

TWO HEBREW WORDS THAT JEWS FOR JESUS WANTS YOU TO KNOW

by David Brickner, executive director

Continuing the work we began during our Behold Your God Jerusalem campaign includes finding ways to integrate projects that we launched in Jerusalem into our ministry worldwide. I am excited to tell you about two of these projects, but you have to learn a little Hebrew first.

The first Hebrew word you should know is *v'ahavta*. *V'ahavta* means “you shall love” and it was one of the focal points for our outreach, taken from the command of Leviticus 19:18: “but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This is one of the passages Jesus referred to when He was asked which is the greatest commandment. “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second

is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37–39).

In Jerusalem we invited people to contemplate how to carry out this command. We asked people to find ways to show love and kindness to another person, something beyond their ordinary care for their own family and friends. It could be a neighbor, a stranger—anyone. We invited people to encourage others to do the same by recording a video of their act of kindness, and uploading it onto a special website.

We realize that encouraging people to perform random acts of kindness isn’t the same as giving them the gospel message. Nevertheless, it has opened doors to communicate about the One who commanded us to love [\(continued on page 2\)](#)

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*With your help
and prayers, we will
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forward to find
wonderful new ways
to engage Jewish people
with the gospel.*



Photo by Getty Images/hamidolovani

We are working hard to apply the gospel to the everyday struggles of people in Israel and around the world. For example, we developed a Hebrew website featuring video interviews with Israeli believers in Jesus. These believers share their personal struggles and how the gospel makes a difference in their lives—especially in areas such as finances and raising children. In addition to seeing the video testimonies, viewers were invited to be mentored by the Jewish believers whose stories they had just watched. We will continue developing these and other projects as we keep on reaching out to people in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth.

Just think of all the innovations that God has used to proclaim the gospel since Bible times: from mass distribution of Bibles and other gospel literature—made possible by the invention of the printing press—to tent revival meetings like those Billy Graham conducted with

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such fruitful results. Gospel radio and television programs made it possible for people to hear the good news in their own homes. Not to mention the amazing opportunities afforded us through the internet!

When it comes to gospel proclamation, I believe that the best is yet to come. With your help and prayers, we will continue to push forward to find wonderful new ways to engage Jewish people with the gospel, teach them to follow Yeshua and inspire others to do the same.

David Brickner is also an author, public speaker and avid hiker. Find out more about David, his writings, speaking schedule and possible availability to speak at your church at jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner.

(continued from page 1) our neighbor, and gave us the opportunity to point people to the love of God in Jesus Christ. The way that Jesus pointed to these commandments together also gave people the opportunity to ponder the first commandment and how it relates to the second.

With your help and prayers, we hope to continue this means of outreach beyond Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. We will let you know what the Lord does through this new means of reaching out.

A second Hebrew word you should know is *habsorah*, which means “the good news.” We also used this as a theme in Jerusalem, based on Isaiah’s words, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news . . .” (Isaiah 52:7).

Who doesn’t like good news? In anticipation of our Behold Your God Jerusalem campaign we conducted a survey asking Israelis what they struggle with most, and how they cope with those struggles. Of those surveyed, the top two concerns related to raising children and problems with money.

So, let me ask you. Does the good news of Jesus have anything to say about children? How about money? Well of course it does! (See Mark 9:37; Mark 10:13–14; Matthew 22:21; Luke 12:33.)

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Jews for Jesus international headquarters: 60 Haight Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-5895; phone: (415) 864-2600; email: jfj@jewsforjesus.org; web: jewsforjesus.org; also working in: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom; editor: Ruth Rosen; art director: Paige Saunders; design and illustration: David Yapp; ISSN 0740-5901 Volume 10:5778, July 2018; ©2018 JEW F✪R JESUS.



This month we invite you to pray for two very different people that we are reaching face-to-face in Sydney, and via the internet from San Francisco.

bits from the **BRANCHES**

Rahel Landrum reports from **Sydney, Australia**, “Hannah* was born in Calcutta, India, to a traditional Jewish family. Her father, wanting her to receive the best possible education, sent her to a Christian school. Hannah was



Rahel

raised to believe in God, and at school she excelled in Scripture reading. However, an uncle she looked up to was a staunch atheist, and before long Hannah declared that she didn't believe in God either.

