

JEW^S F^{OR} JESUSTM

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism



“Jews don’t need Jesus”

We hear it all the time. It’s the way many Jewish people respond to the idea that a Jew could somehow be “for Jesus.”

As you might imagine, a Jewish person’s unshakable belief that an entire “nation” doesn’t need Jesus is a pretty high hurdle to get over when you’re trying to introduce them to Yeshua (Hebrew for Jesus). How do you get through to someone when they’ve been told throughout their entire life that being Jewish doesn’t have anything to do with the “Christian Messiah?”

At Jews for Jesus we don’t report on

vast numbers of Jews coming to know Jesus as Messiah. We aren’t called to meet a quota. We’re called to be bold witnesses to the truth of the gospel—to, as we often say, “Make the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue for our Jewish people worldwide.”

We’re a ministry of hand-picked fruit.

You won’t see us hosting stadium events where crowds of Jewish folks rush the infield to pray the Sinner’s Prayer. Few Jewish people would be willing to come to an evangelism crusade or even darken the door of a church.

Most of our work is connecting with

people one-to-one . . . on a street corner, in our bookshop, on a uni campus or by hosting special, intimate events that attract Jewish people to our homes or to Bible studies at one of our branch offices.

We also host events like art shows or musical concerts.

Each of our missionaries might meet literally



David Brickner
Executive Director,
San Francisco USA

hundreds of Jewish people through our efforts at proclamation. But the conversation that leads to salvation will be face-to-face, friend-to-friend, and intimate.

Our founder, Moishe Rosen, once said: "In our Jews for Jesus ministry, we have committed ourselves to sowing much gospel seed, that there might be a good harvest. Our seed is plentiful, but it is of little value unless we spread it evenly and abundantly where it can grow. We reach out to many that we might win a few."

There's a reason for that: Guiding a Jewish person to the recognition that Jesus may really be his Messiah is not easy work. Jesus himself said, "Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:14).

I believe that can be especially true for my Jewish people. That's why we often find success by first relating to them as fellow Jews—with similar backgrounds, shared experiences and who can be trusted to have understanding.

We must assure them that they don't have to give up their "Jewishness" when they accept Yeshua. In fact, we remind them that

the first believers in Christ were Jews. We show them the Older Testament scriptures that point to Jesus as the Messiah and God's favor on the Jewish people. And we review the Newer Testament passages, written by Jewish followers of Jesus, that promise God's blessing on those among the Nation of Israel who believe in the name of His only son.

This takes time and patience, requires understanding of the reasons for their skepticism and compassion for those who will face rejection when family and friends discover they have become followers of Jesus. For my people, our identity, community and sense of belonging is paramount. It comes first. And only after our shared heritage is established do our behaviour and beliefs begin to change. And finally, through the patient and gentle work of the Holy Spirit, we come to believe in our long-awaited Messiah.

The challenge, then, for those involved in Jewish evangelism is to understand the Jewish perspective—to, as the Apostle Paul said, "become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

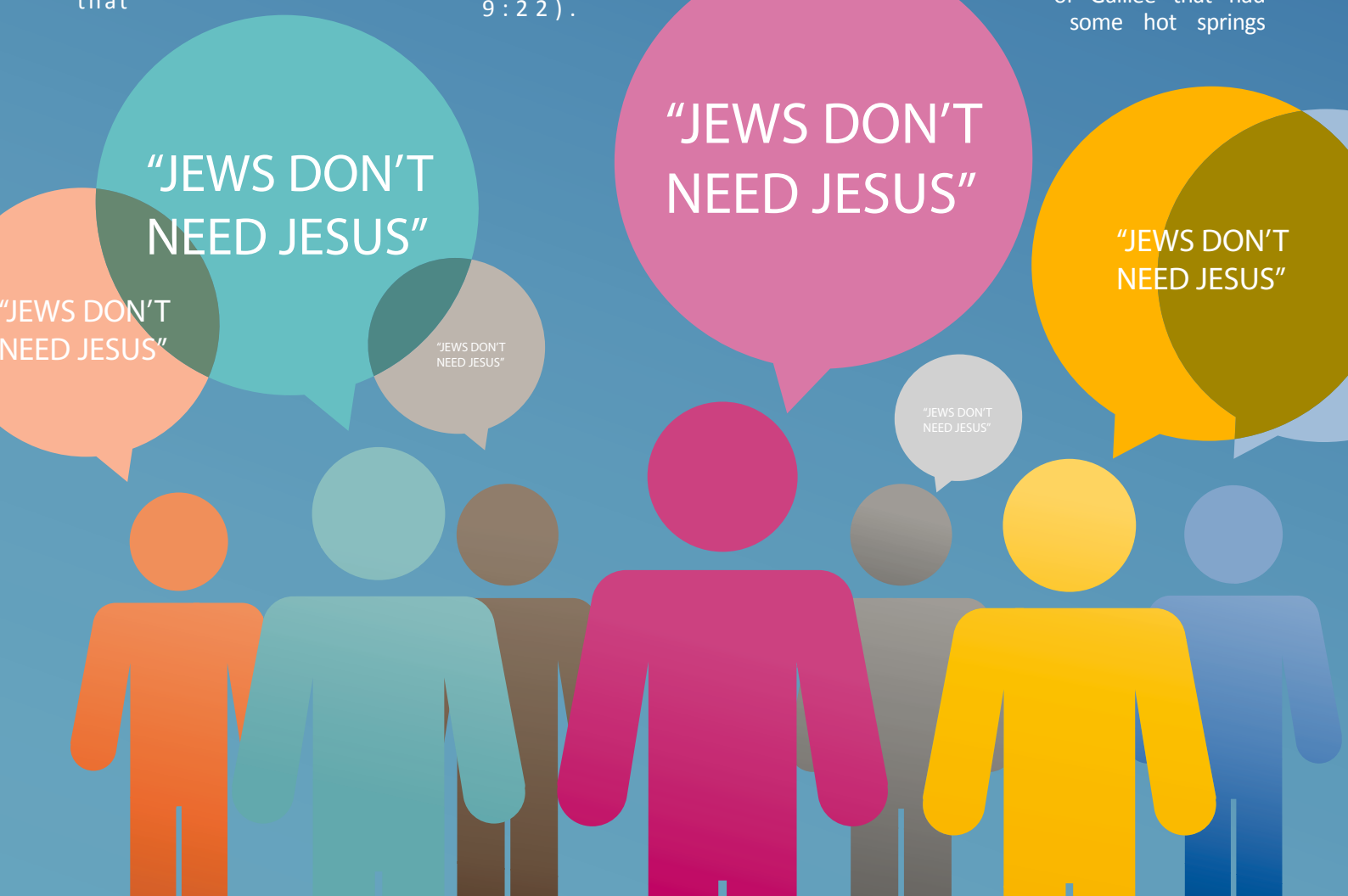
And "save some" truly is the reality we face. Hand-picked fruit, indeed.

