

London

Ziggy Rogoff reports: “I have been meeting with Henry, age 91, for the last six months. His main objection to faith is the issue of suffering.

Recently, he showed me a school photo of Hugo Gryn’s brother and his class, taken before World War II.

(Hugo Gryn was a Reform rabbi who came from Czechoslovakia. His entire family was sent to

Auschwitz—only he and his mother survived.) All thirty children in the

photo had perished in the camps, and Henry asked me, ‘Where was your Jesus? Where was God?’ I looked at the photo and said that we didn’t know their names, but God did. If we feel grieved about their deaths, how

much more grieved is God? If we are angry, how much more is God? After all, He created each of those children and loved each one. God does not prevent the sins of humanity, but He offers forgiveness and reconciliation to those

who receive His offer. I challenged Henry to call out to God and ask Him if Jesus is really the Messiah. Please pray that he will.”

Essen

Dina Markova reports: “When I asked Anna, ‘Who do you think Jesus is?’ she replied that Jews don’t believe in Jesus. We were chatting after Tisha Be-Av (a day commemorating the tragic loss of the Temple) and before Rosh Hashanah. I pointed out that the rabbis have designated the Saturdays between the two dates as the Sabbaths of

Consolation; in the synagogues, the ‘comfort’ chapters are read from the prophet Isaiah. But Isaiah 53 is omitted. So when Anna said that Jews don’t believe in Jesus, I replied, ‘Many don’t believe. Many do believe. And many pass over in silence the passages from the Scriptures that speak about Messiah. About Jesus.’ I opened the Bible to Isaiah 53, and we read together. ‘Who do you think these words could be about?’ I asked. Anna said, ‘Actually, one could think that it’s

Francisco. Leonid wanted the Millensons to bring some things back to his daughter and did not object to meeting people from Jews for Jesus. He speaks Russian and some Hebrew, but no English. Jeff asked me to join them for this visit, since I speak Russian.

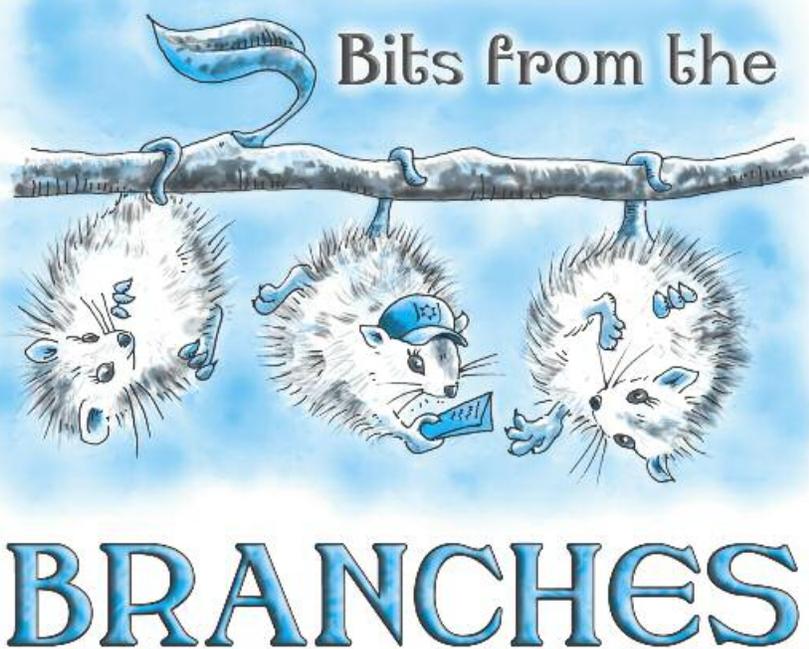
“The only books I had to offer Leonid in Russian were the Bible and the book *Betrayed!* by Stan Telchin (this book describes a story about a

successful, 50-year-old Jewish businessman and his 21-year-old daughter who tells him she believes in Jesus). So I brought these books to Leonid. During the visit I realized that UJ Leonid is 50 years old and his believing daughter is 21 years old! God knew perfectly what books to give this man.

