

JEWES FOR JESUS™


AustralAsian Newsletter / August 2017

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism



The Journey: leaving life as usual for the sake of the gospel

The phone rang late one night in August—it was my son Isaac, calling from India. He was about to return from a ten-week Jews for Jesus missions project called “Massah” (The Journey) and had a request: “Dad, I want to have a long talk with you when I get to San Francisco.” We arranged to do just that!

That weekend, Isaac walked me page-by-page through the journal he’d kept during his trip. It was not a travelogue of his experiences in Israel and India,

but a daily record of his spiritual journey and all that the Lord had been impressing upon his heart.

I’d never seen my son as excited as when he told me that God was calling him into full-time ministry to Jewish people. I was thrilled—and surprised! Isaac had been surrounded by Jewish ministry all his life. I’m sure he thought it was fine for his dad, but never had I seen a hint that he might be sensing God’s call for himself.

It seems that God used Isaac’s willing-



David Brickner
Executive Director,
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God uses different circumstances to interrupt our lives so that we can see spiritual truths that we had avoided, ignored or rejected up until now.

ness to leave “life as usual” to provide an amazing summer of discovery and ministry. In the midst of it all, he heard and responded to God’s call.

This month wraps up our tenth year of Massah, and it never ceases to amaze me how every year, God speaks so very personally to those who commit to this journey. For some it is a call to full-time ministry; for others, it is a powerful experience of spiritual renewal and awakening. Some have even met their future spouses through this remarkable experience. One reason Massah is so impactful is that participants meet and engage with young Israelis who are on a journey of their own. Tens of thousands of Israelis travel to India after serving their required time in the army. They are looking for adventure but many are also on a search for meaning, a spiritual journey. Our teams share their lives and share about the purpose and peace they have found in Yeshua (Jesus).

More and more Israelis are coming to faith in Jesus in the land of Israel but many—maybe a majority of Israeli believers in Jesus—first heard the gospel beyond the borders of Israel and continue their travels into the region of AustralAsia: Singapore, New Zealand and Australia.

It is not only Israelis, but Jewish people in general, who have to

get past “life as usual” in order to seriously consider the gospel. Our Jewish culture predisposes us to reject Jesus as being anything more than a good man or a prophet. We learn from an early age that he is “not for us.” The busyness of life coupled with the pressures and expectations of family and friends doesn’t leave much space for us to question our presuppositions.

The journey beyond the borders of “life as usual” doesn’t have to be geographical. It may be a new friend who lovingly shares his or her faith in Jesus, a new experience such as attending a concert or a Bible study, even an emotional crisis or family illness that provides a different perspective. God uses different circumstances to interrupt our lives so that we can see spiritual truths that we had avoided, ignored or rejected up until now.

Jewish people are just like so many others for whom the gospel is a foreign or forbidden concept. There are many Jewish people who answer God’s call to go beyond life as usual in order to behold and receive His gift of salvation.

Whether it be Jews, Muslims, new immigrants or the neighbor who just moved in next door, God has set many people on a journey that can open their hearts and minds to receive ministry from us. We just

need to be sensitive to the opportunities. But that might require us to journey beyond “life as usual” as well.

It’s tempting to become comfortable in our own routines, isn’t it? But if we isolate ourselves in “Christian bubbles,” we will miss the opportunity to walk beside the people God has strategically placed all around us.

We all need a willingness to take a bit of a journey ourselves—to venture beyond our own “life as usual”—if we want to be part of God’s work of helping others into His kingdom. Please join me in praying for our Massah team in India right now as they have gone way past their comfort zones to minister to hundreds of Israelis who are on their own spiritual journey. Pray for our new book shop opening by the time you receive this newsletter in our Sydney branch, as many Israelis stop there as well over the years. And while you’re at it, why not stop and pray about how and for whom God might be calling you to go beyond “the usual” in your own life, to offer new life in Jesus to others.

David Brickner is also an author, public speaker and avid hiker. He has led JFJ since 1996.

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We also receive donations from believers via **PayPal**, **Credit cards**, and **TT**.

