

**S**urrounded by a culture of death, we struggle desperately to preserve the value of life. We hate war but are forced to defend ourselves, despite the awful risks. This may sound a lot like present-day Israel, but I am also reflecting on what happened in Israel more than 2,000 years ago, events that inspired an annual celebration called Hanukkah.

In --165 B.C., the tiny country of Israel was invaded by a powerful enemy: Syria. Syria's ruler was determined to force his Hellenistic way of life on the Jewish people. Though radical Islam had not yet come into existence, radical Hellenization shared many of the same ruthless and destructive tendencies. If the Syrians had their way, the Jewish people would have ceased to exist. Jewish religion, culture, laws and language would have been obliterated from the face of the earth.

A God-fearing man named Matityahu (Mattathias) courageously risked his life to oppose the Syrians. He and his sons, soon known as the Maccabees, fought valiantly against the Syrian army. It was a long and bitter fight against overwhelming odds. Many lives were lost, but eventually the Maccabees triumphed, recaptured Jerusalem and the Temple—and Israel was saved once again from extinction.

Salvation. What does that word mean to you? In the Bible, the words Yesha (Hebrew) and Soteria (Greek) usually refer to physical deliverance, such as the victory we commemorate at Hanukkah. God saved the Jewish people then, just as He had saved us from Pharaoh and the Philistines.

Perhaps more familiar to Christians is the salvation that individuals experience—personal salvation by God's grace through faith in Yeshua

(Jesus) the Messiah. This salvation means a whole new life, forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life to come. Yeshua = Yesha!

Yeshua stood in the Temple less than 200 years after God had used the Maccabees to save Israel from the Syrian army. He offered a very different kind of salvation when he said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:27-28).

Clearly, physical and spiritual salvation are two different things, though at times they are related. Physical salvation may occur miraculously, but it is temporal and circumstantial, whereas spiritual salvation is the greatest miracle of all. Spiritual salvation is eternally

## How To Save A Life



**David Brickner**  
Executive Director,  
San Francisco USA



secured through the indestructible power of God. If we depend solely on our limited perspective, we can fail to recognize these important distinctions. And it will be to our detriment, and the detriment of those we hope to reach, if we place greater value on physical than on spiritual salvation. That's not to say we should care only for one or the other, we just need to maintain perspective.

Earlier this year a team of Jews for Jesus staff and volunteers was ministering to Israelis traveling in India. (Many thousands of Israelis, when they complete their compulsory army service, travel globally, and almost all begin their trek in India.) A couple of participants, Isaiah and Bryan, met and witnessed to some Israeli families, and joined them on a hike to Kiraganga. During the steep mountain climb up to the site of a spectacular waterfall, Bryan was speaking to an Israeli college professor and his sixteen-year-old son. Suddenly the son took a wrong step and stumbled into a steep crevice. He grabbed hold of a bush to save him from the fall—but the bush quickly began to give way. In a split-second reaction, Bryan shimmied down off the ledge, grabbed the boy, hoisted him back up off the precipice, and very likely saved his life. Of course the whole family was deeply grateful. They were eager to hear more about Bryan and Isaiah's faith, receive literature and stay in contact.

On a separate occasion in the town of Lei, Bryan and Isaiah were with several other team members, including Naomi, when a desperate Israeli jumped out of a taxi and frantically pleaded for help. His friend had been in a terrible motorcycle accident and had lost a lot

*"No doubt they were grateful to be a part of saving the lives of two young men. I found those two stories compelling, but even more compelling is the salvation of that waiter when he prayed to receive Yeshua at the Rosen Center"*

of blood. Could our team come to the hospital possibly donate blood to help save his life? Of course they all climbed in and rushed to the hospital.

A group of Israelis had gathered including a Nachman\* rabbi. Our team members began to pray for the accident victim, whose name was Israel. They also began talking to all who had gathered, including the rabbi, about their faith in Jesus. It turned out that Naomi's blood type matched Israel's, and she was able to donate the blood that saved his life that day. Later the team had dinner with the Israeli friends they had met at the hospital; they left them with Hebrew New Testaments and other literature.

One last story I will share with you. Isaiah and Bryan had frequented a particular restaurant on several occasions and had become friendly with the Israeli waiter, though they had not yet shared the gospel with him. They didn't want to leave the country without doing so, and on their last visit they made a point of telling the waiter about their faith.

The waiter seemed unnerved by this and exclaimed how very strange it was they should be talking to him about Jesus as he had just watched the Jesus

film the night before. God's timing is perfect! The waiter took further literature and promised to think about whether Jesus might be the Messiah. Weeks later, Isaiah and Bryan learned that the same Israeli waiter had shown up at the Moishe Rosen Center (JFJ Outreach location) in Tel Aviv and prayed with our staff there to profess faith in Yeshua.

