

# JEW'S F<sup>✡</sup> R JESUS

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ESTABLISHED 32 A.D., GIVE OR TAKE A YEAR

JULY 2003

## Let's Get the Party Started *by David Brickner, executive director*

Well it is party time for Jews for Jesus this month—time for our New York Summer Witnessing Campaign! Some of the Jews for Jesus missionaries and volunteers who read this might wonder, “What is he talking about?!” After all, the Summer Campaign is one of the toughest, longest, hottest, dirtiest, smelliest, I-can't-wait-to-just-crawl-into-bed kind of projects that Jews for Jesus does. How can I call it party time?

It is party time—according to Jesus' words in Luke 15:7, “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

This summer our campaigners in New York and London are handing out tens of thousands of broadsides like the one enclosed. They are talking one-on-one with thousands of people, sharing the good news of the gospel and taking names and addresses for follow-up. And we expect to see hundreds of Jews and Gentiles put their faith and trust in Jesus the Messiah. Yes, we will be doing a lot of hard work, but if what our Messiah says is true, then there will be some genuine

partying going on in heaven. Why shouldn't we do the same down here on earth?

How much satisfaction, how much joy do we take in the fruit that God brings forth from ministry and missions efforts? If our hearts are tuned to God, if we are sensitive to what makes God happy, then our lives will fill with joy as we see lost souls brought home on His shoulders. If we can't get excited about lost ones found, knowing that a person who was on the way to a Christless eternity will now enjoy

God forever, then we need to repent and experience the renewal of Christ in our own lives.

We ought to be some of the happiest, most celebratory people in the world—we should be having a party right *now* because of what God has done for us and for the people around us. But rarely do we reflect this kind of spirit. I think we ought to be sharing more stories of salvation with one another, so we have included a few more than usual in this newsletter to help get you started. What topic could

*(continued on page 2)*



It's good to be sold out for saved souls

possibly deserve more of our attention? If there is such joy in heaven over one lost sinner found, there ought to be more joy on earth and *there ought to be more joy in us*. We should make time to celebrate what God is doing in people's lives and how He allows us to take part in that process. I'm not suggesting that we pat ourselves on the back, because it is God's grace that enables us to participate in His rescue plans. But let's remember that every day, many people's lives and eternal destinies truly change! If we take the time to realize this, we will be changed as well.

Some find it difficult to be excited about the salvation of individuals they may never meet this side of glory. But remember that as God works in each person's life, he or she has untold potential to affect the kingdom of God. Who led Billy Sunday to Christ? Who led D.L. Moody to Christ? Or Hudson Taylor or Billy Graham or Moishe Rosen? Who led you to Christ? Did he or she understand how your life would touch so many others?

Naturally, we are most concerned for the salvation of our family and friends because it causes us pain to imagine them in a Christless eternity—and it gives us joy to see someone we love receive abundant life in Christ. But as much as we rejoice for what our loved ones receive when they come to God, let's remember to rejoice that God is receiving hearts that are rightfully His. If we love God, we delight in those things that delight His heart. And God places enormous value on

each and every person who is lost. They are all important to Him.

Maybe we lack joy over sinners repenting because we have allowed ourselves to become anesthetized by the world. It is easy to lose sight of what is truly important when we are distracted by the comforts and the concerns of the world. Or we may have less joy over souls saved than we should because we have not experienced much anguish in considering the plight of the lost. The Apostle Paul wrote of that anguish in Romans 9: "I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that

## Passion for the lost is a barometer that indicates our spiritual vitality

I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh..." (Romans 9:2-3).

Can you relate to that depth of anguish and urgency over the lost? If you have lost a parent or a close loved one who did not know the Lord, can you believe that God feels that kind of burden for each and every one who is lost? That anguish finds its intense opposite in the joy over each loved one saved. It is with passionate urgency that God relentlessly pursues the hearts of those who do not yet know Him. And so the paradox of real life lived for God is that we should

experience the depths of anguish in the search for the lost, as well as the heights of joy in the finding.

How are such urgency and joy best worked out in our own lives? The faithful servant will imitate God in his or her passionate search for the lost. Passion for the lost is a barometer that indicates our spiritual vitality. It demonstrates how much our hearts are in tune with the heart of God.

