

Resurrection Reflections _____ by Moishe Rosen

“If you want to worship a dead Jew, that’s up to you.” The man had prefaced his remark by saying that he respected what I believed, and I’m sure he thought he did. His glib remark seemed to pass through his lips without malice, indeed, without thought. You know how it is. If you hear something often enough, you might repeat it without thinking—without realizing that what seems very matter-of-fact to you might actually be a statement of ridicule to someone else.

I couldn’t blame that man—a reasonable man, a Jewish man—because he didn’t know what I know: it’s true that Jesus is a Jew, but He is not dead! He is very much alive—more so than you or I or anyone on this earth. But how could this man know that?

**If the grave could
 not hold Him back, how much
 less my stubborn heart?**

The idea of resurrection should not be alien to the Jewish people, at least not to those who recite daily from the Jewish prayer book that affirms “There will be a revival of the dead at a time which will please the Creator, blessed and exalted be His name forever and ever.”* It is far easier to find the hope of resurrection in the Jewish prayer book than it is to find it in a Jewish heart—or a Gentile heart, for that matter. That’s right. Based upon our human observations and understanding, life from the dead just doesn’t make sense. Alive is alive, and dead is dead, and eventually everything and everyone dies. If there’s anything more than that, you figure it out when you get there. That’s how many people see the matter, and I had no reason to see it differently—until 1953, when I came to see just about everything differently.

I talked to a rabbi before I became a believer in Jesus—but not for myself, you understand. I wanted him to help me dissuade my Jewish wife from her budding faith in Jesus. I

chose Rabbi Brycks, the man who had officiated at our wedding. He was an Orthodox rabbi, good natured, easy to talk to—I liked him. “I need to know the official Jewish reasons for not believing in Jesus,” I explained and prepared myself to receive the weighty information I assumed he would impart. His reply began with a long, “W-e-e-l-l-l,” followed by, “it’s just something that you can’t believe.” I waited, confident that there was more. There was. “They

[meaning the Christians] think that God made a virgin pregnant, and from that they got Jesus.” I said, “So?” He quickly responded. “So, virgins don’t have babies. It takes two to tango!” I hoped that his other reasons would be more convincing. I was no expert, but it seemed to me that if God could create the universe out of

nothing, He could arrange for a virgin to be pregnant.

“And,” Rabbi Brycks continued, “Judaism is a religion of the here-and-now. Christianity is a religion of the here-after. To them [Christians] what happens after you’re dead is more important than when you’re alive.” I must have looked puzzled because he looked me in the eye and said in a kind but very authoritative tone, “When it comes to the hereafter, no one ever came back to tell us what it was like.” I wanted to blurt out, “You don’t understand. That’s exactly what she [my wife, Ceil] is telling me—that Jesus *did* come back from the dead. She really believes that—and she’s a sensible person.” But I held my tongue. The conversation wasn’t going to go anywhere because the rabbi had a commitment to uphold and was accustomed to others accepting that commitment with a minimum of questions. His reasons would not sound like reasons to Ceil. I knew that because they didn’t even sound like reasons to me, and I didn’t believe like she did.

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Part of me actually wanted to believe as Ceil did, but I didn't seem to have it in me. I was never one to say that I believed something when I didn't. As far as I was concerned, belief shouldn't take effort. You either believe, or you don't believe. Some wrongly think that saying something is true will make it true, but faith is not created through wishful thinking.

What I didn't know then was that faith is a gift of God, the capacity to take a stand, to see beyond our best human reasoning. Ceil had willingly received that gift, and she publicly acknowledged her faith in the risen Lord. She did so in church (I stayed home!) on the very day set aside to celebrate His resurrection. I was upset because I knew that it was somehow important for a Jew to resist what she believed. But the same power that raised Jesus from the dead was at work in my life. If the grave could not hold Him back, how much less my stubborn heart? Within months, I discovered to my amazement that I believed in the Messiah who was crucified for our sin and rose victorious. I couldn't explain how I came to have that faith, other than that God was gracious to answer Ceil's prayers and the prayers of many others.

Faith transcends common sense as well as profound logic. God says, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9). That does not mean that we are not obligated to learn a reasonable defense of our faith (1 Peter 3:15). But however reasonable our defense, it takes the grace of God to open someone's heart to His transcendent Truth.

