

JEW for JESUS

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

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Give a Gospel Shout

BY DAVID BRICKNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Recently I was seated in a posh restaurant across from a prominent Jewish businessman—I'll call him Burt. Burt owns a chain of clothing stores staffed by more than 750 employees. He and I met at the invitation of a mutual friend to discuss spiritual matters. It was obvious that this man had heard a witness before, and that he had been thinking about Jesus. He had his objections handy. How could I believe in the deity of Christ? What about the virgin birth? Did I really believe in three gods? I began to address each objection, but I sensed that my explanations were not reaching him.

Finally I asked, "Burt, could I take a couple of minutes to tell you what I really believe so that you will understand?" He nodded his agreement. I told him, "Burt, this whole world is in a state conflict and despair due to a human condition the Bible calls sin. Sin separates us from a holy and loving God, and there is no one on earth who has not been infected by this dread disease. But God wants to rescue us, forgive us, heal us and bring us into a relationship with Himself. That is why He sent His Son, the Messiah, Jesus. Y'shua (that's His Hebrew name) came to bring salvation for humankind. He is the only one who ever lived a perfect and sinless life. That is why, when He willingly died on the cross, He became a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sin. But He didn't stay dead. He rose from the grave, proof positive that He is God's Messiah, able to save each and every person who trusts in Him. That's what I believe," I told Burt. "And I believe if you trust Y'shua to be your Messiah and Savior, God will forgive you of all your sin. He will give you a brand new life that will begin now and last forever as you spend eternity with Him."

I paused. There was a palpable silence. It is hard to explain how a wordless moment can be so full of feeling

that it's almost tangible, but if you have experienced it, you know just what I mean. In that moment I knew that the gospel message had somehow pierced the defenses of this self-made man. All his arguments and all his objections failed him. That evening, Burt began to admit his need for God. We talked past 11 P.M., until it was finally time to close the restaurant. When we parted, Burt said he would pray for God to show him if Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

God loves to answer that kind of prayer, and when He does, lives are never the same.

The world is a marketplace of ideas that spring up and fade over time. But one idea, one truth, one driving force remains the most powerful force for change in the world. It transforms people, nations and world events.

**The Creator
of the
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omnipotence
in the gospel
message.**

This one truth is the gospel of Jesus the Messiah. That is the truth that I told to Burt that night. Jesus is the only Savior from sin. His death, burial and resurrection have made it possible for us to receive God's forgiveness and the hope of eternal life.

Why is the gospel such a mighty force? How has it stood the test of time, outlasting all competing ideologies? How can it cut through emotional and spiritual barriers raised by people like Burt? The apostle Paul says it is because the gospel is the very "power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16). The Creator of the Universe has invested His omnipotence in the gospel message. When we proclaim that message, God unleashes His limitless power to save into the lives of those who hear and believe.

You might say, "David, you're preaching to the choir." And I know that most of our friends are the most dedicated

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Christians anyone could ever meet. But I think there might be a select group who receive this newsletter and are not certain where they stand with Christ. I hope the rest of you will be patient with me as I take a moment to address that group.

Friends, having Christian parents doesn't make you a Christian. Attending church doesn't make you a Christian. Only the power of God's Holy Spirit can make you a Christian, and that happens when you agree with Him that only through the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary can you receive personal pardon for your own sin. When you accept that pardon, you are raised to a new life, just like Jesus was raised from the dead. You become a new person, God's person, and He begins to transform your life. If you have never claimed that pardon personally, I hope you will take a moment to talk to God about that right now. He loves you and wants to be your God—but you need to say yes to Jesus.

If you have received that pardon and you are a Christian, but you have strayed and are not in daily fellowship with the Lord, you are missing out on the thrill of seeing the Creator of the Universe at work in your life! God's mercies are new every morning, and you can turn back to Him right now. As you open your heart to Him, confessing your sin once more and acknowledging His forgiveness, He will restore the joy of your salvation—and you will begin to recognize once again the dozens of ways He shows His love for you each and every day. And as you rejoice in what He has done for you, you will have the greatest gift in the world to share with others.

Maybe it seems unusual to take time in a Christian newsletter to reiterate the gospel and invite a response. But from time to time we receive letters from readers indicating their need for this good news, and I have wanted to invite any such people to have their lives changed once and for all.

You see, we have been entrusted with a message of extraordinary strength and power. That is why we Jews For Jesus have confidence to stand boldly on street corners and college campuses offering our broadsides (gospel tracts) to the unsaved. We need not argue with or cajole people. God is at work in the lives of thousands of people who pass by on city streets. We are armed with His power

to transform the lives of those who have faith to believe the message we hand them.

