



True Life in God Newsletter

"I come to restore My Vineyard ♡ be happy..."

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Vassula's Trip to the Holy Land May 28-31, 2005: Part One

On Saturday, May 28, 2005, The Ecumenical Inter-Faith True Life in God Pilgrimage concluded. Vassula and I departed for the Holy Land from Jordan. Accompanying us was Father Samir Habiby and Mezied, a TLIG reader from Nazareth, who drove us from Jordan across the border into the Holy Land (Beth Shean Bridge). It was a blessing that we had a special card from the advisor to the King of Jordan, Mr. Akel Biltaji, that helped us cross the Jordanian border as special guests of His Majesty King Abdullah II.

Upon arrival in Nazareth, we stayed at St. Margaret's guest house of the Anglican Church. We had been invited to attend the inauguration of the library of the St. George's school which would be followed by their graduation celebration. Mr. Akel Biltaji was to be a special guest speaker. He greeted Vassula in the gardens of St. Margaret's. He was so happy to see her again as he had just met with her in Jordan. The Right Reverend Riah Abu El-Assal, the Anglican Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East, also welcomed Vassula and invited us to the graduation where special seats had been reserved for us.



Vassula with Mr. Akel Biltaji on her right in the gardens of St. Margaret's, Nazareth

We then had a late lunch at the Rosary Sisters' place. They had prepared a special meal for us and some of the True Life in God Pilgrims that were staying there after the pilgrimage. We later went back to have dinner in the garden of St. Margaret's with Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal. Father Samir Habiby, who was Abu El -Assal's cousin, had set up this meeting. The bishop was truly happy to meet with Vassula and showed us wonderful oriental hospitality; very kind and gracious, he treated Vassula with much respect and honor.

Father Hatem Shehadeh, an Anglican priest in Haifa, joined us for dinner. To our surprise he had been reading the True life in God Messages for years. Although he was in Nazareth for the graduation, he hadn't known Vassula was going to be there, so he was delighted to meet with her and invited her to come back the following year and speak in his Church, St. John and St. Luke's in Haifa. Father Shehadeh offered to be her translator and help in her ministry. During dinner, Bishop Riah raised many questions of interest. He indicated he wished to meet with Vassula for breakfast the next morning.



Vassula, to her left, Bishop Riah, Father Hatem Shehadeh, and Father Samir Habiby

The next day, Sunday May 29, 2005, during breakfast with Bishop Riah, Vassula gave him the CDF book in Arabic and in English. He asked her to sign the CDF book for Patriarch Sabbah and assured her he would give it to Patriarch Sabbah who is the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem. Bishop Riah's grand uncle is Simon Strougi, who is one step below sainthood according to the Vatican. Bishop Riah expressed to Vassula that he sees materialism as having a great influence among Christians. Jesus does mention in the messages that materialism and rationalism lead to atheism. [September 19, 1991](#)



Vassula showing Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal TLIG material in Nazareth

After breakfast, we went to meet with Archbishop Georges Haddad, who is of the Greek Melkite Catholic of Acre, Haifa, Nazareth, and all Galilee in Israel. We went to his Church of St. Peter and Paul. After the service there was a small reception in the hall where coffee and sweets were served. The Archbishop introduced Vassula to his community and asked her to speak about True Life in God and her experience. An Arabic translator assisted.

She told them that she has been called by our Lord twenty years ago and He gave her a mission for Unity for the benefit of the Church. She didn't ask for this mission but the Lord has asked her to serve him. He asked her, "To serve him among the people who scourge me, spit on me, who have abandoned, me, and re-crucify me". These messages are for reconciliation, conversion, repentance and unity. She told them how Our Lady has also given messages. They both are calling for a true Unity of the Church. Vassula said that the Lord says that the dialogues are good but He wants action. "Show your love and your faith by acting around one altar and that is Unity for the Lord".

One last thing, when the Lord is speaking about repentance and reconciliation it is not only for the Church. It is with our families as well. Also, forgiveness, "to forgive." She said when she thinks about the Messages and the Scriptures all of what God is saying you can define it in one sentence. "Love one another as I love you and serve Me." What does serve Me mean? God is living in each one of us. We are to serve one another and help one another. That is to serve the Lord. (During this time, the Archbishop was constantly bowing his head as she was speaking. He was agreeing with everything she was saying.) She told them that we will all be judged according to the measure of love we had here on Earth.



Archbishop Georges Haddad with Vassula in Nazareth

He then invited Vassula to join him and his community for a special luncheon.



Vassula with Archbishop Georges and Fr. Habiby to her right, at lunch in Shefar'am, Nazareth

Georgia Klamson

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Beth Myriams: The Call and the Fruit



"Now listen to Me and write these words:

establish Our Beth Myriams everywhere you can. Lift the oppressed and help the orphan. Protect Me, rescue Me from the gutter, shelter Me and feed Me. Unload My burden and fatigue; support Me and encourage Me. All that you do to the least of My brethren you do it to Me... I bless the supporters of My life.