I've often reflected on the words of that rabbi who tried to help me understand why Jews should not believe in Jesus. What he said about the Christian emphasis on the hereafter is often echoed in antimissionary literature. You see, there is a Jewish teaching, *tikkun haolam* (literally to restore or repair the world), that suggests people are to be partners with God in perfecting this world. The idea is that Judaism fosters a responsible attitude toward the earth and its inhabitants, and I think that many Jewish people do take this responsibility seriously. But some people mistakenly think that Christianity teaches that it doesn't matter what we do here as long as we secure a place in heaven. This is not a particularly Jewish view of Christianity; it is shared by many non-Christians. Perhaps you've heard the phrase: "she's so heavenly minded that she's no earthly good."

Occasionally I meet a person who seems to fit that description, but more often I find that a heavenly minded person is quick to lend a hand. A heavenly minded person knows that Christ is risen and that we, too, shall be raised. Therefore a

heavenly minded person does not fear death and is not concerned with collecting as much "stuff" as possible to fit into this transitory life. A heavenly minded person is able to make personal sacrifices here and now for the joy of knowing that the risen Lord will one day say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Keeping our eyes on Him does not make us careless of the world around us; rather, we learn to see others through His eyes, and we experience His compassion. It's only when we lose our focus on the King of heaven that being heavenly minded becomes no earthly good.

Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples after the resurrection. One of the first things He did during that time was expound the Scriptures to two of them on the Emmaus Road. The disciples, who hadn't recognized Jesus at first, wondered that their eyes had not seen what was so apparent to their hearts: "And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?'" (Luke 24:32). Yet because their hearts responded to the risen Lord, it was not long before their eyes were opened and their lips were telling of Him.

It's not enough to confess that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that on the third day He rose from the dead. Romans 10:9 and 10 says that we must confess with our mouths *what we believe in our hearts*. Confessing a fact does not constitute faith; if it did, our beliefs wouldn't go any deeper than our vocal cords.

Sadly, some unbelievers think that we worship a dead Jew because that is what they've heard. They've never opened their hearts to the possibility that He lives. But there are some in the church who confess that He lives because that is what they've heard—yet *they* have never opened their hearts to the reality of it. So let me ask you this: does your heart burn within you as you read of His death, burial and resurrection in the Gospels? Or do you merely accept the resurrection as part of a story that you have heard? Have you been overcome with the realization that Jesus truly conquered sin and death? Are you overjoyed to know it and delighted to tell how that which could not logically be really WAS?

If you have the reality of His rising in your heart, do not be weighted down by worldly cares but stand up for Jesus. Lift your eyes and your heart to the One who conquered sin and death and lift your voice with joy that others might hear . . . He lives!

* This is the last of the 13 Principles of Faith, which are incorporated into the morning portion of the daily prayer service.

Did You See Our "Christ In the Passover" Presentation?

If you are recently acquainted with Jews for Jesus through a presentation at your church, maybe this is your very first copy of our newsletter. If so, welcome, welcome! And thank you for filling out that involvement card when our missionary came to your church. You don't know how much you've already encouraged us, simply by your willingness to hear more.

Maybe you always had a heart for Jewish evangelism and were excited by the prospect of hearing from missionaries who are on the cutting edge. But even if you don't know many Jewish people and haven't thought much about the need for Jewish evangelism, know that you are not alone.

Maybe you don't know why more Jewish people don't believe in Jesus, and maybe you wonder why witnessing to Jewish people should be any different from witnessing to anyone else. Maybe you even filled in that card to be polite or because you wanted to show appreciation for the "Christ in the Passover" presentation. Listen, we don't expect you to set aside everything else to make the cause of Christ among the Jews your main concern! We have done that and are looking for a few more people who can share our commitment to a lesser measure. We're delighted that you have given us this opportunity to share the vision, challenges, burdens and the many victories of Jewish missions.

You are probably already receiving many Christian publications, so we'd like to offer a few tips on how you can get the most from our newsletter.

- If you are a "scanner," you might like to begin by turning to page 8, where you'll find "Bits from the

Branches." These short bits will give you a smattering of news from the scattering of Jews for Jesus. Then open the newsletter and look for a column titled "Prayer Prompters." If you have a few moments, pray through the list (it's a short column). Even if you read nothing else in our newsletter, just reading a page and a third will inform you enough to care and pray with us.

