

# JEW<sup>S</sup> F<sup>✳</sup>R JESUS<sup>®</sup>

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## “Loyal to Whom?” *by David Brickner, Executive Director*

**M**y friend and colleague, Jhan Moskowitz, has a one-word answer for those who ask, “What is the most difficult obstacle facing a Jewish person considering Christ?” He says, “Loyalty.” He then adds, “Loyalty is a virtue, but when employed in the service of a lie, it ceases to be a virtue.”

Jhan has put his finger on a very important factor in Jewish evangelism, but he has also articulated an intriguing ethical dilemma.

Loyalty can be defined as faithfulness or devotion that produces active commitment to a cause, person or institution. Author Eric Felten describes loyalty as the “vexing virtue” because *loyalties have a way of conflicting with one another.*

Loyalty can indeed be a virtue, but always in relationship to its object. It is entirely possible to be loyal to the wrong things or people. It is also possible to be loyal to the right things or people, but in the wrong way.

In the Jewish community, loyalty to the Jewish people and to one’s Jewish identity is considered one of the highest, if not *the* highest, value. This creates a real problem because any Jew who is committed to Jesus as the Messiah is viewed as being disloyal in the highest degree—as though we had

associated ourselves with Holocaust deniers and haters of the state of Israel. Most Jewish people find it extremely uncomfortable to contemplate such disloyalty in the process of a spiritual search.

It is much easier to avoid any real consideration of who Jesus is, because even to investigate the subject can be seen as an act of disloyalty. But that



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kind of loyalty to one’s Jewish identity helps perpetuate a lie: you can’t be Jewish and believe in Jesus, and therefore Jesus cannot be the Jewish Messiah.

The odd thing is, so many Jews who become followers of Jesus actually become more loyal to their Jewish identity, to the Jewish people and to the state of Israel than they might have been previously. I have often met

Jewish people who, upon coming to faith in Christ, develop a deeper love for their Jewish heritage, and a longing to be more closely associated with their own people.

Yet many Jewish community leaders and even some family members of those Jews who come to believe in Jesus accuse us of extreme disloyalty. At times, so much abuse is heaped upon the Jewish believer in Jesus that, in truth, it might seem to undermine any reasonable expectation for loyalty. But this is not a new phenomenon.

The first Jewish followers of Jesus had to address the loyalty dilemma head on. How did they do it? They recognized and acted upon a clear *hierarchy of loyalties*. This is evident in their response to Jewish authorities who “commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus” (Acts 4:18).

“But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard’” (Acts 4:19-20).

It wasn’t that those first Jewish believers chose to be disloyal to their community, but rather they had to prioritize their loyalties appropriately. They had an overarching devotion to

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God above all. Next was an unwavering commitment to the truth—to what they had both seen and heard. These loyalties did not replace their loyalty to the Jewish people, but rather they defined how that loyalty could or could not be demonstrated. Peter and John put the onus on the religious leaders to draw their own conclusions regarding this hierarchy of loyalties. “You judge if we should listen to you more than God,” they told the Jewish leadership, appealing to what the leaders should have understood from their own faith.

The decision those early Jewish believers took to risk their community’s displeasure became a hinge of history, a turning point from which there would be no going back. It would cost them their standing in the Jewish community, favor with friends and family and ultimately many of them would have to leave their homes (Acts 8:1). But their commitment also led to the expansion of the church from a Jerusalem-based community to a worldwide movement.

Loyalty is not just a feeling. Living by its principles exacts consequences that we may not enjoy, but the results can have eternal significance.

We need to be able to see the challenges before us and make the same kinds of judgments as the apostles did. We need to understand where commitment to God and to the truth will take us, and devote ourselves to lives of loyalty despite the consequences.

It is increasingly difficult for the child of God to hold to a biblical worldview

without being misunderstood and marginalized, if not excoriated and penalized. If you dare to point out that societal norms do not align with boundaries God has set, chances are, no matter how respectfully you state your view or decline to endorse things that violate your conscience, you will be branded a bigot and/or a hater. You might be a student, you might be a business owner—whoever you are, you’ll find that living a life that is loyal to godly principles will cost you something.

