

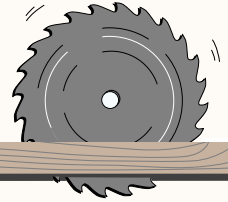
# JEW for JESUS

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

Volume 8:5757

June 1997

## Still on the Cutting Edge



by Moishe Rosen, founder

**I**n May, 1996, I stepped down from being executive director of Jews for Jesus. Since then, several people have written to me for assurance. They wanted to know that Jews for Jesus would go on in the same bold directions we have always taken, and that creative communication and evangelism would continue to be our single focus. I wish they could only observe firsthand the plans and programs set up by David Brickner, our new executive director. Then they would see that they need not be anxious!

I'm delighted that our new executive director has extended to me the privilege of writing this "front page letter" because it provides me with an opportunity to assure our friends and supporters about this most important issue. **I'm happy to tell you that David Brickner has exceeded all expectations with regard to the evangelistic projects he has proposed and is preparing for the continued outreach of this ministry.**

For you to appreciate fully what that means, I need to reiterate briefly the short history of this ministry. Jews for Jesus grew out of my personal desperation to communicate the Gospel to my own people, who managed to ignore Jesus and resist evangelism.

I began to follow my calling as missionary-evangelist in 1956. Though I was seen as successful, by 1969 I became convinced of two facts: first, most Jews never gave a thought to whether or not Jesus was the Messiah; second, missions to the Jews were failing to show that Jesus was for the Jews as well as for everyone else. My concern grew into a desperation to get my fellow Jews to listen to the message of the Messiah. I realized that we needed to find new ways to raise the issue that the Jewish religion in itself, while good and beautiful, was not enough to bring people to salvation. God's dealings with me came as a quiet whisper that built up to a roar. Then came a genuine

outpouring of the Holy Spirit—and what subsequently happened was God's answer to my desperate prayer.

Jews for Jesus was a product of the late 1960s and early 1970s, when that moving of the Holy Spirit swept up numbers of dynamic, creative Jewish young people into the Jesus Revolution. I was moved to band together with them to help our fellow Jews and the whole world know that Jesus is for everyone. Our problem was how to communicate so much to so many people when we had so few resources. We knew that we had to be innovative and bold. We developed humorous tracts, street presentations of drama and music, posters and other grass roots methods of telling the gospel. We learned how to make people smile as they heard and read serious truths.

**We want to continue on that cutting edge, even though we know that is where we will encounter the most friction**

In our early days, one observer noted that Jews for Jesus was "on the cutting edge of evangelism." Our high profile created quite a stir in the Jewish community. In a warning

to its readers, the *Jewish Press* of Brooklyn reported that Rosen was just a front man, and it was obvious that he had Madison Avenue backing. Of course, we didn't have such resources, but our message was reaching many. Whether or not people liked what we were saying, they could no longer ignore us. That was 25 years ago, when we only had the simplest tools of communication. Now we have greater access than ever to the public through all communications media.

Since I'm no longer the chief of Jews for Jesus, now I can say what I didn't feel free to say before, because then it would have sounded like boasting. This is what you need to know: **If Jews for Jesus was on the cutting edge of evangelism back then, today we are more creative and forthright than ever.** God's blade hasn't dulled any, and there is no rust on us. We want to continue on that cutting

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

edge, even though we know that is where we will encounter the most friction. We need your prayers for our continuing enthusiastic creativity, a constantly renewed vision and God's strength to endure.

I'm so thankful that God has raised up as our leader David Brickner, who values, promotes and uses the more creative forms of evangelism. He continually demonstrates the courage to bring us boldly to places where others have not yet taken a stand for the gospel. One of these trailblazing opportunities involves electronic media and the X-generation.

David has been particularly interested in reaching this group of young people who are in their teens and twenties. They grew up knowing and using computers, and the Internet has become one of the chief tools by which to reach them. It is a viable means of communicating with thousands of people, and many are using it.

As with many things, the Internet can be used for good or for evil. We know from hearing about the Heaven's Gate cult and their shocking mass suicide that many spiritually unhealthy things are dispensed on the Internet. Yet that doesn't mean we should avoid using it. On the contrary, we who have the healing, life-giving message of salvation can use the Internet for good—to bring those precious truths to many who so desperately need to hear them.

