team. In the situation that nothing had changed, I had a strong thought that the door would be open even miraculously if it is God's will. Then I was informed that someone would offer me the whole fees to join the team at a time. In this way, the door had really been open beyond the impossible by God's grace that is beyond impossible.

Among all the blessing that I was given, I would like to write about the blessing of praise.

There were various kinds of praise like congregational praise and special praise in the holy meetings, praises we gave at places in the tour and so on during the team visit. Among those praises, the Lord showed me that he was using praise as special blessing many times.

For example, when we visited Caesarea, 10 plus of us, who participated the tour praised two songs. After the praise, there was thunderous applause that echoed in the whole theater all of a sudden,

Singing praises at Caesarea



and that was done by the young people sitting at the audience seats. In the unexpectedly great reaction, I could see the reaction of people who were touched by praise, not who were acting by fun. I was very impressed by the greatness of power of praise.

When we served as a praise team at the congregation of Pastor Leon, a Russian Jewish pastor, many people were shedding tears while we were praising in the deep presence of the Holy Spirit. It has become a special time of blessing with people praising and raising hands together.

I felt deep presence of God during the congregational praise in the holy meeting, and some hotel guests other than us commented that our praise was wonderful.

There were many problems and hardships in this team dispatch like that checked luggage of all the members went missing and that we were just next to a traffic accident that could be fatal and so on. However, we were completely protected by God and given many scripture word and callings, and the team was filled with blessing. I give thanks to God from my heart. Thank you for your prayers.



■Israel Mami Tamiya (TLEA Tokyo Antioch Church/ Mission staff)

Thank you very much from my heart for your intercessory prayers for the mission team to Israel dispatched from October 31 through November 12. I was blessed to join the team with the Word “Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord’s approval.” (Judges18:6) for the first time in twelve years. I was reminded of my weaknesses and limitations during the two busy weeks, but the blessings God gave me through them all were far beyond my expectations. Just as He said, “Go in peace”, I was at peace in Him and received His Word and revelations wherever I went. Let me share with you some of what He had me experience.

We (tour members) went on a 45-minute cruise on the Sea of Galilee. It was not long, but while we spent time in worshipping the Lord, in prayer and in meditation, He talked to me from Mathew14:22-36, the passage which talks about Peter walking on water after Jesus told him to do so. He showed me afresh that when we ask for His word, receive it and step out by faith accordingly, it will surely be done.

We went to Mount Hermon the day after the new year worship service when the Lord gave our church the word of the new year. There was a car accident on the way, but thanks to your intercessory prayers, we had a narrow escape from getting tangled up in that accident. Not only were we spared from getting hurt, but even the people in the accidented cars did not get hurt at all. It was a miracle! We gave thanks to the Lord. Then we continued our way and got to the top of Mount Hermon. After worshipping the Lord together, we prayed and meditated individually, when suddenly we heard music at full blast and people’s shouts from one floor below of the cable car station building. Ordinarily I cannot concentrate on anything in such circumstances, but, to my amazement, they did not disturb me at all. I even had peace. I had never experienced such things before. Later, I found out why on our way back to the cable car. A group of 40 to 50 Christians from South America sang and danced praising the Lord to the music. During this dispatch, we sang praises to the Lord wherever we went and this greatly pleased the

Ms. Tamiya (left) interpreting for the guide



local people. I was convinced that, from now on, the Lord will use songs of praise for evangelism not only in South America, but throughout the world.

On our way back to Jerusalem from Galilee, we went up a mountain where by tradition Jesus was tempted by Satan. The tour guide showed us from the mountainside the place where the Israelites are said to have crossed River Jordan to enter the Promised Land. The place is also said to be one of the places where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus, when tempted by Satan after the baptism (Mathew 4:1-11), sent him away quoting the Word of God. God had been telling me for the past one or two years that I need to step out by faith (by His Word) more than ever before. God gave me the confirmation of that during this mission. I would like to learn from the walk of the Israelites after they were told to “turn around and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.” and obey God.