

Come with us to the New Age Festival

It's Passover in Israel. Everyone is preparing in some way. Families are gathering together to celebrate this most important feast. To religious Jews, it's a holy season, but to many others, it's an excuse for a holiday.



While the city streets are gradually becoming quiet and the candles are being lit in many homes, something totally different is happening at one of the southern beaches of Israel. There, to the calming sound of the breakers, people work constantly to set up booths, cover them with tents and awnings, and build a stage. The biggest New Age Festival of the year, called Bombamella, is about to open and soon around 20,000 Israelis will converge on this quiet beach.

A big group of believers from all over the country are gathering there as well, to **”snatch people from the fire”** (Jud. 1:23). Three of Trumpet’s team members are part of this group. The greatest desire of our hearts is to win people from the enemy’s camp and bring them into the Kingdom of light of our Passover Lamb.

In this festival you can find almost every sin of this world. Not only that, every sin also has its booth: Eastern religions, yoga, tarot cards, mysticism, reiki, drugs, body piercing - these and more. The place is full of evil spirits. The average age of the visitors is 17 - youth looking for purpose in life, a spiritual anchor, something to hold on to.

We have a booth with free literature including New Testaments, and also a ‘soup kitchen’ where we invite people to join us for a free dinner. And how amazing it is to see God in His faithfulness use us to bring His light into the midst of the deepest darkness. We experience what it is to shine His light and to share His unfailing love.

Every day is an adventure at this festival. I would like to share with you some of the things our almighty God did among His chosen people during this Passover. All the names in the story have been changed.

Three very sweet girls approach our booth. They are curious to know what we are all about. They are very young and say it is their first time at this festival. One of them says she has been studying some things and she thinks there actually is a connection between the Old and the New Testaments.

From the first day until the last day of the festival these girls remain with us. They feel such a peace and love in our camp that they do not want to go anywhere else. They say they feel something different in us. They join us for the worship at night. There is a rock band performance that they had planned to attend, but something about God’s presence in our worship makes them stay. They don't talk a whole lot; they just sit and look around. One of them, Julia, has a headache and she agrees for me to pray for her.

I ask if I can pray for all of them. We sit in our Bedouin-style tent, listening to worship, which is mixed with the continuous drumming from the festival area. It is such a holy moment. God's presence falls on us in a tangible way. They do not want to move, they stay with closed eyes and continue to enjoy God's presence, still unaware that it was God in their midst, starting to touch their young hearts and lives.

We are having a prayer time when suddenly Uri, an Israeli soldier, comes to sit next to us and asks if he can join in. He listens to our prayers and then asks: "*How can you call God a Father?*" The Holy Spirit talks to my heart and I know that somehow this man has had a difficult history with his father. After a while, he starts sharing his painful memories about his relationship with his father. He is longing for Father's love more than anything in this world. His heart is bleeding. He lets us pray for him and afterwards stays to help us prepare the dinner.

He obviously is touched by the love he experiences in the camp, since his life has been a continually failing search for real love - the kind of love we know only God can give. Later that night I am sitting outside our booth when suddenly two guys, both around 20 years old approach. Their first comment, spoken in a very argumentative tone is: "*How can you possibly claim Yeshu (Jesus) is the Messiah?*" We start discussing this and they attack almost every single word I use. I almost give up and sigh for the Lord to give me more patience. Then, suddenly something happens in their hearts. They start to listen intensely. Gone are the aggressive words and attitude. I see before my own eyes how the Holy Spirit is working deep in their hearts. I ask them if they are willing to continue the conversation inside the booth. They agree. One of them says he has cold shivers going around his body. He cannot understand the miracle of how they have bumped into our booth, of all the booths, that night. They are astonished. There is such a struggle going on inside them. It is the first time they have ever heard anything like that about Yeshua, about His being Jewish and the Messiah who came to give us access to Father's heart.

I can see the struggle. Their eyes express so much pain, hope and longing for something that it almost breaks my heart. We open the Tanach together and start reading Isaiah 53. The other young man shares how he really wants God to show Him the truth. I said God for sure wants to show him the truth. I ask him what he would do if God would show him Yeshua is the truth. And the answer comes from the bottom of his heart, when he says he would be ready to accept it, to believe anything God would show him. At the end of the conversation, one of them points towards the New Testament and says: "*Is this the book you are recommending?*" He holds the book gently in his hands. They promise to come to visit us in Jaffa and off they go into the dark night.

The day starts with worship. Uri, the guy from the previous day, joins us and at the end of worship, he asks if he can say something to the whole group. He says he is not at the point where he is ready to start reading the Bible, but he wants to share that never before in his life has he felt such a love than in our camp. He really feels we are special people and he wants to thank us for everything since he says we are doing '*a holy work*'.

That Saturday morning the queue to the toilets is very long. There is a mother with two sweet girls behind us and we ask her if she would like to pass us. She is very thankful and we start to chat. She tells us she has a booth in the festival area. We ask her where it is and she says it is next to a booth with '*explanations about Yeshua*'. This of course gives us a perfect opportunity to share with her that actually we are involved with that booth.

We promise to visit her later and so we do. She is into mysticism and healing through stones. Friendly but firmly, we start sharing with her. She is hungry to hear what we have to say. One hour later we are still talking. She wants us to get to know her three daughters who are at the festival with her. When she introduces the middle one, she shares that this 9 year old girl is reading the New Testament and really loves it! We know the Lord is after the whole family and promise to visit her at home.

At the end of the festival, before taking the tents down, we decide to have a walk on the beach. Two young Israelis are sitting there, playing the guitar, and they invite us to join them. We pray for the Lord to somehow open the doors of their hearts. We have just started talking when we see a New Age guru approaching whom we have previously had an encounter with at our booth. We know that his heart is closed against Yeshua, and that his presence now would be the end of the conversation. But with His wonderful grace, the Lord makes a way for us. Suddenly we see another guy from our team approaching whom God has blessed with an amazing degree of patience. He willingly starts talking to the New Age guru. This enables us to continue sharing with the two Israelis who are clearly hungry for the truth. God opens their hearts wide to receive His love and truth. At the end of the conversation, both of these men are very touched to receive New Testaments.

We lift these young people before the throne of our God. Our hearts are longing for them to find the only way, the truth and the life, Yeshua, their promised Messiah. Please pray with us that the seeds sown into these hearts will bring much fruit to His Kingdom of light. V.