

The
Gateway
to
RECONCILIATION

*A true story of the love of God for
His people the Jews
as told to us by Pastor Helmuth and
Uli Eiwien as they lived it.*

Gail Harris

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Golden Eagle Publications
9821 W. Vassar Way
Lakewood, CO 80227-2890
To Order this Booklet
in English, German, Russian or Hebrew
E-Mail: **lwmisos@gmail.com** or Call (303) 989-2208

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Printed in the United States of America

Prologue

When Uli Eiwien, wife of Pastor Helmuth Eiwien of Wiener Nestadt, Austria was 16 years old, she received a very important calling from the Lord. In 1961, while on a visit to Switzerland, she was watching a slide show about Israel. There was a picture of Mount Carmel in Haifa that suddenly touched her very deeply. She explained that it was like a voice inside of her speaking, **“This is your calling.”** She went to her room and knelt down and prayed. She said, “Jesus, if this was from You, please give me something from your Word.” She opened the Bible to Ezekiel and in chapter 2 her eyes fell on verse 3 where she began to read, **“. . . I am sending you to the children of Israel .”** As she continued to read what the Lord was saying to Ezekiel, verse 4 jumped out at her where He said, **“I am sending you to them and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God’.”** He also showed her what was to become very important in chapter 3 -- verses 4 through 6 -- although the clarity of what He was speaking to her would not become evident until many years later. In verse 5 it said, **“For you are not sent to a people of UNFAMILIAR SPEECH and of hard language, but to the house of Israel.”**

She was very young but greatly in love with Jesus. She said, **“Yes! If you want, I will go.”** After this prayer she went to bed, and the next morning the presence of the Lord was in the room. There was an incredible peace in the room that she has never experienced before or since. She simply wasn’t able to move. After a while, as it subsided there remained a deep love from the Lord in her to the Jewish people. Strangely enough she had never seen or met one Jew in her life. Back in her home in Austria, she began to look for Jewish people but didn’t find any.

Uli then attended a Bible school in Austria, because she had made the decision to go to Israel. After that time she met and fell in love with Helmuth Eiwien, who was a student in preparation for the pastorate. This became a very big temptation for her, because Helmuth had no real feeling for or calling to the Jewish people at that time. This presented a very arduous situation for Uli to be with Helmuth. The courtship lasted five years before they finally married. It was always a battle within their spirits concerning the issue of Israel and the Jewish people. She knew she had the calling to the Jewish people, but Helmuth had said to her, “What shall I do as a pastor in Israel? I have no calling to Israel or a real heart for them.” After they were married, Uli still felt guilt that she had denied her calling and had perhaps lost it. It was a most difficult time.

In 1980, after ten years of marriage, they both were invited by a Messianic Jewish woman to Switzerland to participate in a week long seminar. By that time Helmuth had become a Lutheran pastor in a small city in Austria. During the week in Switzerland, both Helmuth and Uli received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In an instant, as the Holy Spirit fell upon them, Helmuth fell in love with the

Jewish people. It was not even a subject talked about at this seminar, but this supernatural love came to him, and from that time on Helmuth was open to the Lord to hear what He was doing with the Jewish people and with Israel. He joined with Uli in her calling. Three years later Helmuth and Uli had a strange experience. There was a Holy Communion at their Lutheran church. The people formed a half circle at the altar. Uli was looking down at the floor, and suddenly she saw a swastika in a stone on the ground! She was shocked! Then she looked again and it was no longer there. It had been a vision. Uli and Helmuth talked and prayed about what she had seen. Shortly after, Uli had another vision. This time she saw the church tower at their Lutheran church. It looked like it was a prison, and on the top there was another swastika! They felt the Lord was showing them something about the Lutheran church in this city where they were living at that time. They knew one elderly Jewish woman who had converted to Christianity and was now a member of their church. She had been in that city during World War II. They asked her to tell them about how their Lutheran church had been during the war and prior to their coming to it. What unfolded was the fact that this church was a place where Hitler's influence was not really rejected and where some important people were personally influenced by him.