To this end, Jews for Jesus was one of the first Christian organizations to have a Web Page on the Internet. Within months, we received the "Top Five Percent Award" for our Internet presentation. (Look us up at <http://www.jews-for-jesus.org>, and you can see why this outreach has been so effective.)

We hope to expand soon to several Web Sites. We'll design them to meet the diverse needs of various people: unbelievers who need the gospel, Jewish believers who need basic instruction and Christians who need help in witnessing to their Jewish friends. We have summer interns to help develop these new sites.

I'm excited about the evangelistic possibilities of "chatrooms" on the various services, including America OnLine, among others. If you don't know, chatrooms are areas dedicated to the specific interests of their participants. Up to twenty-five people can designate and segment an area to discuss a topic of their choice via computer.

In the chatrooms you'll find people willing to discuss just about anything, from every kind of sexual perversion, to

entertainment, diversion, nonsense—and some sense. You can choose what you will shun and what you will discuss. Any committed child of God can get in and witness to strangers who, because of such efforts, just might become brothers and sisters in Christ.

When you "enter" a chat room, you are identified by your screen name. You find a "room" or category on a list and sign onto it. Then your screen name is displayed along with the names of the others who are in that room. If you want to see who the others in the chatroom are, you click on a box labeled "get info."

You begin by just typing a statement. There can be as much as a paragraph of information (called a profile) about each person. Some give very little information, and some give a lot. For example, my introductory profile is;

Member Name: Moishe Rosen  
(also answers to "Hey You")  
Location: San Francisco CA #415-661-2263  
Birthdate: 4-12-32  
Sex: Male  
Marital Status: Married, two grown daughters  
Hobbies: More details:<http://www.jews-for-jesus.org>  
Computers: POWERMAC 9500,  
Powerbook 5300CS  
Occupation: Founder, Jews for Jesus  
Personal Quote: "For me to live is Christ to Die is gain"

Now that I have more time to be a missionary instead of directing other missionaries, the chat room on America OnLine has become a regular witnessing medium for me. In vocal conversation I frequently stammer, and the cadence of my conversational speech is so irregular that people often interrupt me in mid-sentence. They begin responding without realizing that I haven't finished what I wanted to say. For me, "chatting" about spiritual matters by computer is ideal because it gives me time to collect my thoughts and express them without interruption.

I began this electronic witnessing a couple of years ago as time permitted. I would sign on and find a chat room marked Christian Fellowship or Born Again OnLiners. After a while, some of us came to know one another very well. At first, I was surprised to discover that Jewish people sought out these Christian chatrooms. Some came to dispute Christian beliefs and thus prove to their own satisfaction that they didn't have to consider Jesus. Others came

because it was a non-threatening way they could make an inquiry.

Many on our missionary staff are involved in this kind of electronic evangelism. I could tell you about numerous Jewish people who have come to faith in Christ through America OnLine. There are so many that I will leave that report for another time, except for a brief mention of one Jewish teenager.

The story begins with my discovery of a Jews for Jesus chatroom last September. When I entered, several people were there, and a very good witness was in progress. When the participants learned who I was, they welcomed me. I was able to answer some questions that arose and to cite various Bible passages.

Imagine my surprise to find that chat room! As the founder of Jews for Jesus, I thought I knew most of our activities, and I hadn't heard of that one. Afterwards, I was curious as to who had started that Jews for Jesus chat room. My inquiry at our headquarters office led me to the conclusion that no one in our organization had done it. Then, further investigation led me to a most delightful truth.

I "met" a young Jewish girl who, through inquiring in other chatrooms, had come to faith in Jesus. Her Jewish mother had also come to faith in Y'shua through the chatroom! Evidently this girl had learned a lot in a hurry, because she was giving wise answers to people. She was showing them truths from Scripture that seemed to indicate that she was a well-trained missionary. I was amazed to learn that this leader in the Jews for Jesus chatroom was a 15-year-old!