True loyalty is never blind obedience to convention, a “going along to get along.” It is obedience to the dictates of conscience as informed by the revelation of God’s Holy Word under the guidance of the Spirit. Loyalty to God and to His Word never requires disloyalty to one’s conscience or even to the people we love. But loyalty to God and His Word will require us to make difficult decisions that could be *perceived* as disloyalty. Just as people are often confused between tolerance and affirmation, so many mistakenly view loyalty as upholding the status quo.

Think about it. When we ask people to consider trusting Christ, we are asking them to reevaluate their loyalties, and that includes examining certain assumptions. We are not asking them to reevaluate whether they *are* loyal, but how they prioritize their loyalty and how those priorities will affect their choices.

For Jewish people, that reevaluation means facing the real possibility that they and their family and ancestors have been wrong for 2,000 years. That

is a lot to ask! Most Jewish people, consciously or not, have to decide whether they are willing to face that possibility before they can even begin to see who Jesus is.

When I am speaking to someone about this momentous decision I often ask, “If the Bible is true and Jesus is the Messiah, are you willing to find that out and follow Him regardless of the consequences?” Many people have admitted to me that they don’t want to know if it is true. This is sad, but at least they are being honest. They may be closer to the truth than others who insist they want to know but aren’t really willing to take the risk.

It is easy to confuse a virtue with the appearance of a virtue. Many people will do what is necessary to be considered loving or loyal. But what if actually *being* loving and loyal meant people we care about would see us as unloving and disloyal? Is it really the virtue we want, or the affirmation that goes along with the appearance of virtue?

Many people don’t realize that God and truth have taken a back seat in their loyalties, often for the sake of appearing to others in a good light.

The same applies to us as we seek to follow the Lord with our whole hearts in a world that will surely test our commitments. Are we willing to place our loyalty to Messiah Jesus and to His Word above all else? Let’s be honest and thoughtful about our answer. We all need God’s grace to keep our hearts loyal and fixed on Him. ✨



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

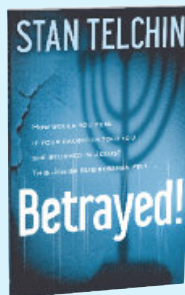


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## Betrayed! A Retrospective

Our brother Stan Telchin was called home to the Lord in June, but his life and ministry will continue to point people to Jesus for years to come. This month marks the twenty-year anniversary of Stan's wonderful testimony book, *Betrayed!* The title indicates just how Stan felt when his daughter Judy announced that she believed in Jesus. His shock and grief motivated him to research his own Bible to prove Judy wrong . . . a journey that ultimately led him to Jesus. God has used Stan's story to draw so many people to Y'shua (Jesus) that we wanted to celebrate this occasion with a retrospective. We invite you to rejoice with us in God's work through Stan Telchin and his book *Betrayed!* at [j4j.co/telchin](http://j4j.co/telchin).



## prayer PROMPTERS

### Please pray for:



God's help to keep our loyalties rightly prioritized not only in Jews for Jesus but also throughout the church (p. 1, 2)



God to continue to bring along the next generation of Jews for Jesus; also that He will strengthen and bless the new trainees you read about last month



our missionaries who are "holding down the fort" in one-person branches (see p. 4-6 for more detailed requests)



comfort for Jacob's family—and praise to God that Jacob came to know his Messiah! (p. 7)



salvation for "Rabbi Y" in Australia, Yury in Ukraine and Benjamin in Rio; grace and strength for new believer Miri in Israel (p. 8)

## The "Guaranteed\*-to-Get-100%" Feast of Booths Quiz

The Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles) is the seventh biblical holiday that God instructed the children of Israel to observe (see Leviticus 23). The Hebrew name for this feast is *Sukkot* (rhymes with "blue coat"). This year it runs from September 30 through October 7. We hope you enjoy (and maybe learn something from) this little holiday quiz.

### 1. This holiday features booths because:

a. God wanted the Israelites to symbolize their loyalty to Him by entering small structures where they could "vote" for Him to rule their lives.

b. God wanted the Israelites to celebrate the fall harvest with a national bake-off, so each family built a booth to showcase their breads and cakes.

c. God wanted the Israelites to remember their dependence on Him, as illustrated in the temporary nature of their dwellings when He watched over their wilderness wanderings.

