



Seven years!

September 1, 2022

EIN is celebrating a milestone

On the first day of September in 2015, no one knew whether Experience Israel Now would survive its seven months of full-time work.

At the time, no one had ever tried using so much video technology to bring the life-changing lessons from the land of the Bible to people who couldn't make the trip to Israel.

But thanks to an amazing community of support, today we're marking seven *years* of ministry and aiming for an even stronger future!

It's impossible to list all the highlights, but here are a few obvious reasons to celebrate our work together.

More than 72,000 people have seen an EIN presentation since Sept. 1, 2015.

More than 100 churches have hosted an EIN event. A lot of those churches have been in Georgia. But we've also been to Louisiana, Alabama, Florida,

South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky and Maryland. More than half of our churches have invited us to return for a second conference!

We've made more than three dozen presentations inside schools, more than 20

inside prisons, and completed one mission trip to Zambia.

And all of this despite a pandemic that closed international borders for two years and even shut down churches for several weeks in 2020. Only now are most churches returning to a level of activity they knew in 2019.



Since 2000, Pastor Andy Cook has taken 580 people to Israel. But in the past seven years alone, attendance at his Experience Israel Now presentations has topped 72,000! For every person able to make the trip, 125 have seen a presentation!

Getting to see the **GLIMMER** of a **MIRACLE**

The church was about as small a place as I'd ever been. Tucked away in a grove of trees, this was the church you'd expect to see on a greeting card. At first glance, it was picture perfect.

But look a little closer. The church was nearly swamped by its own cemetery. On the inside, only a few people were meeting each week.

"We almost had 30 last Sunday!" said the energetic young pastor. I marveled at his optimism and wondered again why I had traveled so far with so much equipment.

By the time we finished setting up, our rear-screen projection system filled the preaching platform, with only inches to spare. The projector was in the baptistery!

The church had done a good job of getting the word out about the "Israel conference," and people were thrilled to see 35 in attendance on that summer Sunday morning. They seemed to enjoy our virtual trip to Israel and the fresh understanding the land of the Bible gave them of a passage from Matthew 16.

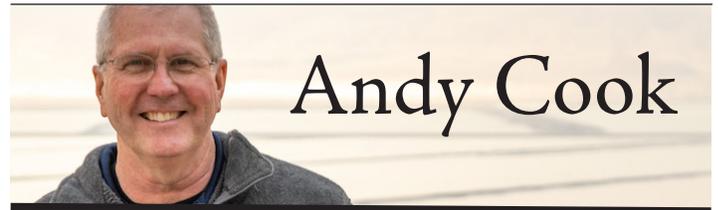
That night, 55 showed up! One man was especially excited. He told me it was the largest crowd he'd ever seen in the church ... "except for a funeral."

Ah ... those funerals.

So many churches are dying. I'm in dozens of churches every year, and few of them are vibrant and growing. Many are down to the last handful of senior adults. No matter how exuberant a young pastor might be, it'll take a miracle to revive any church that has aged out.

On this particular Sunday, I think we saw the glimmer of a miracle.

The pastor had told me that he had a baptism coming up the next week. It had been a year since the last baptism, and he could hardly wait! I made a mental note to get our projector out of the flood zone.



Once the service began, the pastor told his congregation about the upcoming baptism with a passion John the Baptizer would have admired. He implored the lost to join him in the water the next week.

As it happened, my lesson included a strong call to baptism, too. Toward the end of the message, there was a beautiful clip of a woman being baptized in the Jordan River. Her joy was obvious, and once again I marveled at how I'd come to have so large a library of professional video footage.

Have I told you lately that we now have the largest collection of drone video from biblical sites in Israel of any organization? I am constantly amazed at all that has happened in the past seven years!

Back to the church in the grove.

That night, as a crowd gathered for our second presentation, the pastor said he had an announcement.

Instead of one baptism the next Sunday, there would be three! Two more men had heard the call, seen the images, and responded to the Holy Spirit.

You and I can join the celebration, for we were a part of the miracle!

Thank you again for helping me do what I do. As we celebrate seven years of ministry, I'm also celebrating seven years of breath-taking generosity from too many people to count. You've given your prayers, your encouragement and your money to help make this ministry happen.

I can't wait to see the miracles yet to come!



Our second annual regional Bible conference will be hosted by Southside Baptist Church in Warner Robins. Join authors Cyndi Parker (above) and Andy Cook as they unpack more insight from the land of the Bible! Registration will open after January 1, 2023!

Prayer needs

Pastor Andy and his wife will be taking a much needed vacation (to Hawaii!) in September. Pray their time away will be restful and energizing.

Pastor Andy will have shoulder surgery in early October. Pray for a full and fast recovery!

Pastor Andy is working on several book projects and planning next February's regional Bible conference. Pray that he'll be led by God's Spirit as he creates these resources.

Our 2023 trip to Israel, hosted by GTI Tours, looks to be a sellout. Pray for this group as they prepare physically and spiritually for the journey.



We'll return to Hunter Street Baptist Church in Hoover, Alabama (above) in January. We're fully booked with trips to Israel and virtual tour presentations through May 2023!

So far this year, we've made 41 presentations with more than 5,100 in attendance. Churches seem to be awakening from their two-year-long, pandemic-induced slumber. Our events are helping churches revive their people both spiritually and in attendance.

Know of a church that could benefit from a "virtual tour" Bible conference? Send pastors to experienceisraelnow.com/presentations. And pray that prisons will soon open their doors again to ministries like this one!