

JEWS F★R JESUS™

AustralAsian Newsletter / **October 2018**

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism



David Brickner
Executive Director,
San Francisco USA

The Perspective Corrective: Another reason to be thankful

I awoke to a noisy disturbance just outside my house at about 1:30 a.m. "I bet the raccoons are getting into my garbage again," I thought, grabbing a broom to chase them away. But as I rounded the side of the house, instead of furry bandits I was met with a four-foot wall of flames. A chunk of my deck had been devoured, and two large rubbish bins had puddled into a plastic pancake.

I ran back into the house to grab the fire extinguisher, calling out to my sister and brother-in-law who were visiting from out of town. My brother-in-law grabbed the garden hose and started spraying. I gasped as I saw that the two propane gas tanks from my barbecue were perilously close to the flames, and quickly yanked them away.



By the time three fire engines, two fire trucks and one rescue vehicle arrived, most of the fire was out, but the dozen or so firemen stayed until after 3 a.m. They dutifully removed the rest of the wooden structure that hadn't burned, axes swinging and chainsaws buzzing for all the neighborhood to hear. (Later I sent a couple dozen donuts to the station. Praise God for first responders!)

As I finally lay my head back on the pillow, all I could think was, "Thank you, God!" The house could have easily been destroyed, and we might have been severely injured, even killed.

The next morning as I got out of bed, pain shot through two of my toes. In the excitement of the night before, I had sprained them, and they were now black and purple. But as I hobbled around, that pain was a constant reminder of how very thankful I was.

A couple of days later I received an email from Liz Goldstein, who was leading our Massah team in India. Their trip from Manali to Daram Salah (up to a ten-hour drive) ground to a halt because of a landslide that blocked the road. They were stuck, going nowhere for seven hours! I looked down at my toe and wrote back to Liz, "I am just happy and thankful that the

I am reminded that God has been relentlessly pursuing His plan for the salvation of the Jewish people, yes and for the nations, for over 3,000 years. If God can be patient, perhaps I can too, even "in all things." What about you?

landslide only landed on the road and not on you guys."

I don't know about you, but I've been so prone to see every adverse situation from one limited perspective, and that is to focus on the difficulties, the disappointments and the pain they present. But because God is sovereign, I can see life from a different perspective. I can ask God for the discipline and the desire to remember and rejoice over His sovereignty. That's the corrective I want and need to shape my perspective.

The apostle Paul wrote: "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." (Philippians 4:12).

This perspective can help in so many different ways. In *Jews for Jesus* we "relentlessly pursue God's plan for the salvation of the Jewish people," but sometimes I feel like I am not seeing enough of that plan coming to pass. I can become impatient and

yes, discouraged. Can you identify? Perhaps you have a friend or a relative that you long to see come to Jesus, but there doesn't appear to be much headway. Or maybe you have been praying for the Lord to do something specific and you are still waiting.

I am reminded that God has been relentlessly pursuing His plan for the salvation of the Jewish people, yes and for the nations, for over 3,000 years. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). If God can be patient, perhaps I can too, even "in all things." What about you?

Sometimes God in His grace lets us see how He's watching out for us even in scary circumstances, and that makes all the difference in our perspective. Let's ask Him for the grace to trust that He is always keeping His promises, always caring and always rescuing us even amidst life's pains and frustrations.



JEWS FOR JESUS

20 years in Australia



We are pleased to be in continued ministry in Australia since the founding of our work in October 1998. Bob and Patty Mendelsohn (along with their children) moved to Sydney from New York City to found the work, and God has matched their moving with His Spirit's moving so that every year Jewish people are coming to faith and growing in the Lord.

Different missionaries and singers and dramatists have represented the organization since that beginning, and hundreds of churches, Bible colleges and fellowships have welcomed us to their pulpits and blackboards. Christian media in print and radio and television have shown our efforts as have some secular media (ABC, Triple J, Sydney Morning Herald, even the Tamworth Times!). We couldn't be

more pleased with God's kindness and the country's response.

In 1999, Bob began traveling regularly to Melbourne and Brisbane, and now visits most every capital city annually. In 1999 he also began visiting and preaching in Singapore and New Zealand, and as a result we have representatives there in each country and a vibrant continuing connection with the Christian churches there. Many individuals and some congregations support us monthly, for which we are ever grateful.