When America OnLine changed its pricing structure, I started to use the service more. I got into the habit of opening a Jews for Jesus chatroom whenever my young friend didn't. As I write this, we're continuing to have some interesting conversations, though I must admit that we have four times as many Jewish disputers as Jewish inquirers in those rooms. The disputers try to filibuster so that we can't get the message out, but even the anger with

which they express their objections to the gospel seems to stimulate others' inquiries.

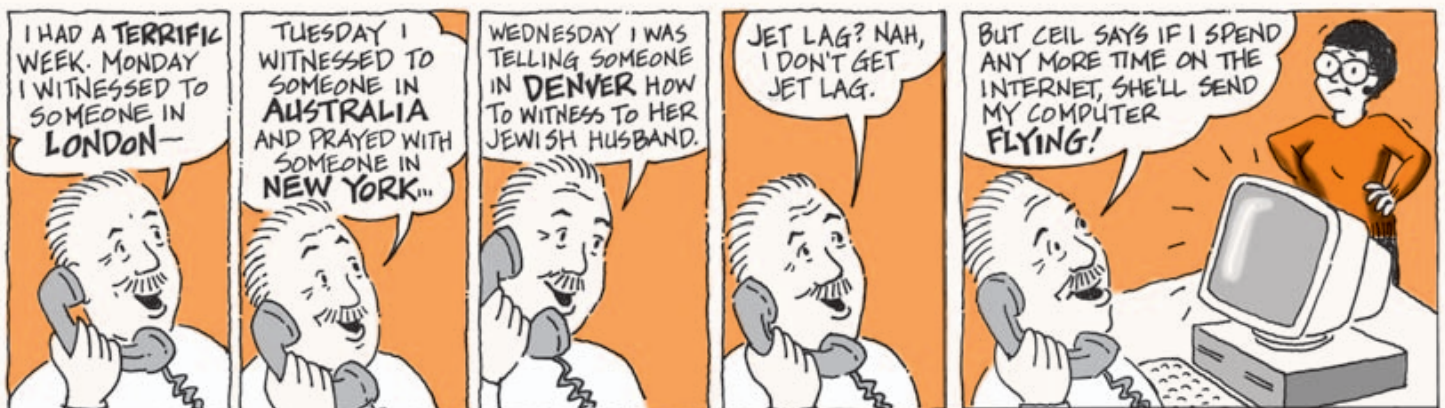
If you're into computer communication, check out the Jews for Jesus chatroom on AOL and see for yourself the great possibilities of this forum. Come on in. Whether or not you feel you have anything to say, just be there and pray. And once you've come in and "listened" a while, you'll see why there's a need to pray!

Our Internet site and chatrooms are not the only ways the electronic media has kept us Jews for Jesus on the cutting edge of evangelism. When we first had overseas branches, the missionary reports would take more than a week, and sometimes much longer, to arrive. Directives from Headquarters to the station chiefs were also slowed down. When our Russian work first began, mail was virtually impossible, and telephone calls were always a sometimes thing. Now, thanks to the Internet, overseas communication has been strengthened.

E-mail has not only helped us communicate to our staff in the field. It has also enabled inquirers around the world to ask us the questions about Jesus that God wants to answer.

It is said that the most significant commodity of our country is information handling. As God's people, all believers in Y'shua would do well to make more use of that commodity. I would challenge the churches and the apostolates (that's the more biblical word for missions) to get on with using Internet and chat rooms for witnessing. Join with us Jews for Jesus in getting out the gospel in this timely manner.

Right now, electronic evangelism is the cutting edge. I can't help but wonder with some excitement what God will use next! Anyway, I think I can promise you this: **whatever new means may arise, our new executive director will see to it that Jews for Jesus will use them to remain on the cutting edge to spread the gospel.** As Paul wrote in Romans 11:13-14 ". . . I magnify my ministry, **if by any means** I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. ■



# God's Multiplication Table



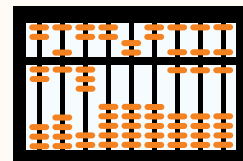
Sharon Freeman

I had sat in those same chairs seven years earlier. After much prayer and consideration, I had left my life of 13 years in Honolulu to come on staff with Jews for Jesus. Upon my arrival at Chicago's O'Hare airport, the scene contrasted starkly with the lazily swaying palm trees I had left behind in Honolulu.