“I met Leonid in the mall and began to get acquainted with him. Once Jeff and Amy arrived, I shared my testimony and we explained the gospel to

Leonid. He seemed touched by what we said, but when I asked if he might be interested in meeting and studying the Bible with me he said not for now. He did promise to read the Bible and the *Betrayed!* book, adding that he has a lot of free time and loves reading. He also said that he would be in touch with me. Of course, I will follow up to see if he has read the Bible.

“Please pray for Leonid to come to God and receive Y’shua in his heart. Please also pray for his 85-year-old father who lives with him.”



about Jesus. But I need to understand that better.’ I’m going to bring her a book *And The Scriptures Are Fulfilled*. Please pray for Anna to find in Jesus the One of whom Isaiah spoke: ‘I, even I, am He who comforts you . . .’”

Israel

Vlad Mitnitsky reports: “Jeff Millenson got in touch with me from our headquarters in San Francisco to say that he and his wife, Amy, were coming to Israel for a vacation and hoped to visit Leonid, the father of a Jewish believer they know in San

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Remember to Renew *by David Brickner, Executive Director*

The new year is a milestone to mark the passing of time, to hope for the future and resolve to make changes. We also tend to think of the past—what was—as well as what might have been. For some, the new year may lead us to long for days gone by.

Do you remember your high school days? Many recall them as a time of few cares and lots of fun, and perhaps a time of romance with a first love. As we juggle the responsibilities of adulthood, those high school days may look pretty good to us—but nostalgia can often blur our recollections.

It is easy to find ourselves longing for glory days that never were. High school may have included times that were carefree and fun, but what of the awkwardness, the disappointments and the pain of adolescence? Do we really want to relive those experiences? Falling in love can be wonderful, but what about the insecurities, the misunderstandings and hurts that can come with getting to know the other person? Most of us could probably do without re-living those experiences.

When I am tempted to think back with nostalgia, it is to the early days of our Jews for Jesus ministry. Those days were marked by tremendous



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and beyond ...

zeal and creativity. New Jewish believers were flocking to be a part of what God was doing in Jews for Jesus. We were discovering together what it meant to be Jewish and follow Christ. The joy of that discovery bonded those early Jews for Jesus into a powerful tool for proclaiming the gospel. We were pioneers, breaking new ground, people who needed one another as we served the Lord together.

But I also remember the lessons we had to learn in those early days. Some were painful indeed. We were a bit rough around the edges and those “glory days” weren’t always that glorious.

It is good to remember the past, but not from a desire to turn back the clock. God wants us to remember the past for the sake of the present and the future. Do you remember the wonder of discovering the love of God for the first time? Think back on the enthusiasm, the zeal you had for Him. Remember how you hungered for His Word, for fellowship. Remember the desire you had to share Christ with others. When we see those qualities in new believers, we remember the early days and perhaps the words of our Messiah to the church in Ephesus ring in our ears, “I have this against you, that you have left your first love” (Revelation 2:4).

Jesus' words are not a challenge to return to the status of a brand new believer with all the lack of knowledge and maturity of a babe in Christ. His words are an admonition to renew our Christian love and zeal now, and for the future.

God asks us to remember the past so that we might renew our hearts for the future. Our hope is not in what has passed, but in what lies ahead. Yet that hope is based on what God has already provided.

Do I wish we could go back to the early days of Jews for Jesus? No. As I remember the past, I long for us to experience the renewal of the Holy Spirit for the future.

We still do what we did in the early days, but God is giving us opportunities that did not exist back in those days. Our Jews for Jesus staff still calls on the unsaved in their homes and offices, sharing our testimonies and opening the Word of God. Now we can minister to Jewish people through cyberspace as well as face-to-face. We still travel throughout the country and abroad, witnessing on city streets, on college campuses and in churches—and now we are experimenting with open-mic nights and ministering to Jewish people in places we never dreamed of in the early days, like India and Thailand.