Salvation. What does it mean to Isaiah and Bryan and Naomi?

No doubt they were grateful to be a part of saving the lives of two young men. I found those two stories compelling, but even more compelling is the salvation of that waiter when he prayed to receive Yeshua at the Rosen Center. Don't you agree?

The Talmud says, "Whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world" (Sanhedrin 37a). That's how important the fleeting life of even one individual is counted. How much more the eternal soul?

This Hanukkah I will rejoice once again that God saved His people Israel from her enemies, whether they be the Syrians of the past or Islamic terrorists of the present. But even more than that I long to see God's salvation come to Israel, and to all people, through faith in Messiah Jesus. Let's pray in earnest that during this holiday season and in the coming year many Jewish people—indeed many from every nation, including Syria—will be saved when they hear His voice and follow Him.

*\*Nachman is a Hassidic sect of Judaism that is very mystical and aggressively outreach-oriented*

*David Brickner is also an author, public speaker and avid hiker. He has led Jews for Jesus internationally since 1996.*

## ADDRESS INFORMATION

### JEWES FOR JESUS AUSTRALIA

E-MAIL: [mail@jewsforjesus.org.au](mailto:mail@jewsforjesus.org.au) WEB: [jewsforjesus.org.au](http://jewsforjesus.org.au)

Phone in Australia: +61.2.9388.0559

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

PO Box 925  
Sydney NSW 2001

### JFJ NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 564  
Rangiora 7440

### JFJ SINGAPORE

Bedok Central PO Box 552  
Singapore 914606

### DONATIONS

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# JEWES FOR JESUS™





# Just **One** Word

*a Christmas reflection*

**W**ords are powerful. God used words to bring order out of chaos. He used them to create the universe. Without words, we would have no concept of who God is, what He wants, or why we exist.

Words bring meaning. They reveal truth. They expand our thinking and open up possibilities. They don't just enable us to share information; they enable us to share our hearts.

Words can also be twisted to serve purposes that are exactly the opposite than those for which they were originally intended. Words deceive and destroy. They can be used to close minds, and isolate us from God and from one another.

But there is One Word that cannot be twisted.



by Ruth Rosen

One Word whose power cannot be co-opted. That word is described in the Gospel of John:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1)

That Word is the object of our worship and celebration, and all the more so because, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

How amazing that God became less, in order to be like us... so that we could become more... like Him. Nothing is so poetic and yet at the same time so practical as the Incarnation. It is said that a picture paints a thousand words. And yet, with just One Word, God painted a thousand pictures.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. I don't think anyone believes it was on December 25 because for one thing: there was no such month as December in the Land where He was born. And even if there had been, there is no evidence that connects His birth to any particular date.

That doesn't take away the joy that many of us share by paying special attention to the Incarnation at this time of year. In an age when words are so often twisted, truncated or otherwise stripped of their true meaning, I like to think of the Incarnation as the most concise and incorruptible Word in the Universe. Long before the twitterverse existed, God had mastered the art of getting down to essentials. He only needed One Word (not 140 characters) to get His message across!

It is increasingly difficult to find greeting cards that have a message to honor the One whose birth is most worth celebrating. Over the years, we've printed many articles and poems to express what the birth of Yeshua means to us. And maybe you have found some good ones. (Of course we sell many at our book shop in Bondi Junction)

May God help us all shine His light especially brightly at this time of year, when so many people are seeking joy that can only be found in Him, the Word made flesh. Merry MessiahMas!

## *To donate support to Jews for Jesus in your will*

Please include the following wording in your will if you wish to make a contribution in your will to Jews for Jesus after you pass on from this life to be with 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, in the State of New South Wales, 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."

If you do insert that paragraph into your will, please let us know, won't you? That would be awesome. Thanks.

## *Job Opportunity*

The Jewish school in Singapore is looking for a Year 4 Primary Teacher. Start date: January 2015 Curriculum: UK/IPC from 18 Months to Grade 6 (12 years) Salary: SG 3300 - \$6000 per month depending on experience.

Plus an attractive relocation package (accommodation allowance, flights and medical cover for those coming from Australia or NZ). This could be an amazing opportunity. Contact [LB@teachanywhere.com](mailto:LB@teachanywhere.com)

# End of Year thoughts from the thankful leader



Bob Mendelsohn  
Regional Director - JFJ AustralAsia

**S**halom to my friends here in AustralAsia, from our Sydney headquarters!

I'm typing this update from inside our new book shop, looking at history gone as across the street, our former location, is now a big hole in the ground. So many people came and went; so much evangelism and so much disci-



pleship. I longed for and God gave us people with whom to work, and volunteers and donors and opportunities in so many forms. Thanks be to God for His great work and His great love for all mankind.

