

JEW for JESUS

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

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Seven Reasons Why I Love the Church

BY DAVID BRICKNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christianity Today recently published a feature article titled, “100 Things the Church is Doing Right.”* That article started me thinking about all the things I love about God’s people, the Church. We don’t have a full magazine to develop the idea, but I thought I would draw up a “short list” to express my gratitude to God for His Church.

Number 7: Diversity. The secular press enjoys portraying evangelical Christians as cultural monotonies or stereotypes. Yet in truth, the Body of Christ is a rich tapestry of color, culture and custom. I once spoke in a Portuguese church in Johannesburg, South Africa. As my message was simultaneously translated into Portuguese I thought, “Only in Christ could an American Jew proclaim the gospel among Portuguese Christians in Johannesburg, South Africa.” I have ministered in African American, Korean Presbyterian, Swedish Baptist, German Lutheran and Dutch Reformed churches—to name a few! I have grown to love and appreciate the diverse traditions of these committed Christians. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. As long as we agree upon the authority of God’s Word and the need for all people to come to Christ, God’s grace allows “different strokes for different folks.” “For in fact the body is not one member but many” (1 Corinthians 12:14).

Number 6: Unity. Unity and diversity are two sides of the same coin. That coin is the Holy Spirit’s currency, working to transform us into a new creation in Christ. Our unity is not based upon agreement on all points of doctrine or practice within the Church. Our unity is a supernatural bond, based on the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit. This is particularly precious to us Jews for Jesus. Our faith in Jesus often leads to ostracism from

our earthly family. How much more do we need and appreciate the acceptance we find, the unity we can experience in the Church. Many Jewish believers have discovered a new family within the Body of Christ. I am still amazed that as I travel, whether I am in Africa, Russia, Argentina or Israel, I have been received in love as a brother because of Jesus.

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patient instruction of Pastor John MacDonald, the Christians at First Baptist Church not only tolerated these “strange” new members of their church family, they embraced and encouraged them in Christ. Their example is repeated countless thousands of times all around the world, as bodies of believers welcome all kinds of people who wouldn’t find such acceptance elsewhere. “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Number 4: Evangelism. Some lament the decline of evangelistic programs in the Church—and we certainly can be doing more evangelism. Nevertheless, many people in churches around the world really have a heart to see souls won to Christ. They witness to their neighbors, their friends and co-workers. In fact, some of the best sources of contacts for Jews for Jesus are Christians who

Number 5: Tolerance.

In the early days of our Jews for Jesus ministry, the dear saints of God at First Baptist Church of Mill Valley, California endured quite a lot when our group of brash, young, ex-hippies flooded into their nice, quiet church. With the

*I was gratified to see that one item on the list was the ministry that Jews for Jesus is having, particularly in Russia.

Continued on page 2

witness to their Jewish friends and/or put us in touch with those friends. This is a two-way partnership. For example, it's been a great blessing for us to team up with pastors and churches in the areas where we hold our campaigns. We send them names, addresses and phone numbers of hundreds of people who have either prayed to receive Christ or expressed interest in hearing more about the gospel. Months or even years later, we meet some of these people who are growing and actively participating in church life.

Number 3: Generosity. I'm grateful to God for the generosity of pastors who welcome our ministry into their pulpits, giving us the opportunity to share our hearts with their people. And I'm grateful for countless Christians across the world who have welcomed us into their hearts and their homes, fed us, encouraged us and sent us on our way with their love and blessing. Our ministry is made possible by Christians who pray and give to help us keep going. These are people who have taken to heart Paul's admonition to the church in Rome, "For if the Gentiles had been partakers of their (Jewish believers) spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things" (Romans 15:27). Of course, if all God's people supported Jews for Jesus with the same level of fervor and commitment, there wouldn't be energies left over for many of the other important tasks and opportunities for Christian service. But God places special burdens on the hearts of many of His people, and their generosity keeps us going.

