

# Seasons of warfare are unavoidable

JEW  
FOR  
JESUS



**David Brickner**

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In modern (or post-modern) times, many people view the personal quest for spirituality as a road to peace and transcendence, while associating “organized religion” with violence and war.

This view has little to do with the Bible, but is in keeping with eastern religious philosophy. Battle, warfare and fighting are inherently spiritual terms from God’s perspective, and those of us who follow Jesus need to see it in that light.

When we behave as though the battle isn’t real we make ourselves vulnerable to attack and defeat.

“It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when Kings go out to battle ...” (2 Samuel 11:1) is the prelude to one of the greatest failures in all of Scripture. When David’s armies

went out to battle but the king himself stayed behind, what resulted with Bathsheba and Uriah led to the king’s tragic downfall.

There are seasons of calm and seasons of warfare, times when the battle must be fought and times when the fighting is

most fierce. Regardless of the season, the admonition to “put on the whole armor of God,” is not an occasional suggestion but a daily duty.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers.

Sometimes we fail to recognize where the real battle lines are drawn and we suit up to battle one another. Fighting the good fight means

choosing the right battles! It means saying “no” to skirmishes that distract and dishearten us from doing what we need to in order to win the victory in the real battle. Yes, we need to fight in such a way as to win.

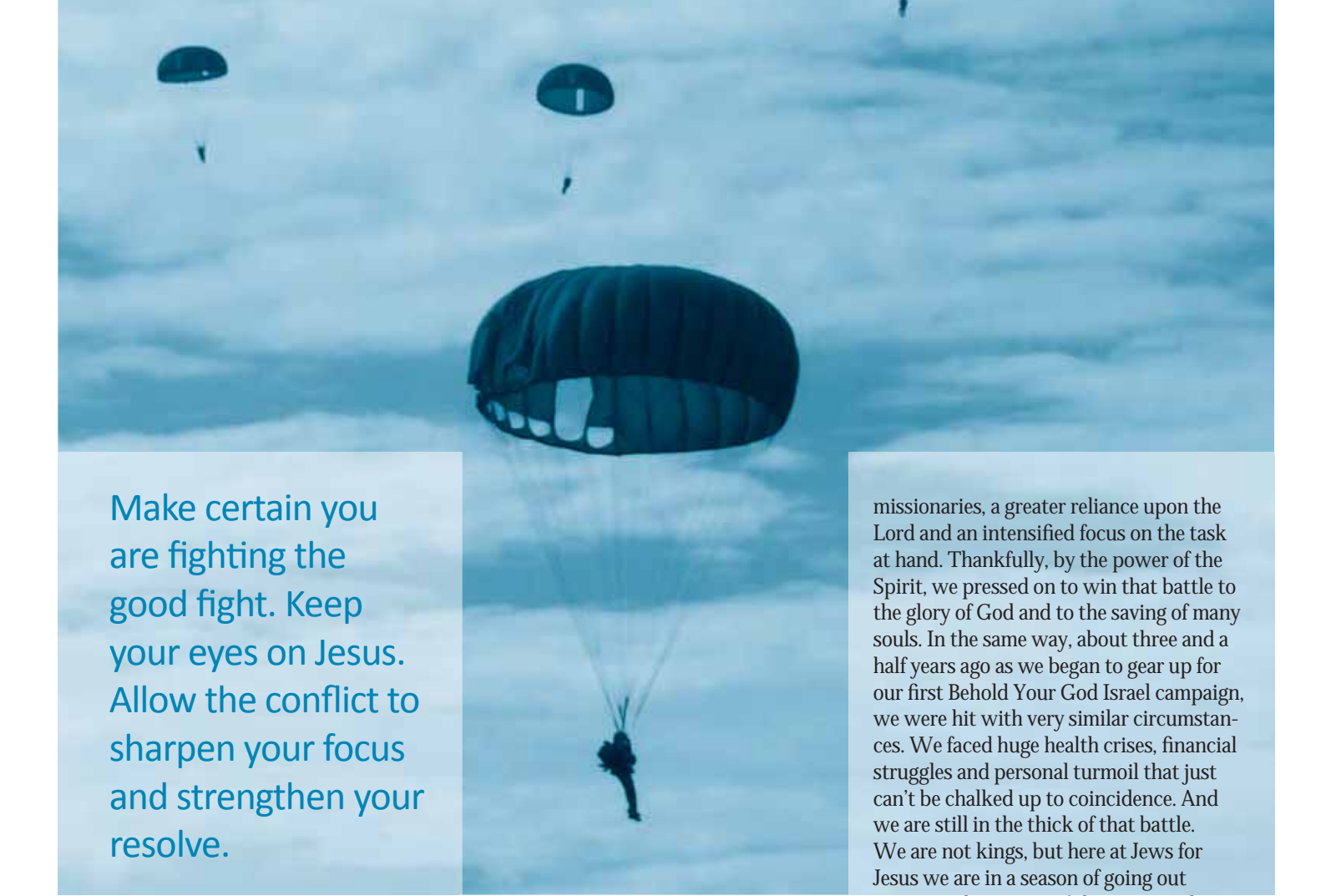
Fighting a good fight has the capacity to energize us; it enables us to focus on the godly vision to which we have been called. It requires us to rely on the Lord more than we otherwise might—to be alert, to show true bravery. A good fight builds unity among fellow warriors, those who recognize what is at stake in the battle. Ultimately these battles lead to the preserving of life and to the saving of souls.