God is still bringing young Jewish believers to be a part of our ministry, and many of them are children of Jewish believers whom we meet through our burgeoning children's programs and camp ministry. When I see these kids and all their potential I am tremendously encouraged.

Our hope is not in the "glory days" of the past, but in the glorious future God has in store. The best is yet to come. But we need to be renewed in order to reach for the best. That renewal is to take place in our minds: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

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There is a youthfulness about a renewed person, regardless of his or her age, and it has to do with how the mind functions. J.A. Robinson wrote, "The Spiritual principle of the mind must acquire a new youth, susceptible to spiritual impressions."*

To be susceptible to spiritual impressions does not mean that we are gullible or "itchy-eared" to hear supposedly new truths. It means we recognize that the Holy Spirit has much to teach us, and that we remain impressionable under His tutelage. We need to pray that God will grant us that kind of susceptibility.

Renewal is not only a matter of the mind, but also of the heart. We remember the past because it builds our faith to recall what God has done. We need that faith in order to be transformed and renewed.

Renewal is not to occur only once a year with a New Year's resolution or two. It is a daily response to God as He calls us to present ourselves as living sacrifices (see Romans 12:1-2).

The problem with living sacrifices is that they tend to wriggle off the altar! We need to bind ourselves to that altar with cords of love and trust in the One who sacrificed Himself for us. We need God's renewal in our lives to stir up fresh dedication, new commitment and the kind of faith that enables us to see a future that is brighter than the past. I want that renewal. I want to remain on that altar for Jesus. That is my commitment before the Lord and for the ministry of Jews for Jesus.

Maybe this past year has held struggles and disappointments. Perhaps there are physical problems for which there is no relief in sight. Do not lose heart, but remember that even though we are perishing outwardly, inside we are being renewed day by day. And our light momentary affliction is working a far heavier weight of glory that will last forever and ever (see 2 Corinthians 4:16-17).

As we enter 2012, I want to invite you, dear friends, to remember and renew your relationship with the Lord Jesus. I also want to invite you to join with us in renewing your commitment to the ministry of Jews for Jesus through prayer, through giving, and through witnessing. The best is yet to come! ✨

*J.A. Robinson, ad loc., *St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians*, Macmillan, London, 1904.



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

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SNEAK PREVIEW

from the soon-to-be-published biography of Moishe Rosen

Editor: We don't yet have a publication date for this, but we are getting very close!



Over the hum of an old air conditioner and the muted yet audible din of street traffic and sirens, a loud voice burst from the other side of a closed office door. The words were muffled, but the tone was unmistakable. Raising a worried eyebrow, Susan Perlman winced and held her breath, straining to listen. The loud voice belonged to her beloved Great Uncle Gutel, who was engaged rather heatedly in conversation with Moishe Rosen.

Gutel, a regional director for the Jewish National Fund, had spent much of his adult life raising money to reforest Israel. A devout pillar of the Jewish community, he was very upset that Susan had come to faith in Jesus, and worse yet, was associated with the nefarious Jews for Jesus that he'd read about in the *Jewish Press*. He blamed Moishe for Susan's move from New York to California and for changing her life. When Uncle Gutel had learned that the notorious Moishe was coming to New York (for the first ever Jews for Jesus Summer Witnessing Campaign), he had asked for an appointment with him.

Now the two were alone in the room that served as Moishe's temporary office, and who knew what might happen next? Uncle Gutel was not only elderly, but very excitable. Susan feared he would get so agitated that he would have a heart attack.

Her worry only increased when a second loud voice interrupted the first, its cadence punctuated by the stutter that sometimes invaded Moishe's speech when his mind moved faster than his mouth—or when he was trying to get a word in edgewise. But to Susan's great relief, the shouting only lasted a minute, before both voices suddenly decreased in volume. Could they actually be having a calm, civilized conversation? The two were in there for a long time while Susan sat in the other room, alternately worrying and trying to concentrate on her work. At last the door opened, and Uncle Gutel came out.

Moishe's bulky six-foot frame appeared in the doorway, looking thoughtful.

