

# **Shalom!**

by Bob Mendelsohn, Australian Director

s you may have read in our recent publications, Jews for Jesus international is about to observe our 50th anniversary, our Jubilee. Yovel, as this special year is called in Hebrew, is an appointed time in the Scriptures when the people of Israel were to proclaim liberty to the captives. And that is exactly what we are going to do to celebrate!

During the months of May, June, and July, we are marking this Jubilee year with an all-out proclamation of freedom in Messiah to 20 Jewish communities around the world. This is the most comprehensive global outreach we have ever conducted, with hundreds of missionaries and volunteers sharing the good news all at the same time.

Most exciting of all, one of these special outreaches is taking place right here in Australia!

Each of the 20 outreaches involves people groups who are our 'target audience' and here in Sydney we have narrowed our focus to the group labelled "Spiritual but not Religious." (SBNR) Yes, that's actually a recognized subset of the Jewish community, here in Sydney's East, and nationally as well. Think Byron Bay or Woodstock, think about those Jewish people you have met who indicate a reluctance to the message of the Gospel, but are not really demonstrably or recognizably religiously practicing Jews. That's more common than you might know. We have been trialling some activities the last few years to see if we could reach these folks. And our successes in two areas have encouraged us to take on this capstone this month, and as you are reading this, we are in the midst of this outreach-- it's a whirlwind!

The two areas of outreach we have trialled have been our Art Lounge in our shop as well as small Shabbat gatherings for dinners and Bible presentation. Each of those areas saw many Jewish people attend and gave us ample and continuing opportunity to share Messiah with them. As a direct result, we are ramping those up in May and it's bigger than anything we've done

before. We are using a pop-up shopfront on Oxford Street in Darlinghurst rather than our own book shop. We are hosting catered dinners for invited guests. These are acts of faith, and we invite your participation.

Sending you this info today is going to help us on three levels. One, you will pray and when God's people pray, God listens and acts for His name's sake. As I write this at the end of April, I'm imagining you, the team of prayer warriors around the country joining as an army, reminding God of His love for all people, especially the Jewish people. God remembers, and when that happens, there is no end to His pleasure to act on His promises. So, thank you for praying for this outreach. If you email me or ring the office straightaway, I will get you a prayer list that will help us daily!

A second result will be that if you are in Sydney at all, during the rest of the month of May, you might come to visit the Gallery. Room 205 is the location and it's at 205 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst. It's only metres from the centre of Taylor Square. It's only metres from Darlinghurst Road, where Sacred Heart, St Vincent Hospital, and the Jewish Museum are located. Across the street is Darlinghurst Courthouse. Seems like every City bus drives right past the venue. So it's easy to get to! We are open daily from 11 AM to 8 PM and would love you to stop in to see the artwork, and perhaps to bring a Jewish mate or work colleague. We do not have the Bondi Junction book shop operating every day just now. All our resources of staff are deployed in running the gallery as well as maintaining visiting our contacts.

The SBNR Jewish people have very significant needs that the gospel can meet. Need for a community, need for acceptance, need for a meaning in life. The Art Exhibition is about Walls, both walls that prevent relationships and walls of comfort and hope that bring people together. We hope to share God's good love in this special season with His people.

Finally, would you please pray for the special outreaches that are happening across the world in Berlin, Jerusalem, New York City, and throughout the

world this winter? Would you also consider sending a special Jubilee gift today to be part of the largest Jews for Jesus outreach ever? Together, we can bring the gospel to the Jewish people in Sydney and around the world! Financially, that's the third way to help us.

In proclaiming liberty, we are joining with the Apostle Peter, anticipating that "times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, appointed for you, Yeshua, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago." (Acts 3:21-22)

What an amazing Jubilee that will be—true and final liberty in Jesus!

With every blessing in Messiah,

Bob Mendelsohn Australian Director

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We want to send you the booklet we are giving to each visitor to the Gallery and will do so if you simply tick the box and ask.

We also want to send every large donor a special thank you and will do so, unless you tick that box and decline the special offer. (Anything over \$113)

No matter what, please be in prayer for our efforts to bear good fruit, fruit that remains until the Coming of the Son of Man.

We bless you from Sydney!

## **ADDRESS INFORMATION**

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