JEWS FOR JESUS™

AustralAsian Newsletter / **May 2018**

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism

For Zion's Sake

David Brickner
Executive Director,
San Francisco USA

Last December the United States government recognized what I believe the Scriptures clearly teach: the true capital of Israel is Jerusalem. The United Nations lost no time condemning Israel as well as President Trump's declaration in a vote of 128 for condemnation, nine against and 35 abstentions. Wow!

I believe that what we are seeing goes well beyond earthly politics. God's Word predicts how the nations will be aligned against Jerusalem in the end times.

What is the significance of Jerusalem? It is where God commanded Abraham to bind Isaac for a sacrifice; it is where David was inspired to build the Temple and where Solomon carried out the plans. It is where Jesus walked the streets, touched lives, was crucified, buried and resurrected. Perhaps most of all, it is where He will return one day. Jerusalem is the religious center of Israel, and it is where the government of IsraelL the judiciary, the prime minister, the Knesset and the parliament all meet.

As Jews for Jesus relentlessly pursues God's plan for the salvation of the Jewish people, we recognize that Jerusalem is a big part of that plan. For eighteen years we've been reaching out to every city around the world where more than 25,000 Jewish people live. Jerusalem is the final city and the most comprehensive of all outreaches in this strategy and we really covet your prayers as it is coming very soon!

We are compelled by the words of Isaiah: "For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns" (Isaiah 62:1).

Zion is mentioned 150 times in Scripture. The etymology of the word is uncertain (linguists argue its meaning could be "dry

place," "brook" or "castle"!) But there is no doubt that biblically speaking, Zion is a place—the city of David, Jerusalem!

Jerusalem is the most contested ground on the planet with at least 30 wars fought over her throughout history. Why has Zion always been a center of controversy? Because God has placed His name there and it is therefore ground zero for the spiritual conflict of the ages.

Isaiah assures us that ultimately God will rejoice over Jerusalem the way a groom rejoices over his bride. What an amazing metaphor! Further, God's promise to restore Jerusalem is not just for her sake, or for His own joy, but for the salvation of the nations. The world will see what God has done for Jerusalem and give praise to God. And just as God raised up Isaiah to speak out this good news, He is raising up people He calls watchmen to join in "giving the Lord no rest" until He fulfills all His promises to Zion (Isaiah 62:6–7).

I believe God has called Jews for Jesus to be watchmen for Zion today, and I believe He is inviting you to join us in this through prayer. Together we must not be silent. Together we must not give the Lord rest "until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth" (Isaiah 62:7).

Friends, this is the gospel—the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. What God is saying to Jerusalem He is also saying to all of us. He loves us. He values us. He wants to welcome and restore us, and give us hope for a bright future—not because we deserve it but because that's the kind of God He is. The bad things that happen in Jerusalem and elsewhere point out just why God sent Jesus to die in that very city so long ago. He loves and intends to restore us to a life of flourishing now and in the future.

Jerusalem is not just a city, it's a picture of God's ultimate reign. When John said "Then I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2), he was speaking about a glorious future God has planned, not only for Israel but for peoples of all nations. Because you love the Word of God and the purposes of God I ask you to join us in praying for the peace of Jerusalem—and for our upcoming outreach there.

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JEWS FOR JESUS™

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

BERLIN

Berlin branch leader Aaron Lewin reports, "I first met Yonni* at an evangelistic fellowship for Israelis, which we put on monthly in partnership with other local ministries. He came with his friend, who is a regular.

"Upon asking me what I do, Yonni was very surprised to hear that I work with Jews for Jesus. He knows us from America, where he lived for a short time several years ago. As Yonni and I talked over dinner, he expressed an interest in spiritual things. When I opened up about my own spiritual life, Yonni was very happy to interact because, as he put it, he doesn't have many friends who are open to talking 'philosophically.'

"Since Yonni was interested, we got together to continue the conversation. Like many people, he is wary of religion, having seen bad examples throughout his life. As I began to explain my relationship with God and the quality of life that we can have through Yeshua (Jesus), Yonni started to open up. I can see that he is curious and interested in Jesus. Please pray that we would continue meeting and that Yonni would find the stability he's looking for in Yeshua rather than material things."

