



*"I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11 NIV*

Canaan in the Desert
September 2006

Our dear Friends,

God Himself makes a solemn declaration. He – great and almighty as He is - has plans. They have to do with us and whatever happens in our lives; they are the expression of His infinite love for us.

“Wonderful” are His plans and counsels (see Isaiah 28:29 NIV) and far reaching. When He calls Jeremiah, He assures him that He knew him before He formed him in the womb and even then appointed him to be his prophet (see Jeremiah 1:5). God’s plans for each one of us are very personal, filled with love!

Recently we all became aware of plans of a different kind. They too have to do with us and our very lives, but their aim is not to give us “hope and a future.” In senseless hatred their aim is our destruction.

In the night of August 9/10 British police and security services discovered a plot that might have taken hundreds of lives of unsuspecting people. How relieved we were! At the same time we had to realize that there might yet be a number of similar plans out there —evil plans.

More than once, the President of Iran has spoken of destroying Israel and all infidels. For instance, “We are in the midst of a historic war that has been fought for hundreds of years. The present war in Palestine is nothing but the frontlines of the Islamic world battling the world of arrogance.”¹⁾ At the same time, investigators have discovered that terrorists make daily updates to over 5,000 web pages that give directions on how to build bombs and explosives of all kinds, to kill as many non-Moslems as possible in their Holy War. ²⁾

Living at such a time urges us to firmly rely on the good and perfect plans coming from God’s heart. We know that Israel is at the center of them. This small country holds a special place in His counsels; God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29). Israel certainly needs our prayers at this time of her affliction.

Since the early sixties Mother Basilea clearly saw that we live in a time like none before. Her sobering conclusion was: if this is true we need “to live like never before.” “Living like never before” will include that prayer is given a major priority in our lives. May the enclosed prayer leaflet be a little reminder. — Let us again listen to Jeremiah:

*You will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.*

Jeremiah 29:12+13 NIV

FROM OUR MINISTRY

God is Doing a Wonderful Thing!

In these days of global terrorism, God is restoring a relationship which has been broken for 2000 years – the relationship between Christians and Jews. A few of us Sisters experienced this powerful phenomenon again at the “Days of Elijah Conference” in Florida, presented by the Christian Allies Caucus (Members of Knesset in Israel) and co-sponsored by Covenant Alliances and the Battalion of Deborah, September 1-4, 2006.

Hardly ever have we experienced such a warm atmosphere of trust between Christians and Jews - sharing information and praying with one another. A rabbi and a member of Israel’s Knesset held the sermons in the church services! Former Jewish military leaders shed light on Israel’s recent war in Lebanon using God’s Word. Christian leaders warned about the threat of radical Islamic fascism and how we must stand with our Jewish brethren.



The conference underlined the urgency of the times we live in – Christians and Jews must stand together at this late hour. We serve the same God (Even in 1964 Mother Basilea spoke about our common responsibilities).³⁾ Speakers encouraged us not only to pray for Israel, but also to support her people in practical ways and to speak out courageously in

face of media bias. We still have the freedom to express our views. We cannot risk remaining silent!

It was a great joy to have a book table at the Conference where we bonded friendships. 120 copies of our *Denver Repentance Service* DVD were taken by the participants, many of them Christian and Jewish leaders. May this message too help to draw us together even more in the days ahead. Here we would like to mention Mother Basilea’s book, *Allah or the God of the Bible – What is the Truth?* Written in the early 80s, this book is very informative.

May the Lord grant us courage and zeal in these decisive days, enabling us to make a difference before His coming again.

What Prisoners Write

“I can’t thank you enough for sending me the material you did, especially the book *Realities*. From this book I read aloud to other men every morning, but I could hardly see the print through my tears ...” *Daniel*

“Please send me some more bookmarks. I’m rebuilding my relationship with God.” *Anne*

“I am so grateful for your bookmark. After reading it I gave my life to the LORD. It’s a wonderful feeling to know that Jesus is in my life. As the bookmark said, ‘The power of Jesus’ love is so great, that He is always able to help you.’ That is so true. The little more than a year that I still got, will be spent seriously studying God’s Word and getting to know Jesus more.” *Brandon, 20 years*

“I have read *In Him Will I Trust*. It has given me hope about my life.” *Glenn*

“I found *Praying Our Way Through Life* in the trash and I began to read.



