

JEW[☆]S FOR JESUS

Where Is the Power?

by David Brickner

Every July the press in New York City reports, “The Jews for Jesus are back in town.” Eleven years ago I was offended by the report. I had just been elected executive director of Jews for Jesus, but had not yet left my post as leader of our flagship branch in New York City. We had the most missionaries on station and were working hard year round to make Jesus known. Either the press did not realize that we had been there all along or they did not think our usual presence was significant.

As the campaign began, people on the streets commented, “Oh, you’re back.” Some even said, “Hey, it’s nice to see you guys on the streets again.”

“We’ve been here all along,” I would insist. “We have a big office over on 31st between Park and Lexington,” I’d say, pointing in the general direction of our office.

Since then I have come to appreciate this annual phenomenon. It shows that something special happens during these month-long all-out efforts to proclaim the gospel. That “something” is the power of God.

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Romans 1:16). As James MacDonald at Harvest Bible Chapel said, “The power is in the proclamation.” God’s power is released whenever the gospel is proclaimed. The media—and people in general—pay attention to power on display. *That* is why people sit up and take notice of our campaigns.

Have you ever thought about what it takes to help someone to come to faith? We don’t become effective witnesses by winning intellectual arguments. Building a better case than one’s opponent does not guarantee that he or she will be persuaded, and even if they are they may never do anything about it. There is little power in that kind of intellectual exercise. The power comes in the proclamation of the gospel.

Years ago, when I was preparing to be on the “Larry King Live” show, Moishe Rosen gave me some excellent advice. He said, “David, you can go on Larry King and talk about David Brickner, you can go on Larry King and talk about Jews for Jesus, or you can go on Larry King and talk about Jesus. You need to make up your mind beforehand what

you intend to do.” Moishe knew that some of the other guests Larry King had invited would oppose me, and that it would be tempting to defend myself or try to prove my own credibility. It would also be tempting to promote Jews for Jesus, which, after all, I believe is a worthy ministry. The point was that such an opportunity should not be squandered. I prayed that I would be able to take every opportunity to proclaim the gospel. The Lord answered prayer, blessed the interview with His power and made it an occasion for His glory. See an excerpt at the you tube website. Every witnessing encounter, whether private or public, presents us with similar choices.



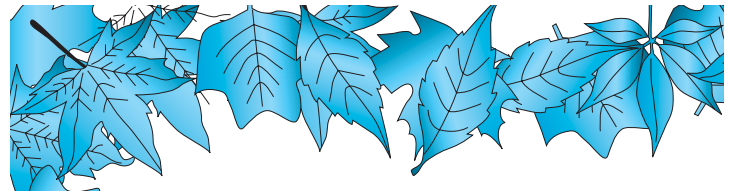
Recently I had the privilege of teaching personal evangelism to a group of college students. Campuses are open marketplaces for ideas where debate is a common form of communication. Whether the topic is creation vs. evolution, gay rights or national politics, these college students face constant challenges that can be opportunities for a witness. The students seemed relieved when I told them they didn’t need to be expert debaters in order to witness effectively. They simply need to understand the gospel well enough to explain it to others, allowing the Holy Spirit to apply their words to people’s hearts.



We looked at 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 where Paul says, “I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” This is the gospel that we need to proclaim as well. It is simple and powerful. Whether we are sharing our story or discussing the proofs for God’s existence, the truth that Messiah died for our sins and rose again on the third day is the message we must make known. Who-ever believes this in their heart and confesses it with their mouth is saved. That is the power of God unto salvation.

One student asked, “In light of post-modernity and its rejection of the reality of sin and even of God’s existence, don’t we need to explain those concepts before sharing the facts of the gospel?” It is a good question but the answer is “no.” Even if post-modern thought rejects these realities, the human heart is innately conscious of them. People are not atheists by nature and they do have an inner moral compass. That compass, distorted as it is by sin and unbelief, can still resonate with the truth of the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is He who opens eyes and softens hearts. It is He who provides the

faith necessary for a person to believe and confess Christ, however long or short the process. That doesn't mean that we should not listen carefully to people's objections and answer sincere seekers wisely. But it is God who persuades people's hearts of a message that is profound and yet simple enough for a child to understand.



