



Broadsiding

In Conversation

Opening the Word

...and in our spare time, we write books

Jews for Jesus' first priority will always be direct Jewish evangelism, but every so often we come across stories that just have to be shared and truths that need to be told. You are invited to read some of our favourite bestsellers. Remember, all proceeds from these sales go to fund our first love—sharing the gospel with our Jewish people.



1. The Last Jew of Rotterdam by Ernest Cassutto
Despite the horror of the Holocaust, Ernest and Elly found hope in Jesus . . . and each other. You won't be able to put this book down! **\$14**

2. Between Two Fathers by Charles Barg, M.D.
A poignant and powerful story of a young Jewish man's struggle to choose between his father on earth and his Father in heaven. **\$14**

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Moïshe has poured his 30+ years of evangelism experience into this volume. **\$12**

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A unique perspective on end-times prophecy and its relevance for today from our executive director. **\$14**

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CHRISTIAN WHO WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT JEWS AND EVANGELISM: JEW S F ☆ R JESUS

VOLUME 5:7

ESTABLISHED 32 A.D., GIVE OR TAKE A YEAR

NOVEMBER 2003

The What and the Why *by David Brickner, Executive Director*

In a recent newspaper editorial in the *Toronto Sun*, columnist Marianne Ward commented on the Jews for Jesus Behold Your God campaign and concluded: "At the risk of suggesting that Behold Your God is redundant, I suspect that most Jews in Toronto are well aware of the other faith options available to them, including Christianity. If they reject it, it's because they don't want to be Christians no matter how Messianic Jews dress up the faith."

Ms. Ward's editorial makes reference to her own evangelical upbringing, yet she does not seem to understand the fundamental reality of the gospel. Like many others, she refers to the Christian gospel as though it would be one of several truth claims vying for a hearing in the open marketplace of ideas. Spiritual investigation, therefore, becomes a kind of religious comparison-shopping expedition. Potential buyers examine various religious wares on display, perhaps try a few on for size, then pick the one that suits them best.

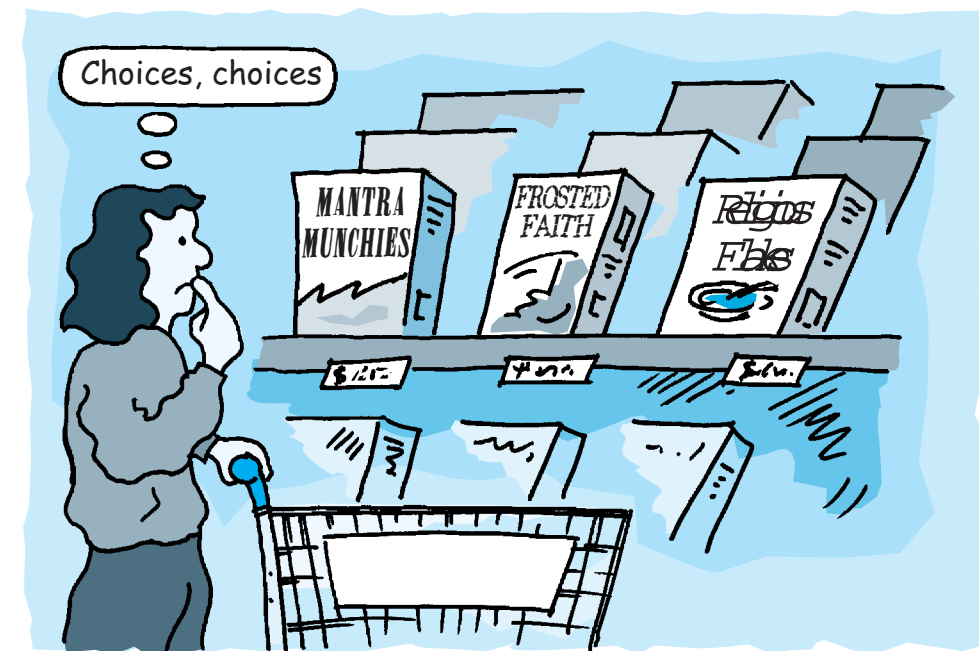
But the gospel is not an option to be considered alongside other truth claims. It is "the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16). The church of Jesus Christ is not a fraternity seeking members. It is the community of the redeemed, the body of believers against whom the gates of hell will not prevail.