I had no idea what other changes lay in store! I quickly found out. Campaign training was the hardest experience I had ever encountered in my six years as a believer. It was a model of the most radically committed Christianity I had ever seen. No longer based on feelings alone, my faith became grounded on the objective truth that Jesus is the Messiah.

Seven years later, I stood in front of the current group of trainees, testifying to the fact that one does manage to survive training and Campaign and then comes to love it and wish it would never end. As they sat there looking incredulously at me, I could only gesture with upheld palms and shrug. Here I was, about to invest in this group of young Jewish believers. I was going to pour into them all the energy I could muster along with a verbal experience of my past seven years. If that could prepare them in some fraction of a way—equip them to go out and fight for the good faith—I would succeed.

They looked up to me as if I were the expert. I remembered looking up to my trainers in awe, wondering if I would ever be as smooth as they were in presenting the gospel. I had wondered if I would ever come to the point where I would know how to handle each question and each response in a correct manner. Now here were these people, looking at me in the same way, asking me questions as though I were the expert. The only real difference between them and me was seven years of experience. Yes, in some ways, I had become an “expert.” I certainly knew a lot more than I had seven years ago.



Co-teaching the training was a stretching experience for me. Without being clinically needy, these people were, in some ways, like children needing attention. They needed to have their hurts talked out. They needed to receive my show of support for their endeavors. During those two weeks, I often wondered how I could keep on pouring myself out to meet all those needs when I sometimes felt as if I were running on empty myself. It was a stretch to stand in front of that group, lecturing day after day, getting tired of hearing my own voice, wondering if I had come across coherently. And in the back of my mind's eye was the bigger vision: I was properly equipping 23 others in order to reproduce my own efforts. Now there would be 23 times as much effort and energy as I could give; 23 times as much evangelism as I could do.

Then the day came when it was time to say good-bye for a while. The trainers presented me with an oversized poster board card. Not only did it say thanks, the written message was a thank you for investing in their lives and caring for them in order to equip them for the task at hand. My mission was accomplished, my prayer was answered. They had grasped the vision. Soon I would have the opportunity to see those caterpillars turned butterflies, flying bravely and delivering the message. Twenty-three times one. And I knew that just as God had multiplied my efforts because of what I invested in those trainees, so He would multiply theirs as they invested themselves in proclaiming the gospel.

—Sharon Freeman, missionary  
Fort Lauderdale



# Stewardship—Campaign Style

My fourth New York City Summer Witnessing Campaign was a different experience for me. The previous three times, I served as a campaigner, one who spends all day out on the street talking to people about Jesus. During my fourth year on Campaign, I served as Chief Steward. The stewards are the behind-the-scenes people who do everything from laundry and cooking meals to packing tract bags. As Chief Steward, I oversaw the other eight stewards and made sure everything ran smoothly.

When I first heard about the assignment, I was filled with mixed emotions. First of all, I was glad because I really love Campaign and I was happy for the chance to be back. Also, I was glad for the opportunity to serve in this way and anticipated that God would teach me a lot. Then I was scared. I wasn't sure I could lead, and I also knew that if anything went wrong, I would have to take responsibility. I wasn't sure I was ready for that!

With all those feelings, I boarded the plane to New York. Now, in retrospect, I can say that I am most thankful for the experience of serving as Chief Steward.

It helped having a great group of stewards who were all there to serve God and not to put themselves first. They

were also patient with me. I relearned something that I have known and have been taught before: whatever God calls me to do, He equips me to do—not to mention the fact that He also helps me do it. As Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Would I do it again? Yes!! In fact, I would love to have the chance to do it again and this time be able to train the stewards with experience.