Jewish people regularly continue to visit our book shop in Bondi Junction which we opened in 2004. Our operation centers there with offices, coffee bar, and weekly Bible classes for Jewish people. Spe-

cial holiday events for Jewish holidays take place in various venues around the City and next year we will be having a special Passover for the entire region. More information in the next few months on that one.

Looking backwards at the events and history we share helps us gain perspective for our future. As a result, our team today in Bondi is keen to keep going and keep proclaiming Messiah Yeshua to our Jewish people. We are looking forward to making His name known among all people, and being forthright to relentlessly pursue God's plan for the salvation of the Jewish people. Thank you, to each of you who supports us, who reads our news, who prays for us... thank you for being part of our team.

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What Kind of Jew was Jesus ?



Q: I know Jesus was born a Jew, but didn't he start a new religion called Christianity?

A: However one chooses to fit Jesus into the mosaic of first-century Judaism, faith in Jesus is understood to be Jewish at its root. We have to say "faith in Jesus" for the first few centuries, because while followers of Jesus were called "Christians" early on, it is incorrect to call the faith "Christianity" until later.

As Reform rabbi Evan Moffic puts it, "Jesus did not start Christianity. Jesus lived and died as a Jew. Christianity emerged after his death as an offshoot of Judaism, eventually separating and becoming its own religion. The beliefs and practices of this religion differ from Judaism, but they remain rooted in it."

Jesus shared much in common with other Jews of his day yet also differed from them. As a Jew, he had a bris; he had the first-century equivalent of a pidyon ha-ben ceremony a month after birth; he observed Passover. He was in Jerusalem for Sukkot and was

at the Temple during Hanukkah. He customarily attended synagogue, and on at least one occasion was invited up to speak on what today would be known as the Haftarah. He emphasized Jewish values such as *kibud av va'em* (honor of parents) and *tzedakah* (charity).

Yet he took issue with some traditions and with some Pharisees and Sadducees. That is why some have wryly referred to Jesus as the "first Reform Jew." He healed people on the Sabbath when others considered healing inappropriate for the day of rest. He spoke with an authority no other rabbi dared to claim. All these disputes, however, took place within first-century Judaism. The kind of Judaism Jesus represented is debated, but Judaism it was.

For again, there was as yet nothing called "Christianity."

So, who was Jesus, if not the founder of a new, non-Jewish religion? He answered the question directly several times. In one encounter, a Samaritan woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus replied, "I who speak to you am he" (John 4:25-26).

When we're struggling, our first impulse may not be to care passionately about what God deserves from us or what He desires for us. But by grace through faith in Jesus, all things are possible! He can empower us to ask earnestly in any situation, "God, what do You want from me in this situation?" and "God, what do You want for me in this situation?" He does not let such questions go unanswered! We can ask God to change our hearts so that these questions become part of our go-to perspective—and His answers will help us to live like the new creations we're meant to be. Why settle for less?

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VOLUME 22:4, October 2018.

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JEWS FOR JESUS™





Bob Mendelsohn
Regional Director
JFI Australia

Originally written in 2009,
but the truth remains...

Perspectives and politics

I flew from the US last week and went through Los Angeles Airport (LAX). What a view I saw as I scurried from one concourse to another. I had to stop. And maybe that's what is required in life, too.

So much news about trillion dollar bailouts. So much news about gay rights. About wars in Iraq or Afghanistan. About North Korea and its missiles. It can be overwhelming. Global warming, global crises.. how do we solve them? Can we even be a part of solving them?

Miss California, Carrie Prejean, was in the Final Five for Miss USA. She was so close. Then Perez Hilton, a celebrity blogger, and himself a gay man and activist, asked her about gay rights and gay marriages. She answered saying that she believed in marriage between a man and a woman.

Hilton replied later on "The Early Show" on CBS in the USA, "When I first heard her answer, I was shocked, because I thought having been from California, a state that recently passed Proposition 8 outlawing same-sex marriage, she should have been better prepared to answer that question." "There are various other ways she could have answered that question and still stayed true to herself without alienating millions of people."

On NBC's "Today" show, Prejean stood by her answer, saying she had

"spoken from my heart, from my beliefs and for my God" and never meant to offend anyone.

"When I heard it from him, I knew at that moment after I had answered the question, I knew that I was not going to win because of my answer," she continued. "It's not about being politically correct. For me it was being biblically correct."

There it is. Being correct is about having a right perspective. Is it celebrity thinking or biblical thinking? Good answer Miss Prejean.

