

JEW for JESUS

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

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On Your Mark, Get Set, PRAY

BY DAVID BRICKNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I awoke early and went to the guest room/office in my basement, figuring there would be fewer interruptions than at the office. I was making great headway with the work I'd brought home when my eight-year-old son Isaac awoke. As soon as he realized my van was still at home, he came running downstairs. He was so excited to find me that he began to talk and talk about everything that was on his mind. He didn't notice me beginning to shift impatiently in my chair, but when he paused to take a breath, I said, "Isaac, I really need to get back to work now, okay?" He smiled and said, "Okay Dad, but I'm just so glad that you're here this morning instead of at work because I just wanted to talk." Then he went back upstairs to get ready for school, leaving me to feel blessed by his open expression of love and a little sorry that we couldn't talk longer.

Isaac's delight in speaking to me that morning made me reflect on how often I run to talk to my Heavenly Father. Conversing with Him ought to be a delight and blessing—yet often we find it a burden. We empathize with the disciples, who upon waking in the Garden of Gethsemane had to hear the Lord ask, "Could you not tarry with me for one hour?" We declare the importance of prayer with our words, but sometimes our actions say otherwise.

Our society sets goals, measures results and evaluates success based on visible accomplishment. Christian organizations do likewise—and have accomplished much good for God as a result. Yet there is a tendency to neglect prayer. Prayer sometimes defies our expectations. We cannot always measure the results of time spent talking to God, listening to God—nor should we! What does that mean for an organization like Jews for Jesus?

Over the years, we have reminded our missionaries of their personal responsibility to maintain a close relationship with God. We want to encourage and nurture spiritual growth, but each missionary must cultivate his or her own



walk with God, his or her own prayer life. True, we occasionally take time out to pray together but for the most part, we expect our staff to plan their prayer time over and above the normal work week. Those of you who give to Jews for Jesus did not sign on to sponsor great prayer meetings. No, you stand with us and support us in our work because you know that we are

out there doing the work, handing out gospel tracts, meeting with the unsaved and preaching the gospel. Yet, I am certain that if we did all this without committing time to prayer, without seeking the Lord's guidance, without waiting upon Him, you would (and should) be disinclined to support our ministry. There is a balance that you expect and that we seek in following the Lord in Jews for Jesus.

I get excited about the letters you've sent thanking us for including Prayer Prompters in our newsletter, knowing that you use them to pray for us and for many people whose lives we touch. I am persuaded that prayer is at the foundation of all that we do. For example, one of the main reasons our campaigns have been so successful is the prayers that God's people consistently offer for this endeavor. During campaigns we see the greatest responsiveness to the gospel, more intense opposition than at other times of the year, and the most fruit for our labor. Last month, you received a day-by-day prayer calendar for the New York Campaign and I know that many of you are using this faithfully.

Recently, a number of us have been discussing how wonderful it would be to have friends praying for us throughout the whole year, using a Jews for Jesus prayer calendar. So

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here's what we decided to do. In September, you will receive a 48-page Journal from Jews for Jesus. It will provide a good overview of Jews for Jesus as well as pictures of our staff from around the world. Inside this Journal, you'll find a prayer calendar to take you with us through the whole year. Why September? We are using Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, as the starting point. If you are one of our prayer warriors, this will be a valuable tool to help you pray more specifically for Jews for Jesus. If you don't pray regularly for us, we hope the Journal and prayer calendar will get you excited about praying for us.

I'd like to get a "jump start" on those prayers by sharing with you one of the greatest needs we Jews for Jesus have right now. In fact, it's always been one of our greatest needs. When I was Director of Recruitment, a passage of Scripture became very dear to me and I'm sure it is equally near to the heart of Stephen Katz, our current Director of Recruitment: "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:37-38). Jesus points out the problem that is so apparent to us in Jews for Jesus, "The laborers are few." He also points out the solution: Pray. Why? The harvest is the Lord's and it's up to Him to send the laborers.