"So, Moishe, what happened?" The tightness of Susan's attempt at a light tone betrayed the concern underlying her curiosity.

Moishe smiled reassuringly. "You know, Sue, I learned a lot from your uncle. After he calmed down, I asked him how he went about raising money for the Jewish National Fund.

He said he always tried to let people know personally how much he appreciated their support and encouragement. That's something I've always felt was important, so I asked what he did to express his appreciation.

"I guess you know that since your uncle doesn't drive, he's always taking trains and buses to visit people and make presentations for the cause. Well he told me how he put those travel times to use. He'd buy postcards, and while he rode along, he'd write personal notes thanking donors he'd met in previous places. It became a regular part of his routine, sending those handwritten personal postcards. I think that's a great idea, don't you? Maybe we should be writing personal postcards to our donors."

"Yeah, okay, but . . . you two . . . you parted as friends?" Susan was pleased that Moishe liked her uncle's postcard idea, but she was a lot more interested in how her uncle had responded to Moishe.

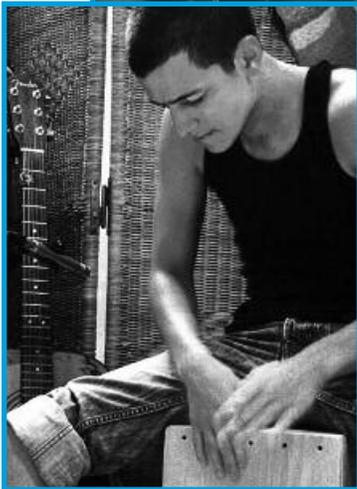
"Well, I don't know that your uncle would appreciate being referred to as my friend, but I think he would agree that we are now at least respectful and cordial acquaintances. Your uncle is a wise man who understands how to relate to people. I think I'd like us to try out that donor postcard thing."

Susan smiled with relief. "I guess it went well. That's a real answer to prayer. And . . . about the postcards, Moishe . . . I think you're right. It just might work for Jews for Jesus, too—if you can get people to do it."

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Introducing Associate Staff

We have a relatively new category of staff for students who have had significant involvement in our ministry (through witnessing campaigns, internships, or leadership roles in our Camp Gilgal program) and are tracking to serve with us full time when they graduate. Last year we took several new staff under this category; we hope to introduce them to you more fully as missionary trainees in the future.



Top: Melissa Weinisch playing guitar
Bottom: Isaac Brickner playing cajon

Melissa Weinisch grew up in a Messianic Jewish home. She has served with the Liberated Wailing Wall; she wrote as well as performed some of the songs on our *Never Forget* recording. Her parents, Stewart and Shoshannah, are missionaries with our New York branch. Melissa has been working with our children's and youth ministry—particularly with Camp Gilgal—and is currently attending college in San Francisco.

Isaac Brickner grew up with Jews for Jesus; his father, David Brickner, is our executive director. Isaac has been very involved with our Massah

program as well as Camp Gilgal. Some of Isaac's music (from the CD *You Are Home*, co-written and performed with two friends who had shared experiences with Massah) is featured on our *Flowers of the Son* documentary. Isaac is attending Bible school in Southern California.

Dan Tasman, also from a Messianic home, became involved with Jews for Jesus in 2002 when, as a fifteen-year-old, he attended our Camp Gilgal in the Midwest. He has continued to be involved over the past nine years, eventually co-directing our Midwest Camp Gilgal from 2008-2010. Dan was one of the four young leaders of our New York City Witnessing Campaign last summer. He also participated in one of our Behold Your God Israel campaigns. He is attending Bible college in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Eli Birnbaum, another second generation Jewish believer, has known the Lord since he was four years old. His family moved to Israel when he was seven. He attended a Christian youth conference as a teenager and God touched his heart; Eli became very serious about his faith, and about reaching others for Jesus. He has been an intern with Jews for Jesus and loves ministering to young adults. He has helped to lead Massah in Nepal, India and South America. Eli is currently attending college in Israel.