On the other hand, fighting the not-so-good fight causes unnecessary suffering arising out of misunderstandings, mistakes and miscalculations. Fighting the wrong battles can still energize us, but that energy is misspent on our own desires and deadly temptations (think of King David).

When we fail to see the bigger picture we fall prey to our own weaknesses and insecurities. Instead of the alertness and bravery produced by fighting the good fight, we have a dulling of the spiritual senses that can lead to displays of stunning cowardice. Fighting the wrong battles in the wrong way also causes disunity and division in the ranks. The failure to watch out for one another leads to many needless casualties.

Recently I was watching the premier of Pacific, a television mini-series about

Battle, warfare and fighting are inherently spiritual terms from God’s perspective, and those of us who follow Jesus need to see it in that light.



Make certain you are fighting the good fight. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Allow the conflict to sharpen your focus and strengthen your resolve.

World War II. The very first battle scene was grippingly intense. It showed many dead and wounded, but even those soldiers who survived were covered in sweat and caked with filth; fear was all around. The survivors were devastated by the brutality and loss they had witnessed. It was as though they had lived an entire lifetime in those few hours of the battle. You could see it in their eyes.

As they say, “War is hell.” This is especially true when we do battle in the spiritual realm, because we are fighting against the denizens of Satan. Fully clothed in the armor of God, we still experience the stress and strain of the conflicts in ways that will change us forever. In those battles, we endure just a small measure of the sufferings of Christ. Remember His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane?

We may feel we should be protected from all grief and pain when, in fact, it is an unavoidable consequence of engaging in the spiritual battles that come with following the Lord. If we take the pain and even the losses we experience to the cross, God can use them to make us more compassionate, more courageous and more like Jesus.

The history of God’s people is filled with stories of battles—unfortunately, some of

those stories show what happens when men and women of God fight the not-so-good fight, where nobody really wins. But thankfully, there are lots of stories of fierce battles waged and won for King Y’shua. Whenever we can read the stories of the heroes of the faith, whether from the Bible or in the accounts of people like Judson or Wycliffe or Saint, it helps us to keep our own battles in proper perspective. We find the strength and encouragement to stand when we see how others have stood. I think back to the time ten years ago when we launched our very first Behold Your God campaign in Jews for Jesus. It seemed as though every circumstance conspired against us to turn us back from this major commitment to worldwide Jewish evangelism. Financial crises, long-time staff leaving the mission, personal failures, catastrophic illness; all these things hit our team hard, and all within a relatively short period of time. At first we kind of shook our heads over the “coincidence” of all this turmoil, but soon it was apparent that we were up against a major and deadly battle.

Looking back, I see how, once we realized it, these challenges worked a great deal of good for us in Jews for Jesus. A new sense of purpose and unity grew among our

missionaries, a greater reliance upon the Lord and an intensified focus on the task at hand. Thankfully, by the power of the Spirit, we pressed on to win that battle to the glory of God and to the saving of many souls. In the same way, about three and a half years ago as we began to gear up for our first Behold Your God Israel campaign, we were hit with very similar circumstances. We faced huge health crises, financial struggles and personal turmoil that just can’t be chalked up to coincidence. And we are still in the thick of that battle.

