

JEWS FOR JESUS™

AustralAsian Newsletter / August 2018

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism



I really like how Jews for Jesus goes out onto the streets and college campuses to engage people with the gospel,” he said. “But do you ever think a time will come when even more people will be coming to you to inquire about Jesus?”

I had that conversation with a Jews for Jesus supporter a number of years ago. I couldn't have then imagined the answer I am able to give to that question today. That time has come!

Don't misunderstand me. We at Jews for Jesus will continue to go onto the streets and college campuses to proclaim the good news. In fact, we recently completed a historic witnessing campaign in Jerusalem. Over 100 staff members and over 150 volunteers had

great success sharing Jesus all across the city and at Hebrew University. As a result over 1700 Israelis gave us their details for further followup. Already over 50 have professed faith in Yeshua. Hallelujah!

And right here in the land of Israel, something has been happening to change the equation of Jewish evangelism for Jews for Jesus—something that will become an increasingly important part of our strategy in other parts of the world as well. Let me explain.

You may remember hearing about the Moishe Rosen Center in Tel Aviv. It's named in honor of our founder. Many of our friends gave generously toward this project back in 2012 so we could purchase this multi-story property and



David Brickner
Executive Director,
San Francisco USA



renovate it to our specifications.

Located in Florentine, a trendy neighborhood in the southern part of the city, the Moishe Rosen Center (MRC) has become a magnet in the last few years for interested and mostly younger Israelis, who are drawn by the welcoming atmosphere and the lively events our team of Jews for Jesus regularly host there.

We conduct regular Bible studies for Israeli soldiers, sponsor “Neged,” which is a monthly Bible club for the children and teenagers of Israeli believers in the area, and sponsor art shows and coffeehouse events that attract Israeli seekers by the hundreds. I never thought I would live to see such a thing.

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Now I’m eager to share some exciting news about what’s next: We are going to borrow some of these ideas and make them particular to Los Angeles. Our L.A. branch is in the Westwood neighborhood at a prime location right across the street from UCLA!

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So we drew up plans, secured permits and raised enough funding to move ahead with construction. We reconfigured most of the office space to include an attractive ground-floor venue for special events such as art shows, intimate musical concerts and a warm coffeehouse environment.

The site will soon include a small, state-of-the-art recording studio. Musicians and recording artists will be able to develop and share their talents in an environment where our missionaries can connect and engage with them on

a personal level. We’ll also be able to invite Jewish artists to bring their artwork to show to friends and family in a gallery there.

We intend to increase community outreach, engaging people from the surrounding area through seminars on Jewish-Gentile couples and family relationships, and classes in Hebrew and other topics of interest to the Jewish community.

These and other changes will transform our ministry in L.A., among the 600,000 Jewish people in LA County, opening the doors to sharing Jesus as Messiah in new and creative ways with this unique Jewish community—including those

ADDRESS INFORMATION

JEWS FOR JESUS AUSTRALIA

E-MAIL: mail@jewsforjesus.org.au

WEB: jewsforjesus.org.au

Phone in Australia: +61.2.9388.0559

ALSO WORKING IN: CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, HUNGARY, ISRAEL, RUSSIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SWITZERLAND, UKRAINE, the UNITED KINGDOM, and the UNITED STATES

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JEWS FOR JESUS™



A recent Barna survey of Jewish millennials in North America identified a remarkable characteristic of this generation: they're spiritual conversationalists in a way that truly sets them apart from previous generations.

involved in surrounding Hollywood film, music and advertising businesses. We believe we can share with these people a new and refreshing outlook, one that's based on the promise of the hope of the gospel. What a breakthrough it will be to "influence these influencers" for the kingdom!

But that's not all. This new facility will also enhance our college ministry by establishing a café within the event space as a study and drop-in center for UCLA students, as well as for passersby, tourists and professionals from the neighboring schools and hospitals. The café atmosphere will encourage spiritual conversations and fuel interest in the programs and events offered there. It will be a great complement to the other events held at the space. The café will have a competitive coffee program that fills a current void in the market of specialty coffees in Westwood.