JEWS FOR JESUS™



BITS from the BRANCHES

From Sydney, Mark Landrum reports

"When we speak at churches, it's not unusual to meet Jewish people who attend services with their spouses. That's how we met Rachel. It was a huge step for Rachel to come to church, but though she was willing to listen, like many people in her situation she could not see how she could be Jewish and believe in Jesus as her Messiah. I was delighted that the pastor arranged for Rachel, her husband and me to join him and his wife for lunch after the service. It was a great opportunity to gently address some of the obstacles Rachel felt were preventing her from receiving Yeshua as her Messiah. Not long after this meeting, my wife, Rahel, was also in the area. The two of them met up, and Rahel was able to answer more of Rachel's concerns. Within months of these meetings, everything fell into place for Rachel. She prayed and professed Jesus, and soon after was baptized."



Names of many people we meet are changed to protect privacy.



Jerusalem

You might know that our Israel work is based in Tel Aviv, a largely secular city. However, our heart is to reach people throughout the country, including Jerusalem. This presents unique challenges, particularly among the very tightly-knit religious neighborhoods. In such neighborhoods, it is way out of people's comfort zones to speak openly to a Jew who believes in Jesus. And though the journey from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is only about 30 miles, in some ways it is much, much further away. You will be hearing more about our "Journeys to Jerusalem" in the months to come.

For now, from Jerusalem, **Ofer Levy** reports, "Dinah and I were exploring in the religious neighborhoods of Jerusalem. From the colorful marketplace of Ben-Yehuda we ascended the Prophets Street and turned towards the Ultra-Orthodox section of the city. We reached Shabbat Square (a busy crosswalk) and stood at the intersection. After speaking to several very religious passersby, a young man by the name of Yitzhak stopped to talk to me.

"Our conversation turned to the question of Israel's redemption. I was encouraged to see that Yitzhak (25 years old) was well-versed in the Scriptures. He knew many prophetic verses concerning the Messiah by heart, including Isaiah 53—which we discussed in its entirety! I explained that this is no other than Yeshua (Jesus) who, after suffering and dying for our sins, was raised to life (Psalm 16) and is coming a second time for the redemption of Israel in the last days (Isaiah 59:20). At that point Isaac seemed a little reluctant to continue the discussion. Nevertheless, he disengaged politely and thanked me for the conversation."

PRAYER

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- our Berlin witnessing campaign that runs 27 July through 12 August. And then for the followup.
 - our Budapest campaign: 30 August –16 September
 - our New York outreach:
- 7-18 September
 - our Manchester (UK) outreach: 11-17 September
 - our SYDNEY campaign. 1-14 December. Want to join us???
 - grace and strength

for new Jewish believer Rachel and others in Australia

- salvation for Yitzhak, Daniel, Sam, Levi and Amitai and the many others in India with the Massah team 2017
- God's wisdom and leading for further exploration in reaching Jerusalem for Jesus.

PROMPTERS

Book Shop

Sydney News



We let many of you know about the troubles we were having in Sydney in our last newsletter. And many, many of you prayed and wrote to encourage us. And our staff prayed. And five volunteers put in hours of time to find us a new place, still in Bondi Junction. We are grateful coworkers again in our new shop at 58 Bronte Road, and you are invited. We have a bigger place, with a separate office soaked in sunlight, a private office/ meeting room, and a polished concrete floor and new shelving units to highlight more of our 800 products for the shop visitors. It really is a better venue, with buses passing all day and night, and a more neighbourhood feel than ever before. We saved thousands of dollars a year in expenses and believe this is the best place in which we have ever served here in Sydney.

Thanks is owed to Brian Donnelly who not only found the place, but helped in negotiations throughout that process. Our own Board of Directors, including Chairman Peter

Robinson, and Treasurer Jeff Cook, went beyond their usual duties as well in making sure all the I's were dotted and T's crossed.

Beyond those named, the many volunteers who spent dozens of hours individually boxing and labeling our products, and then hauling everything from our previous location to our new better shop are champions and too many to list. But we are the better for their fantastic work. And very very grateful.

We are considering opening on the weekends, as there might be reason for that in this location, and if so, we would be looking for volunteers to man our barista coffee station, and to serve the neighbourhood. But until then, we are open as usual 7 a.m. to at least 5 p.m. weekdays, in a closer place to the Bondi Junction bus and train interchange. Please come by!