I will never forget when I first met Avram while serving in the Chicago branch of Jews for Jesus. His wife was a Jewish believer, but Avram, an Israeli, was a committed atheist. Still, he wanted me to show him where in the Hebrew Scriptures it showed that Yeshua is the Messiah.

So every week for an entire year, as his wife and daughters attended a local Messianic congregation, Avram and I would meet for coffee and Bible study. We had many amazing discussions and what seemed to me like real breakthrough moments. After one whole year of Bible study, Avram's job transferred him back to Israel. He was not yet a believer. But neither was he any longer an atheist. I kept in touch with Avram. And each time I visited Israel, I would spend time with him and his family.

One day he called me from Israel and said, "David, the next time you come to Israel I want you to baptize me." Needless to say, I was thrilled and arranged to meet with him.

We spent an afternoon at a park near the Sea of Galilee that had some hot springs



(and many giant crocodiles). As we sat together in the hot-springs pool, I asked Avram to tell me about his journey of faith. He had definitely moved closer to faith. He now even believed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. But for Avram, that meant Jesus was a very special man—but not the Son of God.

“I’m sorry Avram, but I can’t baptize you, not yet,” I told him. Instead I want you to read through the Gospel of John and underline every verse where Jesus says something about who He is. After you have done that, call me.

Well it took another whole year for Avram to complete that assignment. But when he did, he called me to assure me that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be, the Messiah, the Son of God and the Savior of the World.

Hallelujah! On my next visit to Israel I had the privilege of baptizing Avram in the Mediterranean, while his wife and daughters looked on in unfettered joy. I asked that a local elder at a Messianic congregation join me in baptizing Avram to make sure he was connected to a local fellowship. That elder still teaches a small group that meets weekly in Avram’s home. Hand-picked fruit. But oh so worthwhile, don’t you think?

As believers in Yeshua, we promise, we preach and we ponder the return of Messiah, the Lord of the harvest—even if the harvest is hand-picked. But the harvest is now. And soon, there will be the great, final ingathering—not of grain, but of God-harvested souls.

Then we’ll all enter into the joy that can come only to those

who have worked hard and not become discouraged by the difficulty of harvesting the crop. We must go out and work in God’s field so that others may come to know Him. Then what joy it will be to hear from the Lord of the harvest, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant!”

I want to hear those words. And I believe you do too. So will you join with me again now in this ministry of hand-picked fruit? Will you partner with the Sower, to help scatter His good seed, to cultivate it with care and patience, and then to experience the great blessing of harvesting those who respond in faith?

I’m so grateful you want to hear from us and some of you have donated, too, and have thus demonstrated your commitment to walking alongside us down this rocky path that Jewish people often follow to salvation.

I’m happy to announce that a wonderful new book by our European ministry director, Avi Snyder, has been published. It does a better job than any I’ve ever seen at explaining the journey.

In the book, intriguingly called *Jews Don’t Need Jesus . . . and Other Misconceptions*, Avi clearly lays out what the Bible really says about salvation for Jews . . . shatters the misconceptions that have convinced the Jewish people, and many Christians, that Jews don’t need Jesus . . . and boldly presents the real reasons so many Christians choose not to witness to Jewish people.

Avi points out so compellingly and convincingly that it is not only the right, it is the obligation of every believer in Jesus to proclaim the Messiah to Jewish people.

Please give again to support this



wonderful work in which we partner.

Would you send a gift today, to help us in our ongoing ministry? And would you also pick up a copy of Avi’s book using the coupon on the back or by popping in our shop in Bondi Junction? With every gift, please receive our deepest thanks for your support. I guarantee you’ll gain a new appreciation for the incredible good you do with each gift to Jews for Jesus.

Thank you. And God bless you.

Your brother for the sake of the Harvest,

David Brickner
Executive Director

P.S. On 30 May the biblical harvest festival of Shavuot, or Pentecost, begins. Please give a special gift now and join with us in praying for a great harvest of hand-picked fruit among God’s Chosen People.

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