

JUNE 2015

**A SPECIAL LETTER
FROM BOB MENDELSON**

Dear friend in Messiah, shalom!

I hope you are being blessed today and walking in the presence of Yeshua.

Can I both tell you some stories and ask for some help just now?

As I write this on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Sydney on Pentecost, I have just had a wonderful conversation with a couple from South Africa who moved to Australia years ago. They are both Jews and open to discuss religion. They have seen us in the neighborhood in Bondi for years, and only today came into the shop for the first time. Harvey and Rachel will be the beneficiaries of your prayers, for sure. They are open to God's speaking to them.

Last week Pete came in. He also has been walking by us for years with his dog. He was born in the Czech Republic at the end of WW2. And he survived the ravages of the murderous Nazis, as did his family because his parents were both hairdressers and were therefore useful to serve the Reich. God spared

them all, and Pete and his family moved to Australia soon after. And God has been chasing Pete for decades, and only this month came to ask some serious questions about Messiah. How patient and awesome is God?

George, who ever walks by our shop, last week said, "Why are you Jews for Jesus?" James replied, "Because he's the messiah." His reaction was typical, one of surprise and he wondered, "Do you really believe that?" Curiosity filled him, not antagonism anymore.

These stories are unique and wonderful—and yet also painful. You see, each of them ends. At least for now, they seem to end. The people intersect with us for a moment or forty minutes, but that's often all we get. We give them a Bible or a testimony booklet. We ask for their name and details, but often, it's a one-off conversation. We invite them to a public meeting and rarely see them again, but



**LYDIA, OUR
ORIGINAL
BARISTA, AND
OUR FIRST
CUSTOMER.**



that one-off convo is worth so much. Of course, disregard is not always the case.

For instance Diana is from South America and came into our shop about two months ago, looking for a Spanish Bible. She had wanted to read one, but didn't know where to go to obtain one. She's Jewish and about 25 years old. So she asked and we supplied. Then we invited her to Bible class and she came, and kept coming and has only missed one class in six weeks. And today she attended the local church to which I'd invited her, where I was speaking. So some keep coming and coming and one by one, God gets their hearts. I'm ever amazed at His love and power to bring people to Himself. Amen?

COFFEE BAR: You might remember, we opened Brews for Jesus a few months ago. I interviewed James, our new barista there, about his reason to be with us. It was terrific to hear his heart for Jewish people as a man born in Zimbabwe 55 years ago. While we were discussing his passion, a Jewish woman, about 25 years old, stopped outside our shop and shot a photo of our signage. She was on her way to the airport to visit a friend, and had time to stop in for a quick chat. Her name is Henrietta, and grew up in the US. We gave her a copy of my testimony ("Whoever heard of a Jewish missionary?") and she was

delighted to have something to read on the airplane. She kept shaking her head...how can this be?

James and I rejoiced that our signage was welcoming, and that God had provided us a place through which to share the Gospel of Jesus.

On any particular day stories like these take place. Last week James and Craig spoke to two more Jewish people, one from Israel who has lived in Sydney for 60 years, who came in, had a coffee, and a long chat about Jesus, and Elsa, a



**JAMES HAS BEEN
VOLUNTEERING FOR
MONTHS**

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middle-aged Jewish woman who came inside the shop with anger and confusion about religion. Her head shaking was not a good thing; she's still unhappy with our presence in her neighborhood.

James has been volunteering for months and that's wonderful, but equally not fair to him. I think it's right to pay him a satisfactory wage, but we haven't had the funds in our budget or in our bank account. He's one for whom I want you to get a burden, as he serves our people each weekday with cheer and great coffee. We are extending his hours to 30 per week, and he is a champion in the work.

Let me tell you about another new worker starting 15 June. His name is Asher and he's from the US. He will intern with us for the next six months. I had not met him until November last year, but I knew his mother very well.

Here's what he wrote on his application:

"Reaching Jewish people with the Gospel is important to me because I'm Jewish

and someone reached my mom and because of that I was born into a house that knew the Messiah. It's important to me, since I call myself a believer, to fulfill the great commission. Jews need to hear the Gospel as much as Gentiles do and a lot of times people only focus on the Gentiles." What a tender heart this young man displays. He's only 22, recently graduated university in the New York area, and is very open to learn as much as we can teach him about evangelism. (You can read his mother's story at <http://bit.ly/BarbaraStory>)

Asher and James are bright spots for us as we continue to ask God to give us laborers in the harvest (Matt. 9.38) and look whom He supplied, amen?

James says that working with Jews for Jesus "helps me become more informed, more equipped than when I was outside, even though I read the Bible, you get it with Jewish background. It's more real, more tangible. I have many Jewish friends and now I can help them know their Messiah."



ASHER AND HIS MOTHER, AND THEIR SELFIE.

ASHER MAKING
A PRESENTATION
ABOUT MESSIAH
AT UNI.



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Can I ask you to consider two things? One, a one-off gift of \$75 to boost the fund from which we pay workers like James and Asher, our general fund which has no other source of income besides our general fund donors like you! And can I ask you to pray about becoming a monthly donor (if you aren't already) at \$31 (a dollar a day or so) to help us with ongoing costs for these men and others whom we hope to recruit in the months and years to come. The harvest is plenteous!

THANKS: For those who donate by direct deposit through your Internet banking, thank you.

For those who use our envelopes and send cheques or money orders, thank you.

For those who cannot give money because of any number of reasons, but who care enough to read even to the end of this letter, thank you for your continued prayers.

For those who are now giving by credit card or PayPal, or who would like to begin doing this, you help us make plans and take care of the future evangelistic outreaches of Jews for Jesus in Australia and around the world.

THANKS!



**ASHER AND HIS MOTHER,
BARBARA, CELEBRATING
TOGETHER.**

Bob Mendelsohn

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