We are not kings, but here at Jews for Jesus we are in a season of going out to war in the service of the King. Right now our brothers and sisters in Israel are fighting a battle we call our Sharon campaign. They are out on the streets of Herzliyah, Petach Tikva and other surrounding cities proclaiming the gospel, handing out gospel literature, holding up gospel banners and making the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue throughout this region in Israel. To keep smiling in the face of opposition, to keep loving when some express hatred, to keep caring when many we want to reach seem indifferent, to face a dozen rejections in order to be there for the person whose heart God has prepared—those are the battles our campaigners are fighting.

We have three more campaigns following on the heels of this one and we are battling on a lot of different levels in Jews for Jesus right now. Please pray for us.

What battles are you fighting? Remember that the circumstances of your life right now are not unrelated to the bigger picture and the spiritual warfare faced by all of us who follow Jesus. Make certain you are fighting the good fight. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Allow the conflict to sharpen your focus and strengthen your resolve.

Avoid misdirected conflict and remember that our Messiah went before us so that we might become more than conquerors through Him who loved us.



# Moishe's Musings

*Thoughts from the Founder of Jews for Jesus, Moishe Rosen*

When it comes to relationships between synagogues and churches, rabbis and pastors, it will help to understand the Jewish position. Rabbis think that it's fine for Christian friends to be evangelical, as long as you're not evangelistic. In other words, it's all right for you to believe that everyone needs Christ in order to have salvation, and it's all right for you to believe that God wants you to tell everyone that Christ is the only way of salvation—as long as you leave the Jewish people out of those equations.

Rabbis are not going to change their thinking on this because it is foundational to their teachings, their position and their commitment to Jewish survival as they see it. Some rabbis, if they could, would shape Christian theology to the point where Christians believe it is wrong to evangelize Jews.

Some Christians ask, if people are gospel-resistant—that is, they don't want to hear the message of the Messiah—then why bother them? Why tell them, or try to speak what they don't want to know?

But this question is seated in a misunderstanding of Christian theology, and of human nature.

Without the working of the Holy Spirit, no one wants to hear the gospel. No one wants to be obedient to

God. No one wants to follow the Lord. Everyone has a natural roadblock to the gospel because the gospel requires what we don't want to give: admission of our failures and the acknowledgment that only God's grace can give us the right to come into His holy presence. So if we are afraid to witness to Jews because they are gospel-resistant, we will be afraid to witness to most other people as well.

But even when people are gospel-resistant, God Himself, once we get a glimpse of Him, is irresistible. If Christians really knew how much Jews (and others) longed for that which only Christ can give, most Christians would be much bolder in proclaiming Him.

One reason why Jewish evangelism is important to the heart and soul of Christianity is that each Christian is confronted with the choice of whether we want to obey God or behave in such a way as to gain acceptance from other people.

The cause always brings conflict. The invitation our Lord Jesus Christ extends to come to Him is also a call away from the world and its values. We can only pray that our Christian friends will have the courage to accept the call of Christ and to be true to the Great Commission to make disciples of all people.

## BITS FROM THE (OTHER) BRANCHES

### MONTREAL

From Karl deSouza: "Recently I was getting quotes for a ministry van at a local dealership. When the dealer asked me what company I worked for, I replied that I work for a religious organization called 'Jews for Jesus.' The dealer exclaimed, 'I'm Jewish!' I had an opportunity to tell him what Jews for Jesus is about. Dan was surprised to learn that there were Jews in Pakistan and that he actually met a Jew for Jesus. He recounted that just the previous week his ex-girlfriend, while visiting New York City, had sent him an e-mail with a picture of our Jews for Jesus building in Manhattan—simply to get a reaction from him—and now a Jew for Jesus was actually sitting in front of him. Dan said he was going to describe our encounter to his dad, who he would be seeing later that day. Please pray God uses this 'coincidence' to draw Dan to Jesus.

"During the Behold Your God Montreal outreach in 2005, Helen gave one of our team members her contact information. I spoke with Helen between 2005 and 2007 and even arranged to meet, but she seemed to have lost interest in spiritual matters. Recently, Helen called our Montreal office with a renewed in-

terest in meeting up and knowing more about faith in Jesus from a Jewish perspective."