The Lord then showed Pastor Helmuth and his wife Uli that there was something that needed to be done. They joined with about ten people from their church who were true believers and part of a prayer group. Together they went into the church building and closed the door from the inside so that no one else would know what was taking place. At the altar they then began to pray and confess the sins of the fathers and of the people of this church for the things that were done against the Jewish people. Some of the individuals in that prayer group were older and had lived in the time of the Nazis. They all realized that there was indeed a spiritual blockade over this Lutheran church in their city, and the Lord told them that they would receive the authority to break that barrier. As they wept together, they confessed the sin, asked for forgiveness from the Lord, and requested a breakthrough. From that very day on, the Lutheran church in the city started to change. There were conversions and individuals were transformed. Many of the people from that time in 1983 are now a part of Pastor Helmuth's new congregation today. The Lord told them it was very important to purify relationships with the Jewish people -- to go back to the past and learn history. Pastor Helmuth and his wife realized that there is an incredible connection between the blessing of the church and its behavior toward the Jewish people.

This event in 1983 was a preparation for the next step that was to take place in the city of Wiener Neustadt, just 10 miles away.



In 1990 Pastor Mag. Helmuth Eiwien, formally of the Lutheran Church, and his wife Uli of Neunkirchen, Austria, founded a non-denominational fellowship which they named *Ichthys Church*. From the beginning this has been an amazing story of prophetic guidance and unreserved obedience by a humble pastor and his wife and ultimately by an entire church body dedicated to hearing the voice of the Lord and to follow however He leads.

They met for two years in a village about half an hour from their present location in Wiener Neustadt and from Vienna. When it quickly became too small for them, they began to seek the Lord in prayer asking where they should go. They felt He made it quite clear to them they were to go to Wiener Neustadt and build their church building there. That was interesting since there was only one person from their church that even lived in that city.

It took two years before they could make the move, but during that time they answered the Lord's call to pray diligently for Wiener Neustadt. It was a very dry place spiritually, and some groups that tried for a long time to establish a work there failed. Pastor Eiwien and Uli began to ask the Lord, "What is wrong with this city?" Since it was the Lord's plan for them to go there and not their own, they needed to know why there seemed to be such a dark cloud over the city and how could this cloud be broken through.

During a time of prayer, the Lord spoke a strange thing to them. He told Pastor Helmuth and Uli that He wants to lie upon this city the same way Elijah lay upon the dead boy covering it in the same way - hand on hand, mouth on mouth. (1 Kings 17:21,22) They understood Him to mean that as the body of Christ, they should be the ones to lie upon this city. They asked Him "How do we do this? And, Lord, please tell us what is *wrong* with this city?"

Unveiling the Past

It was a small vision. Uli saw a book that was in great darkness. It was very black and she could only see the edges. Then suddenly came a bright light and it lit up part of the book. After a while she could recognize it was a specific part of the old city wall in Wiener Neustadt.

"I knew something was there but didn't know what it was. I had the feeling that the dark part I saw around this book was representative of some dark and evil part of the history of this city. The bright light was shining on some of the roots where I knew the explanation could be found."

The next day Helmuth and Uli went to the place at the wall she had seen in her vision. There they found that six Jewish tombstones had been affixed to the wall as a monument. Next to them was written an inscription: *“These tombstones came from a Jewish cemetery in Wiener Neustadt that was closed in 1496.”* They became excited because they felt the Lord now had them on a trail. Next they went to the library and began to search history books to see what happened around the year 1496. They discovered that during this time Wiener Neustadt was the second largest community of Jews in all of Austria. It was known to be a very beautiful place and the favorite city of Maximilian I from the Habsburg Empire.

