

# JEWES FOR JESUS™

AustralAsian Newsletter / April 2016

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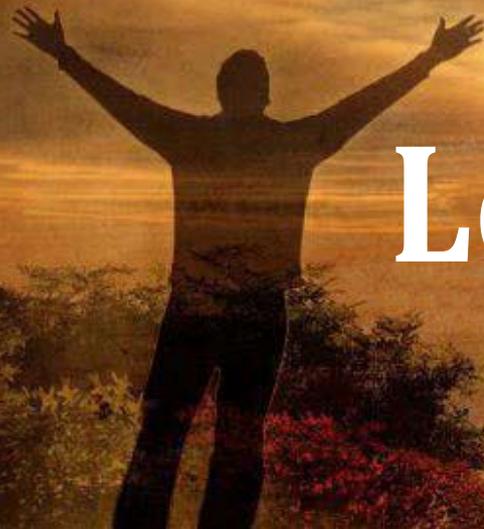
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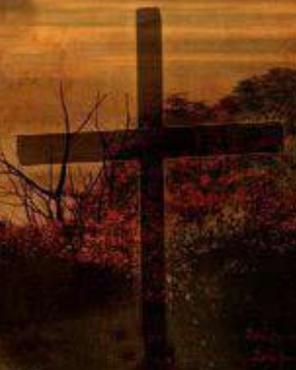
*For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism*



**David Brickner**  
Executive Director,  
San Francisco USA



## Loving the Gospel



I recently asked our Jews for Jesus leadership team to be intentional in finding ways to encourage one another, recognizing that we live in an age of cynicism. We agreed that we want to consciously guard against that culture seeping into our own hearts and communities, and to help one another remember that it “should not be so among us.”

We are to be filled with optimism, to pull together with patience and faith, because we believe and trust that God is in the midst of us. He will bring about the very best, not for our sakes, but for His glory.

A good remedy for cynicism and most other negative attitudes that can easily creep into our hearts is humility. And there is nothing more humbling than the gospel—the news that there was nothing we could do to merit God’s love and forgiveness but that in His grace, He made a way through Yeshua. Some people find grace a bitter pill to swallow because it threatens to burst their bubble of

self-sufficiency, but to really know the grace of the gospel is to love it.

Loving the gospel is not just a matter of devoting ourselves to bringing it to others, but to appreciate very personally each day what God has done for us. It’s from our own growing love for God and His gospel that we have something to offer others.

We all want the same thing: to see Jewish people saved. God has made it so clear in His Word that we have this in common with Him—and that this is the very heart of God’s intention for our people Israel. So, we believe together that He’s going to continue using Jews for Jesus as part of His plan. But how?

In 1 Chronicles 12:32 it says, “The sons of Issachar had an understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do.” That’s the kind of understanding we need to seek continually if we want to continue being used by God. Making the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue is not the beginning

and the end of the mission of Jews for Jesus.

We know that we can’t fulfill our calling by merely stating the gospel facts publicly and loudly. There’s more to fulfilling our mission than maintaining a high profile with our Jews for Jesus T-shirts and handing out tracts on prominent thoroughfares and uni campuses. We continue to do those things, but we are also asking the question:

What does the Lord want Jews for Jesus to do in order to effectively proclaim the gospel in our time, in our culture? There is no one answer as far as methods and activities, but there are ways to respond to recognizable culture trends. For example,

- The high percentage of Jewish people who marry Gentiles has opened a door for ministering to those couples.
- A large number of Jewish people now live in Berlin, Germany, so we’ll soon be opening a new branch there.
- The Internet continues to be a



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growing “place” to meet Jewish seekers.

- Many Jewish people want to connect with others to affirm Jewish identity, but not within religious institutions—so home celebrations of Shabbat, Passover, etc., are becoming more and more part of our outreach.

Sharing the gospel goes beyond handing out a tract or meeting with someone for Bible study. The Great Commission involves making disciples—and making disciples includes explaining the gospel, watering and nurturing the gospel seed, and helping people along the path so they can receive salvation through Jesus. God often uses many people in the process.

Making disciples also means teaching baby believers about their new life, new privileges and new priorities, including baptism and much more. We’re to show them what it means to be part of the community of the redeemed.