I expect to spend at least a week with the campaigners in New York City this month. I appreciate their willingness to endure hardship and ridicule in hopes of seeing some lost souls found in Christ. I am praying that each one will have much joy in seeing souls saved by the mercy and grace of almighty God. I am praying the same for you, dear reader. I pray that you will reflect, if you haven't already, on the high value God has placed on your life, as the Shepherd seeks after His lost sheep. May you realize the extent to which He has searched for you. May your urgency over the lost be renewed, if need be. I hope you will also ask God to fan the flames of that urgency and forge it into diligence in your life. Allow yourself to experience joy over sinners repenting and turning back to God. Make that joy to be a centerpiece of your life.

If you are already enthusiastic about seeing souls saved, may your enthusiasm spread to others in the Body of Messiah. And pray for us, too, that we would be the kind of joy-filled servants the Lord wants us to be. We are all invited to a wonderful party. It's called the marriage supper of the Lamb. I say, let's get the party started now.

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



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## THE BYG\* PIC

\*Behold Your God

With four Behold Your God campaigns coming up next month we thought we had better get a jump start on telling you about at least two of them: Seattle and Cleveland.

From the breathtaking mountain ranges and the evergreen-covered scenery to the salmon-rich waters and the appealing city streets, Seattle is one of the greatest places to visit, especially in August! People flock there from all over just to get a little taste of Pike's Place Market, or a view of the city from the top of the Space Needle.

With over 37,000 Jews, Seattle also has the largest Jewish concentration in the Pacific Northwest. However, only one third are affiliated with a synagogue or Jewish organization, making this not-your-average "New

York Jewish" kind of community. In addition, much of the Jewish population is Sephardic (Jews from Spain and the Mediterranean).

From August 19 to September 1 (with training from August 14-17) we will be raising the messiahship of Jesus among the local Jewish community, and among the general population of Seattle.

The campaign falls during two major events in the Northwest: a music event called Bumbershoot, and another festival, Hempfest, which will attract millions of young people. We will be there to reach out through different creative means, including original music we will be performing to impact the creative backbone of Seattle.

The campaign leaders are Aaron Abramson and Amer Olson. If you wish to be involved do not hesitate to e-mail Aaron Abramson at [avramssite@aol.com](mailto:avramssite@aol.com) or Amer Olson at [amerpy@aol.com](mailto:amerpy@aol.com).

Dates for the Cleveland Behold Your God Campaign are August 14-September 1, 2003, with training August 10-12. This campaign will take place in Cleveland proper and surrounding Jewish communities.

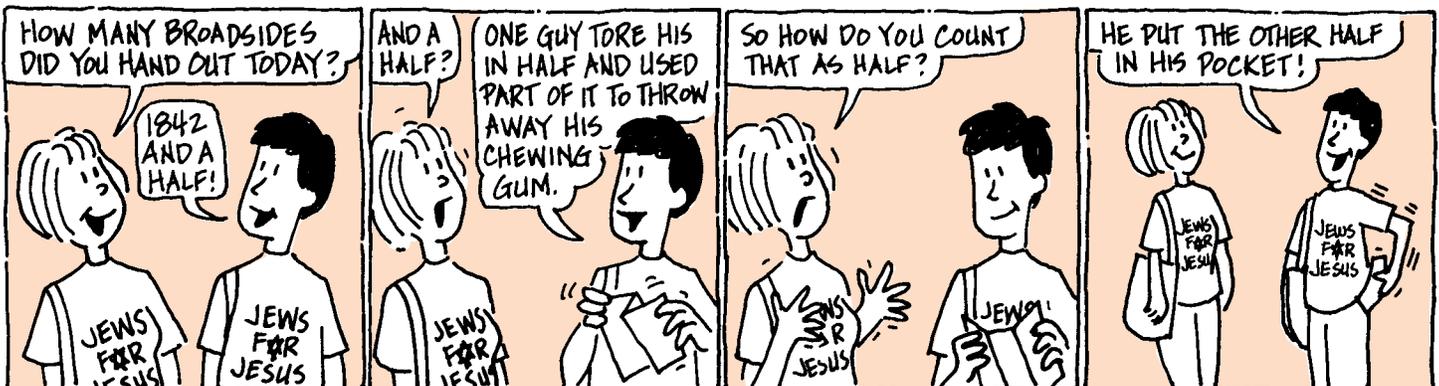
Greg Savitt is the campaign leader and Greg Rosenberg is the co-leader. The "Gregs for Jesus" report that the city of Cleveland is rich with Jewish history, beginning in 1839 when 19 Bavarian Jewish immigrants settled

in the Terminal Tower-Central Market area on Lake Erie. Soon after, Eastern European Jews fleeing the difficult life of the Russian and Polish *shtetls* (villages) began to immigrate and settle in Cleveland. Many found work in Cleveland's garment industry, at that time second only to New York's.

