



"The desert (Arava) shall...blossom as the rose." Isaiah 35:1

BLOSSOMING ROSE

EMAIL UPDATE

www.blossomingrose.org

September 2016

NEWS & NOTES

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.



LOCAL NEWS

SEVEN HISTORICAL SITE SPONSORS

Dr. Catherine Ryan, along with us (DeWayne and Lexie Coxon) has agreed to be a co-sponsor for the Islamic Period which completes the perfect number of "seven site sponsors," at Biblical Tamar Park. It has been a goal for the past two years to find someone willing to sponsor this historic site. We are very grateful to Dr. Ryan for agreeing to be a co-sponsor with us.



Islamic Period Site

Dr. Ryan has been a supporter of Blossoming Rose for several years and we have become better acquainted with her over the past couple years. She is an audiologist - hearing specialist - in a business created by her father many years ago. She is a busy woman traveling between five cities in mid-Michigan, including Saginaw, Midland, Clare, Frankenmuth, and Bay City.

Catherine travelled to Israel with us on a tour a few years ago and spent time at Tamar where she glimpsed the "vision" shared by hundreds of volunteers at the Park who want to make a difference in the recorded history of southern Israel.

We are grateful for her support for our vision to continue the development of Biblical Tamar Park.

A MISSION TO BLESS OTHERS

Blossoming Rose has had a mission to "bless others" for over thirty years. Over these thirty years, blessing others has taken many forms, but the focus for the last few years has been on Biblical Tamar Park. In order to accomplish this mission, many volunteers have spent an enormous amount of hours doing the work that is necessary to meet the ultimate goals. In this case, the goal is to uncover the centuries of history of a small country in the Middle East so that the elementary and high school students in Israel and visitors from around the world can

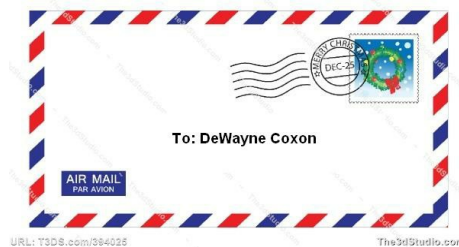


see for themselves how the people of the Bible lived, and they can judge for themselves as to what is important and sacred about the past.

Volunteerism has been an important part of "blessing others." Whether it was taking dentists to the Middle East to work on the teeth of orphans, or whether it is in the educational nature of many of the projects; each program has its purposes.

As we near the end of another fiscal year, we hope that you will give serious thought to how you might help with this mission. The scriptures indicate that those who bless others, whether it be Israel or other countries or peoples, God will bless their efforts and His word will not return void.

LETTERS FROM OUR FRIENDS



Shabbat Shalom, DeWayne,

When you called and told me that there was a person who wished to send me to Israel, to go on Ross Nichol's tour and then to volunteer at Tamar for the remainder of the month of March, I was astonished and delighted. I could not comprehend what you were saying at first.

Then, I began to plan, reconfiguring my schedule to work towards March 2017. At this point, I think you can consider it a GO, and secure a spot on the tour before they are gone. I know that Ross is deep into the Louisiana flood relief, with his home at St Francisville only a few miles from the flood waters. Perhaps we can book similar return flights and share transportation back to the airport.

What else do I need besides a passport? I have never dared to consider such a trip and you have done it many times. Thanks for all your help. I feel incredibly blessed!

Peggy S.
Charlotte, NC

Hi DeWayne,

I pray all is well with you and your family and Blossoming Rose. The Newsletter, as always, was wonderful to read! The supervisor's report by Pat De Groot was exceptionally good. I loved reading it and it took me back to our days in the desert in 1992. That was so long ago and yet it seems like yesterday. How I loved being there and in all the places we travelled throughout Israel.

I am still praying that my husband will be able to go with me to Israel. In the meantime, we continue to "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" and Israel.

God's Blessings,
Sylvia B.
Pine River, WI

Dear Dr. Coxon,

I am thinking of a "Torah Treasure" for all your Blossoming Rose tour participants to Israel this year. I have some encouraging words for them. It is important to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and to know the importance God places on going there. The money spent in Jerusalem should not be seen as a drain on your budgets, but as a means to do something pleasing to God.

The importance of making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem is so great, the Torah specifically states that we should tithe money to ourselves in order to rejoice with the families in Jerusalem. (Deut. 22-27.) I am only writing this to you so you can encourage people to see the importance God places on going to Jerusalem and rejoicing with Him.

Shalom,
Shemuel Sharvit
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear DeWayne,

I think of Blossoming Rose often. I continually wonder how to present what you are doing to our Jewish community in such a way that leadership will be motivated to not only ask you to come and speak, but also to be interested in the financial backing of Biblical Tamar Park.

I hope to have a presentation for the Council soon.

Sincerely,
Carolyn P.
Columbia, NC

BIBLICAL TAMAR PARK

JUJUBE TREE AT TAMAR

Earlier this month, Dr. Yoram Haimi wrote and requested that we contact the Israeli Nature Reserve people at the Hazeva Field School regarding the old tree at Tamar. Dr. Yoram said, "the tree may die and so please look into this."

