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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism

With the World Series coming up, some might wonder if by “triple play” I mean that most rare event that makes baseball fans cheer ecstatically. I am an avid fan, but I’m actually referring to a Jewish triple play—because it’s rare that all three of the Fall Feasts of Israel occur in the month of October. Don’t worry, I’m not going to pronounce the end of the world... though there is plenty of prophetic significance to these feasts.

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot form a pageantry of gospel drama, a portrait of God’s salvation story—not just for Jews, but for all who’ll receive it.

A good way to remember these three holidays is by three “Rs”—repentance, redemption and return. They sum up the biblical theology animating these three festivals. (See Leviticus 23:23–43.)

Rosh Hashanah, referred to in the Bible as the Feast of Trumpets, is all about repentance. The blast of the shofar (a ram’s horn trumpet) called ancient Israelites to attention—it could announce a call to war, the arrival of royalty, the changing of the guard, or it could begin a solemn assembly. In this case, it’s a solemn assembly that begins a period of repentance, both individually and for the nation. The Feast of Trumpets launches a period known as the Days of Awe—ten days to contemplate and reflect—days that lead inexorably to the Day of Atonement.

It is customary, during Rosh Hashanah synagogue services today, to read the Akedah, the Genesis 22 account of the

A Triple Play



David Brickner
Executive Director,
San Francisco USA



When Jewish people turn to Jesus, the redemption story is fulfilled in their lives as their hearts are sprinkled clean. He is the Lamb that God Himself provided, He is our great High Priest who made the sacrifice, as well as becoming that sacrifice. And He promised that in the last days He would return to His people and right all wrongs.

binding of Isaac. The story begins with the words, "Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham."

Though the Akedah is not specifically about repentance, it's a great metaphor for this somber day. Like Abraham, the Jewish people enter a time of testing and self-examination. We walk with him up the side of the mountain. We carry with us the burdens of life like the wood and knife—and the voice of Isaac echoes in our imagination, "But where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Can we share the faith of our father Abraham as he answers, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb"? We know the rest of the story; the ram is caught in the thicket by its horn—the shofar. That horn, that trumpet, reminds us that God graciously provides all things, including forgiveness, for those who truly repent and believe.

Repentance leads to redemption, the story powerfully enacted in the pageantry of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Leviticus 23:27 commanded the Israelites concerning this time: "you shall afflict your souls." The rabbis interpret this as a complete and total fast from sundown to sundown.

Our souls were afflicted as we humbled ourselves on Yom Kippur, anticipating the highest drama on the holiest of Holy Days—the only day of the year when the high priest could safely enter the Holy of Holies. In this sacred and solemn place he would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant, to make atonement for the sins of the people.

Throngs of afflicted souls anxiously awaited the high priest's return from the Most Holy Place. If God would regard sin in the heart of the intercessor, He might strike him down, rejecting the sacrifice made on behalf of the people. As soon as the people saw the priest exit that Most Holy Place, they rejoiced as though they

were witnessing a glorious resurrection from the dead. God had indeed forgiven sin, and atonement had been secured for another year.

The Day of Atonement included another powerful redemption image: the Azazel, or scapegoat. The high priest would place his hands upon the head of that goat and confess the sin of the nation, picturing a symbolic transfer of the sin of the people onto the innocent animal. A scarlet cord was tied about the goat and the animal was led through the midst of the crowd out of sight, into the wilderness to die. As the Psalmist declared: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

Sadly, the powerful pictures of redemption in the stories of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have become veiled from the eyes of most Jewish people today. Abraham declared in faith, "God will provide for Himself the lamb," and yet for Jews who do not know Jesus, there is no lamb. For those afflicted in soul there is no Temple and there is no great High Priest to come back to us from the Most Holy Place. But we are not left without hope. There is still one more festival to celebrate: Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, the promise of return.

Sukkot is a unique holiday in that God actually commanded the people to rejoice for seven days! This harvest festival celebrates the final ingathering of crops in the land. Yet God promised more than crops; He was talking about people, the fruit of His work of grace and salvation. "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you

out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean . . . " (Ezekiel 36:24–25a).

