

JEW for JESUS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CHRISTIAN WHO WANTS
TO KNOW MORE ABOUT JEWS AND EVANGELISM

Holiday Hodgepodge 1996/1997

The Unchanging Resolution

by David Brickner, executive director

Are you planning any New Year's resolutions? Many people resolve to make long overdue changes in their lives during this season. Some resolve to lose weight—to go on that diet they've been thinking about. Others resolve to spend less time watching television and more time reading. Some will resolve to be more loving or save more money. Resolutions usually involve a commitment to positive change.

But sometimes the best resolution is a commitment not to change, a commitment to be steadfast. God demonstrates such commitment in His Word. "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob" (Malachi 3:6). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

And so, the babe born in a manger in Bethlehem is the same One who sits on the throne, the same One who created the Universe, the Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world.

Situations and circumstances change, but God tells us in His holy Word that His commitment to be our redeemer, to save us, to keep us, remains the same. Aren't you glad that in this world of change, *He has resolved to stay the same?*

As the new executive director of Jews for Jesus, I find opportunities—and sometimes, pressure—to change. While I believe that some changes will be good and right, I need to make a different kind of New Year's resolution, a resolution that involves a commitment *not* to change. I want to make the commitment to you that Jews for Jesus will remain the same in one very important way. *We are going to continue being different.*

From the very beginning, Moishe Rosen taught us Jews for Jesus to value the principle of "cognitive dissonance," or

the unexpected twist that causes people to do a "double take." You see, people ignore what they think they understand, so if we don't want people to ignore the gospel, we've got to present it in a way that causes people to think twice.

We will remain the same through our commitment to be different. That's a bit of cognitive dissonance right there. But I'm not just illustrating a point, I'm telling you my commit-

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ment to what some may call an "odd-ball" strategy or tactic. Maybe you saw some of the photographs in our October newsletter, such as our billboard proclaiming, "Be More Jewish, Believe in Jesus." The Bits From the Branches showed one of our London missionaries dressed in a cow costume, handing out tracts titled, "Mad Human Disease," which presented the problem of sin.

It requires a bit of courage to do what others might perceive as eccentric. When you rub against the status quo, sometimes you get burned by the friction. We've got to be willing to take the heat . . . not unlike another Jew who walked this earth two thousand years ago. And like Him, we face many pressures to conform.

One pressure mounts as someone raises the fear of official or public disapproval. Such a person thinks that public censure is a "bad testimony." But is it? Would our conformity bring about the kind of testimony that wins people to Christ? Do we expect the world to approve of any effective proclamation of the gospel?

Another pressure comes from those who fear that any unconventional means of outreach will cause us to lose support—but who are our supporters if not fellow nonconformists? If I

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am right about you, our Jews for Jesus supporters, you are much more concerned that we be biblically correct than politically correct.

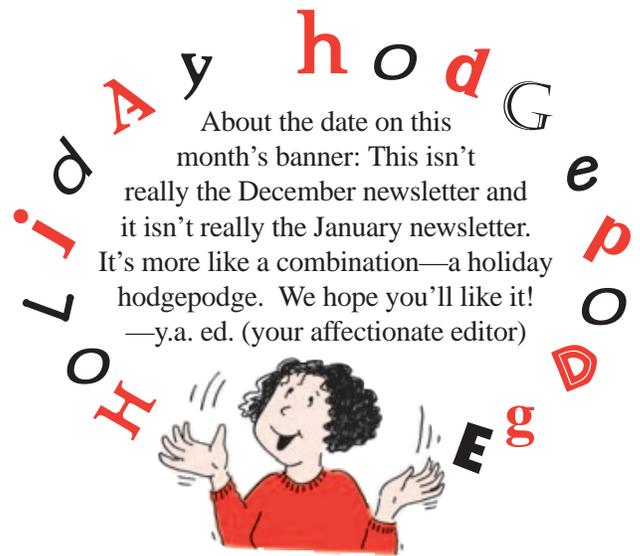
We Jews for Jesus are never going to be “politically correct.” We’re not going to gain the approval of the world. We’re not going to be loved very much in the United States or Great Britain or anywhere else in the world—except by those people who love Jesus a whole lot. After all, our message is just as radical and just as much a threat to the status quo as it was when Jesus walked this earth.

