

Team to Israel 2019.10.28~2019.11.9

■Timothy Kobayashi (**Pastor/TLCCC Tokyo Antioch Church**)

Israel team was sent from 28 October to 9 November. I thank you for your intercessory prayer. Israel team was sent following after Nagasaki teams were sent in September and October 2019. God spoke to us that our church would be guided just like a spiral staircase. When our church was just formed, the first oversea mission team was sent just after 5 teams were sent to Nagasaki. Now, we came back to higher level of the same scene just like a spiral staircase. God spoke to us that new oversea mission work would be developed after teams were sent to Nagasaki. God let Pastor Paul Akimoto to be hospitalized for quite a long while in November and December last year and August, September and October this year, and during this period, God showed new name for our church as, “The Light of Eternal Agape.”

Pastor Paul Akimoto’s message in the 2nd service in Tokyo Antioch church was viewed live in Israel by members of Israel team in the new year worship service held on Sunday, 3 November. This was the new development. Amazing things spoken during the message were that oversea mission teams will be sent to Israel and New York, that “Thanksgiving, Praising and Revival camp” will be sent in L.A again, and that in Europe, mission teams will be sent to Czech Republic and Dresden. In the same message, God spoke from 2 Chronicles 20:15 -17 that “God’s battle” means every battle in us, who receive God’s assistance and blessings.

The schedule of Israel team this year was as usual. We entered Israel, stayed in Jerusalem and moved to Galilee and stayed there for 5 nights, and returned to Jerusalem. When I was praying and worshipping at Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem at the beginning, lyrics and melody of one song of our church’s new song album, “Kaze No Hibiki Vol.7” came to my mind. It was the song lyrics from 2 Chronicles 20:21, which says, “Give thanks to the LORD, for His love endures forever” sung by the praise band that goes ahead King Jehoshaphat’s army. When I was meditating at Mt. of Olives, God spoke to me a lot from 2 Chronicles 20. Then our new year word given to us happened to be Verse 15 and 17 of the same Chapter. The daily devotional of the church on 6 November, when I was in charge of delivering message was Romans 8. So the message I shared was the one of promise that we, who are loved by God are given special plan of God and witness His overwhelming victory after going through some difficulties. The promise of overwhelming victory testifies the word of 2 Chronicles 20, because King Jehoshaphat’s battle also ended with overwhelming victory. Let us expect God’s overwhelming victory and proceed the mission work this year.

■Mariya Nagato

Thank you for your intercessory prayer from my heart. I joined Israel team for the first time. Though I used to wish for visiting Israel every year, I was asking God with some feelings of giving up, because of my work situation, in which it was difficult to apply leave. However, I felt God's guidance to join the Israel team strongly and when I started to pray seriously, God answered my prayer and I was able to join the Israel team with my leave taken miraculously. I was able to join the fourth Nagasaki team by His grace just before Israel team. I am grateful to God because all these are under God's special guidance and planning.



Even though I went to Israel for the first time, there was a feeling that I used to be there, which was melancholic. I felt great peace that God was always together with me when I was in the hotel, having tour, and anywhere.

I received a lot of words and blessings from God through tours, prayer and daily holy meetings. At the moment I started to pray "Jesus" at the Sea of Galilee, God's love touched me. I felt that God surely called out my name and took me to Israel to bless me and tears streamed down from my eyes.

In the tour, I was able to learn a lot, going around places that appear in the Bible. The most impressive one was the happening when I was in the boat going across the Sea of Galilee. The wind was very strong and the boat was shaken roughly. Even people who took the boat several times were shocked by the shake. I remembered the Bible situation of Mark 4:35-41 that God had calmed the waves down by His word. I noticed that I am often affected by the visual situation and that God spoke to me that I am not walking with complete trust on God, who can calm down such waves. We had worshipped God on the shaking boat, where God protected us. God showed His deep presence in our praise.

After the New Year worship service, we gave our worship to God at the Mount Arbel where Great Commission was spoken to us deeply. I prayed at the Mount Arbel, "Let me go out for mission work to the place you show me in the middle of your world-mission work." When we returned to hotel from the Mt. Arbel, we were able to see the iridescent cloud, which looked like a rainbow. By that, I confirmed that God will bless our steps and God's work will progress this year and I rejoiced.

It was a blessing that four of "Shirushi to Fushigi", literally "Signs and Wonders" members were able to join the Israel team this year and given services of praising. We could work as praise band in Israel. I was able to pray for His work of praising with other members in Galilee. In this prayer, there was very deep presence of God and we were filled with tears with the hope that we, who are weak will be used by God in the world.

I would like to stand on His word given this year, with blessings given in Israel! I give thanks to God, who guided me!

