



# JEW FOR JESUS<sup>®</sup>

THE NEWSLETTER  
FOR CHRISTIANS WHO  
WANT TO KNOW ABOUT  
JEWS & EVANGELISM

## THE PERSPECTIVE CORRECTIVE: IF YOU NEED A REASON TO BE THANKFUL

by David Brickner, executive director

I awoke to a noisy disturbance just outside my house at about 1:30 A.M. “I bet the raccoons are getting into my garbage again,” I thought, grabbing a broom to chase them away. But as I rounded the side of the house, instead of furry bandits I was met with a four-foot wall of flames. A chunk of my deck had been devoured and two large trash cans had puddled into a plastic pancake.

I ran back into the house to grab the fire extinguisher, yelling to my sister and brother-in-law who were visiting from out of town. My brother-in-law grabbed the garden hose and started spraying. I gasped as I saw that the two propane tanks from my barbecue grill were perilously close to the flames, and quickly yanked them away.

By the time three fire engines, two fire trucks and one rescue vehicle arrived, most of the fire was out, but the dozen or so firemen (and women) stayed until after 3 A.M. They dutifully removed the rest of the wooden structure that hadn’t burned, axes swinging and chainsaws buzzing for all the neighborhood to hear. (I sent a couple dozen donuts to the station. Praise God for first responders!)

As I finally lay my head back on the pillow, all I could think was, “Thank you, God!” The house could have easily been destroyed and we might have been severely injured, even killed.

The next morning as I set foot out of bed, pain shot through two of [\(continued on page 2\)](#)

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*I can ask God  
for the discipline and the  
desire to remember  
and rejoice over  
His sovereignty.*



Photo by Getty Images

learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need” (Philippians 4:12).

This perspective can help in so many different ways. In Jews for Jesus we “relentlessly pursue God’s plan for the salvation of the Jewish people,” but sometimes I feel like I am not seeing enough of that plan coming to pass. I can become impatient and yes, discouraged. Can you identify? Perhaps you have a friend or a relative that you long to see come to Jesus, but there doesn’t appear to be much headway. Or maybe you have been praying for the Lord to do something specific and you are still waiting.

I am reminded that God has been relentlessly pursuing His plan for the salvation of the Jewish people, yes and for the nations, for over 3,000 years. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). If God can be patient, perhaps I can too, even “in all things.” What about you?

*I am reminded that God has been relentlessly pursuing His plan for the salvation of the Jewish people, yes and for the nations, for over 3,000 years.*

Sometimes God in His grace lets us see how He’s watching out for us even in scary circumstances, and that makes all the difference in our perspective. Let’s ask Him for the grace to trust that He is always keeping His promises, always caring and always rescuing us even amidst life’s pains and frustrations.

*Find out more about David, his writings, speaking schedule and possible availability to speak at your church at [jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner](http://jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner).*



*(continued from page 1)* my toes. In the melee of the night before, I had sprained them and they were now very black and purple. But you know, as I hobbled around, that pain was a constant reminder of how very thankful I was.

A couple of days later I received an email from Liz Goldstein, who was leading our Massah team in India. Their trip from Manali to Daram Salah (an eight to ten hour drive) ground to a halt because of a landslide that blocked the road. They were stuck going nowhere for seven hours! I looked down at my toe and wrote back to Liz, “I am just happy and thankful that the landslide only landed on the road and not on you guys.”

I don’t know about you, but I’ve been so prone to see every adverse situation from one limited perspective, and that is to focus on the difficulties, the disappointments and the pain they present. But because God is sovereign, I can practice a different perspective. I can ask God for the discipline and the desire to remember and rejoice over His sovereignty. That’s the corrective I want and need to shape my perspective.

The apostle Paul wrote: “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have

*Oops! Last month we referred to an insert containing our new mission statement, core values, approach and strategic anchors . . . but we didn’t insert it! Here it is, in this month’s edition.*

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**WE RELENTLESSLY PURSUE GOD’S PLAN FOR THE SALVATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE.**

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*Your missionaries in Hungary  
and Israel have news for you!*

# bits from the BRANCHES

## **Boldness bears fruit!**

While we explore new and effective ways to reach people with the good news, we know that often the Holy Spirit still uses the tried-and-true methods. Take our bold Jews for Jesus T-shirts, for example.

