

# JEWES FOR JESUS™

AustralAsian Newsletter / February 2020

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism

## Dangers??

The dangers around our planet and around our country are severe and mounting. Every news program for months has featured bush fires and commensurate loss of property and life. It's gripping; it's sad. Until rains come there seems to be no hope. Driving on holidays as the year 2019 ended and this new one began gave us wider perspective on the dangers and the massive troubles the country is experiencing. Over in New Zealand, the volcano on North Island took many lives. We are a country and a region at risk.

People ask me with regularity about travel to Israel and the safety factors. They have seen the news reporting a bomb or the use of the Iron Dome and wonder if there will be an attack whilst they are visiting. The media reports any time there are episodes of physical attack, in Sydney's southwest to the Gaza Strip, to London.

There is no guarantee, of course, and yet if you work with reputable travel agencies, they will be aware of any significant daily travel warnings. My wife and I first visited Israel in 1983, and on that tour, we were well aware of the hostility of some to our presence. Back in January 2018 I felt some similar hostility during my work in Jerusalem at that time. But it comes and goes.

When I was a guest of some friends at dinner in Lakemba a few years ago, I had

the possibility of further worry. That suburb is one of the centres of Arab/Muslim life in Sydney. I drove the van with the "Jews for Jesus" stickers to meet them and parked in front of a local grocery. My friends and I had a nice dinner after which I exited the restaurant. Staring at my car was a pair of Muslim men. We engaged in conversation and that one brief encounter became a 2-hour dialogue which involved at least a dozen other Muslim men. (No women stopped to talk with us.) We shared openly about Messiah, about faith, about Jesus being the only way to God, and so many other biblical matters. It was awesome. And yet when I told some others about this experience, they wondered if I had any fear. After all I was surrounded, and this was "hostile" territory, they said.

No, I never felt danger. No, I wasn't nervous. It was awesome to share Messiah there, and to continue to share him throughout Sydney and throughout the world. God has given us more opportunities to proclaim him and we are not inclined to stop. Yes, there might be dangers. And we have to be wise as serpents, or wise as Solomon. There are real dangers out there in the bush. There are some who really oppose our work of evangelism, too. But God has called us to proclaim him. Your prayers really help.

Some of you heard from us in October that we were in a dangerous and precarious financial position. The trajectory of



**Bob Mendelsohn**  
Regional Director  
JFJ Australia

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our finances was downward, and we let some of our donors know. Within two weeks we were out of the red and experienced great relief. God was kind through some serious and significant individuals.

Now that 2020 has begun, we need to ask those who receive our newsletter to step up and continue giving, or if you have never begun, to consider starting a regular donation to our cause of reaching Jewish people (and anyone else who is listening). Your donations really help us keep going. Please, receive our thanks for your support at this time, and throughout 2020 if you are able.

Online, you may use this link,  
<http://www.jewsforjesus.org.au/giving>

We are not cavalier about dangers; we seriously trust the Lord at all times. And he is worthy of that trust, amen?

**FIRE DANGER  
TODAY**



# BITS FROM



## **Svetlana Adelson reports from Israel,**

“For three months I met weekly with Nastya to pray and study the Bible. She was a new believer in Jesus, not Jewish, but married to a Jewish man, Paul. Paul had been living in Israel for more than 10 years and was very far from believing in God! Nastya and I prayed faithfully for God to reveal Himself to Paul. One time we met as families, and I got to know Paul a little and shared my personal testimony with him.

“I was so happy when Paul and Nastya agreed to come to the Messianic gathering we attend. After the service, we all met in our home and shared more about the love of God and salvation. Paul was ready to receive Yeshua in his heart, so I offered to pray with him and he accepted. Praise God that he and his wife plan to continue attending our congregation on a regular basis to be with other believers and study the Word of God in depth.