Our natural inclination is to say, "The workers are few so let's get out there and work double time," or, "The workers are few, so let's go out and recruit people." Jesus does not tell us to follow our natural inclination. He tells us to pray. Prayer is the first and real business, not just of recruitment, but of any kind of ministry. Too often we treat prayer as a formality, a prelude to our own decisions or actions. Or we treat prayer as a fitting conclusion to the "real" business of ministry. Let's remember, prayer is neither the appetizer nor the dessert—it's the main course! While we need goals

and aims, our goals exist merely to keep us accountable. Goals do not change lives. Prayer does.

Our standard in this race should be, "On your mark, get set, PRAY." Prayer requires commitment, but it also takes a great load off our shoulders. True ministry does not depend on our abilities, but on God's resources. By establishing prayer as the foundation of all we do, we take our burdens and lay them at the feet of our Lord.

God delights to take our burdens when we come to Him in prayer. When we seek the Lord, He "gives to all liberally and without reproach" (James 1:5).

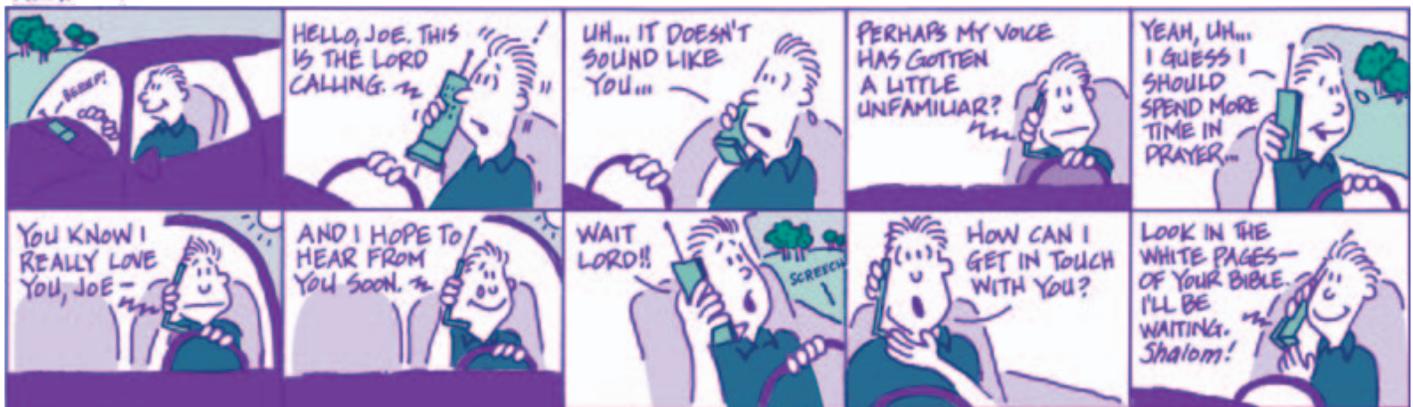
Nevertheless, petition is merely one aspect of prayer. When my son Isaac came running to find me, he didn't ask for anything. He just wanted to talk, to share his thoughts—to be with his dad. I want my life and the ministry of Jews for Jesus to be characterized by our delight in seeking out our Heavenly Father. We don't always need to be asking—sometimes it's just good to tell God how we feel about Him and about everything else. He already knows what's on our minds, but as we consciously share our thoughts with Him, I believe He speaks to us and guides our thinking.

When we delight in God's presence, He is blessed by our joy in being with Him. I'm an imperfect dad, but even though I shifted a bit impatiently in my chair, Isaac's delight in just talking to me gave me real joy. Imagine the blessing we bring to our omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent Father when we come running to talk to Him. We never break His concentration and we never interrupt what He is doing . . . and no matter how much we have to say, He never shifts impatiently upon His heavenly throne!

**TRUE MINISTRY
DOES NOT DEPEND
ON OUR ABILITIES
BUT ON GOD'S
RESOURCES.**



WHAT IF...



The Bible Nobody Wanted



ELIZABETH TERINI

I was walking down the street in Brooklyn somewhat discouraged. I had just come from visiting a Russian Jewish couple who had returned a Bible that I had loaned them. They said that they were no longer interested in reading the Bible or considering that Jesus might be the Messiah.