Nevertheless, we are not total nonconformists. There are areas where we can and must conform. No matter how unconventional our presentation, we must be scrupulously conventional as far as doctrine is concerned. We must conform to Scripture and submit to conventional forms of accountability in our associations with and commitments to the church.

May God grant us the courage of our commitments in the coming year.

We must proclaim the truth: that people need to be rescued and that there is only one life preserver—the consequences of saying no to Him are greater than anyone could imagine. It’s not exactly a “seeker-friendly” message, but it is one that people desperately need to hear. If anyone stands a chance of proclaiming an unpopular message, we do. However, we need divine unction, we need the Spirit of God to infuse our efforts with His power, to give us courage. We need His help to withstand the “politically correct” mindset of the world.

I have a question for you. What first attracted you to Jews for Jesus? Was it that we were big or that we were bold? Was it because we were like other missions or because we were unique? If you are the kind of friend and supporter that I think you are, you appreciate the fact that we are doing the unconventional thing—only because it makes us more effective evangelists. Will you help us remain on that cutting edge? Will you help us to be “oddballs” for Jesus? Will you pray for me to keep being and doing what is right? Will you help me in my resolution to remain the same by being different? May God grant us the courage of our commitments in the coming year. May we continue to stand boldly for Him whatever the cost. That is my prayer and my resolution for the New Year. ☆



About the date on this month’s banner: This isn’t really the December newsletter and it isn’t really the January newsletter. It’s more like a combination—a holiday hodgepodge. We hope you’ll like it! —y.a. ed. (your affectionate editor)

P.S. Y’shua said that not one jot or tittle will pass from the law until all is fulfilled. Obviously He wasn’t talking about our newsletter because we somehow lost a tittle in November. On page 5, the Hebrew letter ׀ ended up as a ׀ changing the phrase “we’re thankful” to “we’re teachers.” We’ve learned our lesson!

The Gem

<p>As I sift Within the sacred earth— Burrowing Searching Uncovering, I contemplate And reaching deep, Take hold Of Israel’s hope.</p> <p>A gem I find— The bright and morning star.</p>	<p>And in my hand Eternal beauty Reigns And deigns To be mine, Its facets sharp, A two-edged sword. And I am pierced With loving penetration As the gem Now within Crowns my heart With Y’shua, Rock of Ages.</p>
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New-Minded Thoughts for a New Year

Seed Thought	Bible Verse	Motivation and Power to:
New Life	Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)	Discard habits and attitudes of the old life; nurture the new God-life.
New Mind	. . . be renewed in the spirit of your mind . . . put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:23, 24)	Build new habits and new attitudes through the strength of the new God-given nature.
New Song	He has put a new song in my mouth—praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD. (Psalm 40:3)	Rejoice in God and praise Him openly that others might also come to faith in Him.
New Things From God	Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them. (Isaiah 42:9) For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. (Isaiah 65:17) Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5a)	Expect God’s promises to continue to be fulfilled as they have been in the past. Put aside the past and hopefully anticipate the future. Know that God the King is ultimately in control.
New Mercies	Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)	Seek strength for each new day from the Lord of all mercies.
New Identity	. . . To him who overcomes I will give . . . a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it. (Revelation 2:17)	Realize we are unique in God’s sight—He knows us by a special name that describes us as He sees us, perfected in Christ.
New Commandment	A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (John 13:34)	Determine to exercise God’s kind of unselfish, unconditional care toward others.
New Covenant	And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, . . . that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. (Hebrews 9:15)	Be joyfully confident in God’s promise of our eternal inheritance.