Today, Cleveland is home to over 80,000 Jewish people. The vast majority have moved out of Cleveland's inner city to the neighboring communities of Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, University Heights and Shaker Heights, forming a suburban ring. Within this ring and surrounding areas Cleveland is home to more than 33 synagogues. Local universities like Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland State University educate a large Jewish student population. Cleveland's sports teams, theater district and nightlife draw a large Jewish presence as well.

Please pray for venues to pass out our gospel literature since Cleveland is not like New York City, with thousands of pedestrians at every corner. We need wisdom to find the areas to reach people as they go to and from work. Cleveland has a subway system, but most people drive. Pray for creative ways to raise the gospel in the suburbs as well!

For more information or to be a part of BYG Cleveland, contact Greg Savitt at [Jew4jc@aol.com](mailto:Jew4jc@aol.com).





# 10 Ways that Jews for Jesus Summer Witnessing Campaigns have changed

**1. Tract bags:** Our tract bags in the '70s consisted of old army surplus shoulder bags. These could hold about 800 tracts—5 bundles of 100 tracts straight across, and then 3 more tightly wedged in sideways. You could always tell they were full by the way the shoulder strap cut into you—an unintentional added incentive to pass out as many tracts as quickly as possible! Some bags were army green, some were yellow, made from a burlap-like material. They showed dirt easily and grew holey before long (not holy, but ridden with holes).

Sometime in the '80s we designed our own tract bags. Made of luggage-quality nylon, they are dark blue with "Jews for Jesus" printed in white letters, adding to the visibility of our gospel statement. These easily hold 1000 broadside tracts, as well as a small bottle of water, pocket Bible, snack, etc. In addition to the padded shoulder strap (which is adjustable) they fasten around the waist to take some of the pressure off the shoulder and back.

**2. Stewards:** Campaigners used to rotate responsibilities such as laundry, packing tract bags, etc. Again, sometime in the '80s we began recruiting volunteer stewards who take care of filling tract bags and doing laundry, as well as preparing, serving and cleaning up after meals. Not only that, but stewards pray for the campaigners, send them out on each

sortie (tract-passing expedition) with a smile and greet them after each sortie with "high fives" and words of encouragement. What a blessing!!! (P.S. We are always looking for stewards—are you interested for next summer, or for a Behold Your God campaign later this year?)

**3. Chaplains:** From the very start we tried to maintain spiritual health during the campaigns. We always had times of singing and sharing around the dinner table about what God had done each day, as well as daily Scripture memorization. Nowadays we also have chaplains to minister to the campaigners during a corporate time of worship each day, as well as being available for special prayer on an individual basis.

**4. Proposal statement:** For many years we simply handed out tracts during campaign, got into conversations when possible and went for many years sowing much seed but rarely reaping a harvest. In the summer of 1988 Moishe woke up in the middle of the night and wrote down what has become known as our "proposal statement": a step-by-step way of talking to those who are interested in knowing God's plan of salvation. The proposal statement gives people an opportunity to pray with the campaigner to receive Christ, and every year we see many respond positively.

**5. Contact cards:** Campaigners used to resort to whatever scrap of paper they could find to write down names and addresses of people who wanted more information, even the back of discarded broadsides! Then for a while we used blank three by five cards and finally, we went to pre-printed cards that prompt the campaigner to ask for the inquirer's contact information, including e-mail addresses—which did not even exist when we began these summer campaigns!

**6. Contact sorties:** During the first campaigns, we focused on handing out as many tracts as possible, and meeting people who were willing to receive more information in the mail was a bonus. As time went by we discovered that non-rush hour sorties (lunch time or night time) were times when we could typically hand out fewer tracts, but engage in more conversations with people who had time to chat. Focusing on these conversations, and working toward receiving names and addresses of those who would be willing to hear more became known as "contact sorties."

**7. Opposition:** Threats of physical violence and pranks such as pouring paint on our literature characterized our early opposition. However, the fact that we felt responsible to press charges against criminal behavior—along with the reality that harassing us often made us the object of attention and sympathy—gave some of our more sophisticated opponents pause.

