

Steven D. Reece

From: Leman Derek <derek4messiah@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 10:41
To: sdreece@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Shalom!

Steven:

How about Friday morning, say 10 a.m. and the Starbucks location below? My cell number is included below.

North Lake
3983 LaVista Road
Tucker, GA 30084
(770) 270-0611

Derek Leman
Media Coordinator, MJTI
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On Aug 11, 2009, at 10:19 AM, Steven D. Reece wrote:

Greetings in the Name!

While searching the Internet this morning for Orthodox Jewish Synagogues in the Atlanta area, I came across your post from last December, titled: "Limited Diversity at Emory University?"

I am not writing you about the post but about a specific Mitzvah -- caring for the dead and how Hashem has used it in my life and the life of the Jews of Poland.

My name is Steven Reece and I have been working as a missionary with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for the past twelve plus years in Poland. I speak and write Polish and have worked with both Gentiles and Jews. My wife and I resigned this past November and returned to the United States to care for family needs principally related to my wife's father and our children. I have been searching for what Hashem would have for me to do in ministry and to this point I have not found where I fit.

To explain briefly, I have worked with the Jewish Community in Warsaw to restore Jewish cemeteries as a mitzvah, because "The dead cannot care for themselves." We have had teams of volunteers from Southern Baptist Churches work with Polish Baptists as well as with Polish Jews on several occasions to clear debris, remove trash, rebuild walls and catalogue and remember Jewish history in Poland. We have worked with the Jewish Community since 2004 and have worked in five cemeteries in the Warsaw area including the great Warsaw cemetery, which has more than 150,000 headstones and more than 200,000 graves.

I believe that Hashem is using this mitzvah to speak to His people. I have been asked many times by Jews, "Why would you a gentile, do this for us, who are Jews?" I tell them because of Hashem's love. I tell them because everything that we know of Hashem, we have learned from Jews. I tell them, "Your prophets, say that, 'Salvation comes from the Jews.'"

I believe that Hashem is leading me to continue this mitzvah but in a different manner. I believe that He is still at work and He wishes to bless Israel and to reconcile them to Himself. I believe that this specific mitzvah is a powerful testimony to the truth of Michah 6:8 and Matthew 23:23 -- mercy, justice and faithfulness. I do not wish to overwhelm you in this email with details, but I have learned much about Jews, Judaism, and their traditions: however, I realize that I even have more to learn. I feel that Hashem is not finished with me and wishes to teach me more about this mitzvah, Jewish life and Judaism but more importantly how to point them to Messiah.

The purpose of my email is to seek to meet you personally so that I could explain and discuss what I have learned in my journey with you face-to-face and to share with you what I believe Hashem is leading me to do.

If you are agreeable and would like to meet with me, please let me know. I live in Doraville, GA off of Winter's Chapel Road, so I can meet with you easily somewhere in the area. Mornings work best for me between 9:00 and up until 12:30.

I will understand if you choose not to meet with me. I realize that this is rather unusual request from a stranger, but I feel that I must meet with you because Hashem has led me to discover you.

Blessings,

Steven

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