



Your Partners in Reaching
Jewish People for Jesus

September 2022



Paris: You Helped Us Reach a Jewish Man and Muslim Woman for Jesus!

by Joshua Turnil, Paris branch leader

Pastor Idir is a great partner in Messiah who comes from a Muslim background. He's invited us to speak many times at his church, and we offer him our facilities free of charge for a monthly evangelism training he teaches.

Idir sets up a gospel literature table around lunchtime in neighborhoods throughout Paris five days per week. Recently a Jewish man, Adrien, stopped at the table, took a tract, and was struck by it. When Idir shared the gospel with him, Adrien told him, "I'm Jewish, so this is not for me." Idir replied, "That's great! I have Jewish friends who believe in Jesus. Would you like to meet them?" Adrien agreed to meet with me. When we sat down together and read Isaiah chapter 53, he had to stop reading because he was choked up. After some discussion, he prayed receive the Lord!

We Jews for Jesus also have a literature table outside our office. Recently a Muslim woman came and started leafing through the books. She told me, "I had a vision of Jesus. I know that Jesus was Jewish; I want to learn

more about him by getting close to the Jews." That very day, Idir was visiting! I asked him to come and speak with her. Since then, this woman has been baptized (at Idir's church) and Idir has continued following up with her. God enables us to reach Jewish hearts because of partners like you, but I thought you'd like to know that you are linked with us to wonderful partners like Idir, as together we reach both Jewish *and* Muslim hearts!



Pastor Idir and his wife, _____

To Abide With God In the Midst of Danger

by David Brickner, Executive Director

While taking an Uber to the airport I noticed an amulet hanging from the rearview mirror. Seeing that it was inscribed with Arabic writing, I asked the driver, “Is that a verse from the Koran?” He confirmed my hunch and told me it was a prayer for protection. “You can’t be too careful these days,” he concluded.

That Uber driver understood what we know all too well: safety is not guaranteed in this dangerous world. I think about that as I hear almost daily accounts of missiles exploding close to our Jews for Jesus staff in Ukraine. I think about it when I hear six people were killed at a parade in a “safe” Chicago suburb less than 20 miles from where I once lived. We understand that danger reaches near and far, but what do we do about it?

Psalm 91:1 tells us, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Bible scholars call Psalm 91 an *apotropaic* Psalm, a Greek word meaning “to avert evil.” Archeologists have discovered ancient amulets, intricate pieces of jewelry inscribed with words from Psalm 91, worn as protection against evil—much like the amulet the uber driver hung from his mirror.

Psalm 91 actually became known as the Soldier’s Prayer. Bandanas imprinted with the psalm have been distributed to US troops. It’s been said that the 91st Brigade recited Psalm 91 daily during World War I and did not suffer a single combat-related death,

though they fought one of the bloodiest battles.

The Word of God is inspired and true, and it’s wise to pray through Psalms in times of trouble. But there is a fine line between relying on God by praying through His Word, and slipping into what amounts to a magical or push-button approach to scripture.

Jesus specifically rejected Satan’s attempt to misuse words from Psalm 91: “Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.” Jesus said to him, “It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God.” (Mt. 4:5-7).

It’s one thing to trust God’s promises and quite another to misuse those promises in an attempt to force God’s hand. The Son of God knew that the Bible does not provide magical incantations to be recited for our protection. The Bible is a supernatural book containing supernatural revelation about God, who makes supernatural promises *to those who abide in Him*.

God’s word shows us that our security is not just *from* him, but *in* Him. Abiding in God does not always protect us from difficult and even painful situations, but it does preserve us in the midst of them.

No one trusted God more fully than the Lord Jesus,



We relentlessly pursue God’s plan for the salvation of the Jewish people.

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yet He suffered and died on the cross. When, through faith, we are positioned in Jesus, we're not promised protection from suffering, but we *are* promised that on the other side of that suffering, glory and eternal pain-free joy awaits. That is why we find ultimate comfort and security as we abide in Him.

Psalm 91 offers two beautifully poetic Hebrew words to convey the richness of abiding in God. *Yoshev* which means to dwell, and implies a place of permanence, and *Yitlonan* which means to dwell.

