



2020

FIRST-QUARTER REPORT



And just
like that,
EIN
enters a
new era

The COVID-19 crisis has affected every person, business and ministry around the world. It's not surprising then, that we've seen profound changes at Experience Israel Now.

Our 2020 trips to Israel have been disrupted and are in danger of complete collapse. We are not planning any group trips to Israel in 2021.

Our schedule for speaking in churches has been profoundly disrupted. April's events were canceled. Trips to Israel and a family vacation meant we hadn't scheduled any church events in May, June or July. And of course, churches aren't meeting anyway!

As for speaking in the fall, we've now got two rescheduled trips to Israel taking up space in the fall, usually our busiest speaking season of the year.

But every crisis is also an opportunity.

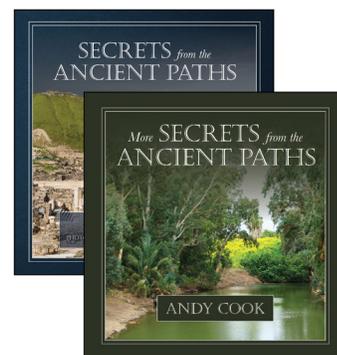
We've long wanted to help pastors, Bible teachers and small-group leaders learn how to use photographs and video clips from the land of the Bible in their own ministries. Now that pastors are scrambling to make effective preaching/teaching videos for their quarantined congregations, we've got an opportunity to do just that! We've already created some new resources for churches,

including two major video events we filmed for Palm Sunday and Good Friday. The photo on this page was shot during a filming session at Southside Baptist Church in Warner Robins.

We're beginning to push our resources and tutorial videos on a new website, ibiblestock.org, and its corresponding Facebook page.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our financial supporters, we're in sound financial shape. Though our ministry income for 2020 will be significantly lower, we're in little danger of running out of funds this year, and we even have money ready to spend on the promotion of ibiblestock.org!

We also have a new shipment of new, larger editions of two of our books due any day. "Secrets from the Ancient Paths" and "More Secrets from the Ancient Paths" will have larger type and more white space. Both books have new photos and content.



Two trips to Israel have been rescheduled from (1) April to October and (2) June to November. This has been very difficult for our travelers. Thirteen of our original 94 travelers have canceled their plans to travel with us. The others are hoping and praying the world will be in a “new normal” by the fall and our trips will take place.

Financially, this is bad news for both EIN and our travelers. The ministry has already given back \$44,260 in refunds, but each traveler that has canceled has not recovered \$650. We hope to recover some of those funds for them by the end of the year. Our profit margin on the trips will take a hit, obviously. In years past, our trips have been a significant part of our ministry income.

However, because we’ve been so blessed by such generous financial support in the past five years, we were able to send a \$5,000 gift to Boaz Shalgi, our tour guide in Israel. His business will struggle to survive the tourism downturn that is likely to last well over a year.

Please pray for our travelers, Boaz and Magi Shalgi and their family, and for these trips to take place safely in the fall.



A 2016 EIN traveler at Caesarea Philippi.



As Melody and I pray for you, **we covet your prayers** for us. We’ve survived the quarantine nicely, even enjoying a delightful visit from two of our grandchildren for a few days, including Easter Sunday. Melody officially retires from Houston County High School in a few weeks. Her dad is isolated at his retirement community in Macon. Andy’s special needs brother Dany is isolated at the Heart of Georgia DDM Home. We count our blessings every day and pray that we’ll have the health and energy to maximize this season of ministry.

Our opportunity to minister to pastors, Bible teachers and small-group leaders could be a blessing in disguise during this crisis. With churches not allowed to meet in buildings, pastors are scrambling to produce interesting sermons and Bible studies. They are fighting for the lives of their congregations.

We have tools for these pastors. Our challenge over the next few weeks will be in communicating with as many pastors as possible that photographs, video clips and the short lessons we’ve recorded on location in Israel can help them right now. Several resources, like those pictured here, are already in use.

Please pray for pastors and churches across the world. Most governments are allowing “normalcy” to return in stages. Large-group gatherings are consistently in the very last stage. Even when churches are allowed to meet again, they may be forced to limit seating capacities. Older members and those vulnerable to illness will not come back for a very long time ... if they ever come back.

Therefore, video-recorded messages and ministries are going to be more important than ever. **Please pray** that Experience Israel Now can make a profound impact on this new era! **Please pray** that we’ll make the right choices in advertising ibiblestock.org, develop the most effective tutorial videos and be open to new opportunities as 2020 unfolds. Time and financial resources are limited. We need God’s guidance on all that comes next!

