

KEEP CALM AND ENJOY TIKKUN OLAM REPORT 2015 – 2016

Tikkun Olam during the financial year of 2015 – 2016 has had the incredible privilege of “**Responding to Grace**” within the Jewish Community of Australia. For Tikkun Olam it has been as easy as **ABC**. It is a real blessing for us to **respond to Grace** because of what Yeshua our Messiah has done for us. The power of volunteering with Tikkun Olam comes through a look, a touch a smile that creates the most unimaginable heartfelt moment. The recipients of our festival food hampers receive a friendly smile that causes the recipient’s faces to light up. Volunteers soon realize that they can make a difference. Volunteers exhibit enthusiasm and support and are passionate about providing the best experience possible for the recipient’s of our festival hampers. Tikkun Olam’s ongoing work is dependent on the assistance of volunteers and donors. Being a volunteer is not only a means of giving back to the community and putting a smile on people’s faces, it is also a captivating experience that provides perspective and growth in one’s own life.

In the financial year of 2015-2016 Tikkun Olam has been able to distribute in: -

Victoria	241		
News South Wales	60		
South Australia	30		
Western Australia	250		
Queensland	26		
Basic Food Hampers Victoria	24		
TOTAL NUMBER OF FESTIVAL AND BASIC FOOD HAMPERS	631	=	\$35,000.00

120 Volunteers have partnered with us in 2015-2016 for purchasing, packing and delivering.

Part of the vision we have for Tikkun Olam food Hampers is that each recipient receive a personalized card. Beginning of February I sent out a general letter to Tikkun Olam donors and volunteers. In our mailing I inserted our Tikkun Olam brochure, which mentions our kindness ministry. As a result a member from Bendigo Church of Christ called to offer to volunteer hand written cards on behalf a group who has a hand card-writing ministry. Following is what she wrote:-

“I have begun to make contacts re supplying handmade cards and we will have some ready for you quickly - before Purim. It is a privilege to serve in this way. I will run this by Pastor Andrew tomorrow and also let him know that your office is forwarding 20 leaflets for the mission table in the foyer. So happy to let you know that we’re up and running - some women here are most willing to fill the gap in providing kindness cards to accompany food hampers. There will be ‘ample’ for Purim and these will be mailed by 11th March. They should be just in time for your packing on 15th March. Thanks for the opportunity to serve”.

Recipients of our Tikkun Olam hampers are being truly blessed and uplifted by the personalized cards. ***Following is a letter from one of our recipients.***

I would like to thank you all at Tikkun Olam for the thoughtful gift of Pesach foods. Well thought out and very appropriate. This will certainly help with meals. I will be delighted to announce over our Pesach Seder who gave us these treats, and our wine which we will make our blessings on. The gift card deserves a special thank you. It is simply beautiful, and took care, love and time to make. Thank you Margaret and Ruth, your cards are an elegant inspiration. Thank you to all of you for inspiring all of us to Tikkun Olam. May you forever hold a place here on earth, as we hold Tikkun Olam dear in our hearts. With love and much gratitude, From the Silvers.

Following are testimonies from our recipients and volunteers.

Perth Tikkun Olam Report: -

As I write this report for Tikkun Olam here in Western Australia, it is with great sadness and joy that I bring to everyone’s attention the passing away of Aaron (Errol) Mattingly. Aaron was a messianic Jewish believer, who with several others and myself helped start the work of Tikkun Olam in Western Australia under the leadership of Celebrate Messiah, Melbourne. Aaron loved his Jewish people and counted it all joy to deliver hampers to those in need despite his own failing health. Their love was reciprocated back to Aaron. He will be truly missed but we rejoice in knowing that he is reigning with his Messiah, Yeshua HaMachiach.

The favour of the Lord continues to be poured out upon this work here in the Jewish community in Perth. The number of those receiving the feast hampers continue to grow, which I believe, is due to the down turn in our economy. Individual Jewish leaders confirmed this when we spoke to them at the end of Passover 2016.