The first speaks of that sense of security we feel in our homes. I call it nesting. You know, that sense of relief you feel when you come home and unpack after a long trip. The familiar surroundings create a welcoming sense of comfort and contentment.

The second word, meaning abide, is in the imperfect tense conveying the ongoing commitment to rest in God no matter where you may be. Some of my best rest comes when I am hiking in the mountains. I can get away from the daily routine to quiet my soul and hear the voice of the Lord.

The Psalmist calls us to dwell in the secret place of *Elyon*, the most-High God and to abide in the shadow of *El Shaddai*, the Almighty. These two powerful names of God convey both His transcendence and His immanence, or nearness, to us.

Because God is “most high” we have to lift our eyes to behold Him. Focusing down on our circumstances will only cause us to miss the life-giving vision of His exalted power. But God is also Almighty, unleashing His power to save us by invading our circumstances. The Hebrew root *shad* is believed by many to refer to the chest or the breast, that part of anatomy where there is real strength along with genuine nurture. God's strong and nurturing protection is beautifully described in verse 4, “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge;”

I heard the story of a farmer who had just one hen in his hen house. One day a fire broke out, destroying the house and killing the hen. But lo and behold, as the farmer pushed aside the charred remains of the hen, four young chicks scrambled out alive from underneath their mother. What an amazing picture of the nurturing, protecting, and yes even sacrificial nurture of Almighty God—ultimately and most beautifully fulfilled in Jesus.

It is only under those wings that we find the “secret place” and the “shadow” of true and lasting protection.

We all need a secret place, a hiding place. I have often found that secret place out in the beauty of

prayerprompts You can help us move mountains!

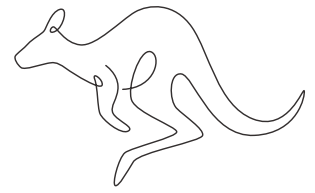
Please join us in praying for:

- spiritual growth for our new Jewish brothers and sisters in Jesus, including Vladimir and Yuri in Moscow, Saul and Anna in Ukraine, Rachel and Adrien in Paris, as well as for our new (formerly Muslim) sister in Paris
- salvation for Mira in London, and for Gerry and his daughter, Louise in Sydney
- God's wisdom and power to bring the gospel to seekers in the Haredi (ultra Orthodox) community as well as to those who have left (see more requests for this on p. _)
- many seekers to attend our High Holiday events and be drawn to Jesus as Rosh Hashanah during this time of reflection for Jewish people throughout the world; (the Feast of Trumpets) falls on September 26, 27 and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) falls on Oct 5
- God to raise up the next generation of believers who will partner with us in praying and giving for the joy of reaching Jewish people with the good news of Jesus

God's creation. Once, during the lowest point in my life, I hiked to the edge of a crystal-clear alpine lake. I stood on a patch of sandy beach surrounded by tall granite. I had never felt so alone. But as I wept in sorrow that day, I sensed the Almighty with me. I wasn't alone after all. There in that secret place, I found strength to walk the path of sorrows set before me.

Jesus said, “. . . pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Mt. 6:6). It is only because of Jesus that we can come to God and abide with Him. He has opened His secret place to all who trust His son. How can we not share that secret place with others who are seeking protection in this troubled world? Thank you, and bless you for helping us do just that as we continue to invite Jewish people to find shelter under the shadow of His wings.

ministry moments



from London, Moscow, Jerusalem, France, and Sydney



Julia

London

Julia Pascoe reports, “I was introduced to Mira several months ago through a friend who serves with another ministry. Mira, who was formerly Haredi (ultra Orthodox) is from Israel. It took a while for us to connect, but we recently met in person. Mira expressed a genuine interest in Yeshua, so I invited two of our Hebrew speaking staff, Maia Inbar and Gefen Skvortsov, to join us. This enabled Mira to look at and discuss the Scriptures in her mother tongue.

“We were all curious as to how Mira became so open to the gospel, and when she introduced us to Marion, her Christian friend of seven years, it all made sense. It was heartwarming meet Marion, who has been faithfully witnessing to and praying for Mira. We looked at John 3:1–5, Nicodemus’ secret interest in Jesus. Mira’s very religious background enabled her to identify with the conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus. Marion was bursting with joy to see her friend engaging in such deep spiritual conversation. I can’t emphasize enough the priceless role that our Christian friends can have in the lives of Jewish people. So many of us Jews first hear the gospel, through someone like you! Please pray for Mira’s salvation.”