Reason number 2: Truth. My Jewish people have been called "The people of the Book." Ever since Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments, Israel has been entrusted with the transmission of the sacred Scriptures. We can thank God for the way my forefathers have jealously preserved the sacred text. Yet today we would be hard-pressed to call Israel "The people of the Book." The religious folk among Israel have become the people of many books.

The study of Scripture has been overshadowed by the study of rabbinical commentary—so much so that the truth of the Scriptures has been overlooked and, in some cases, distorted. The majority of my people do not have even a rudimentary knowledge of the Jewish Scriptures. Praise God that the Church has taken up this sacred duty, preserving and proclaiming the gospel truth throughout the ages. Withstanding the withering attacks of higher critical scholars and the secular skeptics who seek to "debunk" the truth of God's Word, the Church has preserved and continued to proclaim the message of Messiah. The history of humanity is littered with the ideas and philosophies that have been tried and trashed under scrutiny. The Church of Jesus Christ has been the repository of the only truth that has stood the test of time.

I believe that the more we fall in love with Messiah the Groom, the more we will care for and uphold His Bride, the church.

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Reason number 1: Messiah's Bride. The number one reason why I love the Church is because she is the Bride of Christ. There's an old Yiddish proverb which begins, "*Ale kales zaynen sheyn . . .*" That means, "all brides are beautiful." Many people today are inclined to size up the Church of Jesus

Christ, to see the blemishes and sneer at her shortcomings. But the Church is the Bride of Christ. If you love the Groom, you have to love the bride. I think the bride is beautiful. Frankly, those who disregard or disdain the Church (whether they are believers or not) risk the wrath of the Groom, our King Messiah. No groom would take kindly to those who abuse his bride—how much more so our Savior? One of the best ways to show love for someone is to care for and uphold the people they love. I believe that the more we fall in love with Messiah the Groom, the more we will care for and uphold His Bride, the Church. Those who truly love Jesus can't help loving the Church and longing for the day when we will appear before Him together, spotless as His Bride. "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her... that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25, 27).



WE EXIST TO MAKE THE MESSIAHSHIP OF JESUS AN UNAVOIDABLE ISSUE TO OUR JEWISH PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.



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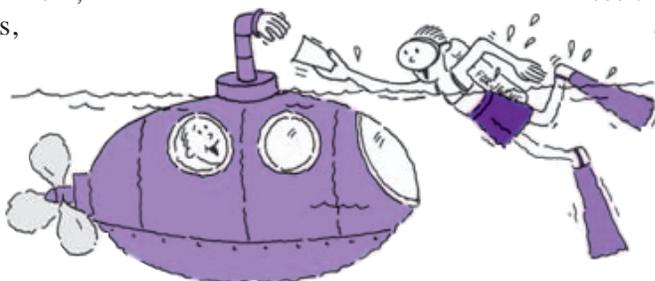
Pastor Carey and His Jewish Mother

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30

Pastor Tom Carey is not Jewish. He is a nice Italian man who grew up in a Catholic home. Yet if you speak with him for any significant length of time, he will inform you that he has a Jewish mother. How could this be? Well, it has to do with fruit.

I spoke at Tom’s church recently and he introduced me to his “Jewish mother,” Golda Lucas. He calls her his mother because she led him to the Lord. It was rather humorous to see Pastor Tom, who is in his early fifties, calling Golda his mother. She’s the same age! After I spoke, she shared her testimony with the church.

Golda began seeking the truth about Jesus some twenty years ago. Someone pointed her in the direction of a Messianic congregation. When Golda walked in one Friday, the only person there was the janitor. He told her that a very special singing group would be performing at the congregation the following day. The name of the group was The Liberated Wailing Wall, and he told her that they were all Jews for Jesus. Golda was thrilled to hear of this event and showed up the next day in great anticipation to see the presentation.