They were surprised to read that in 1496 Emperor Maximilian I had issued a decree saying *that all Jews from Wiener Neustadt must leave the city and for all time and eternity they may not come back.* Pastor Helmuth and Uli then understood that this was a *curse* that was resting on the city. For 300 years after this decree, nobody from the Jewish population was allowed to settle there. Some of the Jews were allowed to come into the city but only during the day to do commerce. They were to live and sleep outside the city walls. Within 150 years from the time of decree, the entire city of Wiener Neustadt suffered destruction in a cultural and financial sense.

Only in the last century were any Jews allowed to return and very quickly a Jewish community developed. Before World War II there were 1200 Jews in Wiener Neustadt and it became the fourth largest Jewish community in Austria. In 1938 the Nazis came and again the entire Jewish community was destroyed. The majority died in concentration camps. Only a few escaped in time because the majority thought it would not be so bad. Then, of course, it was too late. Many of the Jewish children were separated from their parents and sent away to other places then later the parents were sent to concentration camps where most of them died. Again Pastor Helmuth and Uli saw that this was yet another spiritual stronghold over this city because of what had been done to the Jews at that time. The Pastors called their leaders together and they cried out to God for forgiveness. They asked that He would remove the curse from over this city. After this time of prayer, Pastor Helmuth and Uli still did not have peace. They felt that God was telling them that what they had done was still not enough. They should do something that was visible - not privately in a room- but something that others could see. It was then that the idea was formed that perhaps they could invite some Jews of Austria where, in a specific time and way, they could ask them for forgiveness. Then Uli had another vision which was connected to the first one:

“I saw a tree on the city wall in front of the gravestones,” Uli explained. ***“The Lord said this tree is the ‘Tree of Healing’ for this city. The interesting thing about this tree was that it had very, very old roots. Within these roots there was a young tree that was planted. I could see life as if blood pulsing throughout the tree. We felt that the Lord was saying that these roots that you see are the seed of Abraham that was sown 500 years before. The young tree is the body of Christ in this city and this specific tree will bring healing for the city and for the Jews.”***

The Plan is Established

In 1993 a friend with an established ministry, formally of Kansas City, visited Ichthys Church in Wiener Neustadt and brought about twenty people with him. They all were gathered together for a prayer meeting in their new, but yet unfinished, building. During this time of prayer, this man had a vision. He saw delegations of Jews from all over the world coming to Wiener Neustadt. He saw they were dressed very nicely as if they were going to a reception and he saw them there in that very building drinking juice. He said a word would come out of this city that would go to Jews throughout the world. This was extremely important to Helmuth and Uli because they had not spoken to anybody outside of their own people about what the Lord was doing with the Jewish situation. Their minister friend had limited knowledge about that which he spoke.

For the first time they completely understood what the Lord was saying. They actually were to invite the Jews from Wiener Neustadt, who had survived the Holocaust and were now scattered throughout the world, to come back to Wiener Neustadt in order to ask them *face to face* for forgiveness for what had happened. Of course, all of the survivors were children in 1938, so as the Eiwens set out to find names and addresses it was most difficult. Through a Divine intervention a miracle took place and they were able to get *one* address of a person in Israel. As it later became known, this person was born in Wiener Neustadt to the last head Rabbi of that city.

Now It Begins...

Pastor Helmuth and his wife Uli went to Israel to meet this man. They explained the entire story to him just as it occurred. They wanted him to know that this wasn't their idea but rather the God of Israel had put all of this in their hearts. They told him they were called by Him to ask forgiveness of the Jews from Wiener Neustadt for what had happened to them in that city. They were representing not only the population of Wiener Neustadt but the Christians because the church was very much a part of what happened in the persecution of the Jews in that city as well as other parts of Europe. In the middle of it all they kept asking him, **“Do you really understand what we're talking about?”** It was then they discovered he was an Orthodox Jew who believed in dreams and visions as a part of the Biblical history of his people. They all were amazed at how the Holy Spirit had bonded them together in the blink of an eye. They asked him if he would be willing to come to Wiener Neustadt with others they were seeking to locate and subsequently invite so that forgiveness might be asked of them face to face.