“Hannah was a young wife and mother when she and her family moved to Australia. Decades passed, and now Hannah is in her nineties. A mutual friend put us in touch with each other and I began visiting Hannah. Her knowledge of the Bible was apparent and she always appreciated prayer. Sometimes she expressed doubt about God's existence, but often she recognized that He was answering prayers.

“Every now and then I would ask Hannah if she was willing to trust in Jesus' atoning work. She would smile and say she wasn't ready. Last time we met she told me that she kept hearing a certain melody at different times of the day and night. I asked her what it sounded like, and she began humming beautifully. I immediately realized that she was humming the chorus of an old hymn! God Himself had been speaking to her through music!

“I knew some of the lyrics, so together we tried to piece together enough words to identify the song. Suddenly Hannah said, ‘I just remembered something I want to show you.’ She left the room and came back with a small, well-worn hymnal, a treasured keepsake from her childhood in India.

“With the few words she and I had remembered, we found the words to the hymn she had been hearing:

“Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose Word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

“I told Hannah that God created and designed her to be in His presence for eternity, and asked again if she would trust in Jesus, who died for her sins. This time Hannah said yes! With tears in her eyes, she said it was no coincidence that I came into her life, and that she was glad she had received Jesus after all these years.”

From **San Francisco, Rob Wertheim** reports, “When people visit our website, usually a missionary (like me) or one of our volunteers greets them and offers assistance via a feature called ‘live chat.’



Rob

“Recently I ‘live chatted’ with a Jewish woman who asked me what we're all about. We had a good gospel conversation, and then she asked, ‘If you don't mind, what denomination of Judaism did you align with before you became a believer in Jesus?’ I responded, ‘Do you mean, while I [\(continued on page 4\)](#)

PRAYER PROMPTERS

Please help fuel our ministry by praying for:



God's wisdom as we look for ways to implement *V'ahavta* and *Habsorah* throughout our branch cities



continued and fruitful follow-up with people we met during Behold Your God Jerusalem; wisdom and resources to establish a continued presence there



grace and strength for our new 93-year-old sister in Yeshua in Sydney, Australia



salvation for Susan and the many other Jewish (and non-Jewish) people with whom we get to live chat



salvation for John and Judah, and that they would be willing to meet with our staff in Israel



God's grace and leading for the next generation of Jews for Jesus



INSIGHT INTO BIG CITY EVANGELISM



Living and ministering in a big city means that many people we reach out to are just passing through, whether for days, months or even a year. This is especially true of many Israelis in capital cities like Berlin. What a privilege that God allows us to impact their lives for a short period of time before they move on! And yet I'm always sad to see them go. Some of the guys I meet with are willing to connect with our colleagues back in Israel, others are not.

Paul exhorts us to make the best use of the time, "because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16). This is a constant reminder for me that my time with everyone is limited, and all the more so when it comes to Israelis. Two of the guys I really enjoyed meeting and sharing the gospel with moved back to Israel recently. Please pray for John* and Judah,* both of whom I hope to see again during my travels to Israel. Please pray that they also would be willing to speak to our staff in Israel, and that they will open their hearts to Yeshua!

Aaron Lewin, branch leader in Berlin

(continued from page 3) attended Hebrew school and had my bar mitzvah?' 'Yes,' she affirmed. I replied, 'Conservative!' To which she replied, 'Oh cool, I'm Conservative.'

"I mentioned that my parents, who are Holocaust survivors, also believe in Jesus. I emailed her a copy of my father's testimony, *I Escaped From Hitler Twice*, as well as my email address. I'm thankful that technology enables us to connect with people we may never have 'met' before the internet existed. Please pray for Susan* and others who chat with us—that the Lord would work in their hearts and bring them to Himself."

*Names were changed to protect privacy.

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