

JEWES F☆R JESUS™

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All the fruit is handpicked in the field of Jewish evangelism; in other words, you don't see droves of Jewish people pouring forward at an altar call. Most come to faith one by one, and usually after much diligence, patience and a lot of follow-up. I'm so thankful for friends in the body of Christ who rejoice over the slow but steady stream of Jewish people who are continually coming to faith. I'm especially thankful for you in light of a growing trend I've been seeing.

It seems like more and more missions committees and Christian foundations are applying the ROI (return on investment) business principle to ministry. In many cases, the more tangible results an organization reports, the more likely they are to receive support.

I will never forget receiving a letter from a Christian foundation that had encouraged Jews for Jesus to request their support. When we did, they declined the request. They explained, "Jews for Jesus reports hundreds of people saved per year, whereas we are

able to support ministries reporting conversions in the tens of thousands per year."

I'm sure that God does move tens of thousands of people per year to receive the gospel in some fields. But I know of no Jewish ministry that can accurately report that kind of response. Using proof of ROI to determine whom to support in fields like ours puts people in a position to compete, when we really need to cooperate, and unknowingly tempts people to exaggerate and make unsubstantiated claims.

As the leader of Jews for Jesus, I'm responsible to evaluate our ministry's effectiveness. We want to do the very best we can for the Lord. Our core values include accountability to Him and to those who support or might support our ministry. That's why we keep records, not only of our efforts, but also of any tangible results we have the privilege to see.

Even so, when I evaluate our ministry, I look for evidence of sound doctrine, good stewardship, a bold and creative

witness, and just plain faithfulness in doing the day-in, day-out work of evangelists (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). That is how I measure success because, after all, we can't take any real credit when we see people won to Him. All the honor and glory belong to God as His Word teaches: "So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:7).

I'm so thankful for brothers and sisters in Messiah who encourage and support our efforts to be faithful to our calling, trusting God to bring the increase. I'm grateful for churches that see their prayers, gifts and invitations to have us speak in their pulpit as an important component to fulfilling the Great Commission. Together we are partners in caring for those God cares about, reaching out to those whom many have dismissed as unreachable.

It is humbling to partner with the Creator of the universe as He draws people to Himself. It's also humbling to realize that we are partnering with others who are partnering with God, even when we haven't met them. Most



David Brickner
Executive Director,
San Francisco USA

The Increase



Sergio Danon leads our Jews for Jesus work in Brazil. Once a year he and his family do a weeklong marathon outreach for the crowds at Carnaval



salvation stories reveal a combination of people and circumstances, seemingly random, yet orchestrated by God. More than once I've thought God used me to lead someone to faith, only to discover that I was only one part of their journey, and not the most significant part at that! Most of our missionaries can tell stories of years spent witnessing to someone, seemingly to no avail . . . only to find out later that all they "invested" did bear fruit as someone else prayed with that person to receive the Lord.

These spontaneous, often unknown partnerships are part of the beauty of the body of Christ, how we work together and how we learn to give God all the glory. So, why not be more intentional about partnerships that could lead to an even greater increase? With that in mind, we have been focusing a lot more on partnerships these days at Jews for Jesus.

One such partnership has been with my friend Jonathan Bernis, who leads a ministry called Jewish Voice International. One aspect of Jonathan's ministry is his "Messianic festivals," a series of large evangelistic meetings with music, dance and preaching in places such as Russia,

Ukraine and Germany. Almost since he began these Festivals, we have been partnering with Jonathan, especially in the area of follow-up. Jewish Voice International turns over any Jewish contacts they receive at these festivals to our missionaries in those countries. We contact them all one by one, seeking to continue ministry to them in person.