HAIFA, ISRAEL

Mikhail Vayshengolts reports: "A Jewish lady, Ella, was on one of the trips we organized after which she ordered a Bible. As she had suffered from various negative consequences of occult involvement, we read to her during a follow-up visit from Deuteronomy 18:9-15,19. She was easily convinced to get rid of the occult books. Then she took scissors and cut into pieces the picture of an occult servant as well as the red thread which he used to place on her wrist as an amulet.

"When Ella first visited church, she immediately had a good feeling. Later she said, 'That I went to church is like a window through which I see the light. Please receive me in your congregation.' She still needs to receive Jesus. Pray!"

NEW YORK

Susan Mendelson reports from New York, "One of my ministry partners is a Jewish believer in Jesus named Sara, who lives in New Jersey. Last fall, Sara and her husband came into the City for Rosh Hashanah—no small schlep! They brought an older gentleman named Saul,* who is not a believer in Jesus. Saul seemed to enjoy our Messianic holiday service as well as talking with people afterward.

"A few months later, I visited Saul to chat over coffee. I asked Sara and another Jewish believer friend, Diann, to join us. Saul was very willing to tell us about his journey, including his time as a member of Chabad Lubavitch, a fervently religious Jewish sect. We discussed many spiritual topics, and, in the end, Saul said he'd like to continue our discussion.

"Diann and I recently met again with Saul. He had obviously been studying and exploring the things we'd discussed. While almost convinced that Jesus is the Messiah, he was still caught up in the traditional view that Jewish people just don't, or can't, believe in Jesus. He knew that if he violated that tradition, he could very likely be ostracized by his family and community. However, after much conversation, Saul could see that his relationship with God was even more important than the approval of his family, and bigger than any difficulty he might face.

"I then invited Saul to receive Jesus as his

WE NEED HELP... MAYBE IT'S YOU?

We have never advertised in our own newsletter for help wanted, but the time is now. We need a new **administrator** at our book shop/ offices in Bondi Junction. Perhaps we could hire two half-time workers although we prefer a full-timer. Must know financial software and Office applications. We prefer Mac users. Salaried position. Benefits--yes. Main benefit? Getting to work with people who love Yeshua and want to see His people served. People skills and a good phone voice matter. Submit CV to **admin@jewsforjesus.org.au**

ALSO, after 20 years, our volunteer **auditor** has finally had to hang up his balance sheets. Neville Jones has been

a tremendous supporter in this regard, and almost more importantly, to all of us in the shop, a friend. He wants to help train the next accountant who will be able to keep us compliant with ACNC and all government agencies. We might be able to pay, but not retail rates. We are looking for a person who is an accountant, who still is licensed, and wants to serve now and again during the year, and certainly at year's end for compliance sake. Write to admin@jewsforjesus.org.au Thanks.

PRAYER MATTERS. Everyone says so. And maybe in your neighbourhood, or in your workplace, or at your church—you might be willing to host friends who want to pray for us. We are looking for monthly **prayer locations**, and prayer warriors who are already praying for our work, and our workers. Would you be willing to host a few others in your place? This is not a major event—it's a major battle, however! We win in the trenches because some of you are praying and lifting up our prayer concerns to the Father. He listens. We need venues across the country/ region. Are you one of those who wants to pray for us with others? We will supply monthly prayer points. You join us and others in praying to the God who really wants to hear and answer you. Thanks. Contact Bob directly. **bob@jewsforjesus.org.au**

bits from branches

Messiah. He accepted that invitation, but, as we started to pray, he stopped me to say, 'Let's call him Yeshua—that's His name!' Saul prayed to receive Yeshua right then and there! Please pray that he would become firmly rooted in his new faith and continue growing by leaps and bounds in his love for Messiah."

LOS ANGELES

Every journey to faith is unique, but we found this one especially interesting. Annette Sofaer from our Los Angeles branch explains, "Last October, a Christian named Kay asked us to get in touch with a long-time Jewish friend of hers, Barbara*. [That's not the unique part—thankfully people often ask us to help share the gospel with their Jewish friends!—ed.]

"When I visited Barbara, I was perplexed by the wide range of religious symbols in her home—everything from Buddha statues to a menorah to a painting of Jesus. As Barbara's adult son Daniel* listened in from the nearby dining room table, Barbara recounted the story of having grown up in a traditional Jewish home 70 years ago, then marrying a man who had grown up nominally Methodist. When the couple was looking for a religious tradition in which to raise their four children, they settled on Mormonism after a home visit by some missionaries!