### SYDNEY

From Bob Mendelsohn: Every week we update our website with sermons and news and commentary, and usually our upcoming speaker dates, that is, where we are going to be speaking in churches and Bible colleges. A few times over the years individual Jewish people have come along to hear one of us speak, most notably Gary, 4 years ago. Gary is a South African Jew who followed my whereabouts from the website, came to hear me speak, then we kept in touch, studied the Bible together, prayed, and finally after about 18 months he was baptized and joined the church where his wife had been attending. I was reminded of Gary's story when in suburban Sydney another South African Jew, Darren, came to hear me at another church. He brought his Korean girlfriend, who is a committed Christian. Darren is new at investigating Jesus and didn't even know where to start. One more similar story. Gavin and his Korean girlfriend have been coming along to our weekly Bible class every week for nearly two months.

Gavin is a South African Jew. Amazing, eh? Oh, and the first week he attended, he met Gary who encouraged him to keep coming along. God is good, isn't he?

### BROOKLYN

Jeremiah Zaretsky reports: "Last week I had the privilege of observing a visit with a secret Hasidic believer. We picked Henry (not his real name) up on the corner of a certain street and drove a few minutes away.

"We pulled over on the side of the road and parked. There under the dim reading light in the van, I witnessed an amazing sight: a Hasidic Jewish man studying the text of the New Testament and learning about this Y'shua whom he had begun to trust. Yet towards the very end of our visit I could see how the enemy wanted to snatch that gospel seed from Henry's heart and replace it with doubt and confusion.

"I had come into this visit with a perhaps naïve excitement yet I had ended the visit with a sober reminder that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual rulers and powers. Oh, how we must lift up our contacts continually in prayer!"



# Meet the *new* missionaries

## Stewart and Shoshanna Weinisch

Stewart Weinisch was raised in the Bronx, New York, where he attended an Orthodox synagogue. At his bar mitzvah Stewart silently promised God, “I am going to find out who you are.” Seven years later Stewart came to faith in Jesus through the witness of faithful believers. He received his theological training at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago before entering full-time Jewish ministry. For the last 25 years, Stewart has served as

a missionary and congregation planter in the New York City metro area, South Florida and, most recently, South Carolina.

Stewart met Shoshannah Tilleman in 1984 and they were married two years later. The Weinisches have two adult children, Melissa and Jonathan.

Responding to a sense of urgency to proclaim the gospel to Jewish people in New York City again, Stewart and Shoshannah recently returned there to serve

as missionaries with Jews for Jesus. His wife explained, “In May of 2009, Stewart sat me down and said he felt we needed to return to the front lines of direct ministry in New York City. And voila—Josh Sofaer expressed a need, we heard about the need, called Josh and here we are!”

Stewart is glad to be “back home” in New York. He likes baseball, and cold weather and fresh water fishing. His passion is evangelism and discipleship. Shoshanna Weinisch was born into a Jewish family in Detroit, Michigan. After high school she went on an eight-year spiritual quest that led her to San Francisco. There she saw Jews for Jesus posters and began tearing them down, declaring, “These people aren’t Jewish! You can’t be Jewish and believe in Jesus.” But God has a sense of humor—and in 1980 a Jews for Jesus missionary led her to faith.

Shoshanna attended Northeastern Bible College in New Jersey. During that time, she volunteered on a Jews for Jesus summer witnessing campaign in New York City. There she met her future husband, Stewart, who was handing out tracts with Chosen People Ministries at the same place (in front of Bloomingdale’s) and at the same time (a Saturday afterno-



on). Shoshannah has served as worship leader and taught women's Bible studies while raising the couple's two children, Melissa and Jonathan. She loves sharing her faith in Jesus and encouraging younger women in their walk with the Lord.