And speaking of follow-up, it sometimes works the other way around. Sergio Danon leads our Jews for Jesus work in Brazil. Once a year he and his family do a weeklong marathon outreach for the crowds at Carnaval, where many people they talk to are drunk or high. Even when he prays with people to receive the Lord, it's hard for Sergio to know if they will remember what happened the next day. He's had to push through feelings of discouragement to remain faithful. Then last year, a week before the outreach, Sergio attended a pastors' brunch. The chairman introduced him to speak to seventeen pastors, saying, with tears in his eyes, that five members of his church had become believers through the ministry of Jews for Jesus during Carnaval. He then said, "Sergio, we have no idea

how many other churches have been receiving people that you have been witnessing to throughout these years. Only the Lord knows." Thank God for these churches, who were able to encourage Sergio about "the increase." (Online see the photos here: <http://www.jewsforjesus.org/publications/realtime/march-2014/carnaval>)

As we continue to forge new partnerships, I'm excited to tell you that we're in the process of working with an organization named Delta. Together we're laying groundwork to make all kinds of ministry opportunities in the land of Israel available to Christians here in the U.S. This is a long-term project, and we will keep you posted.

Who can place a value on the life of one person? Thankfully, whether it is one or ten thousand and one, all who love the Lord have the privilege of partnering together with others—not so that we, or they, are considered "anything"—but so that the increase comes from Him. I think it is all so very worth it, don't you? Thank you, dear Jews for Jesus partner, for your part in this increase. May all praise and glory go to God!

ADDRESS INFORMATION

JEWES FOR JESUS AUSTRALIA

E-MAIL: mail@jewsforjesus.org.au WEB: jewsforjesus.org.au

Phone in Australia: +61.2.9388.0559

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Courage can be contagious

On March 5 (which in Jewish tradition begins at sundown, March 4) Jewish people around the world will celebrate Purim, which is based on the biblical book of Esther. Be sure to wish your Jewish friends a happy Purim (just remember it's pronounced "poor-im" not "pure-im." "Purim" is the plural form of "the lot" referred to in Esther 3:7, when the lot was cast to determine the day Haman's wicked plot to annihilate the Jewish people of Persia would be carried out. This is a minor Jewish holiday, compared to Passover and Tabernacles.

The heroine of Purim is, of course, Queen Esther, and the point of Purim is that God works in wonderful and unexpected ways to preserve His people. God used Esther's beauty to place her in the court of the king, so there would be an advocate for the Jewish people when Haman's wicked plot unfolded. But in addition to her beauty, Esther had the courage to risk her own life by approaching the king to make the plight of her people known. And, as the book of Esther records, those who wanted to destroy the Jewish people were destroyed instead.

Purim celebrations often include parties and pageants where children dress up as various characters from the book of Esther. The entire book of Esther is read in the synagogue with lots of noisy cheering and booing. Some people send gift baskets to the poor on Purim. It's also a time for jokes and pranks among many who consider it a Jewish version of

"April Fool's Day."

Purim is a great time to reflect on God's sovereign role in the preservation of the Jewish people. And it is an important opportunity to reflect on how God chooses to use people who are willing to take risks for His purposes.

A Christian application for Purim might go something like this: God keeps His promises and works against seemingly great odds to save His people in unexpected ways. So if you don't expect that you can do much for God's kingdom, guess what? You are a perfect candidate. Ask Him to speak to you about how He wants to use you. And, if God puts you in a position of favor with an unbeliever, whether Jewish or Gentile, maybe His plan is for you, like Queen Esther, to do or say something courageous for His redemptive purpose. Maybe it is you He is waiting to use as an instrument of His salvation in that person's life.

As it is written in Esther 4:14: "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Can courage be contagious? When the source of that courage is confidence in God, absolutely!

Learn more about Purim at <http://www.jewsforjesus.org/judaica/purim> where you'll not only find interesting articles, but a fun holiday video, recipes, a free Purim e-card and more.



Festival of Festivals

Chag haChagim is Hebrew for “Holiday of the Holidays” (pronounced Khahg ha Khah-geem) and it’s also the name of an annual street festival in Haifa. Every December, crowds of people pour in to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas and the coming New Year. It’s a wonderful opportunity for us to partner with other believers in the Land.

Praise God, this year we took the names and contact info for about 40 Jewish seekers. Please pray for a fruitful follow-up! Here are some reports from our time at this year’s Chag haChagim.