As I walked along, I passed a man and woman who were speaking Russian.

The man was saying that he was 62 years old and never in his whole life had he seen a Russian Bible. I could hardly believe my ears. I stopped, introduced myself to Boris and Anna and gave them the Bible that had just been returned to me, along with a Russian translation of our booklet called “The Universe is Broken, Who on Earth Can Fix It?” I waited a few weeks in order to give them time to read these things, then contacted them and arranged to visit with them in their home.

When I arrived, I explained the basics of the gospel to Boris and he seemed very open. Before long, his wife Anna and two nieces, who attend a local yeshiva (Jewish parochial school), returned. Anna became very upset. She and the nieces began to say that it was wrong for Jews to believe in Jesus, a betrayal of their religion. Then Anna took the Bible from her husband’s hands, gave it back to me and said, “We Jewish people have to keep our religion.” She insisted that Boris not speak anymore about the matter. I took the Bible, said “One day you will know you have made the wrong choice,” and left with a heavy heart.

When I got downstairs, I saw a woman playing with a dog. I commented to her that it was a beautiful dog, and how God had created everything so beautifully. She, too, was a Jewish Russian woman. Her name was Dina, and she responded by saying, “Yes, God has made everything beautiful.”

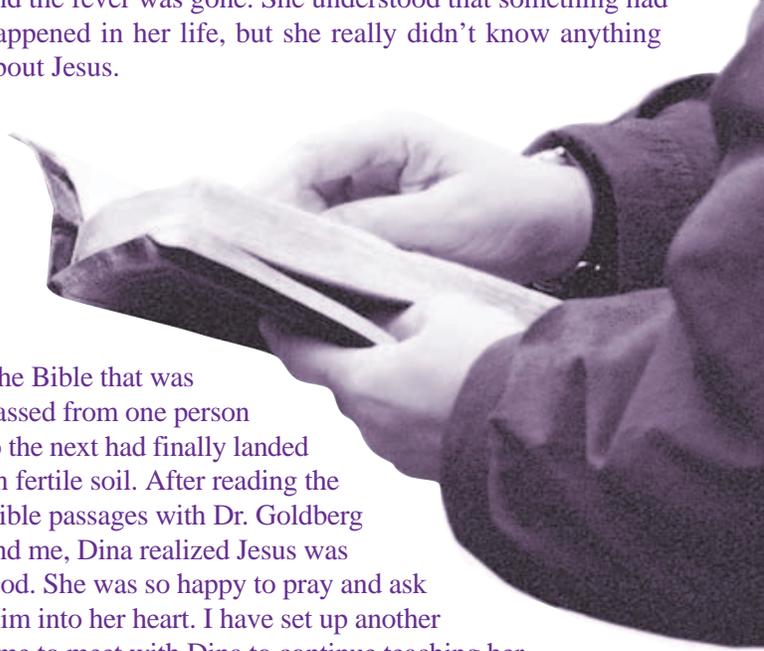
I asked Dina what she knew about Jesus and she said that she thought Jesus might be the Son of God, but not God Himself. She did not have a Bible, so I gave her that same Russian Bible and “The Universe is Broken” booklet that had just been returned to me by Boris and Anna. She seemed eager to meet and discuss the person of Jesus, so we arranged to get together the following week. Dina was

not there at our next appointed time and she missed several more appointments with me. I tried many, many times to reach her by phone and by dropping in at her home at the appointed times, but she was never there.

When I finally reached her, I was very direct about not wanting to waste my time. If she really wanted to get together to discuss Jesus I would come, but if not, I asked that she please not promise to meet and then not show up. Dina absolutely promised to be there, so I agreed to try one last time. The next day, Dr. Goldberg and I went to her apartment and she was indeed home.

Dr. Goldberg showed her many Bible passages including Matthew 8: 23-27, 9:1-8, 9:18, 9:23-26 and John 3:16. She was so excited to hear that Jesus died for her sins and she proceeded to tell us about some of her past troubles and what God had done in her life.