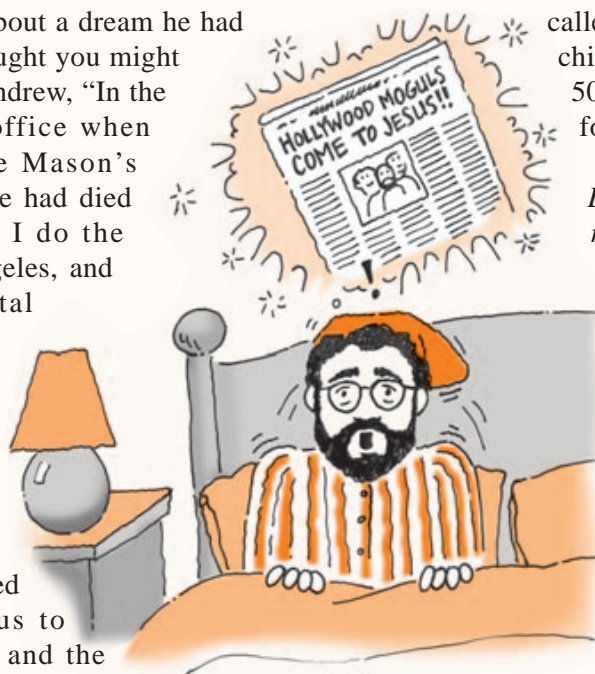
Jenifer Leigh

—Jenifer Leigh, missionary  
South Africa

*Jenifer (then Hall) and staff worker Lev Leigh were married in December, 1996. They now serve together in our South Africa branch under Chief of Station Elijah Gould.*

## What Do Jews for Jesus Missionaries Dream?

Andrew Barron told our staff about a dream he had (the sleeping kind), and we thought you might enjoy hearing about it. Says Andrew, “In the dream I was sitting at our office when [celebrity comedian] Jackie Mason’s lawyer called to say that Jackie had died and his will stipulated that I do the funeral. So I flew to Los Angeles, and the funeral was in the Crystal Cathedral. Everybody from Hollywood was there—but the only faces I remember seeing were that of Milton Berle and Woody Allen. I preached from the text ‘He is the Resurrection and the Life,’ and I invited anyone who wanted to receive salvation in Jesus to respond. Milton and Woody and the whole congregation came forward! I



called Tuvia Zaretsky [our Los Angeles chief of station] and told him that I had 5000 new Jewish believers for him to follow up—and then I awoke!”

*Editor’s note: When Moishe Rosen read about Andrew’s dream, he commented, “Probably none of the characters mentioned—except Tuvia Zaretsky—would consent to associate with Andrew Barron or Jews for Jesus. I think that Jackie Mason would go on living, no matter what, rather than have Andrew do his funeral in the Crystal Cathedral! Furthermore, why can’t Andrew just have the standard Jews for Jesus kind of dream—where Jesus comes back and brings us all home?”*

# The Best Gift

“Holly, I hope you can speak with my son, Allen,” Tova began. “He’s turning thirteen and I want him to learn about Y’shua, like me. Maybe Stan or someone can talk to him.” Tova had come to faith only months earlier, and this headstrong Israeli woman wanted everyone to find out about Jesus, especially her son.

Holly (my wife) arranged for Tuvya Zaretsky, our chief of station to meet with Allen. Tova was absolutely delighted. Immediately she called her son: “Allen! You’re going to meet with someone from Jews for Jesus, and you will do everything he says! Is that clear?” “Yes, Mom. . . .” Holly heard his faint reply over the receiver.

The next week Tuvya told Holly about the meeting. She was absolutely downtrodden. “Tuvya said Allen sat and listened, but didn’t say a word,” she reported.

“Was he interested?” I asked.

“Nah. Tuvya asked Allen if he had wanted this meeting, and Allen said no. Then Tuvya asked him why he had gone through the recent ordeal of his bar mitzvah lessons. Allen said ‘It was for the presents!’ Then he broke down and cried, so Tuvya left.”

Both Holly and I were disappointed. Allen and his mother had gone through quite a bit in recent months. Then with Tova coming to faith, it was clear that Allen was confused as to who he was and how he was supposed to grow up. He just wanted to be left alone. Who could reach him?

We didn’t know that for the next few weeks, Allen faithfully attended church with his mother. A month later, Michael Brown, a Jewish believer and messianic pastor, called us. “Stan, when are you going to get together with Allen?” he inquired.

