



Shalom brother Mokhtar.



I was born in Haifa in 1958 and was raised up in a nominal Christian family (Catholics), I used to go to the Catholic church twice a year only, on Christmas and on Easter, I knew about Yeshua but I never knew him as my Lord and savior,

As I grew up to be a teenager, I mistreated and abused my parents and was very violent to them, I knew that this was evil in God's sight but I couldn't help. An evil power was driving me to abuse them.

In Aug' 1983 I got married and shortly after my marriage I began mistreating and abusing my wife too. Twice in a period of 6 months after marriage, my wife packed up her suitcases and was about to go back to her parents in Lebanon.

In Feb' 1984, I heard the gospel for the first time that Yeshua is able to forgive every transgression and grant everlasting life, I was under heavy conviction by the Holy Spirit and wept a lot, repented for all my past sins and received him

As my Lord and savior in a very dramatic experience. He changed my life 180 degrees, I begged my wife and my parents for forgiveness for the past hurts which I caused them, the Lord taught me to love and embrace them.

As a result of the drastic change that took place in my life all of my family received Yeshua as their Lord and savior.

My Dad was 86 years old when he received Yeshua, his eyesight was bad, he couldn't read, he wanted me to sit down all day long and read the Bible for him, he quit smoking, he just wanted to absorb the word of God.

Our neighbors who came to us and saw me reading the Bible to my parents were amazed and noticed that a miracle has happened in our home, for they used to watch me abusing and beating my parents for many years in the past years.

We started a Bible study at our home, my parents were constantly weeping as a token of thankfulness to Yeshua for changing my life in such a dramatic way.

As the people who showed us the way to Yeshua noticed that me and my wife have a call from God on our lives they helped us enroll at the "Galilee Bible school" in Haifa, we studied

4 years at this Pentecostal Bible school to be equipped for the ministry. I studied Theology and my wife studied music. She has become a pianist and a worship leader.

We graduated in the year 1993, in Dec' 9th 1995 I was ordained with Assemblies of God of the Holy land as a pastor and a minister of the gospel. I served with pastor David Davis at the rehabilitation program called "House of victory" in Haifa for 5 years as a staff person and teacher of the world to ex- alcoholics and drug addicts.

In the year 2000 as the I.D.F withdrew from Southern Lebanon about 7000 Lebanese people had to leave their homes, their land, their beloved ones and cross over the borders into Israel, they couldn't stay in Southern Lebanon for the Hezbollah who took control of the area was determined to terminate them as they were considered as collaborators with the Israeli army in the past years. In few hours, those precious Lebanese who loved Israel and prayed for the peace of Jerusalem have become refugees with no roof over their heads.

The Lord gave me and my wife an immediate burden for them, the need was so great that I had to quit my ministry at the "House of victory" and devote myself totally to their service.

We reached out to them with the good news as they stayed in different camps in Northern Israel, for several months we used to hold outdoors meetings at the places where they stayed. As a result of our faithful ministry, many of them came to know Yeshua as their Messiah.

Later on and as the Israeli government was offering to pay them monthly rent, a big number of them chose to reside in the coastal city of Naharia in Northern Israel, we immediately started a home group at one of the believing family's home which grew up to become the "River of God" Lebanese congregation in Naharia.

We have been working with those precious people for 10 years. Our vision is to be a Ruth church, Ruth was a Moabite, a foreigner, yet she was blessed to become an ancestor of Yeshua because she loved the Jewish people and clung to the God of Israel.

The children of those precious Lebanese go to Jewish schools in Naharia, they share the gospel with their Jewish class mates and introduce to them their Jewish Messiah. Many of their mates have requested the New testament to read more about Yeshua the Jewish Messiah. Who could think about this, that God would bring people from Lebanon to share the good news with the new generation in Israel, this is Isaiah 55:8-9 being literally fulfilled.

We can honestly testify that during the past 10 years, God has been faithful to us as we obeyed him by serving those precious Lebanese who had found a city of refuge in Israel.

Our God is good and his mercy endures forever. Hallelujah!!!

Pastor Joseph & Ibtissam Haddad

"River of God" Lebanese cong. in Naharia