Would you care to make a separate one-off donation in thanksgiving to the Lord for the new venue? The set-up costs were higher than expected, but we are more than happy to be in the new place.

THE JOURNEY

Highlights from last year's Massah



Team leader and Sydney-born Giselle Le'Aupepe Bruce reports, "We arrived in Manali after a pretty rough bus ride. Our team settled in quickly and got the lay of the land easily. They are really natural in sharing and connecting with people.



"For example, Asher, who interned with our Sydney branch in 2015, says, 'I met Daniel in a jewelry shop. I told him I was with a group of Messianic Jews. He was curious so I said, "Let's go to a cafe and I'll tell you all about it." I took him through the gospel, and he had questions. We exchanged numbers and I gave him a New Testament. I didn't expect to see him again, but our first evening in Tosh we were hanging out at a cafe and in walks Daniel! He ran up and gave me a "bro" hug, then sat down to hang out with us. He stayed with us



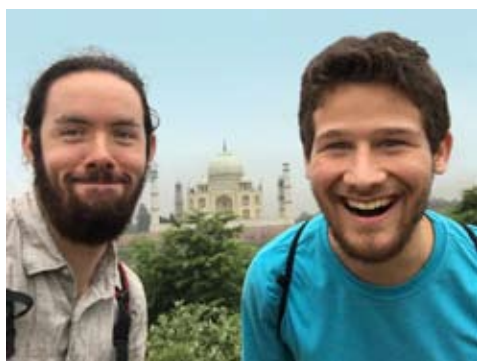
for several days. We read and discussed John chapter one together and had many opportunities to discuss the gospel.'

"Alec adds, 'Dave and I met two Israelis, Sam and Levi. Sam reacted very aggressively to our faith at first, but Levi was interested. When I showed them Bible passages like Isaiah 9 and Jeremiah 31, Sam opened up a little. He and Levi both took Hebrew New Testaments very happily, and listened intently as I told of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. I asked if they wanted to say a dangerous prayer: "Jesus, come find me." Both guys said the prayer, albeit somewhat jokingly, but both said they would be glad if God showed them the truth! They gave me their contact information so that we can stay in touch.'

"During the final week in India, the team experienced a lot of sickness, yet had some of the best interactions of the entire journey. For example, Asher re-

ported, 'I asked Amitai if we could study the first chapter of John together. He suggested we start with one section at a time so he could stop and ask questions. We began with John 1:1 which starts, "In the beginning." Just reading the opening section, Amitai was intrigued that it was just like the beginning of the Tanakh [the Hebrew Scriptures]. Amitai believes in universal truth, so the hardest part of our conversation was challenging him to think about ideas for himself instead of just accepting them as a nice truth for me.'"

Last year's Massah team had 236 spiritual conversations with Israelis, gave out 25 Hebrew New Testaments and studied the Scriptures with 16 different people. Please pray that God will bless the remaining time our 2017 Massahniks have in India, and that He will continue to nurture the seeds of truth that have been planted, not just this year, but on previous journeys as well.



Regarding wills

Some have been asking us lately about long-ranged financial plans. Thank you for that. Please include the following wording in your will if you wish to make a contribution in your will to Jews for Jesus after you die and are in the presence of Yeshua. I bequeath the sum of (\$xxxx or xx%) of my estate,

free of all Probate and Death Duties to Jews for Jesus of Australia (ABN: 50.084.937.422), in the State of New South Wales (58 Bronte Road, Bondi Junction), for the general purpose of the said organisation and I declare that the receipt of the Jews for Jesus authorised officer shall be sufficient

discharge to my trustees who shall not be obliged to see to the application thereof." And please let us know here in Sydney or at your national office, that you have done this. Thank you very much for your help in this life or after you are gone, to help us reach the Jewish people around the globe.

The DVD cover features a collage of six photographs of the participants. The title 'FINDING LOVE WITH AN UNLIKELY WOMAN' is at the top, and 'SURVIVOR STORIES' is at the bottom in large, stylized letters.

All costs include shipping in Australia. For other countries, please add \$4 per item. Prices are going up very fast for postage. We have no control over that.