While campaigners do at times face that type of harassment (particularly in Russia and Ukraine), the more common means of opposition is that of "counter-leafleting," whereby anti-missionaries try to dissuade people from taking our literature, offering their own perspective instead of, or in addition to, the pamphlets we distribute.

**8. Cities:** For many years, "New York City" and "Summer Witnessing Campaign" always went together. New York was the focus of every summer campaign. Now we have summer campaigns (though not necessarily annually as in New York) in many cities such as London, Paris, Toronto, St. Petersburg and Moscow. In addition, Operation Behold Your God has taken the "summer" out of summer witnessing campaigns. In order to reach every city where there are 25,000 or more Jewish people within five years, we are conducting campaigns throughout the year and in every season.

**9. Participants:** For many years, all our campaigners were staff and volunteers from the United States.

But in 1985 we began planning for Israeli believers to come to New York City to experience this all-out evangelistic effort. Many were excited about evangelistic possibilities and brought their enthusiasm home. Today we have people of many nationalities participating in our summer campaigns. The diversity is especially helpful in urban centers

of being deceptive, and we have always done our best to let people know exactly who we are. Our Jews for Jesus T-shirts proclaim who we are, so people who don't want to talk to us can easily avoid us, and so those who do want to talk to us can easily find us in a crowd. Those Jews for Jesus T-shirts have remained an important part of our witnessing campaigns, but whereas the statement remains the same, we have experimented with a variety of styles. (See our pictorial history of Jews for Jesus T-shirts.)

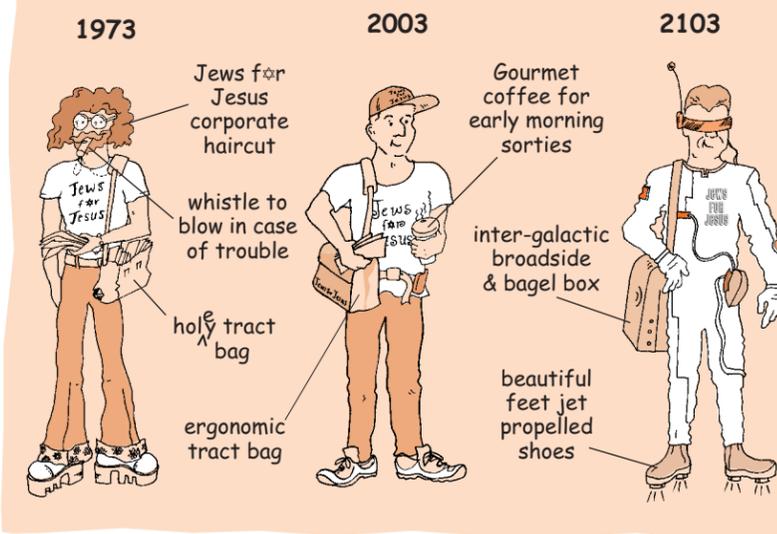
Three Ways that Jews for Jesus Summer Witnessing Campaigns have stayed the same:

1. We are still committed to raising the gospel banner out on the streets, though it is still unpopular and uncomfortable to do so.

2. We are still amazed at how God comes through when we serve Him in ways that are beyond our comfort zone.

3. We still have friends like you to thank for making these campaigns possible through your prayers and support! Thank you for standing with us!

## Jews for Jesus Missionaries through the Years



like New York and London, where there is an international mix of people needing to hear the gospel in their own language.

**10. Attire:** From the beginning, we did our best to identify ourselves as Jews for Jesus when street witnessing. Our opposition has always accused us

# Prayers Answered at

# Passover

Thanks to those of you who prayed for all our missionaries who were out presenting “Christ in the Passover” for our spring tours in April. We thought you would be encouraged to hear a few of the good things that happened as a result.

## GOOD FRIDAY WAS GOOD INDEED!

David Brickner was in Seattle, Washington on Good Friday. As is the tradition in some churches, at the close of the service the lights were turned off and people filed out of the sanctuary in silence. David thought he would have to forego greeting people, but two ladies approached him and said in hushed tones, “We brought a Jewish friend with us and she has questions.” As David sat with Carrie in that darkened sanctuary she began to share her fears. Faith in Jesus for her meant the possibility of betraying her beloved grandparents who are no longer living. Plus, how could she ever tell her parents if she believed that Jesus was the Messiah? David replied that while her concerns were genuine and needed to be addressed, she had to first of all do what God was showing her.

