



Your Prayers Answered in Sydney

by Bob Mendelsohn, Jews for Jesus Australasia Director

More than 10 years ago, Adam, a 40-something-year-old Jewish man from the neighborhood, dropped by our Sydney shop and bought some books. He had many questions, and we began seeing him regularly. Adam made himself at home, sometimes helping himself to a cuppa (tea) or bringing something delicious to share at one of our Shabbat dinners. But just when it seemed like he was coming close to faith in Yeshua (Jesus), Adam would leave halfway through a Shabbat evening—as though he would come just so close and no closer. What could we do? We kept praying, and we mentioned him in our newsletter (under the name “David”) and asked you to pray as well.

Praise God, Adam surprised us in late January by announcing that he believes Jesus was the Messiah. The Lord had shown him a vision, making the truth of the gospel as clear as crystal to Adam. He wanted us to know of his new faith, and we wanted you to know, with many thanks, because your prayers and support make stories like Adam’s possible.

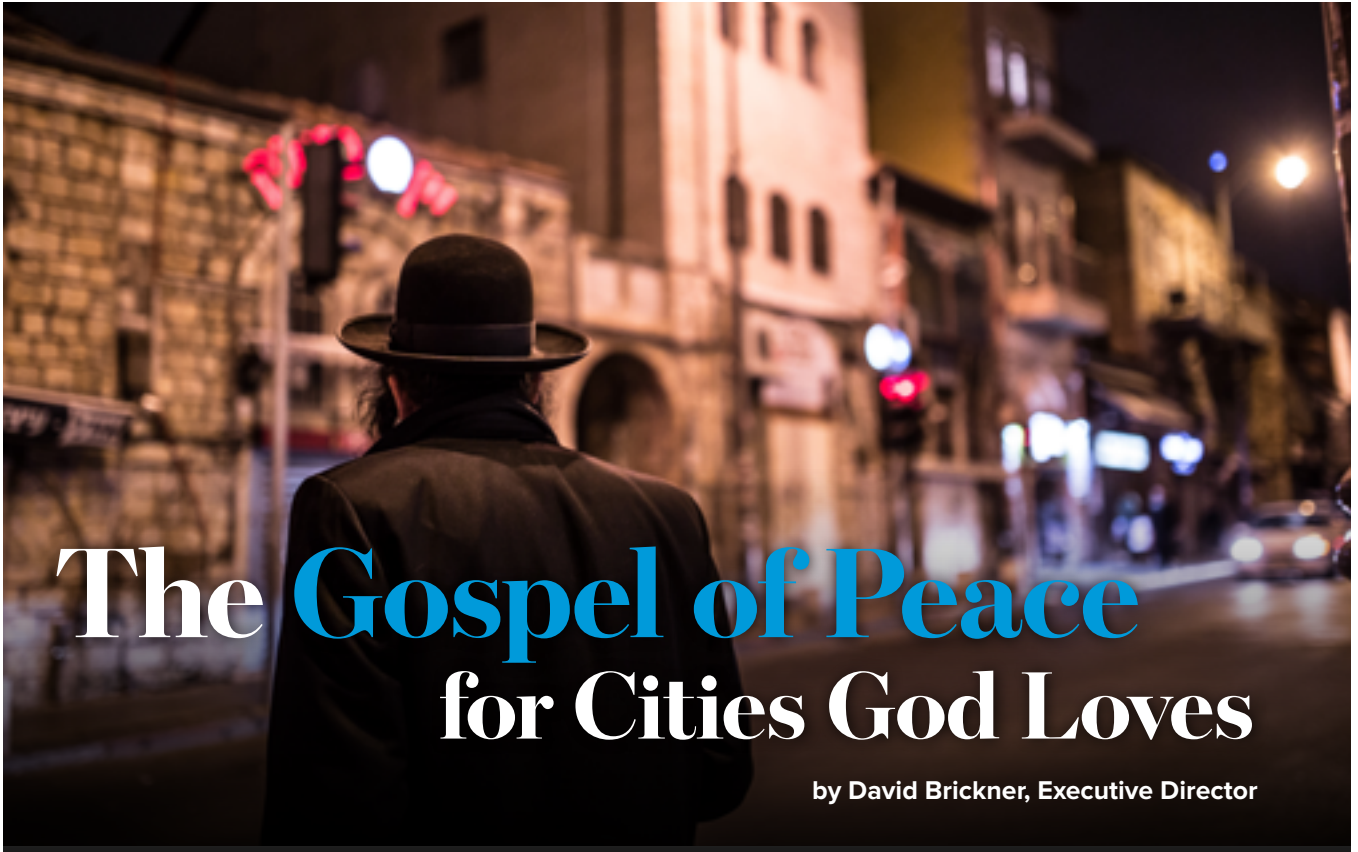
I immediately spoke with Adam about baptism; he asked some pertinent questions and was satisfied with the answers. Forty-eight hours later, he was