On a positive note, those receiving a hamper are so very grateful and overwhelmed by the love of Tikkun Olam. This love is expressed not only through the hampers but also through the personal touch of each volunteer committed to this most important work.

Recently when delivering the Passover parcels a dear Jewish man who has cancer was sharing where he is up to with treatment and has decided to go back to Israel for more treatment since here in Perth they can do no more for him. His wife and children will be staying here. I said to him I would like to pray for you he allowed me to do so, This dear man is not a believer nor his wife however as I finished praying everyone was in tears. The presence of the Lord was there working in their hearts. Please pray for him and his family that they may come to know their Messiah.

Another dear Jewish lady said to me at Passover I don't know how to repay you, you have know idea how this helps me and blesses me. This dear lady like all the others are always asking us to stay and have a cuppa with them.

In closing, Matthew's Gospel chapter 25:31- 46 encompasses what I believe Tikkun Olam is. "Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (vs. 40 – words of Messiah). "Thank you for your continuous giving" – words spoken from a hamper recipient.

Peter Boland and team

Gold Coast and Brisbane Tikkun Olam Report: -

Over the last year, I have distributed the food hampers to various Jewish individuals - widows, widowers and folk in Aged Retirement locations. I have sought to find those who are most in need of assistance, and have always been met with sincere appreciation, as they are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the various feasts with these additional food hampers. This at times gives rise to an opportunity to share about Yeshua HaMashiach and to leave some appropriate literature. I certainly appreciate the ongoing contact with some of my elderly Jewish friends.

Rachel a messianic believer in a Brisbane aged care facility is feeling blessed by receiving the festival food hampers.

Fraser Harding and team

Adelaide Tikkun Olam Report: -

Tikkun Olam continues to do good in South Australia. Our better testimonies are from 2 Israeli families singing the praises of such good work. Einav K. is in genuine need and I know that as a recipient of these festival food hampers, he sees this kind of work as an act of love in his favour. Avi G. and his wife from Henley Beach also see this goodness as a fruit. On receipt of their Passover hamper recently we were invited inside their home where we were given much hospitality. We had a pleasant conversation with his family of 5 all in one room. John and I have been involved with Tikkun Olam for about 6 years now. We know whom we stand for and appreciate the Melbourne office for supplying us. We solicit your prayers at all times. With thanks.

Leslie Schwimmer and team

Sydney Tikkun Olam Report: -

Thank you for the opportunity to share in the ministry of Tikkun Olam. It is a real privilege to be involved with this. Over the last couple of years, the giving of the festival food hampers has enabled relationships to develop and flourish.

One lady who lives 4 hours from Sydney invited me to stay in her home for a weekend. We had an incredible time-sharing and said she may come to Beit HaMashiach when she visits Melbourne for the June long weekend.

My neighbors and I have become very good friends and the festival food hampers were instrumental in this. As I have a five-year-old living in my house and they have a 7 year old, the children play together and even come to birthday parties. My neighbor knows the family living with me are believers in Yeshua and that the mother is Jewish.

My 95-year-old Polish survivor friend is always happy to receive a festival food hamper. He has come now quite a few times to Celebrate Messiah meetings and this relationship blossomed due to the giving of a festival food hamper.

Yesterday, I gave a festival food hamper to my Hebrew teacher, an Israeli young mum. I have been going to her home for 2 years now. She regards herself as secular, however yesterday she said "Baruch HaShem". She was very touched.

I love giving a festival food hamper to my fellow Hebrew student, the mother a Chabad Rabbi. Our relationship has blossomed to the point she invites me to her home, knowing I am a believer in Yeshua.

The first Friday afternoon after daylight savings changed back to wintertime, we were having a cup of tea in her home when she suddenly noticed it was late. She invited me to light the candles and say the blessing. I was the one who was very touched. Our friendship deepened because of the first festival food hamper given to her.

These relationships started out with the receiving of a festival food hamper and grew in strength at each festival time. Thank You for the opportunity the Hampers provide in reaching out to people in love.