Maia

Moscow

Ilya Khaimovich reports, “I’ve known Vladimir for 10 years. He used to say he had no interest in what he called ‘religion.’ When his wife passed away, he began thinking about the inevitability of death, and this set him on a spiritual search! ‘Coincidentally’ I recently ran into Vladimir on the street during our outreach. His face lit up with a smile and it seemed to me that he was different, ready to change something in his life. When I shared the gospel with him and asked if he wanted to receive Yeshua the Messiah into his life, he answered, ‘Yes!’ Please pray for Vladimir to grow in his new faith.

Maxim Ammosov reports, “Yuri first gave us his contact information 20+ years ago, but he was not very open to hearing more from us. Then in 2017, I met him in the street during our outreach. After that, he attended our Shabbat Bible studies a few times, but then he stopped coming. After a long break, he once again accepted an invitation and this time it was to our Passover celebration. Finally, he was truly interested! Yuri answered the altar call at the end of the celebration and prayed to receive Yeshua. Praise the Lord! Please keep Yuri in prayer.



Gefen

Ukraine

Eduard Granovsky reports, “I have been in contact with Saul, an 85 year old Holocaust survivor, for many years. Sadly, his wife of more than 50 years recently died of COVID. He’s been staying with his 60-year-old daughter who’s been disabled since childhood. We have been in frequent contact with Saul



Ilya

since the beginning of the war. At my request, volunteers visit him and bring food and water. Recently when I visited with Saul, he confessed Yeshua as his Messiah, his God. 'I feel better,' he said, after we prayed." Please keep this new Jewish brother in prayer.

Anatoli Emma reports, "Anna is a middle-aged Jewish woman from Kyiv. Her children sent her to safety miles away, to a place where I have been ministering during the war. She found her way to a worship service I "happen" to be part of. In fact, she was the last to respond when I was getting ready to pray with those who had come forward to receive Jesus. After the service, Anna approached me and said, 'I can't believe my eyes! Are you the Anatoli Emma from YouTube?' She told me that our Jews for Jesus channel had prompted her to search for God! Anna had watched all of our Odessa/Kyiv/Prague/Jerusalem for Dummies video series, and had concluded that she needed to find a congregation of Jewish believers in Jesus. She actually found a congregation in Kyiv and started attending, but then the war broke out. 'And here I am, and here you are!' she exclaimed. Please pray for this new sister in Jesus!"

Jerusalem/France

Aviel Sela* reports, "Rachel repented of her sins and prayed with me to receive Jesus over WhatsApp! She is a poet, writer, art and literary critic, and teaches art history and comparative literature at a university. I met her last summer on one of my Bible tours in Israel, and have been in contact with her ever since! She lives in France, but thanks to technology, we can minister to people wherever they may be! As I write, she is about to visit Israel so I will see her in person. Also I have put her in touch with a ministry partner in France; their first meeting went very well and she will continue meeting with him for discipleship! Please pray for Rachel's spiritual growth.

**Aviel Sela serves on our Israel team in partnership with International Mission to Jewish People (IMJP).*

Sydney

Bob Mendelsohn reports, "Gerry and his wife came to my home for Shabbat dinner 12 years ago. Gerry is Jewish and his wife, who knows Jesus, is not. They had a lot of questions about faith and religion and finding common ground. We had a lovely evening, yet each time I reached out to continue the relationship, he was reluctant to meet. But God never gives up. . .

"Fast forward: When a Jewish woman, Louise, recently came into our shop, we had a good chat and I asked for her information so we could keep in touch. When I saw her surname, the spelling was so unusual that I immediately thought the only other person on the planet who spelled it like that—Gerry. So I contacted him and sure enough, Louise was his daughter. In fact, she'd told her dad about the visit.

"Gerry updated me on his and his wife's life together, and we are going to meet up soon for a catch-up. How good is God? He arranges our times, our lives, our families, in such a way that no one gets left out. Please pray for Gerry and his whole family, that they will all know and grow together in Messiah Jesus!"

Names are changed to protect privacy.



