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Jewish People for Jesus

**JULY 2022**

# New Testaments for free... it's working!

by David Brickner, Executive Director

I'm sure you feel the same way I do that the Word of God is precious—more precious than pure gold, and sweeter than honey from the honeycomb (Psalm 19:10). And if you are anything like me then you have several copies and versions on your shelves. We have this love for Scripture in common with the global Jewish community. My people treasure the Hebrew Scriptures like we do—perhaps, for some, even more so.

Study of sacred texts is a very central part of Jewish culture. That's why it breaks my heart that most of my people have never read the New Testament. The New Testament is a Jewish book, by Jewish authors, about the Jewish Hope. And yet the life changing words of this book have been kept from my people for over two thousand years. They have been taught that this book is forbidden, never to be opened.

In Israel, not only is the New Testament not read and studied, it is extremely difficult to access a copy. Our Hebrew Jews for Jesus website is one of the only

places in the country where an Israeli can receive a copy of the New Testament in their native language. In 2021 we were able to connect 700 Israeli seekers with a Hebrew New Testament Bible. Hand delivering these Bibles provides us with a unique opportunity to develop personal connections with non-believing Israelis. Each week, through our website we receive about two dozen requests for this Bible.

This year, our goal is to not only give away, but to connect with 1,000 Israelis through the gift of the New Testament. We are so fortunate that several different Christian organizations in Israel have given us free copies of Hebrew New Testaments to give away. The cost to get these Bible into the hands of Israelis, covers staff (who physically distribute and connect with those asking for the Bible), storage of the Bibles, website fees, promotional events, and postage for those requesting mailed copies. In order for us to get the Hebrew New Testaments in the hands of 1,000 Israeli seekers it will cost \$150,000, which is \$150 per Bible.

Knowing the plentiful access I have to the Scriptures here in the United States, I am filled with gratitude—as well as a deep sense of responsibility to make sure that every Jewish person who wants to read the New Testament can get access to one. Will you help me bring this forbidden book to Jewish seekers with an additional generous gift?

Our missionaries hand-deliver these precious Bibles as soon and as often as possible, so they can also offer prayer, share their testimony, and come back later for another visit. This creates opportunities to discuss the Scriptures and opens the door for ongoing ministry and discipleship. That's exactly what happened with Shiloh.\* Shiloh requested from us a copy of the Bible that had both Hebrew and English in it. Our missionary Jeff brought Shiloh the New Testament at his house. Shiloh fought back tears as he said "I've been looking for this book." He had heard about Jesus and believed that He was the way to God, but no one had ever explained the gospel to him.

Shiloh began attending church and Bible study with Jeff over the next couple of months, soon boldly professing his faith in Jesus as his Saviour and Lord. As we began to disciple Shiloh, he spoke frequently about how happy he was to have discovered the hope and truth of the gospel. Yet his heart was troubled because his wife and children do not know Yeshua as Messiah.

Soon after sharing his belief with his family, Shiloh asked his wife to attend church with him—and she did! In fact, she enjoyed the service and community of believers so much that she asked, "May I keep attending even though I don't believe in Jesus?" Praise God! Please pray with us that she too comes to know the Lord as she hears the message of Jesus each week.

At Shiloh's baptism, he testified to the witnesses gathered there that day and said, "I carry scars on my soul and body from almost six decades of a wandering journey during which I came close to death several times, including almost drowning in a swimming pool when I was young. I find it symbolic to be reborn now

**Because of your support, missionaries today are coming alongside Jewish seekers to help them not only gain access to the Word of God, but also to understand its words - and then welcoming new brothers and sisters into our family in Messiah!**

in another swimming pool, receiving forgiveness for my past sins and a clean new start as a faithful follower and believer in Jesus, who paid the ultimate price. I will learn and practice His teachings with love, in honour of my Lord's sacrifice."

Shiloh's story reminds me of the Apostle Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. God told Philip to stay near the Ethiopian in his chariot, where he was reading Scripture yet not understanding it. The encounter ended with the Ethiopian becoming baptized with a new faith!

Because of your support, missionaries today are coming alongside Jewish seekers to help them not only gain access to the Word of God, but also to understand its words - and then welcoming new brothers and sisters into our family in Messiah!

Thanks for helping us as winter is heavily upon all of you in Australia and New Zealand, and as our teams in Israel and around the globe continue to share the Good News of Yeshua with all of our Jewish people.

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Adel ben David (left), a missionary from our Jerusalem branch, talks with Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

# Thank You for Helping Us Reach Jewish People in Poland!

by Sveta Adelson

Inna and her family are refugees from Ukraine. We met at a Jewish organization in Warsaw, where Inna was expecting a permit for *Aliyah* (the term used for Jewish people seeking citizenship in Israel). Unfortunately, her family was denied because of a mistake on the application.

Inna's Jewish background was mostly secular, but recently she has been thinking more about God, and finding comfort in the prayer book. Her husband has cancer, and it's often in the midst of suffering and uncertainty that people turn to God. Inna was ready and willing to hear about Yeshua (Jesus). She asked some good questions and listened as I answered. Then it was my turn to ask a question: "Have you ever asked God to forgive your sins?"

Inna listened as I explained sin and the need for repentance, how Yeshua is the door to a relationship with God, and how He will come into our hearts if we want to receive Him. When I offered to pray with Inna to repent and receive Jesus, she agreed, and we prayed. I also prayed for Inna's husband and for her family to solve the *Aliyah* problem.

We are so grateful for your partnership with Jews for Jesus that helps us introduce Jewish people like Inna to Messiah Jesus!



Sveta and her husband, Alex, are from Ukraine but have served with our Tel Aviv team for many years. Here she is pictured with Inna, whose face is blurred for privacy. Many of our missionaries are rotating through Poland for short-term ministry.