ISRAEL TOUR



Once again, we want to offer information for those friends who have asked if we lead tours to Israel. We don’t feel we can offer such tours as a missionary organization, but we can recommend Lon Solomon’s tour—each year we hear “rave reviews” such as this one from Joyce of Orlando, FL.

“I selected Lon’s trip because I wanted to go with someone who had a Jewish background and could also help us appreciate Israel from a biblical, Christian perspective. Lon Solomon met all of my expectations. . . . The tour

was planned down to the last detail, which allowed me to relax. . . . In addition to being very affordable, it was well planned and educational.”

If you plan now for 1997, you’ll have a significant discount. The 10 day Israel package, from October 26-November 4, is \$1,949 from New York City. Several options and extensions are available.

For more information on your early discount, request your full-color brochure right away by writing to Lon Solomon, c/o McLean Bible Church, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.



Elizabeth Terini

The Best Birthday Present

I had my water baptism in February 1982, and afterward I told all my relatives about my faith in Jesus. My sister Rachel reacted with the most anger as she blurted out: “You are not a Jew any more. You betrayed our God and our people, and I want nothing more to do with you.”

Many years passed, very difficult years for my sister Rachel as she moved from one place to another, suffering many hardships.

Last August, my sister called me from Los Angeles. It was the day after my birthday. She explained that her financial situation was particularly difficult this year and apologized that she had not sent a present in time for my birthday. I said to her: “It’s not too late. You still can make me a wonderful birthday present.” There was a moment of silence, and I said, “Would you open your heart today to our Lord Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive your sins and set you free?”

To my very great joy, she replied, “I am ready to do this, but I don’t know how.”

I said, “We can do it together right on the spot, but you must realize what it means. If you ask for forgiveness through Jesus, you begin a new life. In that life it is important to obey His words: read the Bible every day, grow spiritually and tell others about what the Lord has done for you.” As a missionary with Jews for Jesus I have explained this to many, many Russian Jews—first in Los Angeles, then in Odessa, Moscow, and now in New York City. It is always a thrill when someone accepts the invitation, but I must admit, never quite so thrilling as when my own dear sister replied that she was ready to give her life to Jesus!

As we prayed together on the phone, I began weeping and couldn’t stop. Rachel asked me why I was crying. I said: “I have awaited this day for fourteen years. After all these years, the Lord has answered my prayers.”

The gift of my sister’s salvation came from God. This is not something my sister would do merely to please me because she knows how seriously I take my faith—and hers! Rachel (who is forty-nine years old) is now hoping to go to a Russian language Bible school so that she can learn more about Jesus Christ.

If you, dear reader, have prayed for the salvation of your relatives for a long time and still have not received an answer, please let me encourage you. Keep praying fervently! God hears you and will answer in His time.

—Elizabeth Terini, missionary
New York City

As I got up to leave, I told Rachel: “Whatever you think, I did not betray our people, and I am still Jewish. Whatever you feel about me, I will love you and pray for you all my life.” When I got home, I got down on my knees and pleaded with God for my sister’s salvation.

Two months passed. Then my sister called me and said, “Elizabeth, I have got all new furniture in my apartment. Why don’t you come over and see it? You can sit down with me, and we’ll have a cup of coffee.”

I brought her a Bible, which she said she did not want to read. I told her, “It’s okay if you don’t want to read it, just leave it in your home. Perhaps some day you will want to read it, and then it will be here.” That day when I went home, I asked the Lord to bring somebody else into Rachel’s life—someone from whom she could hear God’s Word.

It didn’t happen right away, but eventually she met a pleasant young man and commented, “You are different from other men. Why is that?” His answer: “I read the Bible.”

I didn’t know about this conversation until later, but I could tell that Rachel had begun to read the Bible because when I would try to tell her something from God’s Word, she would jump ahead as though she knew the passage to which I referred.