Maxim



Eduard



Anatoli



Aviel



Bob

Who are the Haredim and Why Do They Not

When Christians consider unreached people groups, many think of remote places in Africa or Asia. **Yet the Haredim (ultra Orthodox) who live in cities like Jerusalem, New York City, and Toronto, are one of the most unreached people groups in the world.**

Maybe you've seen a Haredi hero in a movie (like the classic "Frisco Kid," or the movie adaptation of Chaim Potok's *The Chosen*). If you live near a community of Haredim you might see families walking to synagogue on a Saturday morning. But do you know who they are and what they believe? The following verse provides a clue:

But this is the one to whom I will look: **he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.** (Isaiah 66:2)

The Hebrew word for "tremble" in this verse is *hared*, and from it is derived the term "Haredim," used to describe the ultra-Orthodox (or Haredi) Jewish community. Their name implies a reverential fear of God.

Although they often live in major cities, the Haredim remain insulated from the culture around them and are characterized by their strict observance of Jewish law. In their attempt to stay uncorrupted by the world, Haredi communities censor news media, smart phones, televisions, computers, and the internet. Though the Haredim may seem so foreign to mainstream culture, **it is important to not slip into generalizations or biases about them.**

Our experience with the community has shown us that **they are a diverse group of people.** We have seen firsthand the gentleness and humility, and the zeal that so many Haredim have for God and for obedience to the Law, and their commitment to family and community. And yet, they are not immune from the brokenness and sin that affects those who are not religious. Like anyone else, without the good news of the gospel, they have no hope in life and death.

Why Don't They Believe in Jesus?

The answer is complicated. Sadly, some Haredim only know the name of Yeshua as a curse. Others have a vague knowledge of Him; they believe He existed but consider Him to have been a wayward Jew. Moreover, Haredim read the Bible through very different lenses that may hinder them from

recognizing Yeshua as Messiah.

The Lens of Tradition: In the Middle Ages, fanciful and derogatory stories about Yeshua called "Toledot Yeshu" were circulated, portraying Yeshua as an imposter who led Israel astray to idolatry.

The Lens of *Halakah* (Jewish law): In the Haredi community, keeping the mitzvot ("Good deeds based on the law) is seen as the remedy for sin and the way to connect with God.

The Lens of the Holocaust: The worldview of the Haredi community is grounded in the experience of the Holocaust. Many equate the Holocaust with Christian Europe, and their views have been shaped by "Christian antisemitism."

Many are Questioning Traditional Beliefs

Even though the lenses described above have shaped religious Jewish thinking about Jesus, there are still many who silently wonder about Him. When someone from a haredi community questions any traditional beliefs, including who Jesus is, these questions are seen as a problem that needs to be fixed. If the "doubter" persists in serious questioning or behaviors that stray from the norm, they may be diagnosed with a mental illness—or perhaps even expelled from the community. Many Haredim choose to keep their questions to themselves, remaining in the community but living double lives.

Levi is a young man who was raised in a very strict and insular Hasidic community. He stopped being observant several years ago yet still holds to belief in God and continues to follow many of the traditions he was raised with. Levi was given a New Testament in Yiddish, and he began to read it on the spot. He read from Matthew 11:28–30: "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Levi said, "Wow, I didn't know such a thing existed!" He was quite moved by what he read and was surprised to find Yeshua's words in Yiddish. Pray for the many people like Levi who are willing to find out about Jesus, whether secretly in the community, or more openly when they leave.

God is moving in this community, and **the time is ripe to increase our efforts to reach the Haredim with the good news.**

Need Your Prayers? *

Saul's encounter with God on the road to Damascus (Acts 9) illustrates the nature of divine guidance that is essential to reach the Haredim. It took supernatural intervention to change an ardent opponent of The Way into an effective ambassador of the gospel of Messiah. **We must pray that God's supernatural power will once again be released to bring light to the Haredim.**

Prayer Points

Your faith-filled prayers are key to unlocking the door to this closed community. Please continue to pray with us—the journey may be long, but it will be filled with grace.