May they remain virtuous and all-loving.

I am with you..ic" [March 27, 2002](#)

"Now many Beth Myriams have opened around the world in several countries. The main thing that the people will be served in these Beth Myriams will be Love...the Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ as we endeavour to serve Him by serving one another...but also a warm

dinner and sometimes clothing, sometimes medical treatment and sometimes schooling. Not all are called to work in these projects, but Jesus does teach us to be generous with our love in other ways." Vassula

On May 23, 1986, Vassula's Angel, Daniel, said to her: *"collect money and give it to the poor needy souls...be generous."*

The usual progression is reading the Messages, trying to live the Messages, starting or joining a TLIG prayer group, being inspired to do more for God. Some do prison ministry while others start a Beth Myriam using the Guidelines on the TLIG Website; only TLIG people work in the Beth Myriams; other TLIG readers support the Beth Myriams with prayer and financial donations.

"...enlarge My Vineyard, daughter, and I will extend all the fruits of My Vineyard and its boundary will have no end; - My Plan is to save you all..." [March 18, 1995](#)

To learn more about the Beth Myriams and their locations around the world, and how to make a donation, click on Beth Myriam in the left menu on the Home Page of www.tlig.org.

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"Take Care of it, Lord" - A Trusting Prayer

As soon as I returned to Brazil from the 2005 Pilgrimage, a woman who frequently has come to our Beth Myriam for quite awhile started to bother me. She was constantly telling me about her son who, she said, was in a deep depression. He is married and has two children, the younger being only one month old. She said that he is always in his room and crying all the time.

I thought, "But what can I do about that? This house is only to give people food, for their bodies and their souls." I have to confess that the next couple of times she came I just didn't know what to say or what to do. I looked at Jesus and said: "Take care of it, Lord!!! She bothers me every time she meets me."

So the Lord did the following. Every Saturday we have a doctor who comes to examine the children. So I asked her to try to do something for that man. The doctor talked to his mother and gave her the medicine for depression, so that she could give it to her son.

After ten days, she came again and told me that her son was much better. He was even helping his wife, but the problem this time was about his job: he was unemployed.

I admit that I got angry. I thought, "We fix something and then another problem comes up! What an annoying thing!" I called her and told her very straight: "I'm giving you this Rosary now and today you are starting a novena to Jesus' Mother every day at 6 p.m. because the Angel visited Mary at that time. So ask Mary to find a job for your son! But you must not miss the novena any day and don't forget the time."

She said she would start it that very day and then she left. On August 3rd, the 8th day of her novena, she came into the Beth Myriam and said: "Ms. Gloria, the mother of Jesus is powerful! Tomorrow I'm finishing the novena and today my son starts working and he has a legal job!"

I wept a lot, because when I told her to pray I was really lacking patience. The miracle happened in two ways: the Virgin helped the man and also touched my heart. I think I was the one who received more.

Maria da Glória Cavalcante
Responsible for the Beth Myriam in Goiania, Brazil

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Dr. Emilio Crosby's Testimony from Peru

This is to testify how prayer of the Holy Rosary and the readings of the Holy Bible and the messages given to us through Vassula have made me change my way of living and my way of looking at the world, culminating in work in one Beth Myriam and plans to open a second one in Peru, which are the fruits.

I started visiting a friend's house where my wife went every Tuesday to pray the Holy Rosary. But since she went at 6 pm. and did not return until past 9 p.m., I arranged one day to go pick her up.

I was invited to enter and heard about the True Life in God Messages. I became interested (we only have 6 published in Spanish in our country) and started to read the books of Messages.

For about five years, praying the Rosary, and reading Scripture and the Messages, I began to understand the depth of love the Persons of the Holy Trinity have for us and how immense Their mercy is. They had forgiven my sins even before I asked Them to do so.

About the same time as my wife and I were going door to door to bring people the Word of God, the first Beth Myriam opened in our city, Lima, Peru, and we started working there every Monday. At the beginning I only helped serve the food, read aloud and explained the Word of the Lord and the messages from Vassula. Since I am a medical doctor, I was able to take care of some medical problems of the poor people that visited our Beth Myriam. As time went on, my health ministry grew to sometimes four hours on Mondays. I wrote letters to the pharmaceutical laboratories which responded by sending me some medicines that I could use to treat illnesses, and even today I am writing new letters in order to get more donations of medicines.