Our missionaries are committed to engaging Jewish people with the love of God because we want them to be saved; we want them to have eternal life. That means more than escaping damnation. We’re not God’s insurance salesmen selling policies to get people out of hell.

Yeshua said, “I am come that they may have life and that they

may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). We want people to begin that abundant life here and now! We want them to be saved from worshiping lesser gods that can never satisfy the true longing of every human heart. We want them to be saved from the lies and dehumanization that tear people apart when they are cut off from the Creator that knows and loves them. Knowing God and daily experiencing His love and forgiveness is the greatest source of human flourishing there is. We believe that. We’re committed to human flourishing and so we are committed to proclaiming the gospel.

We need the Holy Spirit’s power and wisdom to define what it means to love the Lord, love people and love the spread of the gospel—in our own context, as the people God has uniquely called us to be in Jews for Jesus. We want our love for the gospel to lead and direct us to do and say things that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, will lead others to a true and lasting love of God and other people—and so we come full circle.

How far are we willing to go as emissaries of Yeshua, in order that more Jews might believe and be saved and flourish in this life and the next as part of His body? By God’s grace, we’re willing to go where He leads and make ourselves vulnerable. We’re willing to count the cost

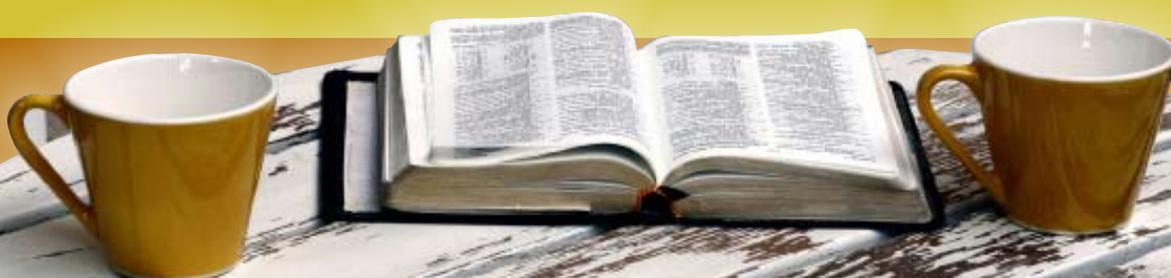
and to accept the disapprobation of our own people that they might hear and believe. It is the love of Messiah that compels us.

Brothers and sisters, this is where we most resonate with the apostle Paul when he said, “My heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved” (Romans 10:1). This is where we should be able to say, “I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:2–3).

Can any of us say that now? Can any of us even imagine that we will someday be able to say what Paul said? I don’t know. But I believe that loving God’s gospel must move us towards such a level of commitment. We need our brothers and sisters in Jesus who love God and love people to love the gospel going to Jewish people as well.

What about you? Will you pray for us and cultivate this kind of commitment to loving God’s gospel with us? I believe you will as you prayerfully join us in this gospel-loving endeavor.

**David Brickner is also an author, public speaker and avid hiker. Find out more about David at [jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner](http://jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner).**





by Bob Mendelsohn  
Regional Director  
JFJ Australia

# Is there really any *hope*?



Mention the words Brussels, Port Arthur, Sandy Hook, Paris' Bataclan Theatre, and 9-11 and immediately images of terror and pain, mass murder and head-shaking fill your mind. The world is bad and getting worse. When the G-20 gathers, when Parliament conducts talks and seek answers, most thinking people wish them well, but doubt any real substantive changes will occur. Where is there hope?

Anne Frank. If anyone knew daily fear and chronicled it well enough to become the journalist of the new world, it was this mature teenager. She wrote in her diary, "Where there's hope, there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again." Hope gives life, to be sure, and real hope is even deeper. But in light of recent and continuing terror, I ponder the question, "Is there such a thing as false hope?"