# BRANCHES

## Richard Harvey reports from London

"I was in Berlin for our most recent meeting of the Jews for Jesus European board of directors when I had quite an encounter in a taxi. As I was chatting with the driver, who was from Turkey, I meant to say, 'Danke Schön' ('thank you' in German) but instead I said it in Hebrew— 'Todah rabbah.' The taxi driver, whom I had assumed was a Muslim, immediately responded, 'Why did you speak to me in Hebrew? How did you know I am Jewish?' He pulled out his wallet and showed me a card depicting the Israeli flag.

"I would never have expected to meet a Turkish Jewish taxi driver in Berlin, but there he was! We chatted about his family background, his preparation for his son's upcoming bar mitzvah, and what it was like to be Turkish and Jewish in Berlin. We also talked about a famous false messiah, Shabbetai Zvi, who ended up in Turkey, and how we could know if Yeshua is the true Messiah.

"He asked me many questions about Yeshua and His first Jewish disciples, and we exchanged contact details. Do pray for my new friend Osment—that he will come to know the Messiah of Israel."



## Berlin branch leader Aaron Lewin reports A Divine Appointment in Berlin

"I enjoy connecting with diverse Jewish people in Berlin. Recently, a friend referred me to Tamer, who has left the Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) community in which he was raised. Stereotypes and misunderstandings concerning this very closed community are common, and many within the community are equally in the dark about the outside world.

"Like others in his situation, Tamer is wary of religion, but open to Jesus. I'm fascinated by his story and his perspectives on the Bible and Judaism, and his interest in my belief is mutual. Recently, I showed him chapter 53 of Isaiah. As he read it through in Hebrew, he suddenly stopped and said, 'I know why you're showing this to me!' He checked his own version of the Hebrew Bible to verify what he'd read in mine. He was absolutely amazed and said, 'I've read this passage before, but never made the connection with Jesus!' (He was the one to mention Jesus first!)

"Tamer is curious, yet struggling to believe that God exists, or that He is truly loving. Please pray that he would not only continue to be amazed by what he reads, but that he will receive the truth about Jesus in his heart!"

Keep our Berlin branch in prayer: they have three teams in one, reaching out to Hebrew-speaking, Russian-speaking and, German-speaking Jewish people. But Jewish people from many other backgrounds have found a home in Berlin.





# LOVE HURTS

A VALENTINE'S REFLECTION BY DAVID BRICKNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I have owned one bottle of cologne in my entire adult life. It's called "Eternity for Men." I can't remember the last time I used it, which is why, after several decades, I still have half a bottle remaining.

Whether or not you enjoy Valentine's Day, there is a hidden benefit: it's a great occasion to sift through true and false expectations about love.

Yeshua (Jesus) invites us to remember how love works. He points out what cards, candy, flowers, or special dinners won't: there is no way to love without opening ourselves up to pain. When people you love suffer, you suffer. When people you love don't love you back, you suffer. And the list goes on.

Suffering is generally seen as a problem to be avoided—a healthy approach in many situations. But the temptation to avoid all suffering at any cost is dangerous. Those who succumb eventually find their hearts bankrupt, unable or unwilling to risk personal comfort, and too frightened or too numb to love. Had that been the culture of the early church, I wonder how far the gospel would have gone.

I am not suggesting some bizarre form of spiritual masochism. Suffering in itself is not good, and not what God intended for His creation. Yet God can, and often does, work good through suffering. Sometimes our suffering actually creates oppor-

tunities for love to flourish. We make sacrifices. Others make sacrifices on our behalf. People show up for one another. For that we can rejoice and be thankful. Maybe you are not suffering right now. In this, too, you can rejoice. But wait—it will happen.

We can thank God that we aren't suffering as much as we might, but suffering is part of everyone's reality. So why should you or I be exempt from something that everyone else must endure?

Job said, "People are born for trouble as readily as sparks fly up from a fire" (Job 5:7, New Living Translation).