“Well, I didn’t think that Allen was interested in studying the Bible,” I replied.

“Interested?” Michael sounded surprised. “Why, he just prayed with me last Friday night to receive Jesus!” We were all dumbfounded.

I called Allen, and he was eager to meet with me. He knew us because Holly had been regularly discipling his mother. We got together that Tuesday when he came

home from school “So, Allen, who do you think Jesus is?” I asked.

“Well, the Messiah, the Son of God,” Allen answered.

“Do you have a Bible?” I asked. Allen beamed and pulled out a copy of *The Teen Bible*. He was grinning.

“Have you read it?” I asked. “Some,” he responded.

I said, “If you could ask God any question you wanted, what would you ask Him?”

Allen said, “It would be how can I know for certain that now I’m going to go to heaven?”

Now I was grinning inside. How different this was from the person who had said only a month ago that he wanted to be bar mitzvah just for the presents.

We opened our Bibles to I John 5:11-13 and read, “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”

“Do you believe in the Son?” I asked. Allen nodded his head. “Why do you believe in Him?” I continued.

“Because He died for my sins,” Allen responded.

—Stan Meyer, missionary  
Los Angeles

*Stan is continuing to meet with Allen, but this young man needs prayer, especially as he goes through adolescence. He will be dealing with potential ostracism at school because he is a Jew who believes in Jesus. Please pray that he will find other believing teens who will uphold him in his faith.*



*Holly and Stan Meyer*



# A Better Way of Giving

Even if you're not among those who give regular gifts to Jews for Jesus, we're pleased that you just care enough to read our newsletter. Maybe you're one of those very special people who share our vision and have come to share our burden by scheduling a place for us on your personal missionary budget. We have some good news for you and all our regular donors.

Just as we've looked for new ways and means of proclaiming the gospel, we've sought new ways and means of efficiently handling funds. We want to get as much as possible done quickly and practically. We want to get God's money working faster, going further and accomplishing more. One way of doing more with less effort is through Electronic Fund Transfers. That means that you give us your authorization to have your monthly donation transferred from your bank on the same day each month according to your prayerfully pre-determined schedule of giving. (The bank doesn't know that you pray, but we hope that's how you find God's will for supporting missions.)

We are happy to use whatever our partners provide any way they choose to provide it, but we hope you will consider some good reasons why you might want to use Electronic Fund Transfer:

1. Electronic Fund Transfer provides you with an accurate, permanent and efficient record of your giving. You'll receive a record of each gift on your bank statement as well as your regular monthly receipt from Jews for Jesus (unless you request otherwise).
2. Your donations come to us according to your predetermined policy; you decide in advance what you want to happen. This is particularly helpful to those on fixed incomes. You remain in control. If you need to, you can write and ask us to make a change, or in the event that you want to send more, you can always write an extra check.
3. In these days, few people have free checking accounts, and bank charges are increasing. With postage stamps, the cost of printing checks and fees for writing them constantly going up, Electronic Fund Transfer can save you money.
4. Electronic Fund Transfer saves us money because it saves us time in processing the contribution. Data entry and receipting become easier.
5. Your money goes to work right away. In most cases, it takes four to eight days for us to receive US mail. Monies sent through Electronic Fund Transfer can go to work right away to buy necessary supplies and pay missionaries on the day that you decide to have your donation arrive.
6. Electronic Fund Transfer saves you several precious minutes of paper work with each donation.
7. We are able to provide Electronic Fund Transfer at no cost to you.