Of course faith is the necessary corollary to gospel proclamation. We cannot produce faith in those who hear our message—that is why prayer is vital to our Jews For Jesus outreach. Prayer is the partner of proclamation. That's where you come in! We hope you'll use the prayer calendar enclosed with this newsletter to pray step by step, day by day through our summer witnessing campaigns all across this world. As God answers those prayers, a climate of faith is created for those who will hear the gospel message. Even now campaigns are underway in Russia and the Ukraine. Our campaign training here in the United States is taking place this month at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.



You can join our Jews For Jesus witnessing campaigns through your prayers. Together we will see God's gospel power unleashed in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of Jews and Gentiles this summer. Paul said this mighty salvation is "for the Jew first, and also for the Greek." He understood a mission principle that still proves true today. There is a present priority in delivering the gospel message to Jewish people. But, when you preach the gospel loud enough for Jews to hear, a whole lot of other folks listen as well.

Here is a little known fact about Jews For Jesus: We see many more Gentiles than Jews come to faith in Christ during our campaigns. Years ago, a rabbi leveled an accusation at our founder, Moishe Rosen during a radio debate in New York. He said, "Mr. Rosen, I happen to know that three times as many Gentiles convert through your group as Jews." Moishe smiled and asked, "What do you want us to do, throw them back?" We praise God for every soul saved through our summer campaign proclamation. We join with the angels in heaven to shout "Hallelujah!" each time one sinner repents.

I expect hundreds of hallelujahs will be ringing out from Jews For Jesus this summer. God will be unleashing His eternal, life changing power to transform the destinies of those who hear and believe the gospel of Jesus. Jews and Gentiles who are headed to a Christless eternity will, in a month's time, be new brothers and sisters in Christ, headed for heaven's glory. Come on and shout hallelujah with us!

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

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As you pray for this year's Campaigns . . .

We thought it might help for you to get a glimpse of those moments when prayer means so much.

I literally couldn't get up from the chair. It was the end of our chapel service during our third week of our 1997 Summer Witnessing Campaign. We had been going out on the streets six days a week, four sorties (tract passing expeditions) a day and this was the moment when I felt that I could not go out even one more time. The thought of leaving our air-conditioned center to go out into the Manhattan "sauna," stand on the corner and be confronted with apathy and/or hostility, seemed overwhelming. Most of the Campaigners were ready to leave. I just sat there and cried. One of my team members and another friend came by and tried to encourage me. They told me that God would get me through it, and victoriously at that. They prayed for me, then walked with me downstairs. As we left the building together, each took me by the hand and were singing with me for the few blocks that it took to get to our

sortie site. Once there, we prayed again and two hours later, I was on my way back to the Center for our afternoon break. I wish I could tell you that someone came by and was willing to receive the Lord or that I met a Jewish person who was eager to hear more about Jesus. I just don't remember. What I do remember is the power of prayer and how God was faithful to get me over that hurdle.



From last year's campaign: Dinah, above, was part of our Halutzim teen outreach; their "Be More Jewish—believe in Jesus" t-shirts matched slogans we put up on Manhattan bulletin boards and subway signs. Hannah (left, now part of our Toronto staff) and Jon (below left, volunteer campaigner from the UK) are sporting our "Jews for Jesus web-site" t-shirts. These shirts identify who we are as well as how folks who might be too shy to stop and talk can reach us.

Just like Aaron and Hur lifted up Moses' hands during Joshua's battle against Amalek, God used my friends to uphold me. They didn't tell me to "just get over it and get out there." They rallied around me and trusted with me, or perhaps for me, that God would supply what I needed.

Last year during our Campaign chapel services, just about every day we would read aloud letters, faxes, and e-mail messages that you, our supporters, sent us. One woman told how her entire homegroup was praying for us daily. We loved hearing your notes of encouragement, and knowing of your prayers on our behalf and on behalf of the lost in New York City. Those prayers enabled us to hand out 1,072,197 tracts on last year's NYC Campaign. We prayed with 300 people who began new lives in Jesus: 140 of those people were Jewish. Of the 6,576 people who gave us their names, addresses and phone numbers to hear more about Jesus, 2,469 were Jewish. Thanks to those of you who joined us in prayer, and I hope that even more friends will be praying with us this year!

—Victoria Lannon, outreach worker
Washington D.C.