I didn’t mention it, but finally, she told me she was reading the Bible with a friend. She asked for the address and phone number of the church I attended when I lived in Los Angeles. Occasionally she would attend Bible studies there, and the pastor would visit her now and then.

A Christmas Present That Lasts

For many, Christmas is the time to wrap green and red packages, decorate trees with tinsel and silver bells—a time to go from door to door singing carols and perhaps get invited in for hot chocolate or spiced apple cider. For university students, it is that brief time for relief when one semester’s finals are over, and it’s not quite time to begin the whole cycle over again. For our friends in South Africa and Australia, this is summer. Many go on holidays to visit family, but there’s nothing of the “winter wonderland” that so many people in the United States associate with Christmas.

For me, the meaning of Christmas is summed up in one word: Incarnation. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). God, in His compassion, gave Himself to us in this totally miraculous way. The most generous gift in the universe was a baby who lay wrapped in a manger. What better way to celebrate this gift than to share it with others?

Christmas Eve 1995 I was doing just that—making phone calls, trying to ensure that those Jewish people who seemed close to deciding for Jesus would have an opportunity to celebrate Christ’s Advent. I contacted Nathan and his wife to ask if they had made a decision for Jesus yet.

I’d been meeting with them for a couple of months. It began when a Christian friend invited Nathan to hear me speak at a local church. I met with him afterward, and he expressed interest in what he had heard that day. We made an appointment, and I visited him the following week. We had a couple more appointments and spoke about God’s love and eternal life, and how it is found only in the Savior, Y’shua. Nathan seemed genuinely open to the things of God, as did his wife Alexandra, but neither was ready to make a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior just yet.

So when I spoke to them on Christmas Eve, they told me that they were still struggling with the issue of Jesus. But, Nathan said, he thought perhaps they might be ready. I invited myself over to their house in suburban Virginia, and within minutes the three of us were holding hands and praying for Jesus to come and take up residence in their hearts. Truly the words of the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” were fulfilled that night as Nathan and Alexandra experienced God’s presence.

What a Christmas present that was—both to them and to me. Regardless of the actual day or month it happened, we rejoice to think of what it must have been like for the

angels, the shepherds, the wise men to realize that “unto us this day is born in the city of David a Savior, even Christ the Lord.” Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.

—Bob Mendelsohn,
chief of station
New York City



Bob Mendelsohn

Bob also holds
the portfolio
for our
outreach in
Australia



For an improved prayer life, try not to put
all your begs in one ask it.

Based on a quote from Robert Bork’s *Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline*

A Christmas Story



Jhan Moskowitz

I was raised in the Bronx in New York City. Like many other Jewish boys who grew up there, I attended *Talmud torah* (Hebrew school) every day from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. There I learned Hebrew, Jewish history and Jewish culture, and I was taught the traditions and obligations of being a Jew. My father's tailor shop was located about two blocks away from my Hebrew school. Directly

across the street from my father's shop was one of the largest churches I had ever seen. I passed by there every day at 6:00 as I walked to my father's shop after Hebrew school. Then at 7:00 my father and I went home together.

One December as I was walking to my father's store, I was met with an unusual sight in front of the cathedral. I stopped dead in my tracks. There on the lawn stood three figures of turbaned men, each carrying a box. Nearby there were several life-sized toy animals (cows and goats). There was also a small shed, and in it, two more figures, obviously a mother and father, sat by a little doll that lay in a wooden box filled with hay. Above this entire scene I saw a wooden sign that even a seven-year-old could read. It said, "Born is

the King of Israel." I might not have known much when I was seven, but I did know that we Jews were Israel and they, the Gentiles who attended that church, were not. The first thing that came to my mind was, "The people who delivered this stuff went to the wrong address. They should have brought it down the street to the synagogue."