At present we have our weekly TLIG meetings on Thursdays with the help of Father Antonio Acuña, Pastor of the parish in Ventanilla, Lima, Peru. My wife and I have been incorporated into the Parish Council and besides attending the Rosary and Mass daily, we are actively working with Father Acuña. With him we analyze in depth the Sunday gospel and the questions and the

enlightening answers of Vassula in the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith Clarification documents.

All these changes in my life are the fruits of the TLIG Messages received by Vassula, and as the Lord says, by good fruits we will recognize Him in the Messages.

In the future I intend to open a second Beth Myriam in our city, where extreme poverty is very high, and I am praying for guidance. My plans include a web page where all the donations could be published and the use of all that money would be very clearly expressed, together with good administration and the creation of an Association recognized by the Peruvian government to receive tax exempt donations in order to secure a continuous work of the Beth Myriam; that should incorporate a complete clinic for the attention of the poor people's illnesses, including diagnostic facilities, like laboratory and X-ray facilities and also pharmaceutical assistance at no cost for the poor. This last part is still in my mind, but I expect to put it into reality very soon, with the help of The Lord, our Holy Mother and all of the readers of this TLIG e-Newsletter.

I thank you for your interest and for all the help you will give me, thus sharing in the fruits of my pursuit of the plans for a second Beth Myriam.

Thank you very much,
Emilio Crosby, M.D.

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The Fruits at the Beth Myriam in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

With joy in our hearts, we would like to share with you some of the material and spiritual graces and benefits that happened and are still happening in the Beth Myriam of Belo Horizonte, Brazil - graces that show the loving and merciful presence of Jesus and Mary:



Archbishop Dom Walmore de Azevedo came to bless the Beth Myriam; to his right (gray hair) is Altino Mota dos Santos, responsible for the Beth Myriam, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

One of the volunteers, who was sick, almost never went out of her house, because she always fell after walking some meters and couldn't hold anything with her hands, due to problems in her wrists. After going to Beth Myriam, she doesn't feel anything more and now she is one of the volunteers that do the washing-up in the house.

Four children stopped being "pushers."

We are offering about 700 dishes of soup a day, from Monday to Friday (40 gallons which people carry to their houses for their relatives plus those ones served in the Beth Myriam).



Serving with love the meals

In the beginning of this year, somebody made an illegal connection in our telephone. After a few days, a man who lives in that community (and whose children receive our soup) searched the volunteer coordinator and told her about the connection. He knew who did it, it was one of his children, so he said to his son to stop doing that, because "Beth Myriam is God's work and nobody can touch it," he said.

Another volunteer had an annoying neighbor (a drug dealer) and she couldn't sleep at night, because of his "business." After the prayers said by people involved with the Beth Myriam, including the volunteers, the neighbor moved fast and mysteriously.

On Corpus Christi Day, we not only received a second fridge (so needed), but we also witnessed the conversion of three people who eat at the Beth Myriam and their families. They belonged to a sect which is very much against Our Lady. On that day, one of them asked if he could say the

second prayer, after praying the Our Father (as we always do before serving the soup). And he said, weeping: "Forgive me, Holy Mother of God, for the stones that I threw on You in the past. And now You are feeding my family..." and continued: "Hail Mary, full of Grace..." And everybody followed him, weeping.

Recently, we were informed that people in that community are using 50% less free medicines on the Public Health Center of the community, after the Beth Myriam started its activities.

A young man who is sick (Aids) and had already received the Extreme Unction and never went out of his house is much better now, after eating our soup. Today he can go for a walk and always brings a little gift to Our Lady and the volunteers. There are other similar stories that happened to sick people.

We know about some people who were beggars but now started working in activities like washing cars, collecting garbage, etc, and stopped begging after having food in the House, where they are respected and loved. And they are very grateful: they always make a donation, sometimes food, sometimes money. Recently, one of them said: "Here is Catholic Church, isn't it? I want to tithe." And gave us R\$0.30 (about U\$0.10, his entire salary of that morning). The day after, he gave us R\$1.00 (about U\$0.30 cents). That make us remember Mark 12: 41-44. We got very touched!



Working for Jesus in our Beth Myriam

We have found some difficulties, but we are happy and victorious, since we always trusted God's Providence and also our friends generous and spontaneous help, friends whose goodness (that maybe was just asleep in their hearts) makes possible the Beth Myriam work. Together, we are helping our needy neighbor, doing things that please God and helping, even a little, to build a better world.

There is a fundamental thing in everything that is done, received, given and shared in Beth

Myriam: the fraternity and love – towards God, Mary and our neighbor. A feeling that is present, above all, in the daily, detached, faithful and happy work of the volunteers. We thank and bless through Jesus and Mary all of them and all of you for supporting us.

