



Wonderful!

BY DAVID BRICKNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Some may be glad to be leaving 2020 behind—so many have described it as the year we would rather forget. But there are good reasons to remember this past year. If we forget the past, we lose perspective for the future. And despite all the bad news and the sad news of 2020, there are still good reasons to rejoice and celebrate. Some people were married last year, others had children. Some people received Christ this past year, and others grew in grace and knowledge of Him. Countless reminders point to life in all of its wondrous and varied complexity. Sometimes it's just a matter of perspective, as illustrated in the following story:

A man on a train, his eyes glued to

the sights beyond the window, kept exclaiming, "Wonderful! Wonderful! Wonderful!" As the train passed by slums, brokendown buildings, and filthy smokestacks, his fellow passengers became somewhat irritated as he kept repeating, "Wonderful! Wonderful!"

Finally, the passenger next to him remarked tersely, "Some of the things we're passing don't look so wonderful to me." The man replied, "I've been blind all of my life, but through recent medical advancements and the donation of two corneas, I am seeing for the very first time. So, to me, everything looks wonderful."

That story reminds me that our view of life is often based upon our own



Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works! (Psalm 40:5a)

limited perspective. Yet, when all that we see looks dreary or even fearful, God’s perspective is very different.

HIS WONDERFUL WORKS

We have just celebrated the birth of the One whom Isaiah describes as a Wonderful Counselor. And it is because of Yeshua that we have eyes to see this past year through the lens of God’s plan to bring about His very best for the creation He so loves. When we remember that God is on the throne and that He is wonderful, we can see the world through His eyes, and we can say along with that man, once blind, “Wonderful!”

The psalmist declared, “Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered” (Psalm 40:5).

HIS WONDERFUL THOUGHTS

God not only does wonderful things for us, He thinks wonderful thoughts about us. The Creator of the universe thinks about you and about

me—and not thoughts of judgment as some might imagine. His thoughts toward us are WONDERFUL!

As we anticipate the coming year, it should thrill our hearts that the God of the universe not only thinks about us but also works on our behalf! That was true in 2020, and it will still be true in 2021. We may not know what lies ahead, but the Scriptures assure us that God will continue to do wondrous deeds on our behalf. Like the psalmist, we should proclaim His deeds and thoughts to one another and to the world. We might as well start now because there are “more than can be told”!

I encourage you to take a few minutes now to think about some of the good news from 2020 as well as some of the good things you are looking forward to for 2021.

HIS WONDERFUL PLANS

God’s plans have not been stalled by the ups and downs of 2020. He is working in our midst through your partnership. By God’s grace and thanks to your help, last year we added 13 new missionaries to the evangelism ministry of Jews for

Jesus in the US, Europe, Russia, and Israel! That is pretty amazing when you consider the challenging economic times. For more encouraging news of 2020 and hopes for 2021, see page 4.

I hope you will celebrate with us how the Lord is accomplishing His plans through your partnership with Jews for Jesus, but I also hope you will make a list of your own to celebrate His wonderful works. I would love for you to share your list with us so we can rejoice together in what the Lord has done in your life.

And think about this—the best is yet to come, not just for 2021, but for all eternity.

“As it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit” (1 Corinthians 2:9–10).

Beloved, may the Spirit of God reveal even more to each one of us the amazing thoughts, deeds, and plans that He has prepared for our future. They are WONDERFUL!

ADDRESS INFORMATION

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



JEWS FOR JESUS™



Shabbat Outreaches in Sydney

With COVID-19 restrictions somewhat eased in Sydney, our shop in Bondi Junction continues to be a place to connect with the local Jewish community. One of the first things we did last year was give out free hand sanitizer! This began when a wonderful donor couple up in Queensland sent us 40 litres of their own product and we were able to distribute individual bottles in the Junction. And now, thanks to your generous support, we are back to hosting Shabbat luncheons and dinners.

Rebekah Bronn, one of our new missionaries, says, “We want to create a comfortable place for Jewish people to consider Jesus, and what could be more comfortable than meeting around a Shabbat table for good food and conversation?”

An Israeli named Talia walked into our shop and was delighted to be invited to a Shabbat dinner. She brought two beautiful loaves of homemade challah, as well as her non-Jewish boyfriend. She was so grateful to find an event where her boyfriend could learn more about Jewish traditions. (And we hope that they both will discover Yeshua!)

Abram looks forward to weekly coffee and conversation at the shop, and “loves the cozy atmosphere.” He also attends our Shabbat dinners— always bringing a delicious dish to share.

Also, one of our Messianic friends was delighted when her mother, Stella (not yet a believer), joined us for a Shabbat dinner. Now her mum is planning to cook something for the next dinner!

Shabbat events create a welcoming place to enjoy a meal, share stories, and talk about the One who offers

peace and rest in the midst of the chaos of this world. Please pray for Abram, Talia and her boyfriend, Stella, and so many more to come to know Jesus and the abundant life He offers. Looking ahead in 2021, we may need a new place to host as the numbers are increasing. And we would love to have a small crew of helpers who would serve our Jewish friends in the kitchen to free us to be more present with our guests.