I ran to my father's shop as fast as my legs could carry me and yelled, "Daddy, Daddy! Somebody made a big mistake. OUR king is on THEIR lawn!" My father smiled and assured me that there was no mistake. He told me that the baby in the manger didn't belong in front of the synagogue. *That* king, he said was not *our* king. From that point on, I always wondered about this strange, strange thing: that Gentiles would acknowledge the King of Israel and we Jews would not.

Many years passed, and one day I came to believe the Scriptures that manger scene depicted. I trusted in Jesus as my Savior. Then God called me to go and tell my people the good news of the Messiah, the King of Israel. As I am obedient to this calling, it still saddens me every year to think of little Jewish boys running home during this Advent season after viewing such manger scenes who will ask their fathers, as I did long ago, about this strange, strange thing, that our people do not acknowledge that baby who was born the King of Israel.

This is a heavy burden for me and for the rest of us Jews for Jesus. We need your help to reach out with us to our people. We need you to help us to tell them, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord," who is not only for the Gentiles but for the Jews as well.

—Jhan Moskowitz
chief of station, Chicago

Move over, Rudolph

Myths are myths
And facts are facts—
We distribute
gospel tracts!

And we'll continue to hand deliver each one, until camels can fly. Please pray for the tens of thousands of holiday shoppers who'll be receiving our broadsides this season.



Sayings of Chairman Moishe

I've repeated over and over to our missionary staff what I believe to be an axiomatic truth from which Jews for Jesus should take our directions. The axiom is: **It's much easier to raise support than to be worthy of it.**

This has a far broader meaning than gaining the prayer and financial support for Jews for Jesus projects and personnel. The broader meaning is: We can't presume upon grace.

It is all too easy to become a carnal worker, one who wants every possible benefit for his or her labor, or pretense of labor. The believer of mature understanding wants to be the kind of person who does the right thing, in the right way, to the right extent for the honor of God.

Carnal Christians presume not only upon God's grace, but also upon the graciousness of God's people. The carnal Christian isn't zealous for the truth and doesn't really care if he or she exaggerates or shades the work reality of his or her ministry to make it "picturesquely dramatic." Carnal Christians do all this, counting on God to forgive them though they are not sorry for their actions.

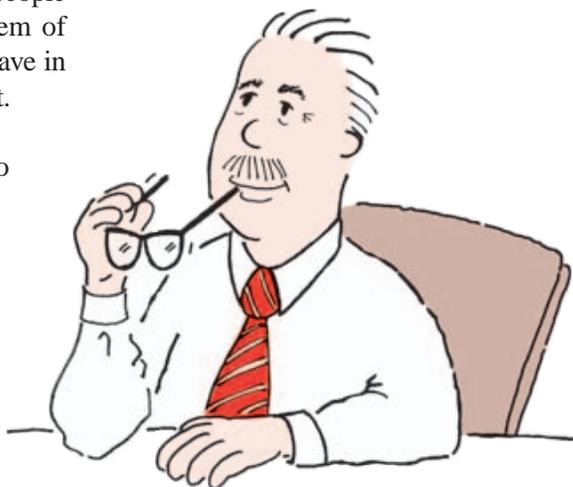
The tragic outcome of that sin is that some Christian workers make the people of God to be cynical, robbing them of the trust they ought to be able to have in those who name the name of Christ.

From time to time these people who presume upon grace are seized by the spirit of repentance, and every truly repentant person has God's forgiveness. But even if they do not repent, we have the assurance that what is done for Christ will last.

A certain generous Christian gave sacrificially to

one of the televangelists who was involved in a scandal a few years ago. I asked if he felt cheated. He mused for a moment then replied, "Deceived? Yes. Cheated? No." I pressed him to explain the difference. He said he was deceived because the televangelist told him that his gift was going to be used for a certain project and it wasn't. Then he added, "But I gave that to God as an act of worship. What the televangelist did with the money was wrong. He has to answer for that, but I'll not lose my reward from God."