Sarah Danor:

“On Shabbat, my husband Tzachi and I joined a team of believers from our congregation, and from other ministries in Israel, to support an outreach of an Arab congregation in Haifa that takes place during the month of December at a holiday street festival. Our T-shirts proclaimed “Yesh Tikvah!” (“We have Hope!”) and we handed out books and pamphlets in Hebrew, Arabic and Russian from a table we had set up at the festival.

“I explained to a man who asked me what this was all about that we are Jews and Arabs who have hope for the future through our faith in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, who died to atone for the sins of Jews and Gentiles alike. Chaim* said, ‘Ah! Jews for Jesus!’ He became very interested as I talked to him and his friend about Jesus. I asked him if we could be in touch to talk further. As he was giving me his phone number, he informed me that he had lived in Los Angeles in 1975, and had talked to Jews for Jesus back then! Please pray that the seeds that were planted in his heart so long ago will soon come to fruition!”

Tzachi Danor:

“As one man, Eli*, came to our table and picked up a book, I began to talk with him. I told him to take the book and please keep in touch to let us know what he thinks, and to talk further about faith in God and salvation. He told me that he knows the story about Yeshua because he studied to be a tour guide. I told him ‘What they teach you there is not from the Bible,’ and I witnessed to him. Next to me was a congregation leader from the same city as Eli. I suggested the two of them meet soon, Eli agreed, and they exchanged phone numbers. Please pray for the follow-up.”

Oded Orban:

“At one point we handed out 600 evangelistic postcards in 45 minutes. People were happy and seemed very open to the gospel. I met Moshe, an atheist Jew in his 60s. He was ready to listen to the gospel, even though he said he doesn’t believe in God. Two Arab Christians joined our conversation, assuring him that God is real and that He loves him. Moshe clearly enjoyed our conversation and even though he wasn’t ready to be in touch, he took one of our books and promised to read it. Please pray for his salvation.”

**not real name*





“Even when people refuse the prophetic ministry of proclamation, they will usually accept the priestly ministry of prayer.” —Moishe Rosen”

Approximately 70% of people who initially refuse to talk to me about Yeshua turn out to be quite open the next time I approach them. Does that surprise you?

When people reject my attempt to talk to them about Yeshua, I don't have a great desire to approach them again. However, I wait a while and approach them again anyway. If I believed people when they tell me such things as, “I don't need your Jesus,” “I need nothing from you” or “I don't believe in God,” I would never minister to anyone!

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). Every day, we participate in a war for souls; every hour, we fight. It's very important to remember that opposition is not directed at us personally, but at the One whom we bring. Understanding that we should not take rejection personally helps us to persevere.

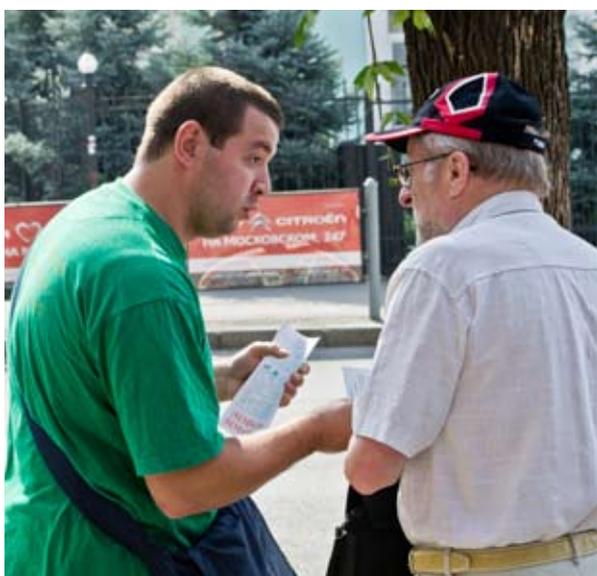
In addition to accepting the fact that many people's first impulse will be to reject our message, we need to learn from Yeshua how to bring the good news. We see how He answered people—He always spoke to their underlying issues or needs. We need guidance from the Holy Spirit to be able to respond that way. It's not easy, at least it's not for me, because I always want to take an opportunity to show that I know something. Then I remember that my message is not about me or what I know, but how people need Messiah Yeshua who was crucified and raised from the dead.