PETER RICE

A Daily Reminder

Sometimes I reminisce about people I've had an opportunity to minister to, and I wonder how their spiritual journey is going. I've been in Washington for almost ten years, and many whom I've helped lead to faith have since moved away. Sometimes God brings us into people's lives for a brief season, but

sometimes ministry means long term relationships. For example, I have heard from Brian (not his real name) almost every day for the past decade.

Brian's upbringing was tragic at best, yet he pushed himself not only to finish college, but to earn a Master's degree. Doctors were able to stabilize his chemical imbalance with drug therapy, but teams of psychologists and psychiatrists had no answers for the loneliness and rage in his soul. Brian's Jewish upbringing had taught him to reject Jesus, yet he seemed open to the gospel message from the first time we met. As we studied the Bible, Brian was far more interested in how Jesus could mend his heart than in fulfilled prophecy or theological issues. After meeting with me every week for quite some time, Brian finally did say "yes" to Jesus. I reminded him on that joyous day that this was not the end of a journey, but the beginning. "Give Jesus a chance to bring light

into those dark corners of your life that scare you and lead to depression."

"I'll try," Brian responded, "I'll try my best!"

I countered, "The best thing you can do, Brian, isn't really to try your best, but to yield to God and let Him heal the hurts."

At first, Brian wasn't sure what I was talking about, but he soon learned that letting Jesus change his life was more than a one-time decision. It is a daily exercise, and one that Brian battles every hour of the day—which is why he contacts me so frequently. Everyone in our office knows Brian and they partner with me in encouraging Brian's faith in the Lord. The conversations are brief—sometimes only a minute, but in that minute's time we remind Brian that Jesus loves him and that everything is going to work out well, because Brian is a child of God. Just that quick word means so much to him, and we often direct him to a Bible verse to rest upon that day.

You just never know who God will bring into your life, or what kind of relationship God has in store when you begin ministering to a person. The Apostle Paul reminds us to "Stir up the gift of God" (2 Timothy 1:6). When I tell Brian the simple truth that Jesus loves him, it resonates in my own soul as well, that He loves me too, and that everything that I face for the day is also in His loving hands.

—Peter Rice, chief of station
Washington, D.C.



GOD'S PLAN FOR JEWS AND GENTILES

If you began receiving the Jews for Jesus newsletter after hearing one of our missionaries speak at your church, you probably filled out one of our “involvement cards.” Perhaps you remember the boxes we ask folks to check on the back of the card, so we know whether to send our newsletter, or gospel literature. The boxes are as follows:

- I am Jewish and do not believe in Jesus.
- I am Jewish and I believe in Jesus too.
- I am Gentile and do not believe in Jesus.
- I am Gentile and believe in Jesus too.

One of our missionaries was speaking at a church in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. When it came time to fill out the involvement cards, the pastor's little boy was confused by the array of boxes to be checked. “Dad, what am I?” he whispered. “You're a Gentile and you believe in Jesus, son.”

“I'm a Gentile?” the boy replied, somewhat shocked. “I thought I was a Baptist!”

Sometimes confusion over the word Gentile gives way to offense. One sister filled out the card saying she did not want to receive our newsletter, but she wanted to know why we used the word Gentile. “I do not like being called a Gentile,” she wrote.

We explained to this sister that the Bible speaks of Jews and Gentiles, and nothing derogatory is intended when we use the term. The fact is, Scriptures do make a distinction between the Jewish people and the other nations of the earth.

At a time when other nations were in idolatry, Abraham's descendants became proclaimers of the one true God. God

commanded the Israelites to live apart from the other nations. Yet some non-Jews who loved the God of Israel lived among them.

The Hebrew Bible uses several words for those who were not physically descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The most frequent word is *ger*, (גר) from the root *lagur* (לגור), which means to sojourn. *Ger* is translated sojourner, alien, foreigner, or stranger. It usually means one dwelling as a newcomer, but it also refers to a convert or proselyte.

The *ger* was a “protected citizen,” a guest, who was entitled to legal protection and permitted to participate in much of the religious life of the Jewish people. The Hebrew Scriptures taught that the alien was to be treated with love and justice, for that was how God treated Israel.

Another Hebrew word often used for those apart from Israel is *goy* (גוי), plural *goyim* (גוים). The word is translated nation(s) or Gentile(s). While this usually refers to non-Jews, it may also refer to Israel, depending on the context. In Genesis 12:1-3 God promised Abraham that He would make him into a *goy gadol* (great nation).

Yet another word, *am*, plural *ammim*, also means nations. In the singular, it can refer to the nation Israel; otherwise it means Gentiles.

Throughout Scripture, many passages indicate that the faithful of all nations will be included in the blessings of God. This theme is seen from Genesis to Revelation. The following passages are just a few samples of the Scriptures that tell how God's plan of salvation was always to include both Jews and Gentiles.