**If you are interested in using this new way of giving, please let us know by sending in the form we are providing in this Newsletter.**

# Prayer Prompters

Please pray for



our upcoming Summer Witnessing Campaigns (please refer to enclosed prayer calendar for requests specific to New York)



our summer interns, who are part of a new program that should enable us to get more done while investing in ministry-minded college students who are seeking God's direction



finances: summer is always a time of higher expense and low income due to many campaign-related outreaches, coupled with the fact that many of our friends and supporters are away during the summer months



more workers for the harvest: we urgently need administrative and vocational staff, as well as volunteers to help us



grace and strength for new believer Allen, and especially for fellowship with believing peers (p. 6)



grace and strength for new believer Fran (p. 8)



grace and strength for new believer Michelle (p. 8)



grace and strength for new believer Jack (p. 8)



salvation for Daryl and Warren (p. 8)



salvation for Barry (p. 8)

# Bits From the Branches

From “the road,” **The Liberated Wailing Wall** team leader Garrett Smith reports, “With a blown out tire and ripped out air lines, our ‘immobile’ evangelistic team needed very specific Prevost bus parts to make us mobile again. We prayed and soon heard a knock at the bus door. ‘I know of a Prevost shop nearby,’ said a total stranger. ‘Let me take you there in my truck.’ We ‘happened’ to be a mile away from one of about ten Prevost bus shops in the whole country! Back at the bus we discovered we needed an air gun to remove the tire. As we stared at the tire in dismay, a voice from behind us asked, ‘Do you need an air gun?’ The man proceeded to jack up the bus, remove the tire, then sped off as quickly as he came, refusing to accept any money in thanks.

*“That same week:* a Christian who was out driving with her Jewish friend saw us in a church parking lot. ‘My friend Fran has some questions. Could you come speak to her?’ she asked. I spoke to Fran (who is wheelchair bound) and invited her to our presentation. She came, and that night as we invited people who have not known Jesus

to ask Him into their lives as Lord and Savior, Fran raised her hand. Later, as we talked about her decision, she took my hand and smiled, with a tear in her eye.

Occasionally I ask myself what I am doing living on a bus for a year and a half—and God answers me with people like Fran!”

From **Washington, D.C.**, outreach worker Victoria Lannon reports, “I’ve seen Michele come full circle since we began meeting a year ago April—God has been drawing her slowly but surely. When it came time for me to leave town for my two-week deputation tour, I told Michele, ‘I just know you’re going to get saved while I’m gone, and I want you to call me when you do!’ A few nights later, she called and left a message with my hosts in Michigan—she had taken her step of faith and committed her life to Christ.”

Missionary David Rothstein reports from **Fort Lauderdale**, “Jack and I were playing ‘phone tag,’ leaving one another messages on our respective answering machines. Finally,

we connected. Jack, a Reform Jew who has been ill with cancer since November of ‘95, has recently been studying the Bible. He even attended church a couple of times with a close Christian friend. The morning we finally connected he had just come back from a meeting with a Lubavitch (very strict Orthodox sect) rabbi. Jack said when he asked the rabbi about Jesus, he practically exploded. Unsatisfied with the rabbi’s answers, Jack was ready to talk seriously with a Jew for Jesus. As we spoke on the phone it became obvious that Jack was ready to put his trust in Jesus—and that’s exactly what he did!”

From **South Africa**, approved student Nici Meyer reports, “Natalie Sachs (who’s volunteered with us) and I have been praying for the Lord to give her opportunities to witness to her family. This week, as I was handing out tracts, I asked two Jewish guys who they thought Jesus was. They apparently thought I would be flustered when they insisted they had never heard about Jesus before, but they soon realized I would not give up that easily. Not long into our conversation, one of them said, ‘My cousin is into this.’ His cousin’s name: Natalie Sachs! Please pray for Daryl and Warren, as they have agreed to receive some literature.

In March we asked you to pray for many Jewish people to come hear our missionaries present Christ in the Passover at churches during their tours. Here is but one of many examples of how God answered that prayer: Bob Mendelsohn was in Georgia and decided to pass out some tracts at the Cherry Blossom Festival. To his surprise, a woman approached asking, “Are you Bob Mendelsohn?” Alisa and her Jewish husband, Barry, had heard Bob on the radio and were interested in attending one of his meetings—but they were in the car at the time, unable to jot down a time or place. Barry and Alisa had planned to be at the festival in the morning rather than afternoon but were delayed. What a divine appointment! They saw Bob handing out tracts, figured there were probably not many Jews for Jesus in the Macon area, and asked where he would be speaking! They came the very same night. Bob had dinner with them afterward and they discussed more about Jesus. Bob met again with Barry later that week and feels that he is very close to faith.