### 2. The Gospel of John records that when it came time to celebrate the Feast of Booths, Jesus' brothers:

a. asked Him to build a miraculous booth from five loaves and two fishes.

b. offered to be His "opening act" as a music group called "Shake Your Lulav."\*\*

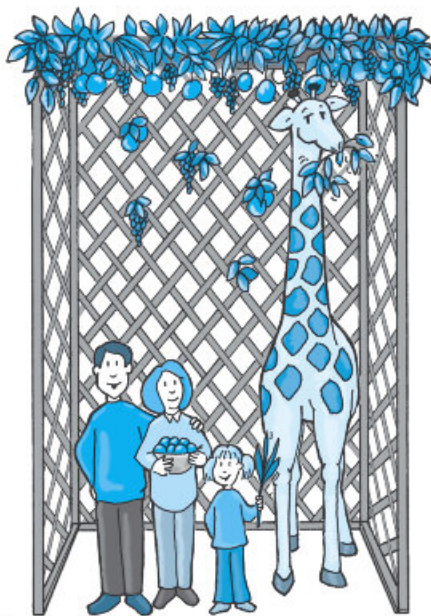
c. did not believe in Him, and sarcastically suggested that He go to Jerusalem to show Himself to the world.

### 3. David Brickner's book about this holiday is titled:

a. *How Tall is Your Tabernacle?*

b. *Sukkot for Dummies.*

c. *Christ in the Feast of Tabernacles.*



\* This is not a real guarantee. The answers are c, c and c. In the unlikely event that you did not get 100%, we hope you enjoyed the quiz anyway.

\*\* Leviticus 23:40 instructed the Israelites to rejoice before the Lord with "the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook." This led to a custom of waving or shaking an *etrog* (citrus fruit) along with a *lulav* (a "bouquet" made from palm, myrtle and willow trees).

For more information about this festival go to [j4j.co/sukkot](http://j4j.co/sukkot)

For more about David's book, go to [j4j.co/tabbook](http://j4j.co/tabbook)

# Holding Down the Fort (One-Person Branches)

We're so grateful that you read and pray for the needs of Jews for Jesus. The prayers of God's people breathe His power into our lives and ministry! We've frequently asked you to pray for more workers in the harvest, and this following select group of missionaries underscores that request. They lead our "one-person branches." (Actually, we call them outposts, since our branches have three or more workers.)

## RIO DE JANEIRO

**Sergio Danon** was doing evangelism in Rio (his native city) before coming on staff with Jews for Jesus. In April 2002 he began our first work in Brazil. Sergio is married to Alexia, and they have two children: Israel and Gabriel.

In describing Rio de Janeiro, Sergio explains, "Rio has been nicknamed *cidade maravilhosa* ("the marvelous city"), and it is truly an international city where people come from all over to enjoy its natural beauty. Among them are Israeli backpackers who are looking to experience different aspects of life after serving in the army."

## SOUTH FLORIDA

**Robyn Wilk** joined our ministry in 1988. She has been a member of the Liberated Wailing Wall, served for many years at our San Francisco branch, and led our training program in New York City for five years before

*Below: Robyn on a "scooter sortie"*



reopening our South Florida work in May 2011. Robyn and her dog, Moxie, live less than an hour's drive from her parents, sister, brother-in-law and nephew.

"South Florida is diverse," Robyn says. "We have a large, older Jewish population mixed with a young, thriving Jewish population, especially at the universities. There are hipsters at the beach. It's multi-ethnic. Yet in some ways, it's like New York (many New Yorkers have retired here). There's that intensity, but because it's hot and many people are older, it's slower. One of the challenges is that many people leave during the summer."

## MONTRÉAL

**Karl deSouza** was born in Karachi, Pakistan, but his parents moved to Quebec when he was a child. Karl began with our Toronto branch in 2001, but always had a heart for the Jewish people of Montréal. He began our outpost there in July 2005 in anticipation of our Behold Your God Montréal outreach. Karl is married to Kristen and they have three children: Nathanael, Elizabeth and Abigail.