During their conversation with their new friend, they were surprised to find out that he had a list of twenty-five other Jews from Wiener Neustadt who were now living in Israel. He then told them that he had received an invitation from the Austrian government along with nine other Austrian Scientists who had been invited back to receive an award. The other nine went but he declined because the last thing he had heard when he was in Wiener Neustadt as a boy was **“You Jewish pigs - get out!”** The very next thing he ever heard from Austria was **“Come and receive your award!”** He said that

is not honest because there was something missing in between and so he was not willing to go to receive it. However when Helmuth and Uli invited him, he said **“YES!”** They were excited! He immediately arranged a meeting in Haifa for as many of the Wiener Neustadt Jews who were able to attend. He wanted Helmuth and Uli to tell them every single detail.

In the following months, the Eiwens planned a trip to Israel for the church and 120 people registered to go. They didn't just want to tour the land but especially wanted to meet the Jewish survivors of Wiener Neustadt. When Pastor Helmuth and Uli were in Israel, they did not formally ask the Jewish people to come to Wiener Neustadt but assumed they all understood the invitation and that they were in agreement. It wasn't until the congregation made the trip and met with the former Wiener Neustadt residents in Northern Israel and in Jerusalem that they received quite a shock. They found that the Jews had conspired together that they would *not* come to Wiener Neustadt. Helmuth tried again to tell them the reason they had invited them to come. They replied, **“If the mayor had invited us to come we would, but we're not willing to accept the invitation with money from private people like yourselves.”** As Pastor Helmuth gently explained to them that it was because of the guilt and sins of the church that they wanted to invite them back, the Jewish people were seated throughout the room with people from their church seated in between them. As the love of God flowed from the heart of the Pastor, it also flowed from each one in his congregation. Suddenly, supernaturally, the heart of every one of those Jewish survivors was totally changed. They said they could see it wasn't just the love of Helmuth and Uli, but they were experiencing the love of the *whole* church. Because of that they were now willing to come. *It was then Pastor Helmuth and his wife saw the importance in the eyes of God for the reconciliation of these Jewish people - so much so that God would send most of the church body all the way to Israel in order to bring these, His people, back.*

Walking out the Prophetic Will of God

Before this first group came (ultimately there were three groups in all), the leaders of Ichthys Church did one more thing. Announcements were placed in classified ads in German speaking Jewish newspapers all around the world. The ad said that they were looking for former Jews from Wiener Neustadt, Austria to come back and visit their city at a specific time and that if they are interested they should write to them. More than 40 people responded. These people had addresses of others, so now the church has accumulated about 90 different addresses of former Jews from Wiener Neustadt from all parts of the world. They believe they have found most all of the survivors who were born there. They wrote a long letter to each of those who responded telling them who they were, that they wanted to invite them, and why.

The last week of May 1995 found the first group of the surviving Jewish children that left Wiener Neustadt in 1938 returning to the place of their birth, most of them for the first time in fifty-seven years. There were thirty of them, and with spouses and relatives,

there were forty-three in all. Throughout the week many told the people of Ichthys Church how difficult it was for them to set foot back again in this place. One woman said she had not been able to sleep for a week beforehand from the fear of coming there again because the experience she had of being sent away as a child was so traumatic for her. The church met her, along with others, at the airplane in Vienna with roses. In the hotel they had put a little gift with a card quoting the verse ***“Comfort, comfort, My people, says your God.”*** The fear quickly dispelled. They were so drawn together in love that it was hard to describe. Upon visiting a large synagogue in Vienna one woman was quoted as saying to the head Rabbi, ***“After the holocaust, I didn’t believe that there was a God anymore. But during this week I have found my belief in God again.”*** Many similar testimonies were heard.

Upon the invitation of the Mayor, the Pastors accompanied them to a high school and there they told about the experiences they had during the holocaust. The news quickly spread through the media. The entire city was touched, so much so that since then a student exchange program has been established. In October 1996 twenty-one students from a high school in Bat Yam close to Tel Aviv came to Wiener Neustadt. In 1997 students from Wiener Neustadt are now, at the time of this writing, planning to go to Israel for a week. In addition, it is in their hearts that a city partnership with Bat Yam will be established.