While we affirm that the Jews are God's chosen people, it is important to note that God's plan from the beginning has always been to bless all people through the Jewish people.

Old Testament promise or principle of blessing to the the non-Jew

New Testament Fulfillment or application

T O R A H

All families of the earth were to be blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)

The promise to Abraham was not only to his descendents, but to all those who would walk by faith (Romans 4:11-13, Galations 3:8)

God commanded that the *ger* enter Israel's Sabbath rest (Exodus 20:10; 23:12; Deuteronomy 5:14)

Jesus invites all who are weary to come unto Him, and he will give rest (Matthew 11:28) God's rest is for those who believe, whether Jew or Gentile (Hebrews 4:1-9)

There was no distinction in obligation between the *ger* (גר) and Israel. Both shared in the blessings of God; both had responsibilities to God (Numbers 15:14-15)

God does not give preference to those who received the law, but will judge according to the gospel (Romans 2:10-16)

W R I T I N G S

Ruth, a loyal *ger*, was greatly blessed by God (Ruth 1:16-18; 4:13, 21, 22)

Because Ruth was used to bring forth King David, she was also part of the lineage of King Messiah, Jesus (Matthew 1:6)

God's glory to be declared among the nations, *goyim* (גוים), and His marvelous works among all peoples, *ammim* (1 Chronicles 16:24)

Jesus commanded the gospel be proclaimed to all nations (Matthew 28:19)

Gentiles will have a part in the Kingdom of God (Psalm 86:9)

The nations are fellow heirs of God's promises through the gospel (Ephesians 3:6)

The Psalmist will sing praises with the nations—Jews and Gentiles together (Psalm 108:3)

Jews and Gentiles are united by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13)

All the families of the nations will worship before the Lord (Psalm 22:27-28)

Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11)

P R O P H E T S

Gentiles, *goyim*, will come to thy light (Isaiah 60:3)

Simeon recognized Jesus as the light who would lighten the Gentiles (Luke 2:29,31)

God will show mercy upon one who had not obtained mercy and will say to them which were not His people, "You are my people," and they shall say, "You are my God" (Hosea 2:23)

Those who were once strangers and aliens, far from God, have now drawn near through the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:11-13)

Jonah preached to Gentile Nineveh, the city repented and God spared it (Jonah 3:10)

In contrast to Jonah, the early "Jews for Jesus" rejoiced because the Gentiles received the word of the Lord (Acts 15:3)

Sent Out

I was out studying the Bible with one of our new Jewish believers when Dayle called our office. “Is there a Jewish woman there who can tell me why she thinks Jesus is the Messiah?” Gillian, one of the two administrative workers who hold down the fort when we missionaries are out in the field, promptly arranged a phone appointment for me to call her the following morning. I was excited to receive the message. I prayed several times that night and eagerly anticipated morning.

The next morning Dayle and I talked on the phone for forty five minutes. I asked how she happened to call Jews for Jesus and was delighted with her reply: “I don’t get downtown very often but one year I went to look at the Christmas lights and someone gave me one of your pamphlets.” She’d held onto that pamphlet, and when the time was right, she called.

After our lengthy phone conversation, we each figured the other was sincere so we set an appointment to study the Bible in Dayle’s home. She was surprised that I was willing to drive some 25 miles “just” to spend forty five minutes reading the Bible with her. I explained that many people prayerfully



LYN BOND

and financially support Jews for Jesus so that people like me can do just that!

I met with Dayle each week over the course of the following month and a half. I had one more week to see her before I was scheduled to be out of town for three weeks. (Being a missionary does mean one who is sent out!) I knew that the Lord was working in her heart at His pace but I hoped Dayle would pray to receive His gift of salvation with me before my trip—and she did! She still has lots of questions, deep theological ones like “How could God die?” and “What is the meaning of Son of God and Son of Man?” Please pray for Dayle’s growth in Jesus, and that she would also see her children come to faith.

—Lyn Bond, missionary
Chicago



Congratulations to all our friends who are getting married this month (or who have children or grandchildren who are getting married).

If you are asked to attend a Jewish wedding, the bride and groom will probably be standing beneath a *chupah* (rhymes with “coulda” and the ch is pronounced like a combination kh). The chupah symbolizes a tent and represents the union of the bride and groom under one roof. During the ceremony, the bride and groom will drink from the same glass and special benedictions will be chanted.

At the end of the ceremony, the groom will smash the glass (symbolizing that no one else may drink from the glass shared by the bride and groom). At that point, you can join the congregation as everyone shouts, “Mazel Tov!” (congratulations).