We who are servants of Christ in ministry have a great responsibility when it comes to giving and receiving. Our dear friends support Jews for Jesus and trust us to use their moneys for God. We must seriously think in terms of how we can use that money to bring glory to the Lord. When we receive it, it is not our money to spend however seems right in our sight. It is consecrated money that becomes a part of our worship as well as that of our donors.' This has always been our desire, and we hope you'll join us in praying that we might always be worthy of your support.



Prayer Prompters

Please pray for

- grace and strength for Elizabeth's sister, Rachel, that she would grow in the Lord (p. 4)
- continued growth for Nathan and Alexandra (p. 5)
- God's enabling blessing to keep Jews for Jesus worthy of your support (p. 7)
- the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we set our minds on "new thoughts" for 1997 (p. 3)
- our fledgling outreach in Australia (p. 5)
- grace and strength for Ricki, that she would grow in the Lord, and for her husband to be saved (p. 8)
- salvation for Emma and an opportunity for Alexei to study the Bible with her neighbors (p. 8)
- salvation for Igor and his wife (p. 8)
- salvation for Eric (p. 8)
- salvation for Lev and grace and strength for his wife, Natasha, who is a new believer (p. 8)

One of our **Chicago** missionaries, Rahel Landrum, has been meeting with an Israeli woman named Ricki to study the Bible. Ricki's Christian friend had begun the witness, then referred her to us for follow-up. The Bible studies helped to answer some of Ricki's questions and concerns, and she recently found herself responding to an invitation on a Christian television program she saw! In faith, she committed her life to Christ and later told Rahel that after making her decision she felt that "God was hugging" her. Ricki's husband, Mark, is not yet a believer. Please keep this couple in prayer.

Sometimes seed falls on good ground and sometimes not. But occasionally the ground nearby is more fertile than where the seed was originally planted. From **Odessa**, Ukraine, Alexei reports: Some time ago, I was sad to discover that Emma, who had once prayed with one of our outreach workers to receive the Lord, does not believe that Y'shua is God, nor does she want to read the Scriptures. I took back the copy of the whole Bible I had given her so that someone else might benefit by reading it. She still has a copy of the New Testament—she doesn't read that either, but her neighbors are quite eager to read it, and many among them are Jewish. One after another, they have been borrowing the New Testament from Emma. There has been so much interest that she has promised to arrange a meeting for her neighbors to be able to study the New Testament with me. Please pray for that meeting to take place soon and for Emma to be born again.

Leonid Kolker, one of our Russian outreach workers reports: I was on the train going from Razdelnaya, where I live, to **Moscow**. I was reading the Bible, when a young fellow sat down next to me. "Is it interesting?" he asked me smiling. "Very interesting," I answered. The fellow's name was Igor, and he was quite open to the gospel. When he found out that I serve with Jews for Jesus, he told me that his wife is Jewish though he is not. He mentioned that he has a New