"Barbara and her husband had hoped that practicing their religion would create a healthy family, but it didn't work out that way. Barbara (now widowed) developed a deep spiritual hunger that Mormonism could not satisfy. By the time I visited her she'd been hearing more about Jesus from several good friends. Barbara (and Daniel!) both listened as I shared the gospel in full.

"Praise God, the second time I visited Barbara she was ready to come in repentance before God and receive Jesus' forgiveness! I'm hoping that the newfound faith of this matriarch will affect her whole family. I had the opportunity to meet another of Barbara's sons, Bill*, who seemed less than thrilled to make my acquaintance. Barbara's daughter lives near me, and I hope to meet her soon. Please pray with me for the whole family to come together in a life-changing faith in Yeshua!"

**Names are changed to protect privacy.*

Bible Adventure Tour
(Egypt, Jordan, Israel)

Footsteps of Paul
(Greece Only)

Rev. Kameel Majdali, PhD (Melb), Director of Teach All Nations in Melbourne (tan.org.au), author of Melbourne to Jerusalem, radio host on the Vision Radio Network, and board member of Jews for Jesus Australia, is offering his 38th holy land tour, entitled The Bible Adventure Tour: Egypt, Jordan, & Israel. Dates: November 27 to 11 December 2018: Highlights include Cairo, Luxor, Petra, and comprehensive tour of Israel. Land cost USD 2,850 or Jordan & Israel land only USD 2,440. We can assist with air travel. In the Footsteps of Paul include Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Philippi, and optional Santorini. Cost: USD 2,787 plus airfare or without Santorini USD 2,003. For further information, contact Leanne at leanne@tan.org.au or (general inquiries only) Brooke at 03 8719 6274 or write PO Box 493, Mount Waverley VIC 3149. For air travel inquires Francois Lockwood of Flight Centre Melbourne 03 8619 6255 or 0438 568 851 or francois.lockwood@flightcentre.com.au

Did you know?

(for your Jewish information)

The big event that many churches now commemorate as "Pentecost Sunday" occurred on the Jewish Feast of Shavuot. Remember how Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem and promised them Holy Spirit power to bring the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1)?

God had the perfect strategy—to fulfill that promise on Pentecost. Pentecost is a harvest festival, and it's one of three pilgrimage feasts that God commanded the Jewish people to observe in Jerusalem. That's why Jewish people who had been scattered far and wide were in Jerusalem when Jesus' promise was fulfilled in that upper room. That's why the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to explain the gospel in languages they'd never spoken, languages that were spoken by those who'd travelled from afar to celebrate this feast.

As we prepare to reach Jerusalem, we too depend on the power of the Holy Spirit. We'll have mainly Hebrew speakers on this campaign, but we'll also have those who speak other languages, including Russian, English, French and German.

This year, Shavuot begins at sundown on Saturday May 19 and ends at sundown, Monday the 21st. There are not Shavuot greeting cards as such, but you can always wish your Jewish friends a gut yontif (rhymes with "good lawn tip"), which means "good holiday." Modern Israelis say "Hag s'meach" rather than 'gut yontif'. It's a language thing we will talk about in issues to come.

Unless your friend happens to be more religious than most, she or he might not even realize that it is Shavuot. But you may raise some curiosity by giving a holiday greeting. If asked, you might say something like, "I'm interested in Shavuot because in a way, the Christian church was birthed from this holiday."

The founder of our ministry, Moishe Rosen, made his public profession of faith in Jesus on Pentecost Sunday in 1953. His "graduation" (to heaven) was on the Jewish festival of Pentecost eight years ago, on May 19!

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

and so much more!

Every little while our national director Bob Mendelsohn gets a question on Facebook or on email that he wants to answer to the person who asked, as well as to more people. The questions are ones he gets again and again, and thus, perhaps by sharing on video, more people can get the help they need earlier.

On our **JFJAustralia YouTube Channel**, you will find this ever-expanding playlist titled "Your Questions Answered" which deals with topics like why we pray, is Isaiah 53 in the Jewish Bible or was it removed, why do Jewish people write "G-d", or how are Jewish people forgiven of their sins without a Temple? Many, many others. Have a browse.