When a Jewish man named Leonid told me he wasn't interested in Jesus and asked me not to call again, I asked how I could pray for him. Curiously enough, he shared his prayer requests with me. Two months later, I called and inquired if the problems he had asked me to pray about had been solved. He answered, “Yes.” This time he was ready to hear about Yeshua, and by our third conversation he was ready to talk, not just by phone, but at his home with an open Bible.

There are many such examples. I don't know if I will see the gospel come to fruition in Leonid's life. I do know that if someone tells me not to call again, it might not be the end of the story. We do not want to intrude and continually call where we're not wanted. But we do need to display a little persistence. After all, it's better if they scold me first and come to know Yeshua later, than if they love me, but don't come to know Messiah Yeshua at all!

The Struggle

by Igor Spivak, leader of our work in Kharkov, Ukraine



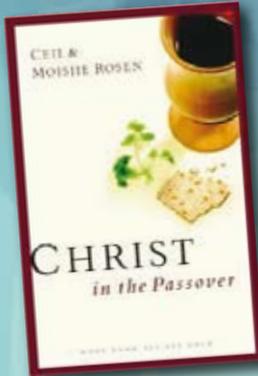
Messianic Resources

Featured resources for your learning, celebrating, and growth

Christ in the Passover

by Ceil and Moishe Rosen. Do you know why Jesus is the true Passover Lamb? Do you understand the nuances of the Last Supper? You'll be enriched in your understanding of God's Word and the observance of communion.

Cost: \$21



Witnessing to Jews

Book and DVD combo. An often-requested and much-anticipated follow-up to Moishe and Ceil's witnessing book, this seminar package includes a book, video and study guide, and is a great resource for the Christian who wants help in witnessing. The award-winning DVD (produced as two parts on one hour-long DVD) is high on content, instructive and fun to watch. It will demystify the challenge of sharing your faith by providing real-life demonstrations of what to do and the equally important what not to do.

Cost: \$23

If you want life, expect pain

Pamphlet, by Susan Perlman. "A person sensitized by suffering might well ask the question, 'If God exists and he is loving, why does everything hurt so much?'" says the author. Without offering easy answers, this essay looks at pain and suffering but also at the reality of a powerful and loving God. **Cost: \$2**

Behold your God

CD. The music from the Liberated Wailing Wall, including Hava Nagila and Solomon's Prayer. Some acoustic, some traditional Hebraic sounds, some almost rock. Great variety and wonderful harmonies make this a 'must' for lovers of Messianic music.

Cost: \$19

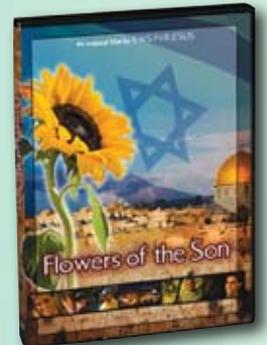


Flowers of the Sun

DVD. An emotionally gripping, real-life look at the struggle to stand for Jesus in the Land of Israel today. Only one-tenth of one percent of Israeli Jews know Jesus - the rest don't even know his name.

A day in the life of some Jewish missionaries, and the fierce opposition they face.

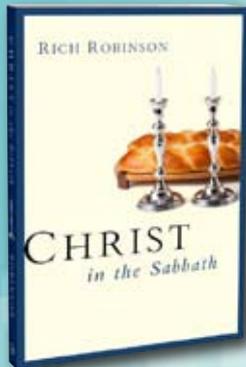
Cost: \$19



Christ in the Sabbath

This book looks at the meaning of the day in the Tanach (Hebrew Scriptures) and Brit Chadasha (New Testament). Above all, Shabbat is fulfilled in Yeshua, who said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Christ in the Sabbath also includes chapters on the Sabbath in Jewish tradition and the variety of approaches modern believers take to its observance.

Cost: \$21



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