At his request, we asked our Park Supervisor, Kay Rose, to schedule experts to visit the ancient tree. Dr. Gidon and Roi came and pronounced the tree healthy but not getting enough water due to low water pressure. Alan will meet with them soon and take steps necessary to give the tree adequate water.

The Acacia tree by the Supervisor's quarters was damaged in a recent windstorm and so they also looked at it and said it was still healthy. They gave directions on which branches to cut off. When the wind blows in the desert, we don't know what might happen to our trees, so we are grateful for the experts who can provide instructions for their care.



Jujube Tree

CHINESE VOLUNTEER AT TAMAR

Five women, in their twenties, from the ancient Chinese Jewish community of Kaifeng, made Aliyah in February 2016 in what will mark the first Aliyah of its kind since 2009.

The women have been enrolled in Jewish studies at Jerusalem's Midreshet Nishmat. Communist China does not have formal ties with the government of Israel to facilitate the immigration of Chinese Jews to Israel. The young ladies are supported by Shavei Israel which has covered their living expenses and offered support as they undergo a formal conversion process by the Chief Rabbinate, after which they will receive Israeli citizenship. "Kaifeng's Jewish descendants are a living link between China and the Jewish people," said Michael Freund, chairman of Shavei Israel, the non-profit responsible for bringing the young women to Israel. "After centuries of assimilation, a growing number of the Kaifeng Jews, in recent years, have begun seeking to return to their roots and embrace their Jewish identity," he added.

Wei-wei, heard about our Volunteer Day for local Israelis and spent three hours on the bus to get to Biblical Tamar Park. During her three-day visit, she shared with Kay Rose what living in a rural village in Communist China, as a religious observant Jew, is like. There are less than 1000 Chinese Jews from the Keifeng community scattered throughout China and the small orthodox synagogue, that her family attends, only has 20-25 regular attendees, except during the High Holy Days when attendance increases.

Wei-wei says that her prayers have been answered now



Wei-Wei

that she is living in Israel as a Jew.

It was a special privilege to have Wei-wei and her Chinese companions at Biblical Tamar Park. She shared with Kay that her stay at BTP deepened her sense of connection to the land and that she is looking forward to future returns to the Park.

The Kaifeng Jewish community was founded by Persian Jewish merchants (present day Iraq) around the 8th century. The community peaked during the Ming Dynasty with 5,000 members. Today only 500-1000 are believed to be remaining.

BRITISH AND ISRAELI VOLUNTEERS AT TAMAR

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Kay Rose Bunton

August is the hottest month with the fewest number of visitors, so I decided to liven things up and host a BTP Mitzvah (volunteer day) for local Israeli's. The objective was three-fold. First, it would accomplish the much needed clean-up of the Park. Second, Israelis would be encouraged to take pride in one of Israel's historic treasures by performing a mitzvah (good deed) where they would roll up their sleeves and give a few hours of their time. Third, with a new influx of volunteers, Blossoming Rose would be able to expand the local volunteer base in case there were ever an emergency where volunteers were needed on short notice.

The public relations campaign began by making some contacts in Jerusalem. Approval was quickly granted to place posters/flyers on various bulletin boards for the August 21 event. Soon the calls began to come in. Some callers wanted directions and others wanted to know if they could volunteer a different day during the week of August 21. My PR outreach at the Finnish Mission produced positive results and I am currently exploring the possibility of having Dr. Coxon interviewed on the Finnish TV network when he arrives in October.

The locals came from as far north as Netanya, as far south as Eilat, with several arriving from Jerusalem, Mitzpeh Ramon and Beersheva. Pastor Howard Bass invited me to speak to the Beersheva congregation of more than 150 members about the BTP Volunteer Day. Several members participated, including Pastor Howard himself, with even more pledging to get involved next time around.

The volunteers chose their own chores. Ari washed the windows to the Supervisor's quarters and then headed to the British building to clean all the windows. Terri and Brenda Garn washed the van and the Mazda and applied a 'desert style' detailing to the interior. Leah, a mother of a slain military hero, arrived at the Park as usual, in a military vehicle, escorted by a soldier.



Park Supervisor, Kay

Almost immediately upon arriving, she began working in the kitchen. Five volunteers spent most of the day in the sizzling, 117-degree heat, with periodic water breaks, raking and weeding the south grove. Our Israeli/Chinese Jewess, Wei-wei, from the Chinese Kaifeng tribe, along with her Chinese companions, gave the bomb shelter a thorough sweeping/cleaning and then joined me in picking, washing and packaging the dates. Other volunteers cleaned the kitchen cupboards, washed, ironed and folded linen before tidying up the linen closet. The impact of their volunteerism was huge.