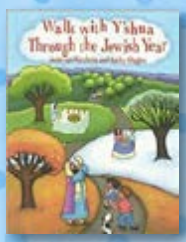
Also on the YouTube channel are other playlists like Pastoral referees who share for a moment with Bob, JFJ Prayer requests around the globe, Hanukkah questions answered, and a series of 21 Devotional moments around the country as 2018 began.

JEWS FOR JESUS

Messianic Resources

Features resources for your learning, celebrating and growth

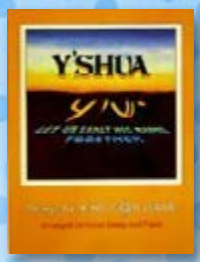
Walk with Y'shua



by Janie-Sue Wertheim and Kathy Shapiro.
Year round curriculum for the jewish holidays for children. A great way for parents to learn about the feasts as well.
Cost $14

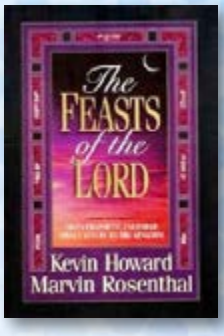
Music Book Y'shua

The glory of Y'shua is celebrated with dynamic worship that ranges from classical to contemporary -- come join us in praising "The Light of the World!" Songs by Jews for Jesus. Music book is arranged for vocal group and piano. **Cost $6**

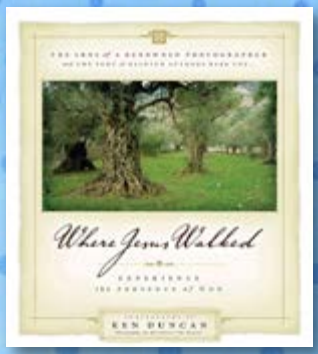


Feasts of the Lord

by Kevin Howard and Marvin Rosenthal



A fresh understanding is created when the traditions are cast in the light of God's Word to reveal the Messiah. Filled with beautiful photographs, paintings and colorful charts, our Jewish Christian perspective is richly told in a new and exciting way. **Cost $44**



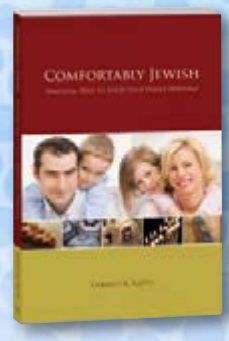
Where Jesus walked

Renowned Aussie photographer Ken Duncan introduces readers to awe-inspiring photos of places in and around Israel where Jesus lived, died, and rose again.
Cost $50

Comfortably Jewish

by Garrett Smith

If being Jewish is important to you but you are not exactly sure how to express it, then this book is for you. The author shares stories and practical tips on several aspects of Jewish life such as children's activities, Jewish food and celebrating the holidays. A must-have resource for families who want to enjoy the Jewish side of life!
Cost $10



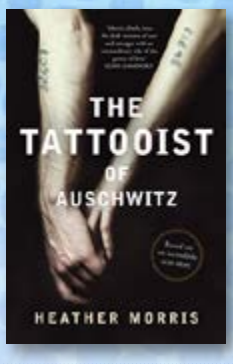
Tree of Life Bible

A diverse community of Messianic Jewish and Christian scholars collaborated to produce the Tree of Life Messianic Family Bible—The New Covenant. The result is this groundbreaking version that is meant for the entire family to read and enjoy together.
Cost $18

The Tattooist of Auschwitz

by Heather Morris

"The story of the Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist and the woman he loved. This story, full of beauty and hope, is based on years of interviews author conducted with real-life Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov. It is heart-wrenching, illuminating, and unforgettable.
Cost $29



Behold Your God CD

The music from the Liberated Wailing Wall, including Hava Nagila and Solomon's Prayer. All around easy to listen. Great variety and wonderful harmonies make this a 'must' for lovers of Messianic music.
Cost $18

Bumper Sticker

Comes in black on orange. 30 cm. Perfect for a brief case or back of a car.
Cost $4

Necklace Pewter braided Star of David

Solid pewter, comes with a rope chain (not shown). Gift packaged. Adjustable chain from 16" to 24".
Cost $29

Coupon (PLEASE PRINT)

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