In describing the characteristics of his city, Karl says, "We have a very tight-knit Jewish community—probably one of the most traditional, observant Jewish communities in North America. We also have the third highest population of Holocaust survivors in the world. We have a good mix of Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews, and our Sephardic population tends to be mainly French speakers from Morocco, Tunisia and France."



*Above: Sergio on a nighttime sortie in Rio*

## GENEVA

**Stephen Pacht** opened our London branch in 1992, though he handed off the leadership soon after in order to open our Paris branch that same year! Fifteen years later, he returned to our London branch, serving there until August 2010, when he opened our Geneva outpost. Stephen is married to Deborah and they have four children: Samuel, Hannah, Gabrielle and Jessica.

Stephen has described Geneva as "an international city espousing human rights and freedom, home to the UN and the World Health Organization." People take pride in their tolerance and in the city's heritage as a refuge for persecuted Christians. In fact, the city was also a home for some Jewish people who were fleeing the Nazis. Stephen's father, born in Vienna, escaped to Geneva for that reason.

We thought you would be encouraged to pray for these four (if you could hear from them), so we asked them all to answer a few questions. We hope that some of you will feel a connection with at least one of these special people and let them know!

**What are some of the high points of ministry in your city?**

**Sergio:** Our outreach during the week of "Carnaval" has been a consistent highlight for our work in Rio. Many churches in Brazil take a retreat during that period as the city is overrun by people drinking, dancing and carousing in the streets. I have been blessed to have teams of dedicated volunteers who come with me to reach out to these crowds from 11 P.M. to 5 A.M. In the first couple of years, people were suspicious of us, but now many are grateful that we are there. They know that while we cannot condone certain behaviors, we care about them no matter what they think say or do.

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*Above: Karl on a sortie*

**Robyn:** The Coconut Grove Arts Festival was a real highlight for me. Around sixteen volunteers came out to help, many from a local Messianic congregation. It was also the first time in quite a while that I was able to go out on an outreach because I had my scooter.\* It was great to be back on the streets, handing out tracts and scooting back and forth between volunteers to make sure they had enough literature.

Our Rosh Hashanah service was another highlight, again because of the volunteers that came alongside. The hosting church was wonderful;

\* Robyn suffers from Ehlers Danlos, a degenerative disease affecting joints and connective tissue.

they took care of all the refreshments, ushers and greeters. It was fun to have a music team—any music ministry is always a highlight for me.

**Karl:** One highlight that's invigorated my ministry is mentoring two Jewish men who came to know Jesus in 2010 and 2011. Seeing them come to faith was wonderful, and more recently meeting regularly with them for Bible study and discipleship has been great. Both are Moroccan. They came to faith independently, but both were particularly led through the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10. As we continue to meet, both are seeking God as to what He has for them and both are open to ministry.

**Stephen:** Being part of a Jewish group that meets regularly (and knows I'm a believer in Jesus) and having the opportunity to give them a talk on Jesus.

[Editor's note: we've asked for prayer for the group and have reported back on Stephen's talk; however Stephen is very mindful of the group's privacy and so no more details are forthcoming at this time.]

**What is your greatest ministry challenge as a one-person branch?**

**Sergio:** Being responsible, not only for missionary work, but also for all the administrative tasks. Usually volunteers want to be involved only with evangelism.

**Robyn:** I miss having someone to brainstorm and dream with as well as to help. Being somewhat disabled has been challenging, though it's given me more understanding, compassion and patience for others, which is good, especially in ministering to the elderly here.



*Above: Stephen in conversation*

**Karl:** I feel it most when I come back from a sortie after something either difficult or praiseworthy happened. That's when I want to share it with another missionary who has experienced and understands either the difficulty or the joy.

**Stephen:** It's easier to bounce ideas off someone else than bounce them off yourself; also it's stimulating to work in a team.

**If you could have a "wish list" of volunteers, what sorts of tasks or activities would you like to have people help you do?**

**Sergio:** We have good volunteers for sorties, and I'm glad that my son has been helping me with our website and newsletter design, though more help on the latter two areas would be welcome. However, where I need people the most are the areas of data entry and church relations.