### Tzachi and Sarah Danor

Tzachi is a native of Akko, Israel and grew up as his mother's only child in a large, extended Moroccan Jewish family. After completing his military service, Tzachi pursued a new life in the United States in Dallas, Texas. He struck up a friendship with a committed Messianic Jewish woman who introduced him to many other believers in Jesus, regular study of the Scriptures and, ultimately, recognition of Y'shua (Jesus) as the promised Jewish Messiah. His mother's illness back in Israel brought Tzachi back as a new believer in Y'shua. As she recovered, Tzachi became involved with various Messianic ministries in Israel. While serving at a new congregation planted by the Tents of Mercy ministry, Tzachi was part of an evangelistic team sharing the Good News on the streets in Akko. During this time he became acquainted with a couple who were serving with Jews for Jesus. They invited him to apply for an internship with Jews for Jesus in Tel Aviv. Since then, he has served on each of our Behold Your God Israel campaigns in 2008 and 2009, as well as the 2008 and 2009 London campaigns, and the 2009 Toronto campaign. Tzachi married his wife Sarah in August 2009, and began missionary training in Tel Aviv in 2010. In describing her husband, Sarah says, "Tzachi loves his food and his life 'charif—spicy!" He is a loyal soccer fan of the Israeli team Maccabi Haifa. He also loves cooking and serving spicy Moroccan food for his friends and loves all people and things related

to Texas, which is where he became a believer in Y'shua.

Sarah Galiley Danor also serves as a missionary trainee in Jews for Jesus' Tel Aviv, Israel branch. As the granddaughter (and great-granddaughter!) of Jewish missionaries, Sarah embraced Y'shua as her Messiah when she was a child.

Sarah first became familiar with Jews for Jesus in the 1970s when her cousin Martha Jacobs (nee Brickner) was serving with Jews for Jesus's traveling drama team, The New Jerusalem Players. Later, when Sarah and her sister were poring over their parents' wedding album and guest book from the 1950s, they discovered Moishe Rosen's name among the wedding guests!

During a career in education, Sarah devoted her summer vacations to various ministry projects, including serving as a prayer intercessor for two Jews for Jesus campaigns. In 2007, she resigned her teaching position in response to a strong spiritual impression that God had something new for her. While serving in a temporary administrative capacity at Jews for Jesus's New York City branch, she joined a team doing an outreach in Tel Aviv, where she met Tzachi. Prior to joining us full-time as a missionary trainee, Sarah was a campaigner on three Behold Your God Israel campaigns, as well as on London and New York City Summer Witnessing Campaigns. With her background as a teacher working with children with autism, learning disabilities as well as middle school Language Arts students, she has an array of problem solving, artistic and literary skills. Sarah enjoys the beauty of God's creation, and in the past has enjoyed creating and maintaining a flower, herb and vegetable garden. Now in Israel, she has found a whole new world of species to enjoy.



Shoshana and Stewart

Tsachi and Sarah



## ADDRESS INFORMATION

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# Messianic Resources



*As opportunities arise to share the Gospel with your friends and neighbours, these resources may be very useful. It's always good to have a supply of items which you can pass on to enquirers and which will also build you up in your growth in Messiah.*

## Featured resources for your learning, celebrating, and growth

### **Fall Feasts of Israel,** by Mitch Glaser, international director of Chosen People Ministries.

Teaching on the biblical feasts of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles. In Bible days, and today, even future foreseen.

A great overview of this difficult topic. **\$27.**



### **Last Jew of Rotterdam,** by Ernest Casutto

This riveting true story interweaves the journeys of Ernest and Elisabeth Casutto from the horror of the Holocaust to salvation in Jesus the Messiah.

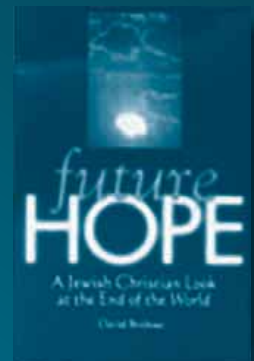
Also a love story! **\$18.**

### **Messianic Joy CD**

From "Blessed Be the Lord" to "Morning Star," experience the exhilaration of praising Y'shua messianic style! The Liberated Wailing Wall. The raw sounds of the original group from the 1970s. Your toes will tap; your heart will ache for the Jewish people. **\$29**



*(All costs include shipping in Australia; for other countries, please add \$4 per item, thanks. If you live near Sydney and want to drop by the shop, no shipping charges.)*



### **Future Hope,** by David Brickner

People wonder about the future. For many, the outlook is gloomy. But according to David Brickner, executive director of Jews for Jesus, Christians offer an alternate message. Future Hope looks at biblical prophecies and offers insight into God's prophetic timeline. The book's easy-to-read format, helpful charts, appendices and evangelistic slant, make it appropriate for the scholarly, the new believer and even the not-yet believer.

Also a love story! **\$18.**

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