And Now...Face to Face

The time they had been waiting for took place on Thursday of that week. It was a holiday and they had decorated the church beautifully with tables all around. The celebration was opened by Pastor Eiwien and he spoke to the group. He told them how the enemy had attempted to make Jesus the opponent of the Jews when really He *came* for the Jews. Although Pastor Helmuth didn’t deny their faith in Yeshua and many testimonies were given by the members of their church, both he and Uli felt strongly in their hearts that they were not to evangelize them. Instead, they *became* the Living Word. Then the long awaited moment arrived. Pastor Helmuth Eiwien stood before this small remnant of Jewish survivors and *face to face* he asked, ***“Please forgive us.”***

The teenagers danced for the people. They did Israeli dances - one that ended with a beautiful Star of David formed by the young troupe. Hearts were deeply touched as it reminded their Jewish guests of dances performed by some of them in their own youth.

Miriam Yaron, one of the guests, shared vivid memories of the night in 1938 when she and her family were violently dragged from their home in Wiener Neustadt and shoved into the town’s synagogue. She wept for the dolls she was forced to leave behind. Deported with her family first to Vienna and longing for her lost dolls, she would make daily visits to the window of a toy store that had beautiful dolls arranged on the shelves. Her father promised to find a way to buy her a doll for her birthday.

On that great day she had a beautiful doll with a porcelain head laid in her arms. But eight days later tears fell again as the doll dropped to the hard floor and broke. Miriam's father comforted his daughter and took her to a doll repair shop. When she went back to pick up her repaired doll, the lady at the shop became suspicious. She asked if Miriam was Jewish and the child - too young to realize what was happening- said, **"Of course, I'm Jewish."** The woman looked confused for a moment and asked about Miriam's blue-eyed father. **"He is certainly Aryan, isn't he?"** When Miriam replied that he was indeed Jewish the woman suddenly grabbed the doll, thrust it into the child's face and said, **"For Jewish children, we don't repair dolls!"** **"In this moment,"** Miriam related to the group before her, **"as a child, my self worth was snatched from me."** She had carried this within her and had never told anyone about it.

The happy ending to this story is that earlier in the week Miriam had shared what had happened to her over coffee while sitting with one of the church members. One evening soon after Mrs. Eiwien came to her with a carefully wrapped package. Upon opening it, she found a beautiful hand-made doll which had been given to Uli the year before. **"She gave me the doll,"** Mrs. Yarom told the gathering, **"and with this amazing act, she closed the circle for me. In Uli's gesture, I have found human kindness and my self-worth again."** *

Many other stories unfolded by the time all three groups had come. One woman in the third group told of her experiences that are too horrible to mention while in a Russian labor camp where she was held for ten years from age nine to age nineteen. Her father died at Dachau. She arrived in Wiener Neustadt with a face like stone and within a few days said she felt like a bright light had come into her life.

Another guest from Israel said **"I feel like I'm dreaming; God has healed so many wounds in me. Only God can do a miracle like this. It is like a soothing plaster on my heart and it heals."**

The Sabbath

God had given Uli a dream about one and a half years before the Jews came to visit them:

"I was in a Jewish service and at the front was a menorah with the candles burning. In the first row was an old man and he stood up and turned around as if looking for somebody. He motioned to a twelve year old boy to come to him. The man picked him up in his arms and said, 'You can blow out the candles.' At that point the little boy began to blow but he did not blow in the direction of the candles. He blew into the face of the older man. Then together the older man and the boy blew out the candles of the menorah. I heard a Voice that said 'The breath of the Father gives the breath of the Son the authority to blow out the candles.' When candles are blown out it means that something is coming to an end. We

understood the older man symbolized the Father and the child symbolized us and God was giving us the authority to end this bad chapter in this city's history. This dream helped our faith to remain high during the whole time we were planning the events ahead."

