

Teens Offer Perspective On Visit To Israeli Farms

SANDRA LEPLEY
Somerset Co. Correspondent
SPRINGS (Somerset Co.) —

Two teenagers from Springs in Somerset County recently returned from a six-month mission trip to Israel, where they were able to visit a Kaibbutz (pronounced Kabutz) or cooperative farmstead, as well as the country of Turkey and the city of Jerusalem.

Crystal Dornburg and Angela Maust, both 19, were in Israel during the Iraqi Freedom War and described their time spent there as a learning experience and a calling from God on their lives.

"I'd do it again in a heartbeat," said Dornburg. "I told myself before all this I was never, ever going to be a missionary. I liked it in the United States and that is where I was going to stay but I learned so much."

The teenagers mostly stayed in Tel-Aviv and helped teach a kindergarten class where Messianic Jews, or Jews believing in Christ, sent their children to school.

During their stay, they visited a Kaibbutz in the town of Yotvata. A Kaibbutz is similar to a cooperative farm only much, much bigger and more like a small town.

"They have everything in a Kaibbutz," said Angela. "There is a daycare, movie theaters, a gym, and stores. It's more like a communal living arrangement and there are foreign volunteers who go there."

Maust explained that there are three or four main dairy Kaibbutz farms, which are the main producing dairies for the whole country. They also have Kaibbutz farms that produce peaches, vegetables, and fruits.

"The whole country is so interesting. Our quarters in Tel-Aviv were just outside the Sea of Galilee and we could see the water as we looked out our window," said Maust.

Both Dornburg and Maust described Israel as a multicultural country with Jewish Russians, Argentineans, Americans and others from different countries. They both laughed about how one could walk down the streets of Tel-Aviv and pass a woman covered completely in cloth and another woman would be wearing a belly shirt and shorts.

"Judaism is a lot like Christianity in the United States," explained Maust. "Some are very devout, like Orthodox Jews, and others are Jewish by heritage but may not practice the religion at all."

During their stay, the teens spent two weeks in Turkey and also visited Jerusalem, which means they rode from the north of Israel to the south through the West Bank, which is considered a dangerous territory. They said that they each kept praying (for protection) during that bus ride. They were able to see the Wailing Wall, where they could look over and see the Dome of the Rock. They also visited the Mount of Olives and other places.

"I really felt safe in Israel, more so than in Turkey," said

Maust, who now helps as a cook with mission work in Ohio. "I live in Columbus and hear gun shots in the middle of the night. Israel was not like that. It was peaceful for the most part."

Despite the fact both girls felt safe in Tel-Aviv, there were times of trepidation as the whole of Europe faced an unknown war between Afghanistan and America.

At one point, the girls went to a training course on how to properly wear a gas mask. They often heard heated debates about the war in town but they felt as if most Israelis had a big amount of trust in America.

Both girls chose Israel as their first selection because they felt that was where God was leading them. But, almost a year of preparation went on before the actual plane ride over the ocean on Dec. 3 of last year for the six-month journey into the unknown.

Last summer, they each raised \$7,000 through various fund-raisers, donations, church dinners, and even selling their vehicles. They both belong to Maple Glen

Mennonite Church. Last fall, they each took a three-month training course in Columbus, Ohio.

"When a teenager sells their car, you know they are serious," said Pam Dornburg, Crystal's mother. "A car is everything to a teenager, so we knew they were planning to go through with the decision. We also realized our country could be going into a war."

Pam Dornburg explained that her daughter Crystal and seven other girls participated in 4-H International Foods contests when they were younger. Pam hosted them out of her house. Ironically, one of the other girls who participated in the class is now a missionary in Africa.

"We loved to study about foreign lands and prepare foods from different places," laughed Pam. "I just never knew where that would lead someday. I never thought my daughter would go to Israel during a war but prayers got us through it and now she is back home safe and sound and we are thankful."



Crystal Dornburg and Angela Maust, both 19 and from Springs in Somerset County, recently returned from a missions trip to Israel, where they mostly stayed in Tel-Aviv. While there, the two teens were able to visit a Kaibbutz, or farmstead.



Pictured by a rock near the entrance to Tel-Aviv, Israel are Crystal Dornburg, Angela Maust, Kristina Nisly of Albuquerque, N.M., David Diller, El Paso, Texas, and Zachary Miller, West Freedom.

Dad Is Important

NAZARETH (Northampton Co.) — Exciting new research is showing that a father's interactions with his young children is at least as important as the bonding that a child has with his/her mother.

Researchers in Munich, Germany, found that children whose fathers played with them in a supportive, sensitive, and challenging way at the age of two tended to have

better relationships with others during their adolescent years.

Dads like to play with their children, and what is learned during quality play cannot be underestimated. Children learn to take necessary risks, rise to new challenges, and explore cause and effect when they engage in recreation with Dad.

Moms tend to teach reasoning, creativity, and organization skills.

Moms and Dads alike have the same goal — to help their child make sense of and manage himself in the wider world. So, tumbling on the floor together is important after all!

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