Terri and Brenda Garn, from Britain, along with Elinor Rasco, each spent two weeks volunteering to cover the daily chores associated with the upkeep of the Park. Kudos to Moshe Granot, a local Israeli who assisted in directing the men's activities. Our cherished Israeli friend, Elinor, provided the lunch and refreshments for our volunteer crew. Terri, who has an advanced degree in farming equipment/agriculture, and his wife Brenda, a nurse, also assisted me in monitoring the activities of our volunteers. Special thanks to Pastor Howard and Randi Bass for all the assistance provided to make our first Israeli clean-up day at Biblical Tamar Park a success.

It was a rewarding experience for all. New friendships were forged and for many it was their first but certainly not their last visit. They left knowing their hard work (mitzvah) made a big difference, but even more, they left with a deeper sense of connection to Biblical Tamar Park. Many Christians volunteer because they want to "bless Israel." For those living in Israel, their mitzvah (good deed) was not only a way to bless the land but to "bless us also."

Our current guests include Helen Sanchez, a business-woman from Texas, along with six members of her team who are on a fact-finding mission in Israel. Helen, along with three team members, will stay at Biblical Tamar Park until Dec 5 with a focus on developing a work-study-travel program. She has made a commitment to renovate our large dining hall and to immediately purchase a commercial ice-maker. I am very grateful to have Udi and Stacy Alon at the Park with me, who you may recall, were united in marriage last September in a beautiful

ceremony and chose to spend the first day of their honeymoon at Biblical Tamar Park. A year later, they have returned as "local Israeli volunteers" to help with the beautification and upkeep of BTP.

Finally, we look forward to the return of our lead supervisor, Alan Vanderkolk, who will arrive shortly. I will be turning the reigns of leadership over to him and I will be volunteering in a new capacity.

This change in responsibilities will also allow me time to complete the second edition of my book, Melchizedek, *Unveiling the Mystery*, A Judean Manifesto which received the endorsement of several leaders and will be available in bookstores in the near future. I will also continue my fundraising work and a development project for the Park. It is so pleasant and quiet working at Tamar.

BREAKING NEWS

Alan Vanderkolk, our lead supervisor, arrived in Israel safe and sound. Kay, our outgoing supervisor, picked him up in Beersheva, drove him down to the Park, and handed him the gavel.

Alan wrote and told us that he was glad to be back and welcomed by Nahmer, our watch dog.



Nahmer, our watch dog welcomed me back

Upcoming Volunteer Experiences and Tours

2016

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| South African Prayer Team | (Molly Miessner) | October 16 - 25 |
| Volunteer Experience | (Dr. DeWayne Coxon) | October 24 - November 6 |
| Connect to Israel | (Young/Clayton) | October 30 - November 10 |
| Experiencing Israel Today | (Young/Bergsma) | November 8 - 18 |

2017

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Experiencing the Holy Land | (Madsen/Ernst) | February 19 - 28 |
| Connect to Israel | (Young/Clayton) | February 26 - March 9 |
| Roots of Faith | (Nichols) | March 3 - 14 |
| Standing with Israel | (Dr. Alewine/Pennington) | March 19 - 30 |
| Grace Bible College | (Dr. Phil Long) | May 1 - 18 |

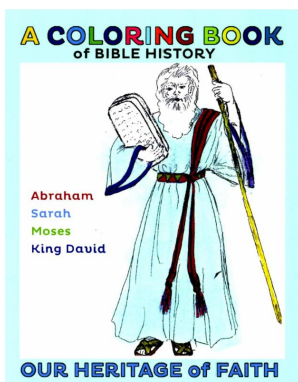
2018

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| St. Norbet Abbey | (Tony Pichler) | March 8 - 18 |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|

EDUCATIONAL COLORING BOOKS AVAILABLE

BIG SALE

(One hundred percent of the gross proceeds will be used to bless Israel)



This attractive 54 page coloring book is on-sale for \$3 each plus \$2 shipping. For 4 - 10 copies, total shipping is \$4.

If you wish to place an order, please email us directly at dcoxon@blossomingrose.org.



Christian Trehwella



Christian, Naomi, Kennedy, and Olivia

Editor's Corner

The author of the newsletter is DeWayne A. Coxon. Articles were written by him unless noted otherwise. Chaya Coxon is the publisher.

NOTE: If you are reading this email newsletter on Facebook you can email me at dcoxon@blossomingrose.org and you will receive it at your own email address.

SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER: Know anyone who could benefit from this newsletter? Forward it to them, please.

STAY CONNECTED

NOTE: We have, since 1984, encouraged people to support our Israel work through prayer, gifts, volunteering, and touring. We offer you three ways to contribute. You can contribute online by visiting our website at www.blossomingrose.org and choosing the "Contribute" link on the top banner, call Jodi at 1-800-317-7673 to use your credit card, or send your gift to our address: P.O. Box X, Cedar Springs, MI 49319. My cell phone number is 616-901-4153 if you have any questions.

GET THE WORD OUT - Please forward this Newsletter to your family and friends.

OUTLOOK: If you use Outlook, the format of your newsletter may be different than using an Internet browser.

