

Friday, March 18th

Reporting in from a tired bunch in Jerusalem. Today was an extremely emotional day at the Jerusalem Holocaust Museum (Yad Vashem). It was moving for Christians and Jews alike as many had some personal stories from a number of sides. We gathered after to reflect and some of these stories came out. One was from a person who has devoted his life to children's health...and about to enter the part of the memorial honoring the 1.6 million children killed.

Today was Kathleen's birthday and she decided to spend it in bed with a stomach virus...nice to have 7 medical people in the group!

This afternoon was spent in the markets mixing in the chaos of the city scurrying about preparing for Shabbat - total confusion of people, smells, colors and sounds. It was actually a wonderful antidote to the morning's solemnness. The holiday of Purim starts tonight so we are also seeing the Jewish equivalent of Halloween with costumes and lots of children with smiles on their faces.

Tonight is Shabbat services and dinner. Thinking of you all...there are some personal connections in our group to Japan so our prayers have been circling the earth.

Shalom,

Jeff

POG continues to be having a blast! In the markets POG was constantly stopping for Israeli pastries which he has developed quite a taste for.