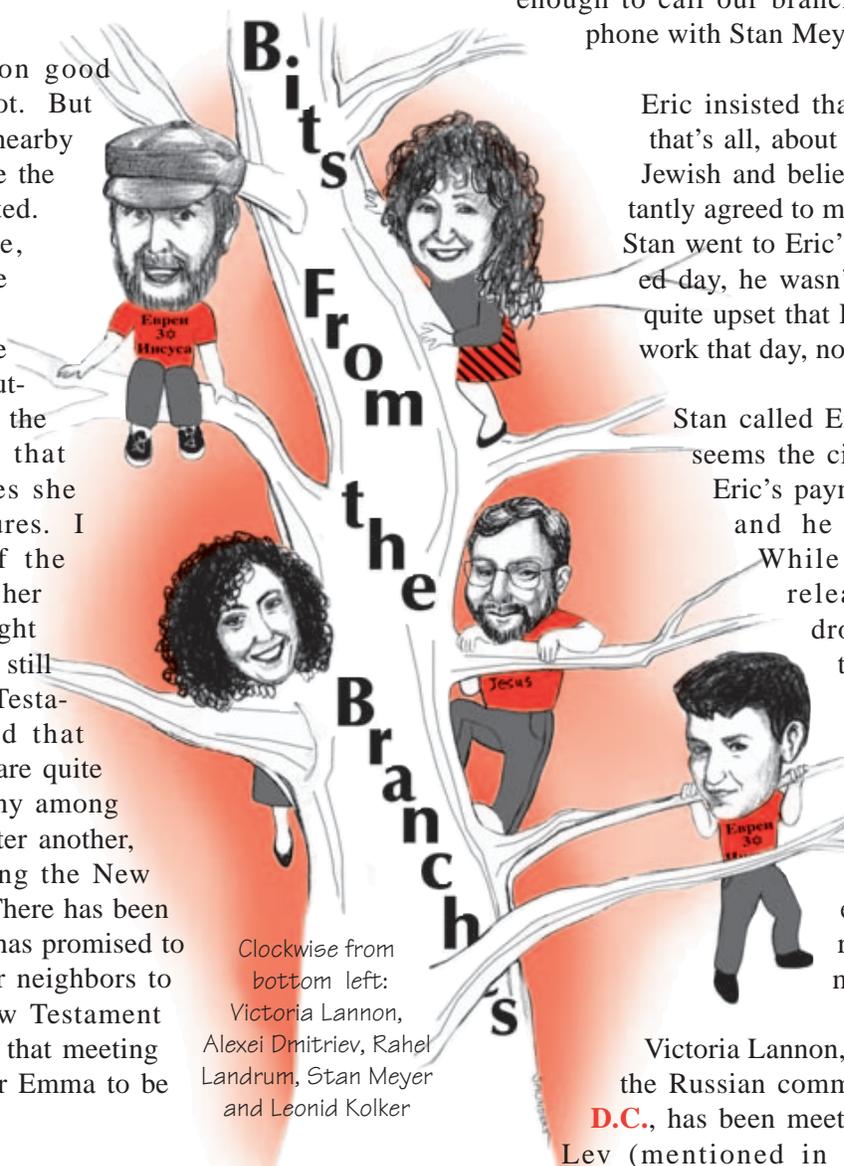
Testament at home, which I encouraged him to read. I invited him and his wife to attend our services. He gave me his name, address and telephone number so we could keep in touch.

Eric is a Jewish man who worked down the street from our old office in **Los Angeles** for years. Apparently he was unaware of our move because he recently walked into the building we used to rent (now occupied by a real estate company) and asked the new occupants if they could tell him about Jesus. The secretary was kind enough to call our branch and put Eric on the phone with Stan Meyer.

Eric insisted that he was just curious, that's all, about how someone could be Jewish and believe in Jesus. He reluctantly agreed to meet with Stan, but when Stan went to Eric's office on the appointed day, he wasn't there. His boss was quite upset that Eric had not come in to work that day, nor had he called.

Stan called Eric later that night. It seems the city had never recorded Eric's payment of a traffic ticket, and he had been arrested! While he was eventually released and charges dropped, Eric had spent the entire day in jail. He prayed that if Jesus was really the Son of God, He'd keep him safe with all these scary criminals around him! Eric emerged from the experience quite eager to meet with Stan!

Victoria Lannon, our outreach worker to the Russian community in **Washington, D.C.**, has been meeting with a man named Lev (mentioned in our December 1995 newsletter) for about a year. Recently, Lev married a Jewish woman from Moscow. Victoria and her husband, Greg, met with the newlywed couple and told Natasha (Lev's wife) about Jesus. When she heard the gospel, she asked, "What must I do to receive this?" That night she repented and trusted Jesus as her Savior. Victoria says, "How delightful it is to see the seeds I've planted in Lev come to fruition in his wife. Please pray for Lev's salvation and Natasha's growth."



Clockwise from bottom left: Victoria Lannon, Alexei Dmitriev, Rahel Landrum, Stan Meyer and Leonid Kolker