It was like God speaking to me. ... I had all but given up on life. This booklet has renewed my faith and I have prayed my way back into God's loving arms." *Barbara*

To send literature to Prison Chaplains and to answer personally the moving cards and letters that come from the inmates is still a vital part of the work done on Canaan in the Desert. Thank you for your prayers.

"Fill All the World With Songs of Praise ..."

The phone rang; it was David Brody, a reporter for CBN News. He and his camera man were on their way to the Grand Canyon – would it be possible for Sisters to come for an interview about the praise plaques at the Canyon? They would be doing a piece on "God in the Canyon" aired over *The 700 Club*.



As you may recall, three years ago, the plaques were hastily taken down when the National Park Service received an inquiry from the ACLU. There was a nation-wide response. Thanks to your prayers and the efforts of the ADF (Alliance Defense Fund) the three plaques were reinstated by the Department of the Interior – until further policy review from the Department of Justice.

Gladly we took the interview. What an opportunity! *The 700 Club* reaches 50 million households around the world! And what a delight to relate the story again of how the Lord kept these plaques in their original location where they proclaim His praises!

The majesty of the Canyon, the picture perfect weather and the interaction with bystanders were all so encouraging. Then after the interview the Lord overwhelmed us with a ***fantastic display of three different rainbows!*** We were able to capture the first one right next to the most popular plaque location (see above).⁴⁾

Later in the day a very unusual, deeply colored double rainbow descended from the clouds dipping into the Canyon and curving upward again. This one was caught by the camera man for the TV airing on September 7. A response from an enthusiastic viewer, "Dear Sisters, THAT was a great program tonight! It was really well done – informative but inspiring. I hope it will cause many to think about God's creation and appreciate it more."

"Is There Still Free Literature for our Soldiers?"



"Hello, I am calling from Maryland. I am the Division Chaplain's assistant.

We supply all the troops east of the Mississippi with Christian literature. I found some of your material here. Are you still offering it free? I have been to the combat theater twice and know how vital God is to us all, no matter the foxhole we pull ourselves out from. Our Chaplains would like assistance in bringing soldiers closer to God. Unfortunately our means are very limited. We would love to have five boxes of your

literature. But this is probably too big an expense for you?” Can you imagine how happy we were to respond, “Just yesterday we received a large donation from a family very concerned for our ‘brave soldiers’!” Joyfully we sent five 29-pound boxes filled with bookmarks, leaflets and booklets. Each box contained 2300 items. We gladly added some books and CDs.

Another request: “I just got here a month ago. We have many soldiers in basic training unit. A total of 1200 soldiers every 9 weeks in my battalion. They are ALL young - so very young - and need something to read. Please send me ...”

We had pre-packed 40 boxes like the five we just mentioned and were praying hard that they would be all shipped out to just the ones who needed an encouraging word or biblical message. We were so grateful that some of the literature went directly to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Imagine our surprise when a letter came from the Deputy Chief of Chaplains. He himself had once met Mother Basilea and wrote: “The Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary’s ministry has been such a great blessing to our soldiers, especially during the war. We will announce your kind offer in the monthly Chief of Chaplains Newsletter.”

An e-mail stated, “I am John, I am in Iraq a Master Sergeant. A friend gave me a handful of small cards ‘Words for the Heart’ before I came over to Iraq. My problem is, I am almost out of the cards. Can you help me?”

Today four new orders came in, all boxes are gone - a total of over 95,000 pieces of literature - and we are starting to pack new parcels. Father, we thank You! Father now protect each soldier, bless them and their families in all their needs.



Our dear Friends, we think of you in deep gratitude as it is you who enable us to do these outreaches. May our Heavenly Father bless you abundantly and provide for every need you may have! May He help all of us to be faithful in our testimony for Him.

With love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Sisters of Mary at Canaan in the Desert

- 1) SPIEGEL ONLINE, 7/23/2006
- 2) ISRAEL HEUTE 9/3/2006
- 3) Basilea Schlink, “JEWS AND CHRISTIANS
Our Common Responsibility Today”
- 4) Text of praise plaque:
O LORD, HOW MANIFOLD
ARE THY WORKS!
IN WISDOM HAST THOU MADE THEM ALL
THE EARTH IS FULL OF THY RICHES. PSALM 104:24
Father Almighty, wonderful Lord,
Wondrous Creator, be ever adored;
Wonders of nature sing praises to You,
Wonder of wonders – I may praise too! MB