Many times I catch myself in the midst of an argument with a skeptic and stop to ask, "Before we go on, may I explain to you what I believe? It will only take a minute." Most people are willing to allow me to explain the gospel briefly at that point. It is amazing to me how that changes the entire tenor of the conversation. That is the power of God.

Ruth Rosen told me that one of the best witnessing opportunities she ever had began when a friend remarked how annoying she found a high profile Christian who insists that anyone who doesn't believe in Jesus is going to hell. Ruth asked, "Do you understand why he believes that?" Her friend admitted that she did not. "Would you like to?" was the next question. Her friend, a bit surprised, thought for a moment, then said that she would. It opened the door to explain the gospel message.

These are the kinds of opportunities campaigners have in cities around the world, in New York City and Kharkov, in Paris and every now and again in Sydney and Melbourne.

Most of our campaigners are not experienced evangelists. Many are volunteers who have never done anything like this before. Part of their training is learning to use what we call the "Proposal Statement," a simple and straightforward explanation of the gospel message. Campaigners memorize and practice it via role-playing exercises before the campaign. This enables them to approach people with an opportunity to engage in a spiritual conversation. Half the difficulty of street witnessing is knowing where to start, and the Proposal Statement solves that problem. It is a good tool for telling people the gospel message with confidence. That gospel message is where the power is, whether you tell it spontaneously or use a prepared statement. So if you feel ill-equipped to talk to someone about Jesus, remember where the power is. Give them the gospel and watch what the Lord can do. It's clearly God's desire to have a relationship with that person and every person.

It is The Holy Spirit who opens eyes and softens hearts. It is He who provides the faith necessary for a person to believe and confess Christ, however long or short the process.

THE PROPOSAL STATEMENT OF JEWS FOR JESUS

Can I ask you something? *(wait for response)*

Who do you think Jesus is? *(wait for response)*

That's true, Jesus was a (good man, prophet, etc.), but He was much more than that. The Bible says that He is the Son of God. He came to die for your sins and mine. Incredibly, He rose from the dead according to the Scriptures. Do you believe that?

(wait for response)

(If "yes" continue with:)

God is proposing to you. He wants to be your Saviour and for you to be His person, but you must say "yes." Are you willing to say "yes" to Jesus? *(wait for response)*

(If "yes" continue with:)

Have you ever asked Him to be your Saviour? Is there any good reason why you shouldn't right now?

(If they indicate there is no reason they should not pray, continue with: "Let's pray")

God, I know I have sinned against you and I want to turn from my sins. I believe you provided Jesus as payment for my sin. With this prayer I receive Jesus as my Saviour and my Lord. Thank you, God, for cleansing me of sin and for sealing my name in your Book of Life forever. Amen.

(If they answer "no" at any point in the process, ask:)

If I were to send you some information on Jesus, would you read it and consider whether it might be true? *(wait for response)*

(If answer is "yes," then get their details for further follow up)

Hope that helps you. **How good is that?**

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



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AustralAsian Ministry

As we share with you some of the ongoing activities of our work in this region maybe you will rejoice, and pray, and keep sending us Jewish names and contacts. Let's keep working together to make Y'shua known!

Mark and Rahel Landrum traveled to New Zealand in October to preach in several churches and to meet up with Jewish enquirers. They report, "Alan is the pastor of one of the churches where Rahel spoke. He mentioned to her that his brother-in-law is an Israeli he's been witnessing to for years. Rahel asked if Levi, the brother-in-law might be interested in meeting. Surprisingly, although he was not open to Jesus, Levi was still willing to meet and hear Rahel's story. After their visit, Levi said he's still an agnostic, however, he spoke highly of Alan whose life he has seen changed dramatically as a result of his faith in God... who might not exist. Please pray for Levi.