Whether or not you are attending a wedding, planning a wedding, having a wedding or wishing for a wedding, remember that as a believer in Jesus you are part of the Bride of Christ! One day you will attend the greatest Jewish wedding of all, the marriage supper of the Lamb!

Prayer Prompters

Please pray for:

- ★ salvation for “Burt” (p. 1-2)
- ★ the final details for this year’s summer witnessing campaigns to come together (p. 3)
- ★ the stewards, campaigners and those to whom they will minister (see insert)
- ★ continued spiritual growth for “Brian” in the D.C. area (p. 4)
- ★ for Dayle to grow in her new faith (Chicago area) and salvation for her children (p. 7)
- ★ continued spiritual growth for Evgeni, Leonid and Simon in the CIS (p. 8)
- ★ opportunities to continue to minister to new believer Tom in the New York area (p. 8)
- ★ salvation for Susie (Kansas City) and Steve (Oklahoma city) as Bob Mendelsohn ministers to them via Internet (p. 8)
- ★ continued courage for believer Helen (San Francisco area) to tell her children about her new faith (p. 8)

BITS FROM THE BRANCHES

From the **former Soviet Union**, outreach worker Leonid Wasserman reports, “One week, God blessed me with three people who prayed to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord! First, there was Evgeni Naumovich. Not long ago, he received a phone call from a relative during one of our visits. Evgeni ended the conversation quickly, saying, ‘We’re busy now; we are learning about Jesus.’ Well, praise the Lord, Evgeni has made the step of faith and is now following Y’shua!

“For more than a year I’ve tried unsuccessfully to get in touch with Leonid Pavlovsky. I finally found him at home, (unexpectedly) and when we met he decided to ask Jesus into his heart!”

“I thought it would be next to impossible to see Simon Borisovich because of his work schedule—and because it seemed that he was avoiding me. But while we may form our opinions, God is at work in people’s hearts. I finally met with Simon Borisovich and he too opened his heart to Jesus.”

From **The Liberated Wailing Wall**, Paula Cummings reports, “I’m learning that handing out tracts in various cities we visit is not our only form of evangelism. Our witness extends into the church as well! One Mississippi congregation was lively and enthusiastic, but my attention was particularly drawn to a man sitting in the back pew. Something inside me felt that he was Jewish and that the Lord was ministering to him through the service. I focused my attention and prayers on him throughout the evening. Later, he came to the sales table, took my hand and said ‘Tonight was one of the most moving experiences of my life—I was so uplifted by the way you looked directly into peoples’ eyes!’ Yes, Tom was Jewish, a very new believer in Jesus and somewhat confused about how his Jewishness fits with his faith in Jesus. He is a television producer from New York and had just flown in to Mississippi that morning! Coincidence? We don’t think so. I know that Tom left feeling more confident about his relationship with Jesus.”



New York branch leader Bob Mendelsohn reports from **Cyberspace**, “Allison e-mailed us from Kansas City because a man who is considering joining her congregation is dating a 29-year-old Jewish woman. Could I possibly help? Within 24 hours I was on the phone with Susie, who turned out to be very open to the gospel. We developed a quick rapport as she happens to be the assistant principal at Shawnee Mission East High School. (I graduated from that school the year she was born, 1969!) In an unrelated but overlapping story, while on line a couple of weeks ago I received an instant message from a Jewish man named Steve. Steve was a member of my high school graduating class. He is now a cardiologist in Oklahoma City. He found me through an Internet search because he was curious about old friends. Now he is curious about my best friend—Jesus.”

Outreach worker Diane Cohen reports from **San Francisco**, “When I first met Helen in January, I was impressed by her sincerity in trying to understand the gospel. Helen is a retired teacher with an inquisitive mind. I learned not to try to read too much Scripture in one visit because she had so many questions! She liked what Jesus said and did, but couldn’t accept his death for her sins.

“One of Helen’s children became a believer in Jesus years ago and it caused quite an uproar among the other siblings. Helen feared that she would alienate her unbelieving children if she suddenly told them she believed that Jesus was the Messiah! But when she read one of Jesus’ teachings from Matthew she understood that her relationship with God was more important than her children’s reactions. One by one, her questions were answered by Scripture, until finally I asked if she could think of any reason not to pray right now to make Y’shua her Lord and Savior. She couldn’t, so she did!

“The following week Helen told two of her unbelieving children about her new faith in Jesus, and there was no uproar, only curiosity. Please pray that Helen will find courage to share the Father’s love with her whole family.”