I am perplexed by Christians who treat the gospel as though it is the best of a host of options for people to consider. Some spend their time trying to convince people that our

option is best when in fact there is no other option. Our witness is weakened because we look to argue rather than declare, to persuade with clever arguments instead of simply explaining what God has said.

Recently, I was handing out gospel tracts in downtown San Francisco. A man in his mid-forties approached

may I just explain to you what it is that I actually believe?" He agreed and I told him in as direct a way as I knew how the gospel message. By the time I finished, this man had tears in his eyes. He then told me about his life, the disappointments he had endured and the struggles he was facing. I offered to pray for him and he gladly accepted the



Spiritual investigation is not a comparison-shopping expedition.

me and began to rail against Christians. He was quick to let me know that he had a degree in philosophy and had found the Christian worldview simplistic and untenable. I could sense my pride beginning to rise up within me and I was tempted to argue, to prove I could hold my own in a debate with this man. But I guess the Lord cared more for this man than I did because He pulled me up short. I suddenly said, "Before we go any further,

offer. Right there on that busy corner I laid my hand on his shoulder and prayed to the same God who, just minutes earlier, this man claimed did not exist.

What happened? What changed? It wasn't clever arguments or eloquent words that transformed the interaction. It was the simple gospel message. That is the power of God.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Sometimes we get too sophisticated for our own good. We make things more complicated than they need to be. It is easy to become enamored with our apologetics and our fancy methodologies and forget the power of God. People need to know what the gospel is, not necessarily all the reasons why they should believe it. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. It is the simple good news of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection that is the power of God that changes the hearts of those who believe.

Mission experts often point to Paul's evangelism on Mars Hill in Athens as a wonderful example of how to use apologetics to persuade skeptics. In fact, Mars Hill was not Paul's most successful outreach. Only a few believed (Acts 17:34). Maybe that is why, when Paul went on to Corinth he stated clearly that he "... did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:1-2). This is the power of the simple gospel message. Paul had a fruitful ministry in Corinth and he stayed there for much longer than he had been in Athens.

Time and time again as we conduct our campaigns in cities around the world, we discover people who have

not heard a clear and simple presentation of the gospel before. Many of these cities are well populated with churches and Christians who believe the gospel to be true. During our Cleveland campaign, many believers, including several pastors, thanked our campaigners for being out on the streets with the gospel. It was encouraging to hear Christians tell us they want to do a better job of getting out the gospel.

The effectiveness of the Holy Spirit releases the power of the gospel into people's hearts.

In contrast, a group of pastors in Paris, France met to decide how to respond to the increasing government restrictions on literature distribution in their city.

They concluded that street evangelism just wasn't the best way to get the gospel out anymore. Yet, they proposed no alternative.

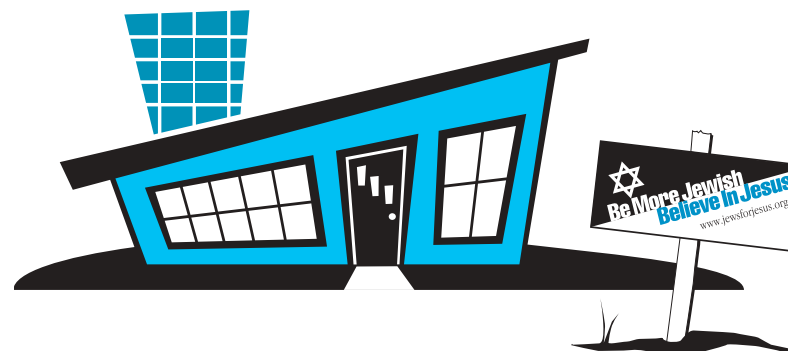
The gospel should be preached with love and with excellence, whether we are handing a person a tract, engaging a stranger on the street in spiritual conversation or meeting to study the Bible with someone who has expressed a desire to know more. We ought to do our best as we communicate the gospel. Nevertheless, the focus is not our own excellence when we preach the gospel, but the excellence

of Jesus. Nor is it our effectiveness, but the effectiveness of the Spirit that releases the power of the gospel into people's hearts.