- If you are a "people person," look for headlines between pages 2 and 7. That's where you'll meet our missionaries and hear about some of those to whom we minister.
- If you have time to reflect, you'll want to begin at the beginning, with the lead article by our Executive Director. Longtime readers of our newsletter have commented that the wisdom they've mined from these articles has enriched them spiritually. Some have even told us that God used one of these articles to mend a specific hurt or broken relationship.
- If you are a Sunday school teacher, Bible study leader or simply a perpetual student, be on the lookout for charts and other teaching pieces, such as an occasional column titled "We're Glad You Asked" or "What Do You Say When They Say" Occasionally these columns deal with a principle or procedure to help you understand our ministry, but usually they focus on helping you witness to your friends and neighbors.
- Don't miss the cartoons! And please feel free to send us your own anecdotes. They might end up in print!

Naturally, we are pleased to hear from friends who read our newsletter cover to cover. But if you don't feel you have the time to do so, that's okay. Just read the parts that grab your attention. And thanks again for giving us the opportunity to win your heart to the cause of Christ among the Jewish people. We hope that you'll be glad you did!

Prayer Prompters

Please pray for:

-  a continued close walk with God for inmates Dennis and James, and that God will provide for them upon their release (p. 4)
-  spiritual restoration and renewal for Rich, a backslidden inmate, that he will once again know the joy of trusting and obeying Jesus (p. 4)
-  salvation for Robin, an unbelieving Jewish inmate who seems open to studying the Bible with one of our missionaries (p. 5)
-  wisdom and guidance for Michelle and the rest of our missionary trainees in New York City (p. 6)
-  grace and strength for new Jewish believers Lea and Rea who live in the Chicago area and Bonnie in Toronto (p. 7)
-  salvation for Morton and his wife, who we met at an art festival (p. 8)
-  grace and strength for new Jewish believer Neil, who we met through one of our gospel ads in the secular media (p. 8)
-  salvation for Jeremy, a Jewish man we lost contact with in Toronto but "coincidentally" found in Los Angeles (p. 8)
-  salvation for Michael, a psychologist in Toronto (p. 8)
-  grace and strength for new Jewish believer Michael, a Russian psychiatrist (p. 8)
-  grace and strength for new Jewish believer Valla, the mother of one of our Moscow outreach workers (p. 8)

You Shall Know the Truth and . . .

Passover in Prison

Nearly 3,500 years ago, God set our people free from Egypt. Last Passover, I celebrated that great deliverance with two men who know what it means to be captive. You see, Dennis and James are incarcerated.

It all started when I asked Dennis how he was feeling during one of our visits. “Sad,” he replied, “sad and a little nostalgic.” He knew Passover was coming up, and this would be the third year he wouldn’t be able to celebrate it with his family. Upon hearing that, I decided to introduce myself to the chaplain.

I asked Chaplain Joe if the prison was planning any Passover observance for the Jewish inmates. He replied that they had contacted the Jewish chaplaincy, but the prison budget would not cover the cost of having someone come. When I said that I would be willing to conduct a service as part of my regular ministry to Dennis and James, Chaplain Joe worked with me to arrange a date and to reserve the chapel. He even asked if he might be allowed to participate in the Passover celebration—something he had always wanted to do. We notified Dennis and James of the date and time.

My wife, Alexandra, prepared the symbolic foods, including hard-boiled eggs, parsley, salt water, horseradish and charoset (a mixture of chopped apples, nuts, cinnamon and honey).

For obvious reasons it was a humble Passover seder. There were no fancy table settings. In fact, there was no table in the prison chapel. We put a few wooden boxes together, covered them with a white bedsheet and that was our seder table. We did not recline on feather pillows (as is customary) but sat on plastic folding chairs. Our seder plates were Styrofoam, we had fruit punch instead of wine and our “candles” were overhead fluorescent lights.

Yet this Passover celebration felt right—maybe a little like the one Y’shua (Jesus) observed with His disciples the night of His betrayal. No frills but plenty of brotherly love. To see the joy around that “table,” one wouldn’t have imagined that we were celebrating in prison. You see, Dennis and James are both Jewish believers in Jesus. They know the kind of freedom most men have never imagined. They are serving the balance of time owed to the state, but their pardon has long since been secured in the heavens.