Moti Vaknin was born and raised in Israel, but lived in the United States from 2006-2010. In 2009, he came to faith through the witness of several

Jewish believers in New York City, including some of the Jews for Jesus staff. He returned to Israel where he now attends Bible college. Moti has been an intern with our Tel Aviv branch. He loves photography and recently designed *Shoreshim*, a creative way to mesh photography with opportunities for Israelis to consider the gospel.

Below, top: Dan Tasman witnessing to an Orthodox Jew; Middle: Eli Birnbaum (on right) teaching a Bible study in Israel; Bottom: Moti Vaknin broadsiding



January Fun in the Sun

The New Year is a special time to greet people with the gospel, and to bring generations together to begin the year thinking about the spiritual needs of others. Many of you will receive this newsletter before January first, so we hope you'll pray for these outreaches. And if your newsletter comes on or after January 1, please pray for God's blessing on the seed that was sown.

Reports from a couple of last year's New Year's events will help you know how to pray:

From Stan Meyer in Los Angeles:

"Cyril Gordon coordinated and led our outreach for the Tournament of Roses Parade and Rose Bowl game January 1-2. Part of the outreach was rained out, but with 35 volunteers and 6 staff we distributed 38,175 tracts and prayed with one person, a marine recruiter, to receive the Lord.

"Twenty teens and college students joined us on Saturday morning and so did friends from a local Korean church, Tabernacle of David. We printed up our own special broadsides for the parade and for the Rose Bowl game. We handed out ALL the football game tracts!

"I met a Jewish couple that was visiting from Tucson, Arizona. They had already been discussing Jesus as possibly being the Messiah. I gave them some more in-depth literature; they seemed interested in the literature and promised to read it.

Pasadena Rose Parade



"As one couple passed by, the girlfriend, who was Jewish said, 'No way.' Her boyfriend said, 'You need to read this and make sure.' And he took a broadside for her.

"Tuvya Zaretsky (who wrote the broadside we were handing out) was glad when a man approached and asked him for 'the new Jews for Jesus pamphlet.' He explained he's been attending the parade for twelve years and always looks forward to getting one of our new tracts!"

Two of our associate (college) students, Melissa Weinisch and Isaac Brickner, led the teens that Stan referred to, and Melissa reports, "It was a very rockin' SoCal New Year's. This was the third year in a row for the West Coast Camp Gilgal high school community to gather together over New Year's weekend. It was great to spend time growing together and working as a community to bring the gospel to Southern California.

This year we had the privilege of studying Philippians, challenging the students to consider what it means to be a servant. The focal point of this event is when the students join the Los Angeles branch at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, where they pass out tracts to the thousands of parade attendees. The lessons in Philippians served as the perfect rally to encourage us in our call as believers to



serve God! Our team was made up of seventeen high school students, five college student leaders, and three parent volunteers from our Camp Gilgal family. Half of the students were taking part in a sortie (tract-passing expedition) for the first time. The others had volunteered last year and came back for more. In two hours, the group handed out over 6,100 broadsides. All of the students were encouraged and optimistic about their experience, and were excited to serve the Lord in that way."

From Melissa Moskowitz in New York:

"Dan Tasman and I led this year's 'New Year's in New York,' a community building/evangelistic event for young adults. People flew in for the event from as far away as California, Pittsburgh, Chicago and Phoenix! We gathered together on Tuesday evening, December 28 to discuss evangelism as well as our hopes and our goals to be used by God to reach unsaved Jewish people. Wednesday and Thursday we enjoyed meals that we cooked together, times of worship and Bible study and 'field trips' to the Tenement Museum and a local art gallery that featured illuminated paintings done on the four Gospels. We also had a training session for those who had not been on a sortie before.

"Friday, New Year's Eve day, we went on two sorties and handed out 7,000 tracts. This year's program built a sense of community as well as enthusiasm to reach out to those who still need to hear the gospel."



Rachel—
photography/writing

Something New...

Jews for Jesus' new Creative Arts Discipleship and Evangelism Training program (CADET) is an intensive eight-month program for developing a community of Jewish believing artists

committed to a lifestyle of biblical discipleship and Messianic witness.