David points out, “This is an important truth that people need to remember as they witness, especially to Jewish friends. Trying to help someone to overcome their fear of rejection by family and friends

before they trust Christ is in a sense ‘putting the cart before the horse.’ Following Jesus means responding to the truth regardless of what the consequences might be. But once you’ve said “yes” to Jesus, the power of God’s Holy Spirit comes in and begins to move your heart and give you new understanding about all these issues.”

Carrie understood, and prayed with David right there in that darkened sanctuary to receive Jesus as her Savior. Afterwards, a couple who had been sitting in the pew behind them introduced themselves. The husband was a Jewish believer and a member of that church, as were others in the church who were ready to take Carrie under their wings. When the two friends who brought Carrie heard that she had prayed to receive the Lord, they could barely contain their

excitement. What a joy for each one involved to have a part in Carrie’s salvation!

Nici Smith was in St. Louis on Good Friday. There she visited a Jewish lady named Beatrice, who had been referred to us by a Christian friend. Beatrice is 88 years old and had heard the gospel many times. When Nici arrived one of the first things Beatrice asked was, “How do I know I will go to heaven?” Nici showed her some passages from the book of Romans and when they got to Romans 10:9 (“... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”) Beatrice asked, “So how does one do that?” The prayers and witness of all Beatrice’s friends had borne fruit! Nici prayed the sinner’s prayer with her and says, “It was really memorable. Tears were rolling down her cheeks. It was a perfect ending to my tour.”



**Ruth Rosen** was in Duncan, South Carolina on Good Friday. The pastor seemed a bit discouraged, as one of the staff who had actually arranged the meeting had moved on to another church. Also, the music minister was away with the seniors on a retreat. Ruth tried to help out by leading a couple of hymns at the beginning of the service (not her forte, she says) and silently prayed that the people would be blessed and that she would be blessed on this last night of her tour. As promised, she included a clear gospel presentation and suggested that no one had to leave that night without the joy of knowing they were right with God through Jesus. The pastor then closed with an actual invitation, and a Jewish woman named Laurie responded. Laurie's sister-in-law had been praying and witnessing to her and felt that hearing the gospel in a Jewish context might be just the thing. Ruth and Laurie had a good talk after the service and many of the church folks extended themselves to our new sister in the Lord. The pastor was thrilled, and Ruth said the same thing as Nici, "This was the perfect ending to my tour!"

We hope you notice a common thread in these three stories. Much of the fruit that we Jews for Jesus have the opportunity to harvest are people whose friends and family have witnessed to and prayed for their salvation. Often, we are brought in only to help "close the deal." We hope this encourages you to witness and pray for your Jewish friends, and to allow us to join you in that process.

### **MORE ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM PASSOVER TOURS . . .**

At least three of our staff had opportunities to witness to family members as they presented "Christ in the Passover."

**Larry Dubin** was in Colorado and says, "My dad saw the presentation five times (he sat in the front row). During a few of the drives, we had

wonderful conversations about these sacred issues. He stated that he never heard the story as I told it."

**Karol Joseph** led a Passover seder (meal and all) at one of our supporting churches in Naples, Florida. She was amazed that her parents, who live two hours away, called and asked if it was okay for them to come! Karol says, "I don't think my dad has ever voluntarily stepped into a church." The pastor arranged for Karol's family to stay at a nearby hotel, a gesture of hospitality that they greatly appreciated.

When Karol finished the seder, the pastor wouldn't let her close until she also shared her testimony...which she did with her parents a mere five feet away! Unfortunately, they seemed more impressed with their daughter's speaking abilities than with the message, but it did provide more of an opportunity to discuss spiritual matters with her parents than Karol had ever had before. Karol says, "Please keep praying that the miracle of them being willing to hear me will be followed by the greater miracle of them coming to faith!"

**Susan Perlman** led the Passover banquet at our Los Angeles branch and invited her family as well (her mom, two sisters, brothers-in-law and nephew). What an answer to prayer that they all came! Many of Susan's friends and co-workers have prayed for her family for years, and all the more so recently as one of her sisters is quite ill with cancer.

Susan closed her presentation with a very clear gospel message and an invitation for any who wanted to receive Jesus to respond. Later, the sister who has been struggling with cancer told Susan that she found the presentation very interesting. Susan asked what in particular she found interesting and her sister replied, "Just the way you explained the whole thing, and particularly the things you said at the end." When

Susan asked if her sister was interested in that for her own life, she replied that she didn't know, she had to think about it. This is the first time in 30 years Susan's sister has expressed any interest in the gospel, and it is such an answer to prayer! Please pray that the Lord will continue working in her heart, as well as the rest of Susan's family.