Chaplain Joe, Dennis, James and I packed as much praying, singing and fun as we possibly could into an hour. (That is as much time as we were allowed.) Please pray for these men, that they may continue to walk with the Lord in a dark and dreary place. Pray also for their families and that God will provide for them upon their release (especially James, whose sentence is drawing to an end). Please pray as well that I might minister to more Jewish men in prison. Y’shua can set them free, even in lockup.

—Glenn Harris,
Outpost Leader
New Jersey

Update: Glenn has continued to visit James and Dennis every two or three weeks. Dennis introduced Glenn to Rich, another Jewish inmate who knows the Lord but has acknowledged his need to rededicate his life to Him. Please pray for Rich as he seems to be moving in that direction.

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Truth
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Prison of Pain

A favorite childhood memory came at my older sister Laura’s expense. She taught me something I’ve passed down to my own children. I couldn’t have been more than three when she took me on a tour of our house, pointing out all the electrical outlets with the cautionary word, “bites!” The bite she had received earlier that day was something she wouldn’t allow herself to forget. Though it was painful, she turned it into a positive learning experience for both of us. We laugh about it today, and my kids not only know to avoid electrical outlets, but they also know the story of their Aunt Laura when she was a little-girl-big-sister.



Pain can be our best instructor if we can handle painful experiences well. But the “bite” of an electrical outlet is mild compared to some of the “bites” we may endure. Life’s tragedies challenge even the most devout believers. The largest part of the challenge is to constructively handle them. How much more difficult it must be for those who do not know Jesus! People whose worldview isn’t centered on a loving Savior might

see life as no more than a series of painful experiences, culminating in a painful death.

Pain is a prison that grips most people at some point, but for those who are seeking, it could be a penitentiary that leads to God.

I hope that will be the case with Robin. I met him at a correctional facility in the Washington, D.C., area after he requested a visit from a rabbi. The chaplain’s office contacted a local rabbi, but for whatever reason, he was unable to come. So they contacted me.

When I arrived, I immediately explained to Robin that I am not a rabbi but a representative of Jews for Jesus. He was obviously disappointed at first, but he was grateful that I had come. As I told Robin about my journey of faith, he nodded politely. “I’m not sure there is any God,” Robin finally said. His journey of unbelief was paved with personal sorrow: the death of a parent, the loss of his job as a pilot, his struggles with cancer and much more. He had called for a rabbi in an attempt to make some sense of all the suffering.

I told him, “I don’t have pat answers to suffering, Robin, but I do know that God can work together all the things in our lives for good if we just let Him.” I opened my Bible and we read Psalm 73, where David is shown struggling over the oppression of the righteous and the success of the wicked. Robin took particular note of verse 17: “Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end.”

We prayed together, and I asked God to help Robin see His perspective of life and pain. Robin thanked me and told me he’d like to meet with me again. Over the last seven months, we’ve continued to meet every couple of weeks for regular Bible lessons. Robin no longer doubts the existence of God, but he is wary of making a commitment to God’s truth because he (Robin) would no longer be in control of his life. How ironic that seems in light of the circumstances under which I visit him.

Please pray for Robin, that God might indeed reveal Y’shua to him and that he might know what Y’shua meant when He said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.”

—Peter Rice, Missionary
Washington, D.C.



Easter Parade in New York City

As a native of South Africa, I find much of what I see in America curiously new and interesting. New York City's Easter Parade is one of the strangest events that I have ever observed. Some people come perfectly attired in cutting edge formality, while others form a bizarre counterpoint in outrageous outfits and outlandish hats. It all happens outside St.

Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue on the day we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. People seem oblivious to that fact as they display themselves and their apparel outside of the church. Mass after mass of finely dressed people go to and from the cathedral as the people outside sport themselves about, appraising one another.



Lev Leigh

We Jews for Jesus were handing out broadsides to the huge crowds (people kept asking me, "Where is the parade?" and I would answer, "You're it!"). One Israeli women saw my Jews



for Jesus sweater and exclaimed, "Ze bechlol davar!" (Now this is something!). Without batting an eyelid, I responded in what I hope was perfect Hebrew, "Ze bechlol emet; Y'shua hu haMoshiach" (This is completely true; Jesus is the Messiah). She was surprised by this unexpected response in Hebrew.

