

JEWES FOR JESUS™

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism

February **UP** dater



Bob Mendelsohn
Regional Director
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Shalom dear friends from rainy, steamy, summer in the Big Smoke.

We are evaluating 2015 and making plans that project into 2017. This is hard for some and appropriate for us all. And the Bible informs us about this many times. For instance, the apostle James warned those who make plans yet act as if God doesn't exist (James 4.13-14), and Yeshua talked about those who jump into situations without regard for good planning (Luke 14:28). Sometimes he is correcting us and other times, it's we who should be noticing realities around us.

The Bible teaches against these two extremes: never setting goals or setting goals with no thought of God. A balanced response is "Instead you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 4.15) It is good to make plans, as long as we leave room for God to change our plans. His goals take precedence over ours.

Then Proverbs 16:9 says, "The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps." In other words, we have our ideas and make our plans, but God will ultimately accomplish His sovereign desires. Do our goals allow for the unexpected? Do we love God's will more than our own?

We rest in the words of Messiah: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:33-34). Our goal-setting

2016





need not be accompanied by fear. If our plans focus on Yeshua and honor him, he will see to it that the best results—the eternal results—are ours.

That said, I'm readying to meet with our Board of Directors at the end of the month. We are forecasting good things for the work, and hiring a new intern, an 18-year-old 3rd generation Jewish believer from here in Sydney. Joshua will learn much from us in the months he is with us. Or so we hope. Also our evangelism training continues, and we anticipate welcoming many new folks to our team in many styles of proclamation. We are planning a full-orbed campaign at the end of the year, which will cost us tens of thousands of dollars, which we hope to gain from new sources, as our current sources are already giving to current projects. And those are just some of the plans for 2016-2017.

Maybe you read about the mismanagement of funds by Shane Warne's foundation folks (see here from Sydney Morning Herald: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/watchdog-orders-audit-of-warne-foundation-20160123-gmckgz.html>).

This may be making some people more reluctant to donate to causes. I appreciate that, and yet for each of the questionable operations out there, most charities and churches are doing what they are supposed to do. And doing it well. And under budget. We hope to keep going each year and this year we need you especially now. That's why I'm writing you today.

One year ago we opened our Brews for Jesus operations in the Bondi shop, and the response in the neighbourhood was reluctant at first. Then slowly over time, as each weekday morning we open at 7 am, the traffic has increased. We now have new mugs for people to drink from and will soon have real glasses for lattes. All of our trade to this point had been take away, but now we are seeing people sit and chat. It takes time, and the Jewish people in Bondi and surrounds

continue to make use of our shop as a comfortable place to ... well, we hope... consider Jesus!

Each week we continue to meet with (on average 8) Jewish enquirers in their homes, our office, or just about anywhere, and doubters too. Each month we conduct OneNewMan gatherings to welcome new folks and to support those with keen interests in things Jewish, or Jewish people themselves. Last month's Bible Trivia Night was especially fun. Each week we teach the Bible to a gathering of Jewish people in Bondi. The Lord never seems to stop sending Jewish people our way for instruction and to those who believe, for fellowship. Most Sundays we are out and about preaching and teaching in churches throughout the region.

We are also letterboxing in the area with a coupon offering the book "Testimonies" for \$5. That is the cost of postage to each respondent. God

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We also receive donations from believers via **PayPal, Credit cards, and TT.**

JEWS FOR JESUS™

Perhaps you want to help in other ways. Please let us know what you are thinking. We can adjust. Be creative. Be prayerful. As I said, “If our plans focus on Yeshua and honor him, he will see to it that the best results—the eternal results—are ours.”



is giving us people, especially Jewish people, who want to read the stories of real Jews who found the real Messiah.

I’m burdened for people like Sebastian, Nick, Janna, Rodney and Esther. Each of these Jewish folks I spoke with at length in January. Each of them started with noticing our shop; most leave the shop with a copy of the Bible or Newer Testament at least. Most give us their details for further followup. All need the power of the Gospel and the love of God in Messiah Yeshua.

What can you do just now? I want to give you a list; it’s not an exhaustive list. Perhaps you want to help in other ways. Please let us know what you are thinking. We can adjust. Be creative. Be prayerful. As I said, “If our plans focus on Yeshua and honor him, he will see to it that the best results—the eternal results—are ours.”

Ways you can help just now

1. Letter box in the Eastern suburbs with the book coupon.
2. Donate a substantial offering to help us catch up after a slow December.
3. Begin to donate a regular \$31 per month (\$1 a day!) so that we can keep sending information to Jewish people and keep our shop open. (If you already donate, maybe you can increase your giving by \$11 each month?)
4. Pass your newsletter on to others in your church/ fellowship so that we can increase our sphere of



influence. If you receive the news by email, then please forward the link to at least two others each time.

5. Pray for our workers to be faithful and our work to be meaningful
6. Invite others to hear us speak when we are nearby your home or theirs. For that you may need to visit our website/ speaker dates here bit.ly/JFJSpeakers The Passover season gives us many more preaching opportunities as well for you to invite folks to hear us.
7. Bring Jewish friends over to meet us at our shop. Or buy them a product or two from our catalog online. We can gift wrap most things, and make your giving that much more special.
8. The list doesn’t really end.

But this letter must. I’m very grateful

for your love for us over the years. For your buying products or donating to us in the past. And I’m hopeful for your consideration of this request just now for more involvement. If you can do so, please use the back page response coupon. We will be very blessed if you do so.

And let us exalt his name together! (Psalm 34.3)

Yours truly,

Bob Mendelsohn

Regional Director
JFJ AustralAsia