Over the past year we have continued building relationships with our Jewish friends in the greater Sydney area. One of the most effective ways of building these relationships has been through the festival food hampers of Tikkun Olam!

These festival food hampers have opened many a door and has allowed us to become personal friends of the families.

Sadly one of these individuals passed away a month ago but we are confident that all the many "chats" over nearly 6 years have sown numerous Yeshua seeds in his spirit.

Another couple that we have been meeting with over the past 3 years has been showering us with gifts every time we visit. These meetings have reached the point where we openly talk about Yeshua and why we believe He is who He is!

Harry Haman and team

Melbourne Tikkun Olam Report: -

The delivery of our 4 Shavuot food hampers were going well, 3 were done and we had plenty of time to go ten blocks for the final drop, as we turned the corner into the street we noticed a lady struggling with a heavy load in a bucket; it was our last lady to deliver to, having had some repairs done to her driveway there were quite a few concrete lumps to be maneuvered into the bin. I offered to help and was allowed to relieve her of the weighty mess. So relieved was she that we were invited into her house for a cuppa, being ahead in our schedule we assented and were then plied with tea and biscuits. We sat in the rear garden and talked about life in general and then she graciously told us her life story, we sat fascinated with places far away and times long ago, she mentioned her faith in the G-d of Israel and this led to more amazing details of her faith in general. My co-partner then asked if she had a personal relationship with G-d to which she replied not really, so then we had a discussion about whether this was possible as the G-d of Israel had so protected and guided her through life surely this was a thing to be desired, we both gave a short testimony as to how we both had spoken to G-d and had Him work in our lives. Driving away we both prayed that our words would impact her thinking and that she would truly come to know personally the G-d she obviously has faith in.

Writing to thank you for bringing to me on every Yom Tov a festival food hamper. Many thanks wishing you all good health. Morry G.

S once more wanted to talk about Judas. She was puzzled that a Jew would betray another Jew. I asked if that was a Jewish concept as there was a case before the courts now. I think she said yes. I told her the Word states Satan entered into Judas & used him. She struggled with that concept. I said that's why I only go to clean movies. We can open ourselves to evil by what we see & hear. She didn't accept that. She has little understanding of Satan. But I have just remembered Jewish people don't accept original sin. Then she floored me by stating Jesus and Judas had concocted this plan together.! I sent out a big help to my Heavenly Father. I replied Yeshua is Hashem's Son he can't think evil thoughts. She said Jesus must have known what was happening. I agreed. She then stated Jesus died at Pesach. Once more I agreed and added He is your Passover Lamb. Yes she said He suffered and died for our sins. I said He rose again on 3rd day and he is probably standing right here listening to us. We both had to rush off. But I wanted to be sure re. S's thoughts so I asked S do you believe Yeshua is your Passover Lamb your long awaited Messiah? Yes she replied he died for our sins. I pushed a little and asked S did He die for your sins.? **Yes she said!**

I think I was in shock. S had no tears but had a brilliant smile. Me thinks the angels are having a big party in heaven. I can see where I can improve. I'm not someone who can think on their feet. Tears are beginning to flow. I've been used to save one of His Chosen ones.

Paul Hampshire and team

Making a donation to Tikkun Olam will provide a generous food hamper. This fund is tax deductible as the funds are used for benevolence. If you would like to make regular monthly support we can arrange set up with your bank. So please consider to make a donation towards helping in a practical and spiritual way those needy Jewish folks in our local community. An online donation can be made through our website <http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au/donate.html>. Please specify your donation towards Tikkun Olam in order to receive a tax-deductible receipt.

We as the Messianic community strive to see that Tikkun Olam creates not only blessing to the world, but also “*kedushah*”, a life of sanctity, purpose, and meaning. Join with us as we learn to give to those in physical and spiritual need in the Jewish community throughout Australia.

For our full end of financial year 2015-2016 report and further testimonies can be viewed on our website <http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au> under the Get Involved menu and select Tikkun Olam link.

May God Bless You
Barry Buirski