It was at that meeting that she finally found the answer to all her questions when she heard that one could indeed be Jewish and believe in Jesus. That evening she surrendered her life to the Lord and put her faith in Jesus as her Messiah and Savior. Her life was never the same.

Later she met Tom, shared her faith with him and he in turn gave his life to Jesus. Golda and her husband spent a great deal of time teaching Tom and investing in him so that he would also be fruitful for God. And they see the fruit of his life today as he is pastoring a vibrant, growing congregation in Long Island, New York. Part of his desire to see the gospel go forth in his community led pastor Tom to invite Jews for Jesus to come and speak at his church. His “Jewish mother” instilled in him a desire to see God’s chosen people come to faith in their Messiah, and now he is passing on that passion to his congregation and his community. How is that for coming full circle? And isn’t that the way it is supposed to work in the body of Christ? We all work together to reach out and touch lives and then those people in turn bear fruit and the cycle continues on and on. May all our lives be like a tree of life, bearing fruit and winning souls for the Lord!



MICHELLE ROSE

—Michelle Rose, missionary
New York City

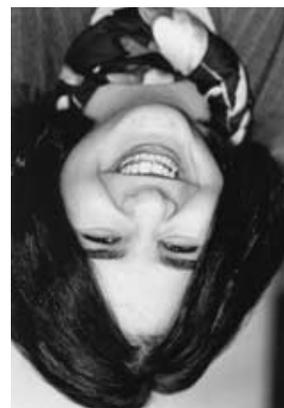
O O P S !



Daphne Kaplan

Last month we told you that Liberated Wailing Wall member Daphne Kaplan is from Brooklyn when she is actually from Queens, New York. If you want to know the difference, just ask Susan Perlman (Brooklyn) or Steve Wertheim (Queens) depending on what bias you want.

While we’re on the subject of The Liberated Wailing Wall, here’s a bit of team trivia: Guess which member is known to rehearse in their sleep? This person has been heard belting out a song in their loudest voice. The funny thing is that the following day, they seem to know their part better for the night’s “rehearsal”!



If you guessed Paula Cummings, you are correct.

Courageous Christians, “Jealous” Wife

With God all things are possible! Matthew 19:26

Israel is a Moroccan Jew who grew up in a tiny village in the northern part of Israel. He arrived in South Africa six years ago, determined to discover meaning and purpose for his life. Little did he know what was soon to take place! He had planned to spend a month in South Africa and then continue his journey to the Far East. He had not planned to meet a lovely South African lady who would win his heart. After meeting Marti, Israel never left our sunny shores!

Israel’s wife Marti now admits, “Had I been strong in the Lord I would not have married an unbeliever.” She gratefully

acknowledges, however, that God’s mercy is plentiful and that He has turned the situation around to His glory.

Israel’s journey of faith began over a business lunch. He was determined to clench a deal, but his associate was determined to tell him about the Lord! Israel recalls, “We spoke for thirty minutes about business and for three hours about Jesus!” In the months that

followed, Israel met several Christians who testified to him about Jesus. They had the peace for which he was longing. Yet for Israel one problem stood between him and that peace. As far as he was concerned, Jews do not believe in Jesus.

His thinking changed the day that one of his Christian business contacts (a supporter of Jews for Jesus) called us to step in. Israel described his first meeting with Elijah Gould: “I couldn’t believe it—a Jewish person just like me, yet he believed in Jesus!” They began to study the Bible together and Israel soon realized that believing in Jesus was the most Jewish thing that he could do.

Marti remembers the day in October 1996 when Israel came home with the exciting news that he had trusted Jesus as his Messiah. “I was stunned,” she says, “I never thought it would happen.” For a while, she stood back and watched Israel’s faith from a distance. As her husband became more involved in his newfound faith, Marti could see a tangible change in him. She began to realize that she had been “sitting on the fence” when it came to truly following Jesus as Lord.