A recent Barna survey of Jewish millennials in North America identified a remarkable characteristic of this generation: they're spiritual conversationalists in a way that truly sets them apart from previous generations.

For example, Joel (not his real name) is a philosophy student at UCLA. A classically trained cellist, he's also an articulate and talented young man who has been on a spiritual search.

Recently he walked into our offices, even though at the time it still looked like a dental practice. (We haven't had very many students just walk in off the street like that, whereas in Sydney this continues to happen with great regularity.) Joel started meeting with Isaac, one of our L.A. missionaries and a fellow millennial. Isaac writes:

During our initial visit, I answered

some of Joel's questions and encouraged him to begin reading the Gospel of John. About three weeks after we had initially met, he came back, having finished reading John. It was clear that the Holy Spirit had moved him into a place of faith.

After much conversation, we looked at Romans 10:9-10. I encouraged him to confess and believe. Then we prayed together for him to receive the Lord.

My thought after that was, How many more students are there like Joel to whom we might be ministering, if we had a more inviting environment geared to be more welcoming to students and others?

I invite you to join us in helping the LA staff have a great facility as we are all dreaming.





The Problem of the Curse on Jeconiah in Relation to the Genealogy of Jesus

The problem can be laid out in this way:

1) According to the genealogy in Matthew 1:12, Jesus is a descendant of Jeconiah.

2) Jeconiah was cursed in Jeremiah 22:24 and 22:30:

Since no descendant of Jeconiah could ever sit on the throne, if Jesus is a descendant of this cursed king, he is disqualified from being the Messiah.

If true, then what is Jeconiah doing in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's gospel? And how can Jesus qualify to be the Messiah? First of all, we have to wonder why Matthew would ever have included Jeconiah among the ancestors of Jesus if this so obviously disqualified Jesus from being the Messiah. In fact, the Scripture shows that the curse was only short-term, if not altogether reversed by God.

There are three parts to the curse on Jeconiah (who is also called Jehoiachin or Coniah):

- that he would be childless (this is how the Hebrew text literally reads)

- that he would not prosper in his lifetime

- that none of his descendants would rule in Judah

The Scripture shows that in fact none of these took place.

- Though the Hebrew literally reads, "Record this man childless," Jeconiah in fact had children. — 1 Chronicles 3:17-18

- He did prosper in his day. (2 Kings 25:27-28)

- His grandson Zerubbabel prospered and ruled. In fact the same words God used in rejecting Jeconiah were deliberately used in establishing Zerubbabel. (Haggai 2:23,)

Though Zerubbabel did not sit on the throne as king, the fact that Haggai 2:23 uses the same terminology as Jeremiah 22:24 shows that Haggai intended to indicate a reversal of the curse.

We have to conclude that the cursed phrase in Jer. 22:30, "in his lifetime" qualifies the following phrases, and "for" explains that no descendant of

his will prosper and rule during his lifetime.

We find rabbinic sources which also agree that God reversed the curse on Jeconiah, which they attribute to repentance on Jeconiah's part. We even find the idea that the Messiah will descend from Jeconiah—exactly the opposite of what some say is impossible! Some of these sources are as follows:

1. Sources stating that Jeconiah repented and so God reversed the curse. (Sanhedrin 37b-38a, Pesikta de-Rab Kahana (5th c.), Leviticus Rabbah XIX:6 (5th-6th c.), Pesikta Rabbati, Piska 47 (6th-7th c.), Numbers Rabbah XX:20 (date uncertain; 9th c.), Rabbi A. J. Rosenberg, on Jeremiah 22:30 (20th c.), Encyclopedia Judaica

2. Sources stating that the Messiah will descend from Jeconiah. Tanhuma Genesis, Toledot (8th-9th c.), Rabbi A. J. Rosenberg on Jeremiah 22:24 (20th c.), Jewish Encyclopedia.

bits from branches

Sisters, Survivors of the Holocaust, found faith in Jerusalem

Natalie reports: "At our lecture on the paintings of Marc Chagall, I met Neta,* who had immigrated to Israel from Russia 25 years ago. We struck up a conversation and she gave me her phone number. A couple of days later, I visited Neta in her apartment. Her sister Roni,* who lives with her, was present as well. They gave me a warm welcome.