walking on the shore with Jimmy (who’s helped manage our shop for years) and me, to follow the Lord in baptism. Afterwards, a group of us got together for some nosh (food and drink) and rejoiced in God’s grace. A couple of days later, Adam came back to the shop for his regular visit, and I asked him how he felt. He replied, “I’m full of peace.”

Jonny Bronn* has begun studying the Gospels with Adam weekly. Jonny started with us in 2021 as an



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The Gospel of Peace for Cities God Loves

by David Brickner, Executive Director

As I write, bombs are raining death and destruction on the cities of Kyiv and Kharkiv in Ukraine. I have no idea what the situation will be by the time this reaches you. It will be the end of April, and Israelis will be getting ready to celebrate Jerusalem's Independence Day in May, commemorating the liberation of that city during the Six-Day War in 1967. But right now, Israeli doctors are flying to Ukraine to care for the wounded. Right now, I am struggling to know just how to pray. Before the war, we had 19 missionaries and their families living in Ukraine; now they are many fewer (many staff have moved to safer countries) and in harm's way in Ukraine. I am concerned for their safety and the safety of others, but so grateful that they are able to proclaim the gospel during this time.

As we recoil in horror from the inhumanity that produces such bloodshed, we know that there is powerful hostility at work. The hostility of people warring against one another is obvious, but as believers, we also are keenly aware that Satan, the father of lies and the merchant of death, is at war against everything and everyone that God loves, including cities throughout Ukraine and Israel. We sense the evil one's part in all of this. How do we respond?

Yeshua is our example. First, He wept over Jerusalem. He wept because of His great love for people, and I believe He is weeping over the cities of Kyiv and Kharkiv and so many other cities, for the same reason. The context is different, but the principles are the same.

Jesus, the Son of God, prophesied over Jerusalem

saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes" (Luke 19:42).

Yeshua was weeping because He saw the spiritual tragedy of Jerusalem. He was able to see the past, the present, and the future of Jerusalem. He had a unique perspective on the depth of pain and suffering that had been, and would be, visited on the inhabitants because of human sin and unbelief.

In addition to weeping, Jesus also held out abiding hope for Jerusalem based on the possibility of her repentance and recognition of His lordship. He declared to Jerusalem, "You shall see Me no more until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes [Welcome] in the name of the LORD!'" (Matthew 23:39). I believe that Zechariah 12:10 points to a time when this will happen en masse. But until that day, we are reaching out to the people of Jerusalem one by one.

Thanks to your support we have a great team offering hope to the people of Jerusalem. Please pray for them, and for gospel conversations that may open up around Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day). Many Israelis have a sense of ambiguity about the observance because the city remains a place of great controversy and conflict. Jerusalem is a sorrowful city, a divided and divisive city. Jerusalem, in fact, has had more than 30 wars fought over her, more than any other place on the planet. The things that make for peace are still hidden from the eyes of most people who live in Jerusalem, because they do not know the Prince of Peace.