Later on, a man named Ray listened intently as I explained to him that God can take a real role in a person's life. He prayed right there to repent of his sins and asked Jesus to be Lord of his life. Something about this day and the joy of celebrating Christ's resurrection made me more bold than ever as I proclaimed the gospel to those around me. Exhilarated by the experience, I linked back with the other members of the branch, and we told hat stories to each other until everything got back to normal. Normal, that is, for New York.

—Lev Leigh, Missionary
New York City

Editor's note: As Lev nears the end of his training, he looks forward to joining the Jews for Jesus South Africa team.

Let No One Despise Your Youth

At the age of twenty-two, I am presently the youngest Jews for Jesus trainee. There is so much that I don't know, and sometimes that frustrates me. During one training lecture, David Brickner was explaining how to wield God's Word as a tool to pierce people's hearts. I told David how limited I felt by my life experience. His response still resonates in my mind and heart.

Holding his Bible out, he said, "Michelle, this is your wisdom and your understanding." He went on to explain how our effectiveness is not rooted in ourselves but in our God and in the revelation of His Word. Though we must study to show ourselves



Michelle Holtzman

approved (2 Timothy 2:15), our ability to reach people does not depend on our education, our intelligence or our experience.

Since then, every time that I feel intimidated by some deep, multifaceted, mind-numbing question from someone older and more experienced, I remind myself that God does not use us because of who we are but because of who He is. My job is to know the Scriptures and depend on Him for the rest.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7).

—Michelle Holtzman, Missionary
New York City

Signs of New Life



Bonnie called our Toronto office late one evening asking to talk with someone about Jesus. I'm glad I stayed late to work that evening! Bonnie thought she believed in Jesus, but being raised Jewish, she wanted to speak to a fellow

Jew about what that really meant. We arranged to meet the following day.

When we met, Bonnie explained that one evening, as she was switching television channels, a Christian program caught her attention. She didn't have a Bible, and she didn't know much about Jesus. She did know that something was missing from her life and wondered if Jesus might be the answer.

Bonnie continued to watch Christian television programs for several months. One evening she even prayed along with the television host, asking to know Jesus as her Savior although she confessed to me that she wasn't quite sure what that meant. By



the time we ended our visit, she knew exactly what it meant, and she knew that her decision to follow Jesus was genuine.

I knew it, too, when Bonnie began to tell me of changes in her life. One morning she called to ask, "Can you tell me what's happening to me? I woke up this morning and just had to call my sister and ask her forgiveness for the way I spoke to her last week. Then I went out and actually bought her a gift to make up for it! And," she continued, "the thing is, I've never asked anyone for forgiveness in my entire life!"

In a few short weeks, Bonnie was seeing significant results of a life committed to Y'shua. She walked into a church for the first time and found one that she wanted to make her home. She was eagerly reading and studying the Bible daily. Her whole outlook had changed, and people were beginning to notice. Please pray for Bonnie, that her enthusiasm and love for her Messiah will continue to grow.

—Karol Joseph,
Chief of Station
Toronto



A Double Blessing

Rea responded to our media campaign, requesting Stan Telchin's audiotape "Betrayed." When I called to follow up, she agreed to meet with me.

Rea is an eighty-six-year-old woman from a Conservative Jewish background, but when she was a young girl, she attended a Catholic school. She enjoyed the songs about Jesus without understanding much about Him.

As I explained the gospel to Rea, I could see that she was taking in every word, especially as I read from the Bible. When I asked if there was any reason for her not to entrust her life to Y'shua and accept His atonement, she said, "No." With tears in her eyes, Rea prayed with me to do just that.

After my visit with Rea, I decided to stop by and visit Lea, a Jewish woman who lived nearby. I used to visit Lea regularly but I hadn't seen

her for a while. She had welcomed my visits and Bible studies at first,



Rahel Landrum

but eventually said it would be too hard for her to change. After that,

whenever I called, it seemed she was feeling ill. I would pray for her health, but she did not seem interested in discussing the Lord.

Since I was in the neighborhood, I thought I would take a chance. Lea was not only willing, but also very happy to visit. She was feeling better and thanked me for praying for her health. She told me that she recognized her need for Y'shua and wanted to accept Jesus as her personal redeemer. After she prayed with me, she opened her eyes, took my hand in both of hers and said, "I feel great."