William Ruddick wrote in *Bioethics*, Vol. 13, #3-4, 1999, in his abstract of his piece *Hope and Deception*: "Convinced of hope's therapeutic benefits, physicians routinely support patients' false hopes, often with family collusion and vague, euphemistic diagnoses and prognoses, if not overt lies. Bioethicists charge them with paternalistic violations of Patient Autonomy." He begins his essay with Ambroise Paré's maxim, "Always give the patient hope, even when death seems at hand." (XVI)

Bildad, a friend of Job in the Bible said, "Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the rushes grow without water? ...So are the paths of all who forget God; and the hope of the godless will perish, whose confidence is fragile, and whose trust a spider's web. He trusts in his house, but it does not stand... His roots wrap around a rock pile, he grasps a house of stones." (Job 8.11-17)

Bildad is saying that there is such a thing as false hope. Planting roots of a plant in a rock garden will cause disappointment. What if my hope in education or in government or in a new candidate for government is misplaced? What if my hope is false hope?

Many of us have been disappointed. We have placed our hope in people and things and they have failed us. The pain of our disappointment has filled us with the fear of being hurt again. That fear has held us back from entering new relationships as freely as we once did. Once

burned--twice shy, as the saying goes.

Job says that the hope of the godless fails. He is talking about a hope that excludes God and makes us dependent on the things and people of this world for our core fulfillment. This kind of hope often fails because it requires others to be what they don't have the resources to be – the answer to our need for a relationship with God. In contrast, hope that doesn't disappoint is centered first in God because it knows that no one can be faithful in a way that God is faithful. No one can love as God can love us. God alone is fully dependable. God alone will not let us down.

That's why this picture is so powerful to me.

It's the picture of someone from above a pool, reaching to rescue someone drowning. The story which inspired this painting is in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 14. There Yeshua is walking on water: Peter is looking around and says, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And Yeshua said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Yeshua." Wow, that would have been thrilling. And exhilarating and full of glory! "But seeing the wind, Peter became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Yeshua stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

This story is real to me just now. The Bible is clear that God wants to be in relationship with us, not only those who never have heard of Him, or who go from sinner to saint in a prayer. He wants to be in relationship with us who have walked with Him for decades. Each of us fails. Each of us is still walking in feet of clay.

God's hand is not so short that it cannot save us. (Isaiah 59.2) Our sins separate us from Him, but His hand is ever reaching to get us out of the troubles in which we find ourselves. Hope "does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Romans 5.5)

This is for believers AND for unbelievers. This is for those who are new to the faith and those who are long involved. Hope does not disappoint. Thanks be to God!

# Jews for Jesus Libeled in the Jerusalem Online



Jews for Jesus missionaries are wrongly being charged with links to Arab terrorists according to a Jerusalem Online report. Father Gabriel Naddaf of Nazareth alleges that, by association, Jews for Jesus is in collusion with those who are anti-Zionist. He cites conversations with two Jews for Jesus staff members, both of whom have served as soldiers in the IDF and currently serve in the Israeli reserves.

Dan Sered, Israel director, was on an international platform with a staff member of one of these so-called terrorist sympathizers several years ago (in which they both spoke about reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians).

Says Sered,

“Does that make me suspect? This kind of inference is very dangerous and can lead to terrible misunderstandings. I wish the Jerusalem Online had called me before printing this.”

David Brickner, executive director of Jews for Jesus, responded by saying:

“These are flat out lies. No representatives of Jews for Jesus were ever interviewed for this so called news story. It is simply not true and I ought to know.”

The Jerusalem Online received complaints against its reporter, Rachel Avraham in the past when she ran a piece associating Women of the Wall with anti-Israel groups back in 2013. At that time, those whom she attacked called her tactics, “a McCarthy-esque crusade.”

The Jerusalem Online did not seek any comments from Jews for Jesus before publishing this article.



**Dan Sered, Israel director  
(above)**

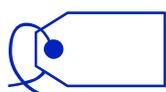
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San Francisco, CA - February 21, 2016



## Regarding wills



Some have been asking us lately about long-ranged financial plans. Thank you for that. Please include the following wording in your will if you wish to make a contribution in your will to Jews for Jesus after you die and are in the presence of Yeshua.



“I bequeath the sum of (\$xxx or xx%) of my estate, free of all Probate and Death Duties to Jews for Jesus of Australia (ABN: 50.084.937.422), in the State of New South Wales (257 Oxford Street, Bondi Junction), for the general purpose of the said organisation and I declare that the receipt of the Jews for Jesus authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees who shall not be obliged to see to the application thereof.”