Her husband had had a stroke and was unable to care for himself. Dina herself was very sick with a fever and a swollen foot that was abscessed. She was unable to get even a glass of water for herself, much less care for her husband. She had heard that Jesus did good things for people so, as she lay in bed that night, she prayed, “Please Jesus, help me.” The next morning, Dina’s foot was normal and the fever was gone. She understood that something had happened in her life, but she really didn’t know anything about Jesus.



The Bible that was passed from one person to the next had finally landed on fertile soil. After reading the Bible passages with Dr. Goldberg and me, Dina realized Jesus was God. She was so happy to pray and ask Him into her heart. I have set up another time to meet with Dina to continue teaching her about her savior and her new life in Christ. I feel sure she will keep this appointment and many more.

Elizabeth Terini, missionary
New York

On Line Evangelism 101

Last month Moishe wrote about witnessing opportunities via e-mail and the World Wide Web. We thought you would like to hear about two Jewish people who recently came to faith . . . with a little help from our online missionaries.

Bob Mendelsohn (chief of station in New York) was juggling several administrative details at the office and decided to juggle one more ball while he was at it. So he launched a Jews for Jesus “chat room” and let it sit for a while. After a few minutes there were three or four Christians praising the Lord and fellowshiping together. Then a couple left, and Bob was about ready to leave as well, when Rose “walked” in.

Rose’s first remark was, “You’re not really Jewish, are you?” Bob thought, “Oh boy here comes another anti-missionary choosing to waste her time and mine.” Nevertheless, he answered her as though she might actually be interested . . . and after a few minutes it became evident that she truly was. But Bob’s phone kept ringing, and various staff had questions, so he asked Glenn Harris* to come over, sit down and “talk” (type) to Rose for a few minutes. The few minutes turned into more than an hour of online conversation, relating the truth of God’s word and persuading Rose to read it for herself.

Rose’s reaction was one of anguish and fear, and she said as much in the chat room in front of people she had never met. Her questions were genuine and her challenges were deep. She knew that if Jesus were true, she would have to accept Him, and that would mean facing rejection from loved ones. Eventually Glenn had to leave but he and Rose set up an online appointment (she lives several states away) to have a private chat later that week. They “met” via computer on Wednesday morning. After half an hour, once again Glenn had to leave.

Wednesday afternoon at 1PM Bob logged on to retrieve some tax forms from the Internet and he received an IM

(instant message) from Rose. She was still processing the issue and wanted to discuss it further.

Bob was with her online for about 45 minutes and was able to “hear” Rose confess Jesus as Lord. She wanted to tell Glenn right away, and left a message in his e-mail box explaining what had happened.

Bob says, “I rejoice in what God did for Rose, whose main objection was what her family would say. God’s Holy Spirit poured His grace on her and she understood that her response to God mattered more than anything—more, even, than how her family might respond to her.”

A postscript to Rose’s story: immediately following the writing of this story, Rose contacted Bob to let him know she had told her parents about her faith. They reacted as she feared, allowing her four days to pack her things and move out of their house. Rose is in her early 20’s and was already planning to move (just not so quickly). Do pray for her to stand firm in her faith and for her reconciliation with her family. This is not unusual for a first reaction, but often tensions do ease in time and relationships are repaired.

**After serving faithfully with Jews for Jesus for many years, the Harris family has moved to Michigan. They now serve the Lord alongside Loren Jacobs—a long time friend and former staff member of Jews for Jesus who reaches out to Jewish people in the Detroit area.*



BOB MENDELSON



GARRETT SMITH

Garrett Smith was asked to touch base with him.

As a result, Garret had this to say: “AJ could not come to our meeting because of his work schedule. But he really did want to meet a Jewish believer face to face, so he came to the bus after work and I met with him from midnight to 1:45 AM.

“We talked a lot and looked at Numbers 21, John 3, Psalm 22. I asked him, ‘What is stopping you from accepting Jesus as your Messiah and Savior right now?’ He said, ‘If God would just do something to show me that is true, some kind of sign.’ To which I replied, ‘I have found, AJ, that most people who ask that question have already seen God do something to show them it is true. Such people will not come to faith even if they see someone rise from the dead.’