James Pinkerton is a FOX news analyst. He writes about the bailouts and torture as follows:

Why seek to thwart bad behavior now—bad behavior that's happening in real time, all the time, costing the taxpayers billions—when it's so much more fun to investigate your opponent's supposed bad behavior in years past? Besides, since so much of the current financial skullduggery seems to involve top Democrats, why not seek to change the subject entirely—for instance, by aiming the investigative attack dogs overseas? Why go after sitting Democratic governors when you can go after CIA agents?

Democrats in both the Executive and Legislative Branches are moving to establish some sort of "Truth Commission" aimed at uncovering instances of torture and other possibly illegal acts committed by government

operatives during the Bush administration. And what will happen after such an uncovering? Justice Department prosecutions? Civil suits? Indictments from overseas, followed by extradition efforts? More terror? Nobody knows, but everybody should be worried.

Leading figures from the Bush era, including former CIA Director Michael Hayden and former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, warned last week in The Wall Street Journal that retroactive vindictiveness towards people who operated according to good faith understanding—tough rules for a murky counter-terror road—would be a calamitous mistake, potentially jeopardizing all Americans.

They need perspective.

And so do I.

And so do you.

And whether it's a truth commission or a biblically correct re-think, it's time to get it right.

Where will you go to gain Truth?

Where will you go to get biblical correctness?

Start with the Bible, read the book of Proverbs, and the Gospel of John, and see what God had to say about so much of our lives. It couldn't hurt, right?

Messianic Resources

Features resources for your learning, celebrating and growth

Why Me?

By Jacob Damkani

The life story of Jacob Damkani, born into a religious Jewish family in Israel, will awaken you to the reality of your true personal war and give you the victory over sorrow, fear, depression, anguish, lust, criminal tendencies, shame, selfishness and past failures.

Cost \$12

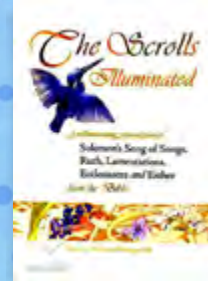


The Scrolls Illuminated

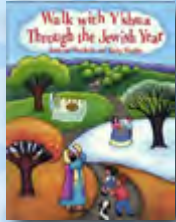
by Fiona Pfennigwerth

An Australian artist and Bible student, has illustrated the five megillot (the scrolls: Ruth, Esther, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)) This 108 page book is hard paperback, and a lovely coffee table book and present for any student of the Bible or lover of Australiana. Australian plants and trees, and even some wildlife are in clear view.

Cost \$45



While supplies last



Walk with Y'shua

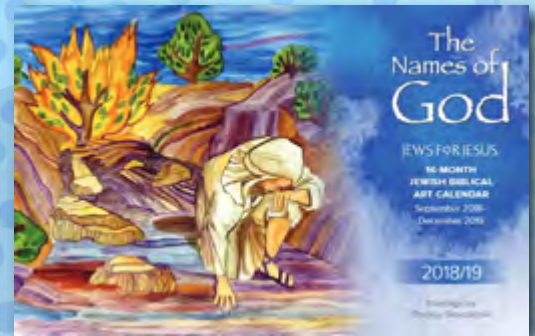
Year round curriculum for the Jewish holidays for children. A great way for parents to learn about the feasts as well. Written by Janie-Sue Wertheim and Kathy Shapiro.

Cost \$12

From Generation to Generation (40 years of Messianic Music)

Take an exciting journey through 40 years of Messianic music with this vibrant collection of 18 digitally remastered Jews for Jesus favorites! Have a fresh listen to a timeless genre of music that exalts the Lord in a Messianic way!

Cost \$20



That Jew Died for you

by Michael Brown

The Holocaust is a stumbling block to many Jewish people when it comes to considering Jesus, or even the reality of God. This sensitively written essay provides one Jewish believer's perspective on Jewish Suffering-- and on the suffering of the best known Jew of all.

Cost \$7



Calendar 2019

Each month features a hand-drawn illustration by Messianic Jewish artist Shelley Skoropinski. Every picture illustrates the different Names of God. 16 month Jewish Biblical Calendar

Months: September 2018- December 2019 Size: 13.5"x8.5"

Original Messianic Jewish art from Names of God Adult coloring book Weekly Torah portions: OT and NT, American Holidays and Jewish Holidays Space for notes on each month.

Cost \$27



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