I felt great too! I had just witnessed the birth of two new creations in one day—one blessing after the other! Please pray for the growth of Rea and Lea, two new sisters in the Lord.

—Rahel Landrum, Missionary
Chicago

The Art of Missionary Work

Missionary David Rothstein has a bachelor of fine arts in illustration from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA—but now he focuses on the art of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. He was doing just that, handing out broadsides (gospel tracts) at a local art festival in **Fort Lauderdale, FL**, when he met Morton. Morton is an elderly Jewish man who frowned with distaste as he read David's Jews for Jesus T-shirt. David invited him to say what he was thinking, and Morton replied, "I hate what you're doing." Having expressed that, he and his wife stopped for a friendly chat. It turns out Morton's niece is a believer in Jesus. When David asked if they'd be willing to receive more information from us, his wife piped up, "I would!" with enough exuberance to make him wonder if she might be a bit more than a little interested in Jesus.

Gospel Ad in Secular Media Is Stepping Stone to Faith

Neil is a Jewish man who responded to our gospel ad in the *Miami Herald*. When missionary Sharon Freeman called to follow up, he had just received the Hanukkah booklet offered in the ad and was excited about reading it. Prior to seeing our ad, he knew that Jesus was somehow important to him, but he had been told all of his life that Jesus is for Gentiles only. He readily agreed to meet with Sharon and came with booklet and a copy of the Tenach (Hebrew Scriptures) in hand. His reaction to their first Bible study (including Isaiah 53), was amazement that his own Hebrew Bible painted such a clear picture of Jesus. Sharon explained the decision that lay before Neil, and he prayed, thanking God for the forgiveness of his sin through Jesus. He has also asked about the best way to tell his family, and he has already made plans to attend church.

Lost and Found

Stan and Holly Meyer were walking through the Encino Mall and ran into Jeremy, who they knew from their time of ministry in Toronto last summer. Stan lost touch with Jeremy after coming back to Southern California, and Toronto Chief of Station Karol Joseph was not able to reach him. It seems Jeremy came down to **Los Angeles** to secure a temporary job until he could "break into show business." Well, Jeremy's temporary job didn't pan out, but he did get together with

Stan, and he seems to be (still) open to the gospel. Now that we have found Jeremy, pray that he will find Jesus!

More Than a Teacher

In **Toronto**, missionary Marcello Araujo was calling through a list of Jewish people who receive our literature when he reached Michael, a Jewish psychologist. Michael informed Marcello that he not only receives our materials, but he also uses both the Old Testament and the New Testament to counsel some of his patients. Michael said, "I often quote from Proverbs, Psalms, Matthew, John—I use the Sermon on the Mount frequently." When Marcello asked if Michael thought Jesus was the Messiah, he said no, he merely believed Jesus was a good teacher with excellent morals and ethical standards.

When Marcello asked if Michael ever considered the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah, Michael laughed and said he had to go but invited Marcello to call back any time to continue the discussion. Pray that God would open this man's heart to the truth about Jesus.

A Different Michael's Choice

In **New York**, missionary Mitch Forman has been meeting with Michael, a Russian Jew who has been in the United States for a few years. Michael was a psychiatrist in Uzbekistan. As he and Mitch studied the life of Jesus, Michael was looking at Jesus as a "case study"! He concluded that Jesus' teachings and behavior were perfectly sane. Mitch said, "Well, if you believe he is sane, do you believe he is the Messiah?"

"Yes I do," Michael replied. He was hesitant to open his heart to Jesus but finally concluded that the situation required a leap of faith—and he took it!

Mother and Daughter Closer Than Ever

In **Moscow**, new outreach worker Natasha Yevgudina asked Chief of Station Avi Snyder to excuse her from their regular Saturday morning evangelistic Bible study. Natasha's mother had decided to visit from the city of Kazan (a day and a half travel by train). She was arriving on Saturday and would only be in town for the weekend. Rather than excusing Natasha from the study, Avi asked, "Does your mother know Jesus?" Natasha said that she didn't. "Bring her to the study with you," Avi suggested. At the end of the meeting, who came forward and repented of her sins? Natasha's mother, Valla! Now they are not only mother and daughter—they are also sisters in the Lord.