Jesus may very well have had this promise in mind when He stood in the Temple during Sukkot and declared: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37–38).

When Jewish people turn to Jesus, the redemption story is fulfilled in their lives as their hearts are sprinkled clean. He is the Lamb that God Himself provided, He is our great High Priest who made the sacrifice, as well as becoming that sacrifice. And He promised that in the last days He would return to His people and right all wrongs: "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God'" (Revelation 21:3).

I hope during October you will remember repentance, redemption and return—the wonderful triple play of God's salvation story. Remember the Jewish people, most of whom have no idea of how these feasts point to Jesus. Remember our missionaries who will be conducting special events and outreaches around these holidays. Your prayers will surely make a difference as we do all we can to connect with those whom God is seeking to save this month.



on our Shortfall Appeal



by Bob Mendelsohn
Regional Director

contact information of 405 people, 334 of them being Jewish people who do not yet believe in Messiah. And, most amazingly, we saw 43 profess their faith in Jesus, 35 of which all occurred at one meeting. In all my years in ministry, I've never seen the Lord move in such a powerful way. We praise Him for his faithfulness and willingness to use our team as ministers of His Kingdom!"

UKRAINE and BERLIN

During July, missionaries and volunteers joined together in Berlin, to campaign among the tens of thousands of Jewish people who have returned to this city from Russia and Israel, and a few thousand German Jews. After two weeks, they had hand-distributed over 120,000 Gospel tracts, and gathered the names of other 100 unbelieving Jewish people who want to hear more from us. Another 400 Gentiles are also curious and we have passed those names to the local churches for follow up. Our own teams are now remaining in Berlin, as we have opened our 27th branch of JFI there in Berlin. 3 Jewish people professed faith in Yeshua during the campaign.

In August, we finished the 'summer' outreaches up north with an anniversary campaign in Odessa. 25 years ago we began our work in the Former Soviet Union there and to celebrate we didn't use a cake, we had a campaign! Over the fortnight, our teams went to the streets, and the results are awesome. Buckle your seat belt.

During the two weeks, our teams handed out the usual 120,000 tracts and gathered the names of the unusual 660 unbelieving Jewish enquirers. 32 Jews and 92 Gentiles gave their lives to the Lord when we invited



Dan Sered,
Israeli director,
in a relaxed mood

ISRAEL and RUSSIA

In June our teams gathered in St Petersburg (Russia, not US) for a two-week campaign on the streets and phones. Of the unbelievers, over 700 Jews and over 400 Gentiles gave us their contact information for further followup. They are slowly coming to profess faith in Messiah. 10 Jews and 39 Gentiles from that number are already believing now. Thanks be to God! The teams handed out over 175,000 tracts during the fortnight.

In the West Bank (Samaria) of Israel, our teams worked in June also. And a most remarkable story took place there. For the first time ever we invited Israelis onto a tour of biblical sites with us and 40 took us up on this. At the end, we invited those who would like to hear some of our story to a special meeting. At that meeting Valery Bolotov shared his testimony and a portion of the Scriptures. He issued an invitation to people to receive Yeshua as Lord and Saviour. 35 Israelis gave their lives to the Lord at that very moment. In our 40 years of ministry we hadn't seen anything like that... ever!

Dan Sered, our Israeli Director, wrote at the end of all they saw. "We were amazed to find that when we knocked on people's doors nearly 30% of the people would open up and speak with our campaigners. And, a third of those would invite us in and give our team members a chance to talk with them further about the Lord. In the end, 199 people allowed us to open our Bibles and share with them about the scriptures and the promised Messiah.

Over all, our campaign team handed out 28,300 gospel pamphlets and spoke to over 3,636 people over the phone about Yeshua. We received the

We asked God what to do. Our Board was concerned as they should have been. We were looking at a \$95,000 shortfall to our annual budget here, and there seemed to be no way to garner the finances to keep the book shop open, to keep staff, to continue our ministry as we had carried on the last few years. So we prayed. And we notified the friends of Jews for Jesus via our newsletter in May. And by the end of June, just 6 weeks later, our shortfall was stopped; our financial turnaround was complete. We were in the black again. And our hearts were full of gratitude. But that's not the end of the story.