When suffering strikes, it's natural to ask God, "Why?" Maybe a more helpful question is "What?" as in, "God, what do You want to do in and through me in this time of suffering? How can I experience and pass on



**David Brickner**  
Executive Director,  
San Francisco USA

**"The temptation to avoid all suffering at any cost is dangerous."**

**““When sin ripped us apart, Jesus did not turn from our suffering; He took it upon Himself and transformed it into everlasting life and love.”**

Your great love?”

It's right to ask for God to relieve suffering, and He often does.

But let's not be too quick to fear suffering as the worst thing that can happen, or the first thing to avoid.

C. S. Lewis addresses human suffering in his book, *The Problem of Pain*. He writes,

“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us

in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

So we are meant to listen for God's voice when we suffer. But we need more than that. We need comfort.

I find comfort in serving a God who suffered. As famous Lutheran pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Only a suffering God can help.” Jesus knows our pain. For love's sake,

He has already entered into our suffering and helps us to bear it. But there's more. If we belong to Him, we have entered into His suffering and death. And we will share in His resurrection and glory.

Paul wrote, “I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for His body, the church” (Colossians 1:24, *New Living Translation*). When we bring our suffering to a suffering God, it will always have meaning. Paul probably would not have had to endure such pain had he not loved Jesus, yet that very love helped him endure the pain.

During the Nazi Holocaust, a Lutheran pastor named Ernst Lohmeyer was arrested and condemned for opposing the regime. He was miraculously freed, only to be rearrested and executed by the Russians. Yet he wrote, “If God were to snatch us out of trials we would then be tried in

ways that would be endlessly deeper and greater than all the trials that we must endure in human circumstances. But, dear friends, even in the deepest trials the sound of his voice is perceptible, blowing over us like incense” (Ernst Lohmeyer, *Between the Swastika and the Sickle*).

When sin ripped us apart, Jesus did not turn from our suffering; He took it upon Himself and transformed it into everlasting life and love.

Because we love God, we love what He loves. We sometimes suffer for the sake of that love.

In a world that is desperate for love and full of suffering, let's listen to the voice of God and feel it blowing over us like precious, sweet-smelling incense in the midst of each and every circumstance. Let's love God and love others . . . even when love hurts.

## ADDRESS INFORMATION

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Account number:  
0106273-00

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Singapore 914606

#### DONATIONS

Banking in Singapore:

OCBC.

Name: Jews for Jesus

Account # 581.252.897.001



We also receive donations from believers via **PayPal, Credit cards, and TT.**

JEWS FOR JESUS™

# Messianic Resources

Features resources for your learning, celebrating and growth



## Calendar

The Holy Land, historical paintings of Israel by David Roberts. This 16-month Jewish Biblical calendar runs from September 2019-December 2020. Weekly Torah portions: OT and NT. Includes Aussie, Singapore Holidays and Jewish Holidays. Space for notes on each month. Made in Israel.

**DISCOUNT to \$20 (while supplies last).**

## Whoever heard of a Jewish missionary?

Bob Mendelsohn tells his own story of faith from Orthodox Jew to Jesus follower. Find out how he hatred for the men who told him about Jesus turned into a lifetime passion to tell others about Him. **Cost \$6**



## Traicionado

(Spanish testimony of Stan Telchin)  
Esta fue la aturrida reacción de Stan Telchin, un exitoso hombre de negocios, cuando su hija contó que había aceptado a Jesús como su Mesías. Sus palabras fueron como bombas. Una verdadera y poderosa historia que encaja con la profecía de ser revelado justo frente a tus ojos...

**Cost \$15**



## Kippah suede

(choose color: Off white or Black)  
**Cost \$13**



## Teach your feet DVD (Volume 1)

Basic Dance Steps. This DVD is geared for the beginning level dancer who is trying to master the basic Jewish folk dance steps and choreograph dances for their own congregation.

**Cost \$28**



## The Holocaust: Where was God?

Jewish believer Art Katz' thesis is that the Holocaust is judgment by God on the Jewish people for living as if there were no God. A powerful consideration. You will be challenged and you will find some serious answers to the most basic of questions.

**Cost \$24**

While supplies last

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