As time passed, Israel encouraged his wife to read her Bible. Eventually, Paul’s words to the Romans about Gentiles provoking Jews to jealousy convicted Marti. She knew that whereas she ought to have been the one to provoke Israel to jealousy, he as a Jewish believer had caused her to miss the first love of her relationship with the Lord. Marti remembered the love and trust that she had had in God, even as a five-year-old—when she prayed to the Lord to some day give her a good husband.



ELIJAH GOULD

that Israel’s “jealous” wife is now zealous for Jesus!

Now, as a faithful couple, Israel and Marti are committed to growing in their relationship with God as they serve Him together. Won’t you join us in praying for them?

—Nici Meyer, Approved Student
Johannesburg, South Africa



NICI MEYER

God answered her prayer in ways beyond her own imagination. It was her husband’s love for the Lord that led Marti to rededicate her life to Jesus last November.

I thank God for the courageous Christians who witnessed to Israel, and for the one who ultimately let us know of the opportunity to minister to him. And I’m thankful

Weathering Sorties ❄️❄️❄️

We call our tract passing expeditions “sorties.” We meet many of our contacts (see storyboard below) on sorties and we do them all year round. How do our missionaries weather winter sorties? Here you see Greg Savitt (one of our missionary trainees in New York City) wearing

numerous layers and a knit cap so people will know he’s a Jew for Jesus. He is writing down the name and address of someone who wants more information about the Lord.

Victoria Lannon (our outreach worker to the Russian community in Washington D.C.) keeps her ears warm with a knit headband beneath her Jews for Jesus baseball cap. Look carefully and you’ll notice she’s removed a heavy down-filled glove from her right hand. She, too, is in the process of writing down the name and address of a new contact. Turn to page 8, “Bits from the Branches,” and you’ll see how God keeps our outreach workers in Odessa warm on their sorties!



It really happened. . . (Robyn Wilk is part of our San Francisco/Berkeley team and Annette Sofaer is part of our Los Angeles team.)



We Can't Do it Alone

Our Jews for Jesus branch in Moscow sent me the name of a Russian immigrant in Ashkelon (Southern Israel) who had expressed some interest in the gospel. She gladly received me when I offered to visit, and while she did not come to faith, she did invite me back for a second visit. At that time, she suggested that her friend Asa would really benefit from my message.

I went to visit Asa and her husband that very same day. Since they speak almost no Hebrew, they called a neighbor's teenage daughter to translate my Hebrew into Russian. The visit seemed to go well but I felt restricted knowing that everything I said was being filtered through an unbeliever. I therefore told Asa that I would return with a Russian translator.

Before long I heard about a new family of Jewish believers who have recently made *Aliyah* (moved to Israel) from Russia. I immediately called to see if I could visit with them. It turns out that the father, Yehoshua has been a believer since 1982 and worked as a professional translator in Russia! I asked him if he would be so kind as to accompany me to visit Asa, and he agreed.

When we met, Asa explained that she had heard bits of the gospel throughout her life and she felt drawn to Y'shua.

She had never given her life to Him as her understanding of the gospel was incomplete. I explained the gospel to her and we read Scriptures together. I had a Russian version of Stan Telchin's book, *Betrayed*, which offers a sinner's prayer at the end. After reading through that prayer, Asa committed her life to the Lord.



EFRAIM GOLDSTEIN

Asa is ill and in need of healing, strength and hope, so please keep her in prayer. Yehoshua will see that she gets a Russian Bible and will keep in touch with her. I hope to have contact with her husband, Michael, as well. This truly was a case where I could not have done it alone. In fact we never do it alone, do we?

—Efraim Goldstein,
Tel Aviv



kid stuff.....

E-mail is a great way to minister to unbelievers, but it's also a fun way for believers to encourage one another and occasionally amuse one another. The following "cute stuff" came to us via e-mail and we thought you might enjoy a chuckle.

It is truly astonishing what happens to Bible stories when they are retold by children. Here are some brilliant misconceptions:

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Samson was a strong man who was led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

The Egyptians all drowned in the desert.