(Believing volunteers and friends of the ministry also made connections with other family members—also an answer to prayer!)

## Prayer Prompters

### Please pray for:

-  God to infuse all of the Jews for Jesus, and in fact, all of His church, with an ongoing passion for the lost (p. 1, 2)
-  God to bless our campaigns in London and New York this month, and preparations for next month's BYG campaigns in Seattle, Cleveland, Toronto and Rio de Janeiro (p. 1, 2 and 3)
-  grace and strength for new Jewish believers Carrie in Washington state, Beatrice in Missouri and Laurie in South Carolina (p. 4, 5)
-  new Jewish believers Tanya and Moshe in Israel, Dorothy in Florida, and Suzanna and Nina in New York (p. 8)
-  God to bring families of our staff to salvation, and especially that He will continue the work begun this spring in the lives of Karol's, Larry's and Susan's families (p. 4, 5)
-  more Christians to have the boldness to bring their Jewish friends and family members to our evangelistic presentations (p. 4, 5)

### Tel Aviv

Miriam Abramov reports, “Tanya called us after receiving one of our tracts. Actually, she asked her boss who speaks Hebrew to call us, since she speaks only Russian. Her boss called with no idea what Tanya wanted from us. At first I thought Tanya wanted her boss to have a book about the Messiah, but when I suggested it, her boss quickly replied, ‘No way.’ Apparently, Tanya wanted information for herself but could not ask for it. I gave her boss the phone number of our Russian-speaking volunteer, Zina, and asked her to tell Tanya to call. (Zina translates when we have visits with Russian-speaking contacts.)

Soon after, Zina, Tanya and I met. We went through the Scriptures as I explained Tanya’s need for salvation. Tanya, who had been a lawyer in the former U.S.S.R., wanted an explanation for everything! Once again I was reminded how valuable my training was as I addressed each question.

When the three of us met the following week, everything was different. After we read through some Scriptures, Tanya prayed to receive Y’shua! Pray for her to grow in the Lord.”

Shlomy Abramov reports, “About six months ago our headquarters asked me to contact a medical doctor just south of Tel Aviv. I began speaking to Moshe regularly, however, he often put off our meetings. But recently he talked about ending his life. I ministered to him on the phone and prayed that God would touch his life and that Moshe would know God’s love for him. When Moshe broke down in tears over this, I knew God was doing something. To my surprise, Moshe called two days later and wanted to get together. I gladly agreed. After two hours of studying

God’s Word and realizing he could be forgiven, Moshe was ready to ask Y’shua into his heart. Please pray



## Bits From the BRANCHES

that as he struggles in his new walk with Messiah, friends from his past would not drag him back to sin. Pray that he will know that all things are new in Christ and that he can have the peace that surpasses all understanding through Christ Y’shua alone.”

### Fort Lauderdale

Holly Meyer reports, “Dorothy, a retired school teacher, was raised by

her Jewish father and Gentile mother. Recently, she met a Jewish believer in Jesus named Stephen. He witnessed to her, and she accepted his invitation to a Messianic congregation, Temple Aaron haKodesh. Stephen introduced Dorothy to me there, and we arranged to study the Bible together. During our second visit we studied the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, and Dorothy was surprised to see that Y’shua claimed to be the Messiah. When I invited her to receive Him as her Messiah she broke into tears and gladly did so.”

### New York

Elizabeth Terini reports, “I’d been calling a family in Queens for six years when Sveta, the wife, finally invited me to meet in person at her home. I was waiting for the elevator in Sveta’s building at the appointed time, when I saw a woman with two young children. Suzanna told me that her two children are miracles and I asked her if we could meet one day to talk about miracles. We exchanged phone numbers and that same evening, after meeting with Sveta, I called Suzanna. We agreed to meet the next day.

Suzanna explained that after being unable to conceive for many years, she was blessed with two children! I shared the miracle of the Messiah from my life. Suzanna asked lots of questions as we searched the Scriptures—and before the visit was over she came to believe and prayed with me to receive the Lord!

The very next day Suzanna shared the Good News with her babysitter, Nina, who also received the Lord! Nina’s husband has agreed to meet with me! Please pray that he may open his heart to the Lord. After six years of calling Sveta, God opened her heart enough for me to come and meet Suzanna. He works in mysterious ways!”