This year we not only moved shop, but I have visited Moscow, Dublin, the Dominican Republic, the US in several cities, and all around this great country of ours. Wherever I go, I encounter Jewish people who want to know more about God. It's awesome—whether on an airplane or in the place where the plane landed. Some were surprised at the idea of a Jew believing in Jesus, but the more we speak with them, the more we see God opening eyes.



I remember the young people in Moscow and the old rabbi from Israel, the fourth player on the 18 holes in Sydney's north and the French travelers in our shop, and hundreds more evangelistic moments over the last year. I wish you could come with me. I want you to keep praying for more and more of these God-incidences in December and throughout 2015 if the Lord tarries. This believer (in orange shirt) and I witnessed to this Jewish man: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bobmendo/>



[sets/72157644538460060](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bobmendo/) It was a lively conversation to be sure.

Many donors receive this letter electronically; many others receive this in the post. There are people buying our products like those listed on the back pages or in the book shop. People are buying resources to pass on to mates and colleagues for Christmas and other events year-round. We are happy to supply things for people. And each dollar we gain in profit goes back into evangelism, especially as we look to increase staff in 2015.

That's the burden of my heart. We need more labourers. We have to pay for the ones we do have. And your end-of-year giving or your giving in January or anytime helps us continue in this ministry of reaching 'to the Jew first' and 'also to the Gentile.' Today a Thai man who moved to Sydney three days ago, and an Italian woman who moved here three weeks ago and a Moroccan Jew who moved here 30 years ago all had good conversations with us. I gave away Bibles; I spoke the Gospel. God was well honored. But we need more of us. Yeshua said, "labourers are few... harvest is great... therefore pray..." Please join us in that prayer, won't you?

Do let us know how we can help you in your witness to others. Send us the names and addresses of Jewish people you work with or in your family. We will send them a letter of witness and an invitation to interact. Let us exalt His name together, amen? We will send them ISSUES magazine and try to help them sort out who Yeshua is. That's what we do. That's where we continue to partner together in this enterprise.

What a joy to serve you among the Jewish people of Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, and around the globe. Thanks, my friends, for keeping us out here for His purposes for another year!

All the best and merry Messiah-mas!

**Bob Mendelsohn**



### The new Messiahmas badge

It's 38 mm diameter and pins onto a purse, jacket or shirt, just in time for Christmas. Reminding people of the real person who is our Messiah. After all Mr and Mrs Christ didn't have a baby!

Buy two and give one away to remind people the Reason for the Season!

**Cost: \$4**

We now have  
over 800 products  
in the shop!

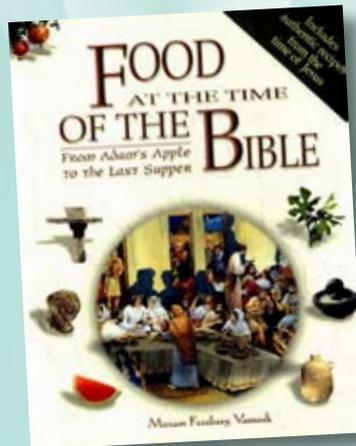
*All costs include shipping in Australia. For other countries, please add \$4 per item. Sorry, that's Aussie Post for you.*



### Food at the time of the Bible

Written in Israel by MF Vanosh. Discover the symbolic meanings behind the biblical menu items such as pomegranates and figs and "milk and honey." Try the food of the Bible for yourself with easy recipes that date back to Bible days.

**Cost: \$25**



### Anointing oil: Frankincense and myrrh

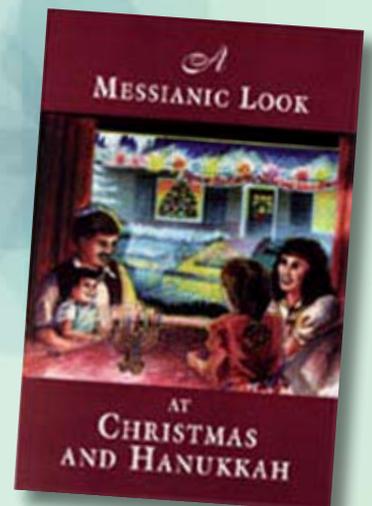
Frankincense & Myrrh, two of the three prophetic gifts given to the Messiah at His birth, represent His role as Priest and Prophet, signifying all that Messiah would do and continues to do on our behalf.

**Cost: \$26**



### Messianic Look at Hanukkah/Christmas

A wonderful collection of testimony, prose and poetry to add a little touch of love to the blessed season from Jews who believe that Jesus is the reason for the season. A good booklet to give to an unbelieving Jewish friend. Chapters include: The Light of Two Faiths; Guiding Star; The Promised Child. **Cost: \$6**



### Wristband : Stand by Israel

3/4 inch white on blue. Stand With Israel bracelet. Embossed Printed white on blue. 3/4 Inch. Solid color. **Price: \$3**