Moishe Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus, who died in 2010, used to say, "It's much easier to raise funds than to be worthy of them." That statement both stays with and haunts me. He was right, of course. So the question is begged, "Are we performing ministry worthy of this great turnaround?" That question has been answered so comprehensively in the last three months, hopefully this update will let you know what we are feeling—that God is with us and wants us to carry on. And your role in this continues.



Valery Bolotov
witnessing in
Odessa during
the Campaign.



Concert crowd
gathers in final
night in Odessa

them to do so. But then the final concert on the last night brought out remarkable results. Over 1200 people attended. 40% were Jewish. One third raised their hands to get saved at the invitation. What? Yes, that's what we said—professing faith in Yeshua and starting new life in Him. The followup continues. The work goes on.

And it's not only us—the professional missionaries and administrative staff—who are part of this teamwork with the Lord. When I was in Singapore in August, I wrote our Odessa (Ukraine) campaign, "At each venue where I'm preaching here in Singapore I have asked them to pray for the people of Odessa and the results of the campaign. The people here pray very long after I preach; it is awesome to be among them. I believe your work, your workers, God's supply and people praying from around Ukraine and around the world, have caused the results during this fantastic campaign."

We are part of you and you are part of us. It's something we acknowledge in statements now and then, but honestly we live more often than not, as if it's only a cliché. But, dear friends, without your joining us in prayer and finances,

there is no Jews for Jesus. Without your partnership in the Gospel, our words will fall flat among Jewish people. Without our teaming up in these ways, we will be 'less.' Each day I see the report from the NAB bank where our funds eventually arrive, even from OCBC (Singapore donors) or BNZ (New Zealand donors). And each day there are new donations, usually from this person or that church, from someone who is well known to us, and often from people whose names are even brand-new to us. I shake my head in wonder. I lift my arms to the skies and thank the Living God for His supply, and for friends like you who 'get it.'

The 'shortfall' did not happen. We are well supplied for now. We need daily re-supply. We are receiving it from likely and unlikely friends and gatherings. Small prayer groups are collecting funds and sending them to us. One Sunday school group sold things to their church and sent us the proceeds. Pensioners send money that is like the 'two mites' of Yeshua's story. Your generosity in prayer and finances is well noted and deeply appreciated. From all of our staff here in Sydney, a hearty THANK YOU (all).

QUICK QUESTION

How do I purchase a lulav and etrog to celebrate Sukkot here in Australia?

Answer: The feast of Tabernacles is the seventh of seven biblical festivals God told the Jews to mark as appointments with Him (Lev. 23). This year the holiday occurs 17 to 25 October. There are two items the Bible says will help us perform the two verbs associated with the holiday: rejoice and remember. The two items are the sukkah (booth) and the four species (lulav and etrog). To build the booth, we recommend you check this link: <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/how-to-build-a-sukkah/> and follow the easy cement block and 7' cube design. Bob has been using this at his home for 30 years!

As for the four species, Bob recommends this: The problem with securing a Jewish-approved, kosher lulav and etrog is that the suppliers are charging outrageous prices to secure these. We live so far from Israel and that's where these come from.

Why not try to use four species which you can gather right there in your home town? A palm branch, some myrtle, and willow, woven together in a fashion. And use a lemon. That would work and you will feel particularly both resourceful and personal in your devotion.

For more on Tabernacles, click here: <http://jewsforjesus.org/publications/realtime/oct-2014/shake-your-lulav> and better yet, buy the book "Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles" on the Resource page. (Online: <http://www.jewsforjesus.org.au/catalog/christ-in-the-feast-of-tabernacles.html>)

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

Turning 18 C'hai CLU18

18 years ago the Mendelsohn family moved from New York City to start the organization “Jews for Jesus” here in Sydney. Who knew we would expand to cover the entire country, and to include New Zealand and Singapore in our region? The ride has been awesome and the Jewish people in Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and around the region who have come to personal faith in Yeshua are happy we came! We are celebrating this 18th anniversary with a new venture and with a campaign.