**Robyn:** I'd love to have music volunteers for a local team—we could play and sing together for church meetings, holiday services, outdoor evangelism and at assisted living communities. I would also appreciate volunteers to help on a regular basis with administrative tasks, and of course, people who want to come and hand out tracts. *(continued on page 6)*

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**Karl:** Volunteers for evangelism and in the office would be great. I'd love someone to help organize and maintain the office. Help with translating things into French and proofreading would also be great. I need someone with desktop publishing skills, who can format emails to go out to large groups. That would free me up to do more evangelism.

**Stephen:** People to go with me on sorties, musicians to help with events and friends to help with our Bible study. The latter would be anything from preparation of refreshments, music, bringing a testimony and connecting with others—to help encompass, nurture, support and follow up with seekers who attend.

**Do you have any prayer requests to help you finish up the last quarter of 2012?**

**Sergio:** Please pray for our Hanukkah event on December 15 and for our "Christmas push" (ramped-up street outreach) from December 7–22; for more seekers to meet with regularly; for pastors who will want me to speak at their churches next year (we need local people to share our vision and support us); for recruitment of co-laborers and for the translation of the lectures we need for their training. Also, we plan to publish a book of Brazilian Jewish believers' testimonies and my hope is to finish the editing by the end of the year.

**Robyn:** Last month we started our weekly Bible study up again after our summer hiatus. Please pray that it will grow into a strong community and a great place for Jewish seekers to learn more about Messiah. Please pray for my family who don't know Jesus and live nearby, that God will draw them to Himself. Pray for our outreach at the Las Olas Art Fair this month, and for many more ministry

opportunities with unbelievers like Jacob (see p. 7).

**Karl:** Outreach during Hanukkah and Christmas season; planning, organizing and networking for our upcoming Summer Witnessing Campaign in 2013.

**Stephen:** Part of the strategy in settling in Geneva is the proximity to other areas for Jewish evangelism (see next section). I'm hoping to do outreach in Annecy in Marseille; also pray that planning and details come together for outreaches in other nearby cities where we minister, though we don't have established outposts there. Also, since this newsletter arrives in many homes at the end of September, I'll ask those who get this in time to pray for our Sukkot meeting, September 30, that many Jewish seekers will attend.

**What can people pray for you/your branch/outpost for 2013?**

**Sergio:** Please pray for the "Carnaval" outreach (we'll have training on February 1–2 and the actual outreach will be from February 8–13) and follow-up; also pray as we plan outreaches in conjunction with the Confederations Cup in 2013 (at the time of this writing, it is expected to be held in Brazil from June 15–30) and the soccer World Cup in 2014.

**Robyn:** For more volunteers who will be able to help on a regular basis (help with special events is also very important, but people who are able to help out each week would be great); for a good outreach at Coconut Grove in February; for churches and other Messianic ministries that will want to come alongside and collaborate to reach Jewish people in South Florida for Jesus.

**Karl:** We need to stir the pot and get the issue of Jesus out on a larger scale. We haven't done a major campaign since the 2005 Behold

Your God Montréal campaign and I'm planning on another campaign, either two or three weeks, probably toward the end of summer. Please pray that all the details and strategy of that campaign be made clear, and that we'll have a good group of people who want to participate.

**Stephen:** I'd like to start up evangelistic Bible studies in Geneva and Lausanne; I'm also planning a couple of trips to Marseille and Lyon, and would like to get a Bible study started in Zurich. Please pray for God to raise up a core group of people to help reach Jewish people in all these cities.

**What leisure activities do you enjoy?**

**Sergio:** Anything that our family does together. If outdoors, going to the beach or to the botanical garden; if indoors, going to a movie, mall or museums. If we choose to stay at home, playing board games or video games. My wife and I also try to have a weekly date, just the two of us.

**Robyn:** Playing my flute, "scootering" my dog (Moxie runs alongside the scooter for exercise), reading and spending time with my family.

**Karl:** Hanging with my family, whether we're riding bikes, swimming or just talking around the table; I also like to BBQ for my family, as well as chill out with personal email to connect with friends and family that are far away.