Moses died before he reached Canada.

The 5th Commandment is: Honor thy father and thy mother.



Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.

Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and his son obeyed him.

David was skilled at playing the liar.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, and a ball of fire by night.

Samson slew the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Moishe's Musings: Love Well, But Love Wisely



I received a telephone call from the godly wife of a prominent minister in Southern California. She and her husband are amongst the foremost promoters of love and appreciation for the Jewish people. She had a concern and when I listened to her, it became my concern. She told me of how certain persons and agencies were proposing a formula by which people hoped to receive material gain for themselves and their families. Their proposal might be called the “Bless Israel” formula. It was simple: Do what you can to bless Israel materially and God will likewise bless you in a material manner.

Christians were told that if they would invest in certain Israeli stocks and bonds, God would prosper them—not necessarily from the stocks or bonds they bought—but in some other way. If they bought Israeli goods, gave money to Israeli charities, etc., God would return what they gave manifold.

The proposal was presented as a Scripture-based principle, yet it overlooks the passage from which it was drawn:

Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

What we must see from the passage is that the blessing to all the families of the earth was not something that you could put in the bank or in the living room. No, the blessings that God promises to those who bless Israel are spiritual blessings. The greatest blessing of all that came through this promise is the blessing of the Messiah who came through the Jewish people to be the Savior of the nations.

I appreciate those who desire to give to Israeli charities, and I would not discourage anyone from doing so. But let me say that Jewish charities are well-organized. The Jewish people certainly welcome the help of others, but there is an underlying feeling that we should take responsibility to care for our own.

If you want to bless Israel God’s way, I urge you to see to it that Jews get the gospel. The greatest blessing in my life has been coming to know Y’shua, the Jewish Messiah. Orville Freestone blessed me by taking a risk and witnessing to me even though my underlying attitude was hostile unbelief. It was this Gentile family—father, son (both named Orville), wife and brother—who brought to me the blessing of belonging to the Jewish Messiah, Jesus. Through the years, I have been able to bless others the same way.

Prayer Prompters

Please pray for:

- ♥ God’s blessing on Pastor Tom Carey and other pastors around the world who are reaching out to their communities with the good news of Jesus (p. 3)
- ♥ our new Liberated Wailing Wall as they adjust to life on a bus, and particularly that they will get enough sleep (p. 3)
- ♥ Israel and Marti, a newish Jewish believer and his recently rededicated wife in South Africa, as they grow together in the Lord (pp. 4-5)
- ♥ new Jewish believer Asa in Israel, that she will grow in her faith and that her family may soon come to know the Lord (p. 6)
- ♥ Christians who desire to bless Israel to understand that the greatest blessing is to tell Jewish people about Jesus (p. 7)
- ♥ new Jewish believer Martha in Toronto to be firmly rooted in her faith (p. 8)
- ♥ salvation for Anna in Odessa (p. 8)
- ♥ new Jewish believer Harry in Denver to grow in grace, wisdom and knowledge of God (p. 8)
- ♥ salvation for Eric in Pretoria, South Africa (p. 8)
- ♥ God to provide the staff we need to carry on the work, as well as the resources we need to pay them



In **Toronto**, a Christian named Peter called our office for help in witnessing to Martha, a Holocaust survivor. One of our missionaries, Hannah Neufeld, arranged to meet with Martha the following evening. When Hannah asked who she thought Jesus was, Martha immediately replied, “He was the Messiah!” Yet it had never occurred to Martha that she could know God personally through the Messiah. Hannah invited Martha to pray to acknowledge Jesus as her Savior and her Lord. She immediately accepted the invitation.

From **Odessa**, Outreach worker Galya Bogomolova reports, “I was standing outside distributing broadsides (gospel tracts). I was cold and many people had been especially insulting. As I began to complain to God, a woman stopped nearby. I started to ask who she thought Jesus is but she waved her hand as though to dismiss me and said, ‘I am a doubting Thomas.’