The son of the last head rabbi had a specific request to celebrate a Sabbath service when they returned because there would be more than ten Jewish men gathered together in Wiener Neustadt. Helmuth and Uli thought the best place to do this would be in front of the tombstones on the old city wall because that was the place where everything began.

Some days before the first group came, he called the Pastors with a request. **"May I please bring my grandson with me - he just turned twelve years old?"** He explained that as of two weeks before his grandson was allowed, for the first time, to say prayers in the temple. He wanted so much for him and his grandson to be able to say these prayers together in the Sabbath service in Wiener Neustadt. He also brought his son with him because there were now three generations that came along since the time that the last head Rabbi had left Wiener Neustadt. *They understood that now God was giving them a visible sign for the things that they had believed previously and that Uli's dream would become reality.*

The Sabbath service took place in front of the city wall in Wiener Neustadt. It occurred precisely the way Uli had seen it in her dream - even down to the way the Jewish guests and the church members were seated...*exactly* as she had seen it.

After the Sabbath service, a Sabbath meal was held in the hotel. An inexplicable joy suddenly broke through. They couldn't describe it - it was like an explosion. It began with singing. Then men stood up and began to dance with one another. The windows were wide open because it was so hot, and others could hear the singing all over the city. These were the sounds of a people who had been set free. They never would have imagined even being able to laugh in this city. One of the wives said to Uli, **"I have NEVER seen my husband dance!"** Godly joy had broken out and they were right in the midst of it!

Another miracle was the financial provision to host the guests of Ichthys Church. All the money for the airline, hotels and food, except for one small donation, came from the people in their church. Truly the love wasn't just coming from Pastor Helmuth and Uli - but from *all* the people.

THE 6TH OF JUNE

There have been three separate invitations for the Jewish survivors of Wiener Neustadt to return. Each time it had an impact on the city and the same manifestations of joy and

healing took place.

In August of 1995, another friend from Kansas City with an International ministry was visiting the Eiwen's in their home in Austria. At breakfast one morning, he suddenly saw the date "**June 6**" across Pastor Helmuth's forehead. While visiting Metro Vineyard Fellowship in Kansas City, Missouri in 1984, a woman whose ministry was affiliated with Metro and who had never met the Eiwen's, prophesied over them: "**You are people who pray for one specific city,**" she said. "**And this city will be a beachhead.**"

While in England over the holidays, the Eiwen's were prophetically reminded that on June 6, 1944, the Allied Troops landed in Normandy and established a beachhead through which they reached the rest of northern Europe. Pastor Helmuth feels they are like a troop of soldiers who were in the back of the ranks and then, like at Normandy, came to the front and formed a beachhead. From an article in *The MorningStar Journal*, "Dunkirk or Normandy," the Lord showed him a picture of two different armies...one with a retreat mentality and one with victory in their hearts. The Allied troops that landed at Normandy were convinced of victory. They were ordered to go forward and not backwards. The few little victories of the enemy were just his last gasping breath. The Allies' final victory was assured. Similarly the Eiwen's believe that *there* is an army God wants to build now, and He wants to establish a spiritual beachhead.

Do you, the reader, remember the story of Elijah and the dead boy that was related at the beginning of this article? Elijah lay upon him three times and life came back into him. On June 6, 1996, six years after the founding of Ichthys Church and 500 years after the time the Jews were first driven out of Wiener Neustadt, a gathering took place with the *third* group of invited Jewish survivors from Wiener Neustadt, and once again Pastor Helmuth Eiwen uttered the healing, directed words of the Lord, "**Please forgive us.**"

Isaiah 66:2b says, ". . . **But on this one will I look; On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My Word.**" That is Pastor Helmuth's and his wife, Uli's greatest wish. They want to be part of that beachhead for the Lord's work with the reconciliation of the Jew and Gentile.