- Praise God for the opportunity to pray and intercede for His people. Ask God to give you a heart of love and compassion as you pray for the Haredim.
- Pray that the Haredim, even the rabbis and spiritual leaders in the community, would see that Yeshua is their Messiah and that salvation comes not through what they do but through what Yeshua has done for them.
- Pray that Christians who are ministering to Haredi believers, especially hidden ones, will have sensitivity and wisdom, and help them find fellowship with other believers.

This month and next, Jewish people of all backgrounds, including Haredim, will celebrate biblical holidays that provide a window into God's redemptive plan. These holidays also provide a powerful time for you to pray for the Haredim communities. **During the ten "Days of Awe"** between Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 26-27) Yom Kippur, (Oct. 5) pray for God's Spirit to fill Haredi communities with a new hunger for His redemption that will draw many to Yeshua. During Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles, Oct 10-11) pray that as the Haredim remember God's presence and protection over our ancestors in the wilderness, that God would draw them close to Himself in a new way.

**This article has been adapted from a 49-page prayer guide filled with stories, insights, and prayer points to include you in reaching Haredi communities through your prayers.*

See the enclosed flyer to order your copy of the Haredi Prayer guide or request a downloadable copy of the Haredim Prayer Guide here [\[link\]](#).

Names are changed to protect privacy



your stories

A few months ago, we received this cool story along with a gift:

A brief anecdote that belongs to this \$100 donation.

I do street ministry—like Moishe Rosen [used to]—and I use my trumpet—gospel songs. It draws people.

Many times they offer me money. I tell them, thank you, NO. “It’s ALL for Jesus!”

I give them gospel tracts. Moishe called them “broadsides.”

Sometimes, when I’m playing, they walk up and leave money. I don’t see them. But I give the money away.

This time a car stopped at an intersection red light. A lady got out from the passenger side, walked over to me and offered me a hundred dollar bill. I gave her a tract and said, “No thank you, it’s all for JESUS.”

She persisted. I raised my hands so I couldn’t take the money. She stuck it in my trumpet valve area and hurried back to the vehicle.

The driver, a guy, was saying something. I couldn’t hear it all. I hollered, “No, no! I don’t take money, it’s all for Jesus.”

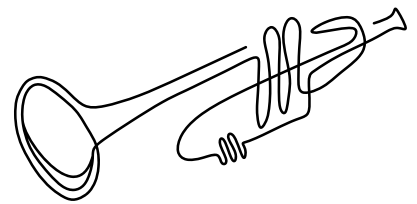
He said, “Of course. Put Jesus first in everything.”

Then he drove away.

So, here’s \$100.

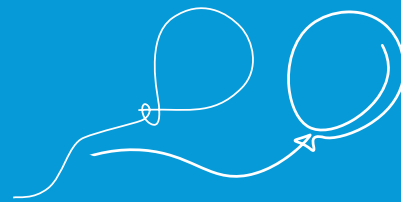
God bless,

Minister Dan
Cedar Rapids, IA



We love hearing your stories and hope that you enjoy getting to know a bit about one another as we all partner together to reach Jewish people for Jesus. If you have an encouraging story about your love for Jewish evangelism or how you are connected with Jews for Jesus, please email ruth.rosen@jewsforjesus.org and put “your stories” in the subject line. If email is not an option, we’d welcome a letter to our office in Sydney

A Big Anniversary!



Jews for Jesus turns 49 years old this month! We thank God for providing partners like you who’ve enabled us to take the gospel to Jewish people all over the world. We are deeply grateful to those of you who have been with us from the start, but we are just grateful to those of you who have just recently begun to experience the joy of helping Jewish people come to faith in Jesus.

Whether you’ve been with us for many or few of our 49 years, thank you for partnering with us! Thank you for your ever-increasing love for Jesus that finds ways to pray and give so that others can know and love Him too!

If you’re wondering whether we’ll be doing anything special to mark next year’s 50th anniversary, please stay tuned . . .

Receive our monthly news electronically, along with bonus stories, prayer requests, and Bible resources!

Write to admin@jewsforjesus.org.au and ask to hear from Jews for Jesus via email, or go to [jewsforjesus.org/subscribe](https://www.jewsforjesus.org/subscribe) and make sure to give your email address.

For your convenience

The envelope is enclosed in the postal mail, not as a request, but a convenience for those who want to give. For those who want to give online, this URL makes it easy: <https://www.jewsforjesus.org.au/giving>