**Stephen:** Chatting with friends and family, enjoying our home and meals together and reading.

For more about these branches, or if you would like to encourage any of these folks and let them know you are praying for them, please see their web pages or contact them at: [\(continued on page 7\)](#)

## Florida Praise Report by Robyn Wilk

I'd just gotten back from my three-week Christ in the Passover tour and our Passover banquet was just six days away. Thankfully, volunteers had stepped up to the plate, including two of our co-laborers who were both traveling three hours to help with the event. Still, the day before a banquet is usually hectic—and that was the day I received a call from our Minister-at-Large office in San Francisco.

A man was dying in Miami. Jacob was Jewish and not a believer in Jesus. His wife and daughter-in-law, both Christians, wanted desperately for him to hear the gospel. They found our San Francisco headquarters listed in the yellow pages, and that's how the call was referred to me.

I began to pray, "Lord, you know I am not able to get there until the day after the banquet. Please keep Jacob alive until I get there or send someone else to share the gospel with him." I called the family, explained the situation, and promised to come down in two days. I asked them to pray that I'd get there in time.

The Passover banquet went well. We had some Jewish guests who don't yet believe in Jesus, and they certainly heard the gospel. Some had come quite a distance to be there and had been looking forward to this event for a long time. It was important that I give my all for those who came to celebrate Passover with our Jews for

Jesus ministry. At the same time, I kept thinking about Jacob, and silently prayed for him throughout the evening. And, to be honest, I felt somewhat guilty that I was not able to get to him right away.

The next morning, I called Jacob's family. To my great relief, he was still hanging on. I told them I'd be there in an hour. I prayed en route that we would be able to have a lucid conversation. When I arrived, I walked into his room and his wife warmly greeted me. I said hello to Jacob and he opened his eyes. After some small talk, I got right to the heart of the matter.

"Jacob," I said, "Do you know why I am here?"

He shook his head, "No." "I am here because your family wanted you to know that it is okay for Jews to believe in Jesus. Who do you think Jesus is?"

Jacob could barely talk, but he indicated that he wasn't sure. As I explained the problem of sin and God's offer of salvation Jacob's eyes were wide open. He was listening intently. When I said, "Jacob, your wife wants you to go to heaven," he smiled. He remained alert as I explained that Jesus made it possible; he listened as I read John 3:16 and some passages from Romans. I asked him if he believed that he was a sinner. He said, "Yes." I asked him if he wanted to receive Jesus



as his Messiah and sin-bearer and have the eternal life promised in John 3:16.

Jacob's wife was watching intently. To her surprise, he nodded and said, "Yes." I asked him if I could pray and he could repeat after me. I wasn't sure he'd be able to do it, but he did. So, Jacob, his wife and I held hands and Jacob repeated my prayer asking God to forgive him and accept him on the basis of Jesus' perfect life, death and resurrection. After the prayer, Jacob spontaneously gave praise to God by saying, "Baruch HaShem," which is Hebrew for "Bless the Name." I asked him again who Jesus was, and he said, "The Messiah." He understood. I played a couple of tunes on my flute for him before I left. He smiled.

As I was leaving, I thanked God that he allowed me to get to Jacob in time. I was reminded that all things happen on God's schedule.

Surprisingly, Jacob stayed with us through late July, and we enjoyed some sweet times together. He'd smile when I came to visit, and was able to remember that he was trusting Jesus. Now he is in heaven with his Messiah. Baruch HaShem!

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### Sidney, Australia

Bob Mendelsohn reports, “It’s not every day a rabbi comes into the Jews for Jesus book shop. ‘Y’ is originally from the United States, but has lived in Jerusalem for 45 years. He has twelve children, ten of whom are married. He came hoping for financial assistance but was willing to stay and discuss the *sedra* (weekly Torah portion read in the synagogue). We looked at the story of the Israelites looking to the serpent lifted up on a pole for healing in the wilderness and I used John 3:14–16 to point out the parallel to Y’shua. ‘Y’ listened carefully and offered a blessing after our 25 minutes together. He left with a copy of my testimony booklet and a lot to consider.

“‘Y’ returned two hours later, having read my testimony. He had questions about the ‘feelings’ of coming to faith and what is different today. He seems genuinely interested in the gospel. Please pray for his salvation.”