In 1961 when Uli was 16 years old and had a visit from the Holy Spirit during a time in Switzerland, He had spoken her from the book of Ezekiel: "**I am sending you to the children of Israel.**" He also said, "**For you are not sent to a people of UNFAMILIAR SPEECH and of hard language**", **but to the house of Israel.**" She understands that now. **The Jews who came to them spoke Austrian German almost better than they did!** They didn't have to speak Hebrew or English or any other language but were able to speak normally with them in German.

Uli related the following:

"In January we were in Israel and we visited all of our new Jewish friends," Uli related. **"They invited all of their friends and relatives and we were together in**

homes with about twenty to thirty people. We spoke to them about their God, about the holocaust, and about the things that will be coming in Israel. As we read the Word of God, you could have heard a pin drop. In the groups were non-believers and some strong orthodox believers and all of them were taken captive in the same way by the Word of God that they heard *in the German language of their childhood*. There was so much love there.

“We are listening to hear anew from the Lord what the next step will be. We do think that in the meeting with our Jewish friends a new chapter has begun. An act of reconciliation has been completed. Now we look forward to a deepening relationship and to learn more to identify with them and their lives to better help them through our love and our prayers. May they know the love of their God in a more personal and intimate way. That is the desire of our hearts.”



On September 1, 1996 my husband and I gathered together with Pastor Helmuth, Uli and their congregation in front of the tombstones on the old city wall of Wiener Neustadt, Austria. Others present were in ministry from Kansas City and Nashville, who had just come with a group of intercessors from Russia where they had been working with, and ministering to, the Russian Jews. There were also present a few friends from America and other countries who shared in the vision of what God was doing with this church and the Jewish people. Something historical took place that afternoon that I find difficult to relate...but I will try.

A silver Chanukah menorah had been given to the Eiwens and Ichthys Church by their new Jewish friends. It had not been lit since the 6th of June when the reconciliation was completed. They were waiting for the right time which had not come until this day. Each of us who gathered at the wall on this occasion had previously had our hearts captured for the Jewish people. We were answering the call to do our part to pray that the promises made through the prophets of old for God's chosen people will come to pass in these last days. For this very time, we had been led of the Lord to find our way from different parts of the world to join with these precious Pastors and the others in this small town in Austria. We knew, by the Holy Spirit of God, that what was taking place in this congregation was significant in the Kingdom of God. We stood together in front of the city wall and our hearts overflowed at what we were witnessing.

As Pastor Eiwens and his wife, assisted by their church leaders and American ministry friends, prepared to light the candles, a strong wind was blowing. All of us formed a semicircle around them and a dove was seen flying overhead. The candles burned strongly. Words were spoken with some degree of difficulty because of the ever increasing revelation of the sovereignty of the moment.

Psalm 91 was read - appropriate because of the day's date, 9/1/96. We were abiding in

the *secret* place of the Most High where the Lord was revealing more of the *mystery* of His plan for the *reconciliation of Jew and Gentile*. We were standing in the very gateway that opened the heavens for the ushering in of this last days' promise. Pastor Helmuth and Uli had been assigned by God as the keepers of the gate and the love of God in them was the key. The prophetic act of lighting the candles of the silver menorah *given to the Gentile church by the Jewish people* was the beginning of the strategic opening of the **gateway of reconciliation**. What was already done in heaven was now being done on earth. For many of us who participated in this event it was the reality of standing in the pages of the Scriptures and literally walking them out - even as those who have gone before us. A shofar was blown. The angelic presence was overwhelming. We were like Jacob being wakened from his dream, when he said, **"This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven"** (Gen 28:17b.)

The Beginning . . .

Acknowledgment:

We wish to express our gratitude to Pastor and Mrs. Helmuth Eiwien for allowing us to relate this prophetic and deeply important story. The love we found in the Eiwens, in their leadership team, and in their entire congregation represents the true heart of God. It is not surprising, then, that the Lord used this small group of believers for such an important task -- to break through the heavenlies so that the long awaited gateway to reconciliation may be opened wide. This is only the beginning...

Rich & Gail Harris