“AJ looked pretty sheepish, then admitted that God had given him a sign. He said, ‘I am a policeman and my police dog got away from me. I was out looking for him for 2 hours calling his name, and it was almost midnight. As I walked I

Moishe Rosen and Scott Rubin (a good friend who’s closely associated with Jews for Jesus) “met” a Jewish man named AJ in a chat room. AJ had first run into Jews for Jesus at his college campus some 15 years earlier. He has been receiving *ISSUES*, our bi-monthly evangelistic publication, ever since. AJ lives in the South, and since The Liberated Wailing Wall was scheduled to be in his area, team leader

had plenty of time to think. So I said to God, “if Jesus is really the Messiah, then let me find the dog.” You aren’t going to believe this, but ten seconds later the dog came running up to me. I am telling the truth—ten seconds!”

“Then AJ told me the real reason he hadn’t yet accepted Christ. ‘I am scared,’ he said. ‘Can you pray that God will give a kick in the behind?’ Now this is not a cowardly person. He deals with criminals every day, knows EMT, scuba dives, has been in the Reserves, and by his own admission is a guy who isn’t afraid of anything—yet he was scared to give his life to Jesus.”

Garrett prayed for AJ, who returned the following day to have lunch with the team. He was so excited to meet 6 other Jewish believers. Again, he asked the whole team to pray for him.

About a week later, Scott Rubin was online with AJ, and he finally “took the plunge” and confessed Christ as Lord and Savior. Scott “cyberspaced him through the sinner’s prayer.” Hallelujah!!! This certainly was a team effort, with God as the Captain! Pray for AJ’s growth in his new found faith.

Maybe We Can Help

We mentioned how AJ had been receiving our evangelistic publication, *ISSUES*, for fifteen years before he came to Christ. There were many factors in AJ’s story, but those fifteen years of reading *ISSUES* surely played a part.

Do you have a Jewish friend who might be open to reading *ISSUES*? Please send us their name and address, with their phone number if possible. We need your name and address as well, but we will not mention that you’ve passed on your friend’s name unless you tell us we may.



A Guide to Preparing Bible Studies

If you have been witnessing to a Jewish person who has shown an interest in Jesus or in spiritual matters at all, invite him or her to study the Scriptures with you. Your Jewish friend may resist starting out in the New Testament, and messianic prophecy could be confusing for anyone who doesn't have a good Bible background.



Most Jewish people, however, are receptive to reading from the Torah (Pentateuch) or the Psalms. Our Liberated Wailing Wall team leader, Garrett Smith, suggested the following study guide. He finds Numbers 21:4-9 very effective as a “first” Bible study with a Jewish person, but you can use the same guidelines for any text you choose.



I. Choose a text that relates to a gospel truth about God or the human condition.

In this case, we have chosen Numbers 21:4-9.

II. Establish the Setting of the passage.

Before reading the passage with your friend, establish where and when the account is taking place. That makes it more interesting and provides a point of reference.

Example: This happened near the end of the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness after God brought them out of Egypt. They had observed the first Passover. Then they had crossed through the Red Sea and received the Ten Commandments.

III. Read the passage together.

Give the person the verses to read aloud. If the individual can personally discover what you want to teach, he or she will “take ownership” of it.

IV. Ask leading questions.

Ask what the person has just read. Your questions should lead him or her to find a basic principle of the gospel within the text.

Example:

Q: In verses 4-5, what were the people doing?

A: They were complaining against Moses and God about the food and water.

Q: In verse 6, what was the penalty for their complaining against God?

A: God sent serpents among the people and many died from the snake bites.

Q: In verse 7, how did the people react?

A: They confessed their sin against the Lord and asked Moses to intercede for them.

V. Point out associative observations.

Examples:

1. The people had to use an intercessor rather than go directly to God, didn't they?

2. Do you suppose the people would have realized their sin if God hadn't penalized them for it?

Q: In verse 8, what did God do?

A: He had Moses build a “fiery” serpent on a pole. When the people looked to it, they would be saved.

Q: Did God answer the people's prayer to take away the serpents?