And please let us know here in Sydney or at your national office, that you have done this. Thank you very much for your help in this life or after you are gone, to help us reach the Jewish people around the globe.



By Bob Mendelsohn  
Jews for Jesus  
National Director  
Sydney, Australia

## One readers asks:

“How do I explain the prophecies about Messiah to my Jewish neighbour? He doesn't even believe the Bible is true?”

### Answer:

It's a very relevant question you ask, as MOST Jewish people consider the Bible a good book, to be sure, but not exactly the way most Christians see it, as God's Inspired Word. So although they would appreciate that you hold it to be so, the Truth part of the book is not assumed. That said, by showing them the prophecies of the coming of Messiah, telling them the dates of the predictions, and asking them if they have ever heard these bits of data before, that can certainly help. The Bible itself will witness to its own veracity.

For instance, if you show them Micah 5.2 (It will be Micah 5.1 in their version) and mention that this prophecy of the birthplace of Messiah was written 750 years before Yeshua was born, it will get the ball rolling.

Psalm 22 in particular portrays the crucifixion in your Bible, and in theirs verse 16 (in theirs it's v 17) God lead you well.

# Quick Questions

## To the saints in Singapore



The bank we use, OCBC, is very particular about the name of our organization. We are trying to help them use 'common' sense about things, but they demand precision.

Therefore, please, when writing a cheque to Jews for Jesus, simply write Jews for Jesus on the cheque.

Do not write anything else, not JFJ, not JFJ SG, not Messianic JFJ, all of which we have received and had to send back to the donor.

We appreciate your donation so much, and don't want your giving not to get into use among the Jewish people. Of course, if you want to avoid this problem, simply donate using internet banking (use the info on the masthead) and the money will be in our bank immediately. Thank you for understanding.

## ADDRESS INFORMATION

**JEWS FOR JESUS AUSTRALIA**  
E-MAIL: [mail@jewsforjesus.org.au](mailto:mail@jewsforjesus.org.au)  
WEB: [jewsforjesus.org.au](http://jewsforjesus.org.au)  
Phone in Australia: +61.2.9388.0559  
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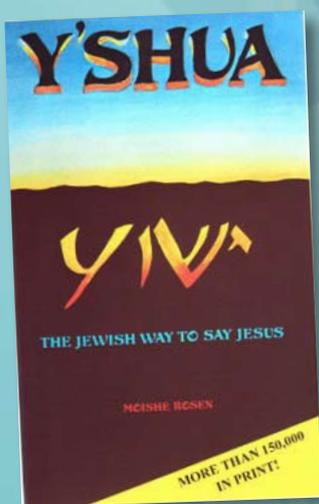
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We also receive donations from believers via **PayPal**, **Credit cards**, and **TT**.

## Y'shua Book

The classic book on First coming prophecies of Messiah. Simple, and the appendices make it even more worthwhile.



Written by Moishe Rosen, Founder of Jews for Jesus. Topics include Genesis 3, Micah 5, Daniel 9, Psalm 22, Isaiah 53. This treasure of a book, written by the founder of Jews for Jesus, will help you understand how Jesus

fulfilled each one of the Old Testament prophecies about the first coming of the Messiah. Includes appendices on "Israel and the Gentiles", "Early Jewish Christians and the Jewish Community" and more.

**Cost \$19**



## That Jew Died for you (booklet) by Michael Brown

The Holocaust is a stumbling block to many Jewish people when it comes to considering Jesus, or even the reality of God. This sensitively written essay provides one Jewish believer's perspective on Jewish Suffering -- and on the suffering of the best known Jew of all.

48 pages.

**Cost \$8**

## CD Mercy Calling by Sharon Wilbur.

Sharon's Debut CD, Mercy Calling is now available! Woven deep in her lyrics you will find not only rich history and heart, but also a desire to reach out to the world around her. Her innovative and intriguing new sound is one that will leave you wanting more.

**Cost \$27**



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All costs include shipping in Australia. For other countries, please add \$4 per item. Prices are going up very fast for postage. We have no control over that.