"Before long, they told me about their childhood – how, together with their mother, they had survived the Siege of Leningrad during World War II. After hearing about their horrific experience, I asked Neta and Roni if they still believed in God. Both affirmed that they did, and I began to talk to them further about the gospel and the forgiveness of sin through Messiah Yeshua.

"The sisters were very surprised and acknowledged that they had not thought about it before, but they realized that they have sin in their lives. 'Do you want to receive the love of God and the forgiveness of sins that is given through Jesus?' I asked. They agreed, and prayed to receive Yeshua as their Messiah and Savior. After the prayer, Neta and Roni both described a great sense of relief in their hearts. I prayed for them, and we parted good friends. Please pray that the Lord would help us connect Neta and Roni to a congregation of believers in Yeshua!"

*Names are changed to protect privacy

SAN FRANCISCO

The call came in

Susan Perlman reports from San Francisco, "I was thrilled when the call came in. Mark had been getting our ISSUES publication for more than 25 years — and he read each and every edition that came to his home. But the call did not come from Mark; it came from John, a Christian lawyer.

"John holds a Bible study in his New York office, and his friend Mark had been attending. The two had discussed Mark's spiritual journey, and where Mark's Jewishness fit in. Mark had seen my name as editor in chief of ISSUES and knew I had written several articles that he'd read (starting ISSUES in the mid-1970s was a big part of my ministry in the early days of Jews for Jesus). He and Mark discussed the possibility of the three of us meeting together. And so the call came in.

"Meeting face-to-face with some of our readers is one of my greatest joys. So there we sat for an hour and half in a coffee shop talking about Jesus! I know that John was encouraged too. Oh, how I pray for more Christians to reach out to their Jewish friends like John did.

"I asked Mark, 'Have you ever studied the Messianic prophecies and how Jesus might possibly have fulfilled them?' 'No, I haven't,' he admitted. 'Would you like to?' I asked and then added, 'John, would you like to sit down with Mark and go through the prophecies?' He was eager. I promised I'd send them a prophecy book to help them get started.

"Mark received the book and kept on meeting with John. More than a year later, another call came in. John was excited to tell me that Mark is now professing faith in Jesus! He'd told John that the meeting in that coffee shop had been the turning point for him. Mark remembered my telling him that if Jesus was the Messiah back then, He is still the Messiah today and will be the Messiah tomorrow. He doesn't change, even if we have our ups and downs.

"It is not easy for new Jewish believers in Jesus to talk to their families about Him. When Mark began talking to his son and daughter-in-law about his beliefs, they told him he couldn't mention Jesus in their Jewish home. He held firm as he responded, 'I am a guest in your home. If you had a Hindu guest, you wouldn't tell them they couldn't mention Vishnu in your home.' Please pray for Mark, for John who faithfully keeps that Bible study going and for many other ISSUES readers to get the messianic Jewish perspective.



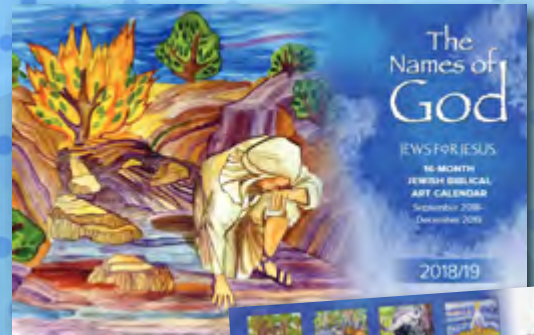
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