A: No, he didn't take away the serpents; He provided a way for the people to be healed.

Q: Do you think the people would have learned anything if God had just taken away the serpents?

A: The people probably would have done the same thing again. This way, every time they were bitten, they would remember their sin, have to look up to the serpent God had provided, trust Him and rely on His mercy.

VI. Introduce a transition to the New Testament.

Example: Do you know that Y'shua (Jesus) spoke of this story in the New

Testament? Let's look at John 3:14-17.

(Again, describe the setting)

In verses 1-2, Y'shua was having a conversation at night with Nicodemus, who was a well respected rabbi.

(Again, ask questions)

Q: In verse 14, what did Y'shua say about this story in the Torah?

A: He made an analogy between the serpent and himself (Son of Man was a messianic title Jesus took for Himself). He said that in the same way the serpent was put on the pole, He must be lifted up.

Q: What does lifted up mean?

A: To be crucified.

Q: In verses 15-16, how did Jesus connect the two events?

A: He said that in the same way the Israelites looked to the fiery snake and were saved, they could look to Him and believe and be saved.

VII. Conclude with a parallel.

Example: In the same way that the Israelites rebelled against God, we all have rebelled against Him. We all have a terminal illness called sin. Just as the penalty in the wilderness was physical death, the ultimate penalty for sin is spiritual death—eternal separation from God. In order to be healed and live, the Israelites had to look in faith to the serpent on the pole. In the same way, each of us today must look to Y'shua (Jesus), that we may live forever in God's presence.



KAROL JOSEPH

Right Place, Right Time

Having Jews for Jesus speak at your church provides a great opportunity to invite your Jewish friends to come and hear the gospel in a Jewish way. I get excited and encouraged when I see God use our presentations to touch Jewish hearts. Recently I had a joyous experience after speaking about “Christ in the Passover” in a California church.

After the service, a woman asked me for some literature that would be appropriate give to a Jewish person. “Oh, do you know someone Jewish?” I asked, and handed her a copy of our publication, *ISSUES*.

“Yes,” she answered, “him,” and indicated the man standing beside her.

I introduced myself to her friend, whose name was Paul. When I asked if he believed in Jesus, he responded, “I don’t know, but I’d like to know how to believe in Him.” I offered to speak privately with him and Paul told me how he’d come to this church a few times with a friend of his. When he heard that Jews for Jesus were coming he didn’t want to miss it.

Paul admitted that the only thing that was keeping him from declaring faith in Jesus was the difficulty he had in saying the name. I could sympathize because that was exactly how I felt years ago when I was first coming to believe in Jesus. For many Jewish people, the only time we hear the name of Jesus is when someone stubs a toe . . . or when someone accuses us of having killed Him. Either way, no matter what we feel about the person of Christ, it takes a while before we can associate the word with love and forgiveness and worship.

Paul was glad to hear that I’d been through the exact same thing he was experiencing. I explained that whether it’s easy or difficult to say His name, the real issue is whether you believe that Jesus died for your sins and was raised from the dead. Paul assured me that he had no problem with that at all. When I asked if he’d like to accept Jesus as his Savior, he said he would, but didn’t know how. So we held hands and he followed me in a simple prayer of repentance. With a big smile on his face, he went and told his friend what he had done.

We thank God for Christians who are bold enough to invite Jewish friends to church, and for churches who invite Jews for Jesus to be in the right place at the right time.

Karol Joseph, missionary
Los Angeles

Prayer Prompters

Please pray for

- our Jews for Jesus staff to be men and women who continually delight in prayer—not only telling our Heavenly Father all of our interests and concerns, but also having ears to hear what He has to say about them
- Boris, Anna and their two nieces to allow themselves to consider the gospel with an open mind (p. 3)
- grace and strength for new Jewish believer Dina (p. 3)
- grace and strength for new Jewish believer Rose, and reconciliation with her parents (p. 4)
- grace and strength for new Jewish believer A.J. (p. 5)
- grace and strength for new Jewish believer Paul (p. 7)
- grace and strength for new Jewish believer Ruben (p. 8)
- salvation for Ruben’s uncle Ivan (p. 8)
- grace and strength for new Jewish believer Zoya (p. 8)
- salvation for Susan Curland’s grandfather (p. 8)
- salvation for Claude-David and his brother, Alon (p. 8)

