Missionary to Israel 2012

Matthew Nelson from Israel

June 23, 2012

Shalom and boker tov! (good morning)

I apologize for not e-mailing sooner. We have been keeping busy working at Kaplan Hospital and serving the Lord in a variety of ways everyday, if not every minute.

I will start from the beginning of the trip.

We all made it safely to the airport in Philadelphia and had a wonderful night's stay in New Jersey. There is a total of 18 of us on the team. There are 2 team members who have gone once before and came back, because they truly enjoyed the trip. We toured the Friends of Israel Headquarters on the 13th, where we met the staff and had an orientation on the many things we needed to know about Israel and the Jewish people. We departed from Philadelphia later that night at 9:30 and arrived in Tel Aviv at 3:15 in the afternoon on the 14th. The flight was long, but good. We are all staying at the home of a worker of the Lord named Jack. (We are not aloud to use the word missionary, because of the history of persecution in Jewish History and because the Jewish people don't want to be targeted.) The accommodations are nice and we are all sleeping well.

Working at Kaplan Hospital is going very well. I am working in the air conditioning department with 3 others from our team; Chris, Kaytra, and Rachel. We work with a man named Beibeir(pronounced Babear). Our job is to remove the filters, clean them, and then put them back. So far we have finished 2 floors in the hospital and 7 sections of 4 floors. The work isn't hard, but rather enjoyable. There are so many people to meet and to minister to. The staff is friendly and welcoming and very interested in us. We have little interaction with patients unless they know English. We have been able to share a little bit about why we are volunteering and what we are doing in Israel. We have finished our first week of working at the hospital and will complete the last week this Thursday.

We have played basketball, softball, and lots of volleyball. We play with members of Jack's congregation, as well as local youth.

Fridays are Shabbat, which is the Jewish people's Sabbath, including Saturday. Last night we were all split up into small groups and had Shabbat with different families from the congregation. We shared a meal and fellowshipped. The food here is delicious and their is such a variety. Humus and pita bread is very common.

Some places I have been to so far, are Joppa, and Ashdod. When we were in Ashdod we visited the Mediterranean Sea. We swam for most of a day and watched the sun set. In Joppa we visited the port where Jonah set sail from when he decided to go his own way. There we also had devotions and read the story of Jonah.

All of this is just the beginning of many more great things to come. God is certainly working in all of our lives here and making changes in us. Thank you for your prayers and support. May God bless you!

Shabbat Shalom!

Matthew Nelson