(comes from Page 1)

Many Israelis are surprised to hear that Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. We want them to know that He went so much further, dying and rising again for the people of Jerusalem—and, in fact, for the people of Kyiv, for the people of the whole world. As I write, we have staff in Ukraine who are helping to bring displaced refugees to the western border. Their unbelieving contacts are calling them, looking for spiritual answers in the midst of the chaos. Our staff is sharing their hope in that blessed One who came in the name of the Lord, and who will one day return, the holy Messiah of God. Whatever bad news may unfold, it cannot compare with the supremely good news, the gospel of the Prince of Peace.

And in March we mounted an ad hoc team from Israel and Germany, and now Bob Mendelsohn is there with them in Poland helping feed and care for the refugees from Ukraine. The situation is dire; God is drawing people to himself, nonetheless.

Thank you again for helping us proclaim the gospel of peace in Israel, Ukraine, and around the world. One day that gospel will transform the sorrowful city of Jerusalem into a city of peace, and that peace will cover the whole earth. “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new’” (Revelation 21: 4–5).

intern. This year he began studying at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. Part of his work with us during this time is to meet with Jewish people, and that includes Adam. Jonny says, “I’m having a really good time studying the Word with Adam. I was very encouraged to see how he wants to learn more from the Bible—which was just what I wanted most from our meetings!”

Adam’s father also drops into the shop from time to time to say hello, and he knows about his son’s new faith. Adam’s mom, as of this writing, doesn’t yet know. Please pray for Adam to continue growing in the faith, and for his parents to come to know Jesus as well.

**Editor’s note: If his name sounds familiar, it’s because his sister Rebekah joined our Australia team in 2019 first as an intern, then as a missionary trainee. The Bronns come to us from New Zealand, each having previously served on short-term missions in Israel. We love seeing family members serving Messiah together!*

prayerprompts

You can help us move mountains!

Please join us in praying for:

- our staff in Ukraine, who, as of this writing, have been scattered across the country and beyond due to the bombing: for protection, courage, wisdom, and that those they

minister to will be drawn to Jesus

- staff who are ministering to refugees in Poland (where currently, most of the Jewish refugees have gathered), Germany, and Hungary, and again, for hearts to turn to Jesus
- wisdom about a possible branch of Jews for Jesus in Poland as a result of the changing demographics
- grace and growing faith for new Jewish believer Adam in Sydney
- salvation for Adam’s parents

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Christ in the Passover

Moishe Rosen wrote this classic and the recipes and included hag-gadah make it well worth the read

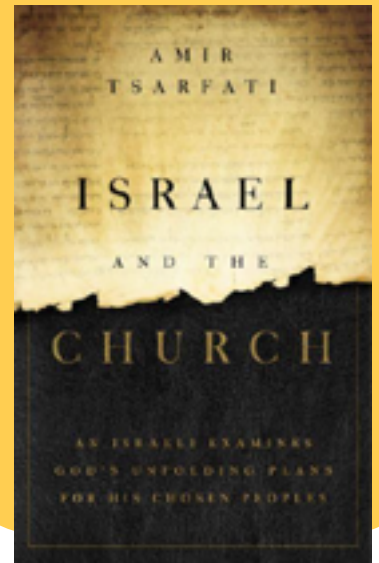
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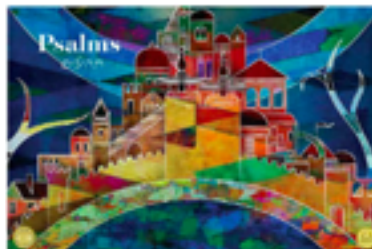
COST: \$24



Calendar

Our biblically themed calendar features artist Karin Foreman spans 16 months (September 2021–December 2022) and includes “The Lord’s Appointed Times” chart, weekly Torah portions, holidays (biblical and secular), and space for notes. Made in Israel.

COST: LAST CALL \$7



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