It is easy to criticize simple efforts to proclaim the gospel, but most people who truly understand the necessity of the gospel for salvation are happy to see it proclaimed in many different ways. If anyone wants to explain a better (and affordable) way to let more people know the gospel message, I would love to hear it.

I get enthusiastic about witnessing campaigns because of the amount of gospel proclamation that occurs and the numbers of people who actually hear the message for the first time. You can argue methodology and strategy, but you can't argue with the power. The power is in the "what" of the gospel. The "why" comes later. If only we could grasp this simple truth, we would be less likely to discourage one another from simple and bold gospel outreach. Let us, like Paul, be determined not to know anything except Jesus Christ the crucified.

We need you to ring our office straightaway. Tell us where you want your Yard Sign delivered. These are available to the first 350 people (or churches). This is your way to make a statement along with us during Sydney BYG. Volunteers will take the sign to you, and put it in your yard. The sign is blue and white and declares, "Be more Jewish...believe in Jesus!" It's the same size as politicians use. Ring now, please!



By Moishe Rosen, Founder

I have been troubled by the fact that some well-established Jewish believers in Jesus have turned away from Him. Perhaps they never really experienced God and their "conversions" were conformity to others with whom they wanted to belong. Christian joy, peace and enthusiasm can be very attractive. They can even be seductive if people value the result of God's presence more than God Himself. The sense of belonging to something high and noble is powerful. The everyday reality of God does not always stimulate all those feelings. But it takes more than feelings to "keep the faith."

I think that many can identify with the fact that sometimes we are disappointed in our Christian walk. At times, God doesn't seem to answer prayers. At times, the demands of a life of faith seem restrictive, and we do not always feel empowered to live according to the restrictions. I must admit that there have been times when I have had my doubts. I wondered if possibly my own experience with God might be just an illusion. And I confess this as a fault.

One reason why God gives us holidays is to help us navigate through our own forgetfulness. Certain events remind us that He is real during the ordinary or even disappointing moments of our lives. Apparently, God does not want the kind of relationship where He must prove Himself to us every minute of every day. It seems He wants us to remember what He has done for us in the past and trust Him for our present and future. While holidays help us to memorialize the reality of what He has done corporately, we

should also memorialize and remind ourselves of the things He has done for us individually.

At the end of August, 1954, I found myself answering the call of God and going from Denver, Colorado to Essex Fells, New Jersey to attend Northeastern Bible College. It was an exciting adventure to go cross country with our three-year-old daughter, Lyn. The farthest I had ever been from Denver was Kansas City (where I was born...and where Bob Mendelsohn was born as well), and I had never driven more than a hundred miles from my home. We loaded up our 1949 Hudson with our worldly goods, strapped some furniture on top and set out on a 3200 kilometre trek. I was having the adventure of my life.

Now I have always been a somewhat cautious person. I checked the level of the oil, water, tyres, etc. I had been informed that our Hudson was in excellent working order. We got to Columbus, Ohio and checked into one of those old-fashioned motels, the kind where you stayed in a one-room cottage with a carport on either side.

Who knew from air-conditioning in those days? The fact that the temperature hovered near 40 degrees Celsius each day did not seem to bother us so much, but that night I had difficulty sleeping. It was like my own voice was speaking to me, and saying, "Tyres, look at the tyres." Well, I got dressed, took my flashlight and checked all around the tyres. I did not find anything wrong, so I went back to bed. Just about the time I fell asleep, I heard what seemed to be my own voice telling me again, "Tyres, tyres, tyres, tyres." I did not want to get up, but a

restlessness compelled me to get dressed and go out again.

This time, instead of looking at the outside of the tyres, I got under the car with the flashlight and shined it on the inside of the tyres. I almost did not see it at first, but then I did—a big bulge on the side-wall of my front right tyre. The next day the tyre salesman marveled that I had been able to drive from the motel to his shop.

Without that warning I would have entered the Pennsylvania Turnpike, which had no speed limit at that time. In the summer heat, that front right tyre would have blown for certain. "Thank you, Jesus," I said. I realized that it was not my voice, but God's voice that had warned me.