The Chai Club

The Hebrew word for “life” is “chai.” Each Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent and the numbers associated with this word total 18. It is customary to wish a Bar Mitzvah boy “chai” by giving him an \$18 gift, or \$36 (double chai) or \$54 (triple chai). We think this is a great idea. If you are inclined to give a wedding couple a financial gift, of say \$50, why not give them \$54 and say “Triple Chai” to them.

In light of that we are welcoming people to our Chai Club. There are benefits to joining the Club. You will receive 18% discounts on selected items through the year of your membership. You will receive the Jewish wall calendar. You will receive special updates that are not going to the general public. You will be invited to a special event or two in your state with our staff. We will let you know of new products coming to the bookshop before anyone else. The best benefit is that you will know you are supporting our operations substantially throughout each year. And being a part of our team of witness is wonderful.

To join the Chai Club, you (promise to) send us \$1800 (100-fold chai) in any denomination. When the \$1800 is fully banked after you submit your response (email or coupon) you will have a one-year membership and we will issue your benefit package. This is a great way

to say you are ‘with us.’

The Campaign

As the calendar year ends, we will be out on the streets of Sydney sharing the Gospel with the help of many faithful volunteers and staff from around the globe.

What
a

C'hai
CLU18

way to
celebrate!

Maybe God will

give us response like you read about in this edition of the newsletter from Israel, Russia or Ukraine. No matter what, we will be out and about sharing Messiah. Please begin praying for the needed set-up and logistics, for the literature, the t-shirts, the lodging, the food, the chef, etc. Pray for our teams to arrive without visa problems and to find good locations for phoning, for visiting, and a final gathering for a public program. Pray for the Jewish people of Sydney to hear. Pray for their hearts to be open. Pray, pray and pray again!

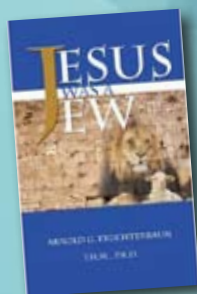
Jesus was a Jew

by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

Who was Jesus of Nazareth? Looking for answers as to the real identity of Jesus, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, author of *Jesus Was A Jew*, embarked on his own personal search. He documents the opinions of many Jewish leaders. Contains interviews with almost 40 Jews — rabbis, homemakers,

actors, hairdressers, and others from all walks of life — concerning what they believe about Jesus.

Cost: \$19



Amen

Spanish CD by Jonathan Settler

"Many believe these are the days of 'Chevlei Mashiach' — the 'birth pangs of Messiah'. In the midst of the increasing shocks and pain we have been experiencing in Israel and worldwide. Jonathan's album is a beacon of light and hope; An expression of joyful anticipation on the part of this unique generation.

Cost: \$19



Messiah in the Feasts of Israel

"Find out how Jesus participated used the feasts of Israel to reveal his identity." *Messiah in the Feasts of Israel: Feasts of the Bible Explained* is a fantastic book that explains the feasts, festivals, and holy days of the Bible.

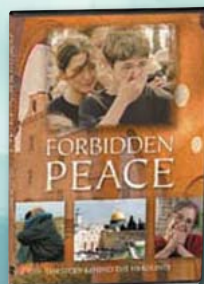
Cost: \$33



Forbidden Peace DVD

Almost daily, we are bombarded with images from Israel; graphic portrayals of violence permeate our media and our minds. Yet these pictures don't tell the whole story. Beyond the bloodshed and despite decades of hostility, Israelis and Palestinians are joining hands and forging a peace agreement long thought forbidden.

Cost: \$22



Chai necklace

Celebrate our 18th year with this beautiful necklace. From Israeli Jewelry Designer 'Marina' a beautifully crafted and most stunning gold fill "Chai" Pendant. 'Chai' meaning 'Life' in Hebrew formed with the Hebrew letters 'Chet' and 'Yud' - The word refers to the Living God.

Cost \$42



CALENDAR

All major Biblical/Jewish and Israeli holidays, with extensive explanation. All calendars feature Scriptures in Hebrew and English. All dates in both Jewish/Lunar and Gregorian/solar calendar systems. Weekly Torah and Haftarah portions plus "Gospel Portions". Sabbath beginning and ending times. Gorgeous photos and art. Pages designed to be frameable. Other special features. **Cost \$27**



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