Barry is a Jewish man whose wife recently passed away. She was a strong believer in Jesus and the reason why Barry attends a local church despite not being a believer himself. Mark spoke at the church and found Barry impressed with the love and support of the Christians at his church. Please pray for Barry to consider the source of their love and experience the Lord's love personally.

At another church one of the elders said he invited a Jewish man to come. As soon as this visitor spoke, Rahel noticed his strong Israeli accent and started speaking to Moshe in Hebrew. He claimed he was just curious but not "religious", so we talked a bit about the difference

between "religion" and a relationship with the Creator and Rahel shared her story with him.. After the service was over, Moshe indicated he was eager for us to stay in touch with him. Please pray for his coming to Christ.

Bob Mendelsohn went to Budapest in August. As a result, Bob was appointed the LCJE AustralAsian representative and will convene a conference in Australia in the next couple years of those in the work among the Jews in Japan, Hong Kong, NZ, Singapore and throughout Australia. The meetings were filled with great fellowship and encouragement for each person in the work.

Bob also got a chance to witness to a few Hungarian Jews there even after he attended synagogue at the largest synagogue in the world, which is in Budapest.

Many Jewish people come into our shop each week, and we are privileged to speak to them about our Messiah. Especially we remember the many Israeli tourists who come in and receive literature, and some like Lindsey and Mrs S and Roni, Keshet, Ann and David who are everything from gobsmacked to curious and keen. Please pray for the continued **book shop ministry in Bondi Junction** and for staffing and volunteers to help us each week.

Our little staff conducted both **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur** services and many unsaved Jewish people as well as believers came along. It was a spirited time, and we are grateful for the teaching, the community, the fellowship that God provided and provides.



Gifts for Hanukkah and Christmas

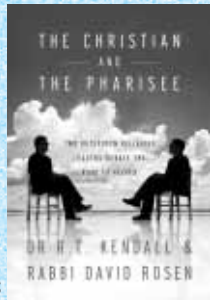
Menorah



This menorah is the standard and most popular. The classically styled branches of this elegant Hanukkah menorah arc upward as arms extended in supplication to the Lord. A Star of David holds the center candle aloft. 3-1/2" diameter round base; 11" high. \$55

Christian and the Pharisee

Both Jewish and Gentile believers will learn more about Judaism and its arguments against the gospel from reading this book. Most believers will come away wishing we had more opportunities to engage Jewish family and friends with the gospel message like Kendall did here. \$16.



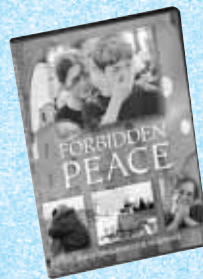
Star of David with Cross

This Star of David pendant features a star and cross design made from 100% lead-free pewter and plated in 22Kt gold. 1"H x 7/8"W. 24 inch curb chain. \$39



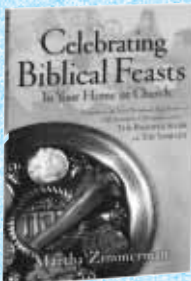
Forbidden Peace DVD

This movie offers a powerful, poignant and positive perspective you are unlikely to find anywhere else...straight from the hearts of Israelis and Palestinians who have put their trust in Jesus and found true shalom. Watch as they share how, despite fierce opposition, they choose to follow Jesus and how He brought about reconciliation in every sense of the word. \$22



Celebrating Biblical Feasts

Martha Zimmerman makes other Gentile Christians feel at home in Jewish holiday practices with this overview manual. Of course, nothing is binding, just recommended. You will see Jesus that much more clearly. \$18.



The Last Jew of Rotterdam

This riveting true story interweaves the journeys of Ernest and Elisabeth Casuto from the horror of the Holocaust to salvation in Jesus the Messiah. Also a love story! \$14



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