This unique opportunity is designed to help a select group of people (Jewish believing artists aged 18-28) deepen their relationships with God, strengthen their sense of Jewish identity, and collaborate and refine their artistic gifts for the purpose of reaching out to Jewish people.

The idea for CADET came together during a "reimagining" session to brainstorm the future of Jews for Jesus' music ministry, which led to our transition from the Liberated Wailing Wall to Blue Mosaic, a still relatively new musical touring team of Jews for Jesus. With so much creative energy bouncing around, the reimagers expanded their thinking to other creative gifts and how those blessed with them can grow together to serve the Lord and bring attention to the Messiah Jesus.

As of this writing, CADET was launched just over a month ago and is still in its formative stages. We'd love you to be praying for this group of people who came together in September and who will continue to learn, explore and grow together through May.

Jeremiah Zaretsky, one of our full-time missionaries who is pioneering this program, tells about the

Giselle—music



group's first outreach alongside our New York branch missionaries and trainees: "CADET joined the

Manhattan staff as they went to Union Square on Erev Yom Kippur. The park was teeming with activity: old men playing chess, young men break dancing, and the typical array of people, some strung out on drugs and alcohol, others just hanging out. Two people in CADET had never done evangelism with Jews for Jesus before. They had a bit of apprehension about going out on the streets and talking to people. However, God really met each person on the team in a personal way.

"Rachel made a sign saying 'Free Prayer,' and we had one or two people available to offer prayer. By the prayer sign the two Jeremiahs—Jeremiah Perecky and myself—played guitar and drum to attract people's attention. Within the first five minutes a woman who did not know Jesus asked for prayer. Within an hour-and-a-half time span, three more approached us asking for prayer. Meanwhile, two other CADET members equipped with clipboards approached people with surveys specifically designed for Yom Kippur.

"In all we spoke with about a dozen Jewish people, including two Israelis."

As Jeremiah Z. and the team continue to experiment and grow together, interacting on a regular basis with our missionary staff in New York and other branches, your prayers will make a huge difference. Be in on the "ground floor" of this new program with your prayers and words of encouragement for CADET.

Brando—graphic arts



Miah—film/percussion



Jeremiah—CADET Leader

FYY (For Your Yiddishkeit*) *Jewishness

If a Jewish person should say to you, “Nu?” she isn’t asking how long you’ve had your jacket.

“Nu” is an amazing little Jewish word that can mean a great many things, 19 in fact, according to Leo Rosten in his book *The Joys of Yiddish*.

Nu, which rhymes with true, is most often put in the form of a question. Think of it as the Jewish way to say, “Well?” or “So?”

If someone pauses in the midst of an interesting story just when it’s getting good, to encourage them to keep going, you can say, “Nu?”

Or if it’s been a while since you’ve seen your Jewish friend, all you have to ask is, “Nu?” and it’s understood you want to know what’s up since you last chatted.

And, if you are waiting for a response regarding a sensitive

subject and you don’t want to be too confrontational, this word also comes in handy: “Okay, so you say I’ve answered all your questions about Jesus . . . nu?” (This one is best with a slight shrug of the shoulders and you can raise your eyebrows a bit.)

Nu is a great word, and if you have Jewish friends you can surprise and delight them by dropping it now and then in conversation.



PRAYER PROMPTERS

Please pray for:



renewal of the hearts and minds throughout Jews for Jesus staff and families as we anticipate what He has for us in 2012



fruit from the gospel seed sown at our New Year’s outreaches, and a good time of ministry and fellowship for the youth who are joining us



God’s blessing on our associate students (p. 4, 5) and in general for the next generation of Jews for Jesus who are developing an understanding for God’s will for their lives



CADET (p. 6) as they grow together in the Lord and in using His gifts to make Jesus known



God’s blessing on final stages of Moishe Rosen’s biography and that God will use this book to glorify Himself



salvation for Henry in London, Anna in Essen and Leonid and his father, somewhere in Israel (p. 8)