

No Ordinary Week in Jerusalem

with Ruth Fazal and Gil Pentzak

HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED

God began putting the pieces for **NOW in Jerusalem** in place

some six years ago when Ruth Fazal enrolled in Gil's "*Ulpan Aviv*" to study Hebrew. "Our lessons are all one on one, between teacher and student," Gil explains. "From our conversations I could gather who Ruth was, what she believed and what she held as important. But what I found amazing was her genuine interest in who I was, what I believed and what I held as important. She did not ask questions to persuade me that my point of view was wrong; she simply wanted to know more about the land and the people of Israel."

Then, after two years of conversations, God put the next piece in place. Ruth was about to embark on a tour to England where she would be leading worship and speaking in churches and congregations around the country. "I realized that the one thing I wanted to share with my fellow Christians was what I was experiencing in Israel - about the land, the people and the God of Israel. Yet the more I wanted to share this with others, the more I realized that I did not know what to say."

That is when God intervened. "I can still remember the moment," Ruth says. "The sense of Him being in that moment was absolute. During our lesson, Gil asked me questions about the upcoming trip, and suddenly the idea was there. And so I asked him if he would be willing to write a letter for me, that I could take with me on the tour. A letter filled with everything he would want Christians to know about his people, about who they are, what they believe and about the land of Israel. "Could you write me a letter like that?" I asked.

Gil could. In fact, he not only penned the letter, he also made a recording of himself reading it. And when Ruth left on tour, she carried Gil's voice and his heart for the land and its people with her to churches and congregations all over England.

"I was amazed at how it touched and stirred people's hearts, how it knitted them to a person, instead of to just an idea of loving Israel. It gave them the opportunity to connect to a young father, an Israeli Orthodox Jew living among his people in the Promised Land. To connect to one who loves God with all his heart, mind and soul, and is seeking to do His will."

Upon returning to Israel, Ruth and Gil had the idea of filming a documentary, focusing on the very things that Gil had shared. The result was 'Between Heaven and Earth,' a 30-minute documentary filmed in the Land of Israel, in which Gil and Ruth explore the foundation of God's relationship with His people, Israel, and also with those who are "grafted in" through faith in Yeshua.

Then God put the next piece in place. In the summer of 2013, Gil and Ruth began hosting special worship evenings in Jerusalem for Christian groups on tour in Israel who wanted the opportunity of interacting and having a discussion with an Orthodox Jew. The evenings would start with worship in both Hebrew and English led by Gil and Ruth, followed by a conversation between the two.

"After hosting a number of wonderful evenings together, we had the idea of a tour," Gil recalls. "Our evenings only gave us an hour or two with a group. But if we had a week, we could really connect, we could have conversations that would speak to the very heart."

"And that is how 'No Ordinary Week in Jerusalem' was born," explains Ruth. "We have already hosted three tours and we are looking forward to welcoming our fourth group for another seven extraordinary days in Jerusalem October 30th-November 6th, 2016."

[Find out more!](#)

TO CONNECT WITH RUTH OR GIL PLEASE WRITE TO nowinjerusalem@gmail.com