### Tel Aviv, Israel

Bimini Cohen reports: “I have ministered to Miri\* for about two years now. We have met regularly on an almost weekly basis, studying the book of Matthew and parts of Acts and John.

“The other week I went over a few salvation Scriptures with her. I asked if she believed and she said, ‘Yes.’ I then asked her if she wanted to receive Jesus into her heart to be her Lord and Savior. She responded, ‘Yes, I want intimacy with God.’ She prayed with me to receive the Lord—it was an emotional moment.

\*Not their real names

“When I saw her the following week, she had already talked to a girlfriend she served with in the army about Jesus, and discovered that her friend believes in Him too! How good is our Lord, that He has given Miri this kind of support for her newfound faith and walk with Jesus!”

### Kharkov, Ukraine

Svetlana Kotlomina reports, “As I was handing out broadsides, a man took one and said, ‘Jews for Jesus! Tell me, do you recognize me as Jewish, if my

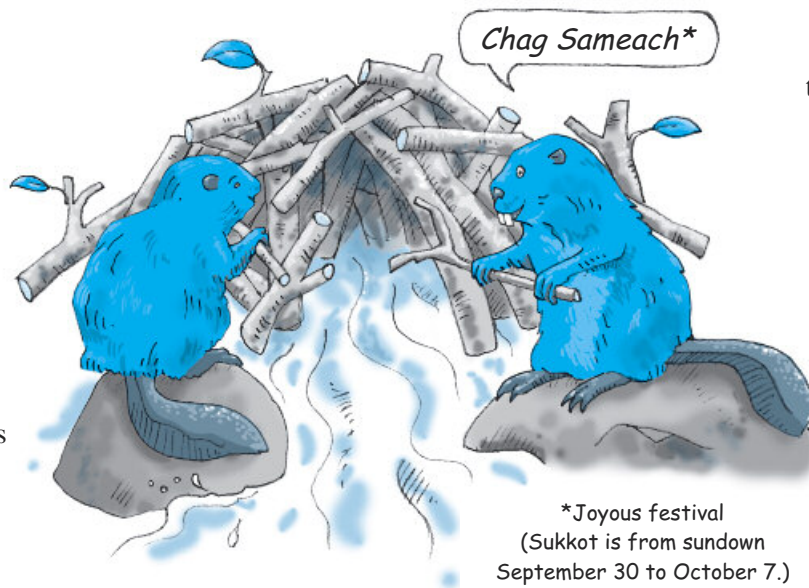
“Early in the morning before a sortie, a brother prayed, ‘Bless us so that each one of us will receive at least one Jewish contact.’ Later, with only ten minutes remaining to hand out tracts at a train station, I thought, *Where is my Jewish contact?* Moments later, an imposing man wearing a gorgeous hat approached me, took a broadside and stopped to read it. Eduard told me, ‘I’m a Jewish man from Georgia. For many years, I studied different religions: Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. As I read the Bible, I saw that Jesus is Messiah.’ Eduard willingly gave me his contact information. His wife is also Jewish, and they have a 24-year-old son. Please pray for God to bless this family with faith and repentance.”

### Rio de Janeiro

Sergio Danon reports, “This year at our Passover banquet, a well-known Jewish author came, having been invited by one of our volunteers. He participated throughout the ceremony, but when we came to the third cup, after hearing that it was fulfilled in Jesus, he did not drink.

“A few months later, we met again and Benjamin\* said that he ‘likes Jesus,’ but cannot accept Him because he will feel like a traitor, he will no longer be Jewish and all the deaths he witnessed in the Holocaust will have been in vain. Despite these strong feelings, he said he is willing to meet to study the Bible with me. Please pray that God opens his heart, and gives me the wisdom and the discernment to witness to him.”

## Bits from the



# BRANCHES

father’s name was “blank” and my mother’s name was “blank”, but they did everything possible to hide the fact that they were Jews to protect their jobs?” I replied, ‘If you know that your mother is Jewish and your father is Jewish, then you are Jewish.’ Yury was glad to hear my answer and accepted an invitation to our Shabbat meeting. In fact, he was one of the first to arrive at the meeting! Please pray for Yury to find life and salvation in Jesus Messiah.