From **Budapest, Ildikó Hadju** reports, “Every Tuesday, sisters and brothers from different churches join as a team to share the gospel in the park. I like to participate, and I always represent Jews for Jesus by wearing our T-shirt.



*Ildiko*

*Photo © Jews for Jesus*

“Recently, twelve of us went out to spread the good news; my partner was the pastor of a church who also happened to be Jewish. The park was full of young guys drinking beer as they sat and talked to one another on the grass. Others sat alone, reading or waiting to meet friends.

“The Jewish pastor and I greeted a man who sat reading a book. He seemed a bit scared when we went over to him, and we realized that he didn’t speak Hungarian and didn’t understand what we wanted. Slowly he stood up, read my T-shirt and began to smile. ‘Oh, are you Jewish?’ he asked. ‘Yes, I am,’ I replied. ‘How about you?’ Michael explained that his mother was Jewish and that he was from Ukraine.

“We shared the gospel with Michael. After a while he was ready to receive Jesus into his heart. He gave me his name

and phone number and the next day I called and prayed for him. His first language is Russian, so we will bring in one of our Russian-speaking colleagues to help. Please pray for Michael, that he will grow in his faith and in his understanding of what Jesus did for him, and that we’ll have opportunity to meet and talk to him further.”

## **The answer to a 26-year-long prayer!**

From **Israel, Leonid Krouter** reports, “Hallelujah! My uncle Maxim prayed the sinner’s prayer! I have been praying for him for 26 years.

“When I first came to believe in Jesus in Odessa, my uncle was very upset and wanted to hear nothing about it. When I joined the staff of Jews for Jesus, he became even more angry. Every time we met after he emigrated to Israel, he mocked my faith. During my last meeting with him in June 2018, he still mocked Natasha and me for our faith in Jesus. He never asked us a single question about what we believe or what we do. But God is sovereign!

“Uncle Maxim lives alone, and at 71 years of age he still works. On July 2, he failed to come to work or answer phone calls. The next day, he was found at home, unconscious. He was in an intensive care ward for a day, in a coma. Natasha and I came to the hospital to visit him. Maxim came out of the coma and was very open to hear the gospel! In fact, he believed as we explained



*Leonid*

*Photo © Jews for Jesus*

how to have reconciliation with God, and was ready to pray to receive Jesus! My wife Natasha led him in prayer. Hallelujah! Please pray that Uncle Maxim will connect with a congregation of believers in Israel.”

*Names are changed to protect privacy.*

Participate in God's plan of salvation for the Jewish people by using these

# PRAYER PROMPTERS

Please pray for:



the corrective perspective of thankfulness for God's sovereignty throughout His church in general and for our ministry in particular



God's protection over new Jewish believers Michael (in Hungary) and Maxim (in Israel) and that they would grow strong in the grace of Jesus



continued fruitful follow-up with those who gave us their contact information during the Behold Your God Jerusalem campaign



God's blessing and wisdom for Jews for Jesus leadership, particularly the new roles we announced in August, and for our younger leaders, many of whom are in the process of taking on key positions



God's guidance and provision, as we hope to bring more missionaries on board!

## JUST A THOUGHT ABOUT TOUGH TIMES



Photo: Getty Images

When we're struggling, our first impulse may not be to care passionately about what God deserves from us or what He desires for us. But by grace through faith in Jesus, all things are possible! He can empower us to ask earnestly in any situation, "God, what do You want *from* me in this situation?" and "God, what do You want *for* me in this situation?" He does not let such questions go unanswered! We can ask God to change our hearts so that these questions become part of our go-to perspective—and His answers will help us to live like the new creations we're meant to be. Why settle for less?

—Editor



*Our Russian-speaking team ministers to many of the elderly in Israel*

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