Tragedy averted—that is what I can say about many of the "God incidences" in my life. I can't say that things like that happen on a regular basis and I have always been reluctant to use the words, "God told me," or, "God showed me." But He certainly showed Himself mighty to save that evening.

Each time I remember what God has done it helps me know He is caring for me still. I hope this year you can look back and be thankful for the "God-incidences" in your life. It is remembering who He is, not who we are or how we feel, that enables us to "keep the faith."

Moishe Rosen is the Founder of Jews for Jesus international. He and his wife Ceil live in San Francisco. Due to ill health he was not able to travel to Australia last March for Jews for Jesus Day. We wish him our best.

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

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...LETTERS

AND

SUCH...

I love your ministry and can't wait to get each newsletter to hear about all the Lord Jesus is doing through your efforts. I especially appreciate the words of David Brickner and knowing what is happening in the work in Sydney. Keep up the good work.

I shared your letter about the exciting Jewish Gospel campaign with my Bible Study friends. I asked if they would like to share with me in helping in some small way towards the expenses and success of this wonderful venture. We understood this will not only proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to your people, but also to fellow Australians alike. Here is the result of that request. I was delighted with the result and praise God for their generous giving. Thank you for the opportunity to join with you in the spreading of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. I assure you of our prayers. May many come to know the Lord. -Eileen O, Castle Hill, Sydney



Dear Mr Mendelsohn,
You have no idea what your newsletter does to me each time I read it. The Bible is truth and I'm reminded of this each time your letter arrives. I know that God's promises to Israel are true, and His promises to me must be true as well.
Thank you God!
-Y.E., Singapore

SYDNEY BYG

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1-22 December. Please pray each day...

- ✧ for the volunteers and the international staff who are joining us. For strength and courage.
- ✧ for the 350 yard signs to bear good testimony.
- ✧ for the followup and David Lewinsohn who is coordinating this. We expect hundreds of responses.
- ✧ for the outreaches at Kings Cross and Newtown each night doing Psalm Reading.
- ✧ for the rest of the moneys to come in for advertising in the newspapers and the billboards
- ✧ for all the enquirers to keep asking about God
- ✧ for many to join us at Beth Messiah and find community expression wherever they live

If you want daily email updates with specific prayer requests, email us on jewsforjesus@ozemail.com.au and we will comply. Thanks!

WORDS OF THANKS IN THE BIBLE

MEANINGS

NUMBER OF TIMES USED IN THE BIBLE

EXAMPLE

| WORD | MEANINGS | NUMBER OF TIMES USED IN THE BIBLE | EXAMPLE |
|--|--|---|---|
| Yadah יָדָה (Hebrew) Verb | to throw; to give thanks, laud or praise; to confess something about God; to confess one's own sin | used 114 times in Scripture in the following ways: praise (53x), give thanks (32x), confess (16x), thank (5x), make confession (2x), thanksgiving (2x), cast (1x), cast out (1x), shoot (1x), thankful (1x) | Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make Known His deeds among the peoples! (1 Chronicles 16:8) |
| Todah תּוֹדָה (Hebrew) Noun | confession, praise, thanksgiving; giving of praise to God; thanksgiving in songs of worship; thanksgiving choir or procession; thank-offering, sacrifice of thanksgiving; confession | used 32 times in Scripture in the following ways: thanksgiving (18x), praise (6x), thanks (3x), thank offerings (3x), confession (2x) | Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings , and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings. (2 Chronicles 29:31) |
| Huy'dot הוֹדוּ (Hebrew) Noun | songs of praise | used one time in Scripture | Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, which was over the thanksgiving , he and his brethren. (Nehemiah 12:8) |
| Y'da' יָדָה (Aramaic) Verb | to praise, give thanks | used 2 times in Scripture | I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand. (Daniel 2:23) |
| Eucharisteo ευχαριστέω (Greek) Verb | to be grateful, feel thankful; give thanks | used 39 times in Scripture in the following ways: give thanks (26x), thank (12x), be thankful (1x) | He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks ; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks . (Romans 14:6) |
| Eucharistia ευχαριστία (Greek) Noun form of the word above | thankfulness; the giving of thanks | used 15 times in Scripture in the following ways: thanksgiving (9x), giving of thanks (3x), thanks (2x), thankfulness (1x) | For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4:15) |
| Eucharistos ευχαριστος (Greek) Adjective form of the word above | mindful of favors, grateful, thankful | used one time in Scripture | And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful . (Colossians 3:15) |
| Anthomologcomai ἀνθολογοῦμαι (Greek) Verb | to answer by professing or confessing; to agree; to acknowledge; to give thanks | used one time in Scripture | And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. (Luke 2:38) |
| Charis χάρις (Greek) Noun | Grace; that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness; grace of speech; good will, loving-kindness, favor; the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace; benefit or sign of grace; gift of grace; thanks (for benefits, services, favors); recompense, reward | used 156 times in Scripture in the following ways: grace (130x), favor (6x), thanks (4x), thank (7x), pleasure (2x), misc (7x) | But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57) |
| Homologeo ὁμολογέω (Greek) Verb | to agree with; to concede; to promise; not deny; confess; declare; profess; speak out freely; to profess one's self a worshipper; to praise, celebrate | used in Scripture 24 times in the following ways: confess (18x), profess (3x), promise (1x), give thanks (1x), acknowledge (1x) | Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Hebrews 13:15) |