# Trusting God in the Face of Trauma

by Ruth Rosen

We often hear about trauma these days, and much has been uncovered about the long-term debilitating effects of atrocities years after they have occurred. The Nazi Holocaust is an especially pernicious example. It not only traumatized its victims, but in a way, it also traumatized those who didn't speak out against Hitler when he twisted the Bible for his own evil purposes. And so, for years, many Christians have felt that the Holocaust took away their right to talk to Jewish people about Jesus. How Satan must have loved that! We don't talk a lot about Satan in our newsletter, but the adversary does hate what God loves. We believe that acts of antisemitism have a spiritual component, and that the devil inspires hatred and tries to use it to prevent people, especially Jewish people, from knowing the love of God.

Avi Snyder, one of our senior leaders, has been especially instrumental in seeing to it that Jews for Jesus has gospel outreaches in those places where Jewish people perished in the Holocaust. We want people to know that God sent His own Son, Jesus, to the cross where He suffered the unimaginable trauma of fully unleashed sin. And He did it so that we could be forgiven for our own sin and healed of whatever sins have been committed against us.

Still, it's difficult for people who have experienced trauma to trust anyone, let alone God. It can be a long process. That was the case for Edna in Budapest. Edna is a Holocaust survivor. In June 2021, she said "Yes" to receiving Jesus. But the very next day, she recanted because she was afraid of what her family would say. Our missionaries Kata and Ildiko kept meeting with her, sharing the gospel and the hope of heaven. This past spring, Edna had a stroke and was hospitalized. Kata and Ildiko visited her in the hospital and continued to talk about heaven and forgiveness,

but she always asked them, "Where was God when the Holocaust happened?" One day when they visited her in the hospital, she was remarkably better, not only physically, but spiritually. Her heart had softened, and she sincerely prayed to receive Jesus into her heart as her Savior.

Edna is one of many Holocaust survivors you are helping our Budapest staff to reach for Jesus. Rachel, a 93-year-old survivor, has been attending our events for Holocaust survivors with her son Ervin. At first, they both identified themselves as atheists, but over time, they began talking as if they were believers. Several months ago they attended an event, and at the end, Kata offered a prayer thanking God for canceling our debt of sin through Yeshua. She then asked who'd prayed this prayer in their hearts. Ervin said that he and his mother had repented and prayed for Yeshua's forgiveness! Please pray for faith to grow and mature in the hearts of these new Jewish believers in Budapest.

Thanks be to God for building trust in His Messiah, even in hearts that have been traumatized. And thanks be to God for partners like you, who help us be messengers of that trust.



*Edna (right) with a volunteer at a Budapest branch event*

*Names have been changed to protect privacy.*

# New team member in Sydney. **Katie Lee.**

**K**atie Lee is the new church relations agent at the Sydney branch. Her heart for Jewish people and their coming to faith in Christ began to grow when she went on a missions trip with her church to Israel in 2014. Then, of late, she was seeking and praying for an opportunity to be involved in some outreach to the Jewish people, and to be part of this important promise of the Lord. Katie believes that God led her to Jews For Jesus and is feeling excited and grateful to become the part of a wonderful team at the Sydney branch. Katie previously worked as a preschool educator and a medical administrator. Her passion has been to serve and support people who are in need. She's new to the role therefore asking our newsletter readers to pray that God would give her His wisdom and strength to become a skilful church relations agent to assist more churches to hear and participate in God's great plan for the salvation of the Jewish people.



## Regarding your Will

This is a way for you to donate to the ministry long after you have passed away. We would rather you stay with us until Yeshua returns, but if your time is upon you, and God calls you home, why not leave a portion of your estate to the ministry for us to continue reaching Jewish people? Send a note to your solicitor and ensure that your affairs are in order, and either donate an amount or a percentage to the cause of Jewish

evangelism. We will use it here in Australia and throughout the region, and help us to bring the Gospel to our people.

Use this wording please:

"I bequeath the sum of (\$xxxx or xx%) of my estate, free of all Probate and Death Duties to Jews for Jesus Australia, (ABN: 50 084 937 422) Address: 58 Bronte Road, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022) in the State of New South Wales, 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."



# Messianic Resources

FEATURES RESOURCES FOR YOUR LEARNING, CELEBRATING AND GROWTH

## Calendar 5783



September 2022-December 2023  
30-Month Biblical Calendar

Features colourful paintings of Jerusalem scenes. Art by South African Jewish believer Jonathan Biddlecombe, with Torah readings courtesy of Galilee Calendar from Israel, the Hebrew alphabet and an explanation of the Feasts of Israel through the year. 8.5 x 11". **COST: \$29**

## Engaging with Jewish people

Designed to help both individuals and churches understand more about the variety of Jewish people we might work with, and to reach out to them with the good news of the gospel.

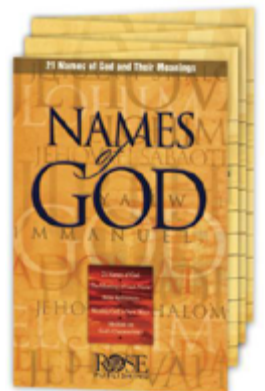
**COST: \$22**



## Names of God

This full-colour glossy, 12-panel pamphlet offers an easy-to-use chart format for learning God's names and their meaning.

**COST: \$9**



## DVD. Feast of Passover

Presented by Dr Sam Nadler, who has worked for almost 50 years in Jewish ministry, of late as president of Word of Messiah Ministries in the USA. Perfect for small groups, Bible studies, or personal use.

**COST: \$22**



## Mere Evangelism

by Randy Newman. You will be equipped to talk about your faith and engage with unbelievers wisely, whatever their attitude towards the Gospel.

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