Bits from the Branches

Last February, Rob Wertheim (who leads our **Orange County** outpost) went shopping with his wife Sandy on Valentine's day. While at Mervyn's they met a Jewish salesperson named Ruben who seemed open to the gospel. He was willing to meet and study the Bible with Rob and even attended a Christ in the Passover presentation Rob was giving at a church in his area. In fact, Ruben also brought along his uncle Ivan.

When it came time to take the offering, Rob mentioned, as usual, that anyone who is not yet a believer in Jesus should not give in the offering. Rob then took his seat and noticed that Ruben put something in the plate anyway. Rob told Ruben that he shouldn't have given, but Ruben replied, "I might surprise you by the end of the service." Sure enough, as Rob concluded the service with an evangelistic invitation, Ruben raised his hand and indicated his faith in Jesus as his sin-bearer and Lord! Please pray for Ruben to grow strong in the Lord and for his Uncle Ivan and other family members to come to faith also.

In **Washington, D.C.**, outreach worker Victoria Lannon was calling people to set up evangelistic visits and was frustrated that she could not schedule her Tuesday afternoon. She says, "Some of my most regular contacts who are usually available then could not meet. I was trying to figure out why when I heard that still small voice, 'Don't schedule this time; I will.' I must admit, I didn't have much faith, but I left the time unscheduled. On Monday night, when I arrived at the home of a Jewish woman named Allona, her son's piano teacher was there. The teacher turned out to be a Russian Jew named Zoya, who said she had been searching for God for the past five years. When I offered to meet with her, I was not surprised to find the only time she had available that week was the following afternoon—the one that I had left open. We met and, after we read a few Scriptures together, she gave her life to Jesus. Please pray for Zoya."

From **The Liberated Wailing Wall**, Susan Curland reports, "When in West Palm Beach, I visited my grandfather who snowbirds there (i.e. 'migrates' to a warm climate for the winter). I've witnessed to my grandfather

before, but Garrett (LWW team leader) came to help me present the gospel, perhaps in a different way than he'd heard before. God answers prayer and Garrett did get to speak to my grandfather about Y'shua (Jesus) for about twenty minutes. When we left, my grandfather accepted a *Questions & Answers* booklet (designed to help remove roadblocks to faith in Jesus) and said he would read it. He also allowed me to pray with him. Please pray for his salvation."



Carlos Morgenfeld, chief of station in **Buenos Aires**, reports, "During David Brickner's visit to Argentina, he preached from Romans 11 and emphasized: 'life from the dead.' Shortly after David left, we started having problems with our van. We were stranded on the road more than once. Finally, we realized the problem: the battery had died.

"Well, because of the battery's 'death,' we were able to witness to several people who saw the van and stopped to talk to us while we were waiting for help. Now we have a new battery, but perhaps the old one will end up bringing 'life from the dead!'"

Missionary Lev Leigh reports from **Johannesburg**, "We inherited an old Post Office box in Jeppestown from the former Hope of Israel ministry. Jeppestown used to be a Jewish area back in the 1920's, but the neighborhood has long since shifted and there are very few Jews left. Every couple of months we schlepp over there to 'empty' the mail box; sometimes we even find mail. But this last time, I found something else.

"As I was checking our mail box, a man stood next to me, checking his. I glanced over my shoulder and noticed that all of his letters were from Israel! In my fragmented Hebrew, I boldly introduced myself as a Jew for Jesus. I told him that it was *Hashgochah Pratit* (divine providence) that two Jews should meet like this in the middle of Jeppestown, and I asked him for his name and phone number. I have since been in touch with Claude-David, who is a Moroccan/French Hebrew-speaking Israeli living in South Africa. I have also called his business and spoken to his brother Alon. Alon's wife is a Christian who has heard us speak at her church and gets our newsletter! Please pray for a continued ministry to these Israeli brothers."