GET YOUR JEWS FOR JESUS REAL TIME!

What is Jews for Jesus Real Time (JFJRT)? Just a way for us to keep our friends posted on what's going on NOW. JFJRT arrives via e-mail from the US and gives you:

- * informal, timely thoughts from David Brickner, Executive Director
- * updates on current Jews for Jesus events and outreaches
- * information or links to information about the Jewish community
- * timely prayer requests and praises for answered prayer
- * links to JFJRT "photorama," where you can see pics for each edition
- * links for partnering with Jews for Jesus

Remember, JFJRT is a complement to our regular newsletter. We do all kinds of things there that we can't do here and vice versa.

If you have not been receiving our Jews for Jesus Real Time e-publication and would like to, please send us an e-mail on jjf@jewsforjesus.org (This is the US version)

Singapore and New Zealand

Bob has been busy traveling throughout the region, beyond Australia to Singapore and North Island New Zealand, sharing the message of Jesus. He met with several interested Jewish enquirers on each trip, some from Israel and some who have lived there for generations. He also was able to preach in many significant churches and other meetings. Our plans continue to launch JFJ Singapore and for continued ministry trips to each island. Please pray specifically for these Jews who are considering Jesus now: Mimi, Ruth, Gloria, David and Ilana. Pray for the believers whom we continue to encourage to be bold in their witness among all people and to be forthright in sharing Messiah with others. And thank God for continued opportunities to spread this most effective ministry.

This Aussie story starts in South Africa, where Maisie Pillimer, a beloved Jewish believer in Jesus, was a missionary before we opened our Johannesburg branch. Three decades ago, Maisie gave a Bible to her nephew, whom we'll call Andrew. About 20 years ago Andrew and his wife, we'll call Diane, moved to Australia, and now live near Brisbane. When their adult son, Mike, experienced some disappointments with the Jewish community, he began looking elsewhere for spiritual answers and found our Aussie web site, asking meaningful questions.

Branch leader Bob Mendelsohn immediately called Mike and began a series of phone calls and correspondence with him and his family. It seemed as though Mike's mother was most interested in the gospel. When Bob preached at a church on the Gold Coast, the family attended. At the end of his message, Bob invited people to pray a prayer of repentance and faith in Jesus, and asked anyone who prayed to approach him to say, "Now what?" or "I prayed that prayer."

Large crowds had come that night, many of whom greeted Bob after the service—but he was straining to see Diane, Andrew and Mike. A 16 year-old girl approached Bob and said, "I prayed that prayer." It seems Alison's teacher had told her class to attend a place of religion that was different than their own. Praise God, eh?

Finally, Andrew and Diane approached. Diane asked Bob, "Now what?" What a joy! In the moments that followed, Andrew shared how he also wanted to follow the Messiah.

Bob read the Bible and prayed with the couple on the phone for a couple months. He met and witnessed to their adult children and their wives in some lively conversations that Bob says, "will no doubt continue until Mike and his brother and their wives all say yes to Y'shua (Jesus). What a day of rejoicing that will be!" Please keep the whole family in your prayers. Thank you.

