



Your Partners in
Reaching Jewish People
for Jesus

October 2022



Forgiveness: Pass It On

by David Brickner, Executive Director

Our greatest need as human beings is forgiveness for the things that separate us from God and from one another. This month, Jewish people sought that forgiveness on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Even people who are not religious were contemplating their need for forgiveness, thinking about reconciliation with others they may have wronged. Sadly, at the end of the day many, if not most, of my people had no sense of certainty that God has taken away their guilt, because they do not know His grace through faith in Messiah Yeshua. This is what drives us Jews for Jesus to pray and to relentlessly pursue God's plan for their salvation. Only the mercy and grace of God's forgiveness through Jesus frees us to live without the weight of unbearable guilt.

Reconciliation may seem out of reach to many who don't know the Lord, but for many followers of Jesus, sadly you'll also find it missing. Years ago, I sought to help two leaders in a ministry. They had once been as close as any two brothers could be, but over the years, much had happened to undermine that friendship. I sat between them at a long table laden with sushi. They were at opposite ends of the table. After a few awkward moments, the older of the two began, "What you did really hurt me." The younger responded, "Well what you did really hurt me." For a time, they aired old grievances about who said or did what hurtful thing. Then came a pause. Finally, the older man admitted, "Well my memory is not so good these days." His colleague chuckled, "My memory is not so good either." They smiled at each other; eyes tinged with sadness knowing that resentment had hijacked the joy of their friendship for far too long. Then we dove into the sushi and talked about the present and the future.

These men showed me something. Reconciliation does not always include a perfect understanding of—much less resolution to—whatever wrongs were committed. Sometimes our limitations make it impossible for us to see and agree on what happened. That's when reconciliation requires a mutual willingness to overlook the past and focus instead on the present, the future, and the Lord.

God alone sees everything, has no memory problem, and is 100% accurate about all our deeds. We have no excuses before Him. He offers to forgive our sins once and for all—and tells us to forgive others as He has forgiven us. Paul tells us, "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." (Col. 3:13) Thank God He forgives us all our sins without requiring us to regurgitate all the details of our past.

In fact, the ministry of reconciliation is "that God was in Messiah reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19). We need to be gracious to others because that is how God treats us. If we are determined to prove how right we are or to exact retribution for every wrong done to us, we will never be able to do what God wants us to: forgive out of deep gratitude for how He's forgiven us.

Let's recommit ourselves to sharing the transformative grace of God and the forgiveness He extends to us, not only on the High Holidays, but every day. And may God use our love and forgiveness to help reconcile many people to Himself and to one another.



By Bob Mendelsohn
National Director, Australia

Is it working in Sydney?



The staff meets together regularly. We enjoy being with one another, and will use almost any excuse to celebrate, be it someone's birthday or the passing of a test, the sharing of a great encounter with a Jewish person or ... we really don't need an excuse. End of the day, we actually like each other! WE strategize and we pray together. Sometimes we just pop into each other's homes for a meal or a spot of tea.

Last month we celebrated Rosh Hashanah (Jewish new year) with whoever joined us at the Church in the Marketplace and were delighted with the response of so many, not only those who attended our gathering in Bondi Junction, but many who wrote us and told us they were praying with us. It was as if our team was larger than the six of us who get paid as Jews for Jesus.

After the event, I was speaking with each of the Jewish people who were not yet believers who attended. One said, "Can you have more of these gatherings? They are so special to me." Another said, "I think I now believe in Jesus. What's next?" (Of course that delighted our souls and she will be baptized by the time you receive this newsletter.) A third said she really appreciated the fellowship (her word!), while a fourth said, "It makes so much sense. And the songs came back to me like I'd never

left [his synagogue experience]." (Of course finding faith in Jesus is not so much a leaving historic Judaism as it is leaving a life of sin and self-centeredness and becoming a man of faith and love.) I guess what I'm saying is that your prayers for our team are making a difference in us as a community of witness AND are making a difference in Jewish people who see who and what we are in Messiah.

One of the not-yet-believers told me that all "those people from all over the world (he's speaking ethnically) made an impression on me!" You see, public testimony works as Yeshua taught in his final prayer before the cross, "that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17.21) When the believers care for one another and honestly love one another, in spirit and truth, and the not-yet-believers see that, they want to belong, they want to believe, and we welcome them.

Thanks, dear friends, for your help in sharing Messiah with our people, by praying, by your kind notes of encouragement, by your finances, by your asking your pastor to host us again. In all you do, you help us. Without you, it doesn't work; WITH YOU, IT'S WORKING!



You Helped Yakov Start a New Life!

Yakov left his *Haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) community more than a decade ago. He had broken the Sabbath, his parents tried to discipline him by not speaking to him . . . and he just wasn't satisfied with life at the *yeshiva* (Orthodox religious school). He was an 18-year-old in search of an alternative.

Eventually, Yakov turned up on the Jews for Jesus website and responded to our LiveChat invitation. He shared his journey with Tirzah Olson, from our chat team: "After I ran away, I was so lonely without any support or familiarity. It was a huge culture shock even to talk to girls. I ended up with a bad crowd and shooting dope. I wasted a decade of my life trying to fill the hole in my soul. I'm finally getting myself together now."

Yakov went on to explain that he'd recently begun studying

about Jesus and the New Testament on YouTube. He told Tirzah, "Finding Jesus is like coming home." And now he had a question: "How do I become a Jew for Jesus? Is there a ceremony?" (In Orthodox Judaism there are ceremonies for all important life events.)

Tirzah explained that it's a matter of repentance and receiving God's forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice. She sent him Romans 10:9–10, and after reading the passage, Yakov said, "Thank you for helping me out today. You don't understand how much this means to me. I am starting a new life!" Yakov and others are finding the support they need because God works through partners like you to help us connect with Jewish people, online and in person, all over the world!

Names have been changed to protect privacy.

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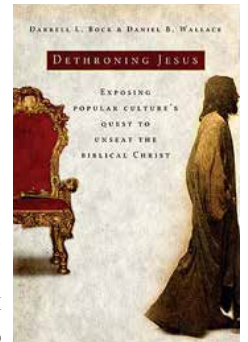


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BOOKS



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by Darrell Bock
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Calendar

For the year from September 2022 to December 2023! All Jewish holidays, Sabbath readings, our regional holidays as well. Features colorful paintings of Jerusalem scenes. Art by South African Jewish believer Jonathan Biddlecombe

COST: \$28



The Happiest man on earth,
by Eddie Jaku
COST: \$32

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