Altino Mota dos Santos
Responsible for the Beth Myriam of Belo Horizonte, Brazil

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Scriptural Enrichment of the 2005 Pilgrimage

It was wonderful to share with all of you who attended the Fourth International Ecumenical Pilgrimage of True Life in God through Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

(Editor's note: Have your Bible at hand because whether you went on the Pilgrimage or not, these contributions by Father Vinke are enriching for everyone and show how Biblically enriching going on a TLIG Pilgrimage is. The next one is on the Mediterranean at Greece, etc., in 2007).

Here are some Biblical quotations related to some of the sites visited.

Some of us could see the famous cedars of Lebanon, referred to in a few Psalms. For instance: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon" (Ps 92, 13; cf. 29, 5-6; 37, 35-36; 72, 16; 104, 16; 1 Kings 5, 12 Song of Songs; Is 2, 13; Ezek 31; Song 3, 7; 4, 8.11).

We were near the legendary cities of Tyre and Sidon, mentioned in the Old Testament (cf. Ezek 26-28) and in the Gospels..."Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgement, than for you." (Mat 11, 21-22; Luke 10, 13-14). "Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts..." (Mat 15, 21-28; Mark 7, 24-30).

We saw from the hill where stands the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mantara, the village of Sarepta, also mentioned in the Old Testament (cf. 1 Ki 17, 7-16) and in the Gospels... "And he said: Verily I say unto you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land. But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow" (Luke 4, 24-26).

From different outlooks we saw Mount Hermon, referred to in Psalm 133: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is...as the dew of Hermon, as the dew that descendeth upon the mountains of Zion..." (Ps 133, 1-3).

We were in Damascus, the city Saul was journeying to when he was surrounded by a great light... In the New Testament there are several accounts of Saul's conversion and how he took

the name of Paul (cf. Gal 11, 11-24; Acts 9 1-25; 22, 4-16; 26, 9-20). It was very impressive visiting Ananias' house, finding oneself before the walls of the old city, from where he was lowered in a basket by his disciples...Very impressive also to find out that John the Baptist's head is kept and revered in the famous Great Mosque of Damascus (cf. Mark 6, 14-29; Mat 14, 1-12; Luke 3, 19-20; 9, 7-9).

We dipped our hands in the waters of the Jordan River, in the same place, presumably Betania, or "Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing" (John 1, 28; cf. Mark 1, 9-11; Mat 3,13-17; Luke 3, 21-22; John 1, 29-34).

As we approached Petra, we visited the source of Meribah, referred to in the Book of Numbers (cf. Num 20, 1-13) and in the Psalms (cf. Ps 95, 8). One of the most moving moments during the Pilgrimage was the visit to the funerary monuments of Petra, city mentioned in the Old Testament (Is 42, 11). Petra was the capital of Edom, so many times mentioned in the Old Testament (for example: cf. Isaiah 21, 11-12). It was the city of the Nabatean, the descendants of Nebajoth, mentioned in the Book of Genesis as the son of Ishmael, and therefore Abraham's grandchild (cf. Gen 25, 12-16).

We went up to Mount Nebo, where Moses had a glimpse of the promised land (cf. Deut 32, 48-52) and died (cf. Deut 34, 1-5).

On the last day we made a stop by a stream called Jabbok, mentioned in the Book of Genesis during the episode of Jacob's fight with God: "And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had. And Jacob was left alone, and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day." (Gen 32, 22-32).

Finally we walked among the ruins of the Roman city of Gerasa, where Jesus, according to Mark and Luke's Gospels, performed an exorcism (cf. Mark 5 1-20; Luke 8, 26-39). Contrary to this, Matthew's Gospel places this episode in Gadara (cf. Mat 8, 28-34) which is far more likely, because all around Gerasa there is no lake as the one referred to in that episode, when the herd of swine "ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand) and were choked in the sea" (Mark, 5, 13).

Warmest greetings,
Father Ramón Vinke, Venezuela

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Second Call to Clergy who attended the 2005 Pilgrimage: Send us your Responses to any one of your Experiences of the 2005 Pilgrimage

Please follow these guidelines. Your story may be completely anonymous if you wish, and your name or email will never be shared, even inside TLIG. Describe any experience during the 2005 Pilgrimage that changed your attitude and understanding of Church Unity or anything else related to ecumenism. We need encouragement and inspiration from others' efforts to understand Church Unity. Let's get down to the real honest basics and be very practical and

specific. Not all submissions will be published, but are at the total discretion of the editor. At the least, please send something for January, 2006 Unity Week. Thank you.

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First Call for Stories from TLIG Readers in the Gulf Coast Katrina and Rita Hurricane Devastation

Now possibly scattered around all 50 states in America, TLIG readers or prayer groups are no doubt helping one another and others who survived Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Send us a short story or report about what happened to you and your dear ones. Tell how your knowledge of the TLIG Messages influenced you in bearing the heavy cross of the devastation.

Know that all TLIG people around the world are praying for you.

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