‘Do you know how Jesus answered Thomas?’ I asked. She became interested and we talked for several minutes about the Lord. By the end of our conversation, Anna (who is Jewish) gave me her address and asked me to come and read the Bible with her. I was thankful to God for the way He ‘warmed’ me on that sortie despite my complaining. Please pray for Anna, that like Thomas before her, she will one day address Y’shua as ‘My Lord and my God.’”

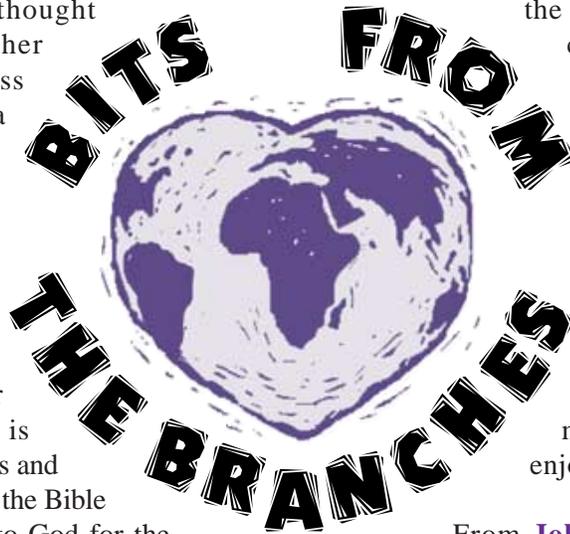
Former **Liberated Wailing Wall** (LWW) team leader Garrett Smith says, “It can be tough to tell when God is working in people’s lives. Sometimes I sense Him leading and directing me to say something; other times I just have to be bold in proclaiming the truth regardless of whether I feel anything special from God. I would like to say that more people come to the Lord when I feel a certain prompting, but often when I am tired or feeling ‘unspiritual,’ God uses me to touch people’s hearts anyway—and I am overwhelmed by His grace. For example, in Denver when I invited people to commit their faith to Jesus as their Savior—one man looked straight at me as he raised his hand in

response. After the presentation Harry explained that he was Jewish, yet he said ‘Ever since I was a kid I have always been drawn to Jesus and I never knew why. Then three months ago, I had a dream. At least I thought it was a dream, though I felt like I was half awake. A big bright light was drawing me. I felt a strange sensation in the palms of my hand and then I saw a cross. I know God is getting my attention.’ Well, God got more than Harry’s attention! Pray for Harry, that God will protect him and help him to grow in grace and wisdom and knowledge of God.”

Also from The LWW, former team member Lori-Kate reports, “I received a letter from Brenda, a Gentile woman who came to faith in Christ after one of our New York presentations. She wrote, ‘In the past, I tried (with little success!) to read

the Bible. I found it boring and confusing. Now I am amazed that I really love reading it!

It seems so interesting and full of wisdom now! I attend a Bible study at my church on Sunday mornings. In the past, no form of motivation would have gotten me up at 8 am on a Sunday morning! Now I have faithfully attended for many weeks and genuinely enjoy it!”



From **Johannesburg**, missionary Lev Leigh reports, “We hold a monthly Bible study in Pretoria, the ex-capitol of South Africa, which is about half an hour north of Johannesburg. The Jewish believer who hosts us was recently excommunicated from the Pretoria synagogue (because of his faith in Jesus). After the rabbi sent an official letter to terminate the believer’s membership, the rabbi decided to preach a sermon against Jews for Jesus. The following Tuesday morning, an Israeli named Eric called our office from Pretoria. He wanted to know more about what we believe. Apparently, the rabbi’s sermon had stirred Eric’s curiosity! When I visited Eric in Pretoria, he greeted me with joy. He gladly accepted the Hebrew New Testament that I offered him. I believe that Eric is truly looking for the real Consolation of Israel! God can use hostile rabbis to bring people to Jesus, too!”