Please also pray for the regulars who come into our shop throughout the weeks. There’s not been a week since 2005 (when we are open) that Jewish people don’t visit us in the shop. David, a Jewish man who lives nearby, has made himself quite at home there. Rebekah reports: “He comes in weekly and even helps himself to a glass of tea most times! David has been visiting with us for years and has said that he believes Jesus is the Messiah, but he is still sorting out some major questions, and I love that we can be a place where he can come and do that.” We have many others who consider us their ‘home base.’ This Jewish ‘home’ connection adds to the witness of our staff, Trained Partners and volunteers. Thanks for all your support!

All this enterprise is part of the outreach we continue in meeting Jewish people in their homes and offices, on their phones and computers via Zoom and Skype, and sometimes at churches when we go to preach. God has been kind to us for the last 22 years here in Australia and we are hopeful for his hand to be on us in 2021 and beyond!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION: Is it true that Jews don't have Isaiah 53 in their Bible?

ANSWER: There is a YouTube alleging that this is the "forbidden" chapter and that's not exactly true. For Jewish people, the Bible is read in a cycle, every week over an annual cycle. That is, the books of the Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy) are read weekly and every word is read in the course of a year. There is also an associated reading from the rest of the Scriptures.

There are hundreds of sections of the Older Testament that are not read publicly in the weekly services in synagogues. One of those passages is Isaiah 53. Of course, if Isaiah 53 were not included in the Bible, then chapter 54 would be chapter 53. When people say Isaiah 53 is forbidden, they mean that most Jewish people are prevented from reading it. Actually, since most Jewish people don't read their Scriptures, if they even have a copy of it, the default is not knowing what it says. Rather than 'forbidden,' we should simply call it 'unknown.' There are many Jewish people who have read that chapter, of

course, and for most of them, the 'who' of the text is a reference to "Israel."

For those of us who know Messiah and that the 'him' of the report of Isaiah 53 is obviously Jesus, we ache to help our Jewish friends and family to know him personally. Referring the 'him' of the text to Israel, the place, just doesn't make sense, but it takes the eyes of the heart to see him, and it's a ministry of the Spirit to open the eyes for such sight. Please do two things with your Jewish colleagues: 1) offer them a copy of the Scriptures (we give them away at our shop for free) and point them to this fantastic chapter. Ask them whom they think the prophet is referencing. Also 2) pray for them that their eyes might be opened to the person of Yeshua and the power of his life, death, resurrection and forgiveness. Thanks!



REGARDING WILLS

Please include the following wording in your will if you wish to make a contribution in your will to Jews for Jesus after you pass on from this life to be with Yeshua.

"I bequeath the sum of (\$xxxx or xx%) of my estate, free of all Probate and Death Duties to Jews for Jesus of Australia, in the State of New South Wales, for the general purpose of the said organization and I DECLARE that the receipt of the Jews for Jesus authorized officer shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees who shall not be obliged to see to the application thereof."

Looking Forward, Looking Back



Missionary Greg Williams setting up for an evangelistic art gallery event in Tel Aviv.

We are truly amazed by how God moved through your prayers and generosity during 2020. Thanks to the Lord and your partnership, we were able to leverage the physical limitations of the pandemic into creative ministry opportunities. This included everything from online workouts led by one of our missionaries with a background in personal training, to Bible studies over Zoom and FaceTime, and even hosting a virtual summer camp for Jewish children and youth!

We've held more than 50 virtual events including Passover livestreams, witnessing training, and an evangelistic forum (keep an eye out in future newsletters for info on upcoming virtual events).

We pioneered many new ways to reach the people of Israel by loving and serving those in need during the pandemic—from launching our evangelistic food truck to simply sending out missionaries to deliver supplies and New Testaments to Israelis in quarantine.

We launched a new branch in Jerusalem. We are thrilled to have a dedicated team now proclaiming the gospel in this city where Jesus taught, healed, died, and rose from the dead!

And we launched our first-ever full-time ministry to Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) men and women with missionaries now on the ground in an undisclosed Haredi community.

In addition to building up new initiatives, we look forward to engaging with more people in person in 2021 through in-person visits, events, outreach, and our evangelistic coffee shops in Sydney, Los Angeles, and a new one opening in New York (more on this to come!).

Thank you for your partnership in the work of the kingdom, and may God bless you as you continue to help shine the light of Messiah to Jewish people in 2021!

2020 By the Numbers (data reported as of November 1)

- ▶ 20,562 Jewish people attended events such as online group Bible studies or holiday services
- ▶ 27,856 people in need received food or other services in the land of Israel
- ▶ 16,045 evangelistic or discipleship visits conducted by our staff around the world
- ▶ 8,860 Jewish people connected with us on our website through LiveChat
- ▶ 2,482 unsaved Jewish people gave us their contact information to hear more about why we believe Jesus is the Messiah
- ▶ 160 Jewish people prayed with our staff to receive Jesus as their Messiah and Lord

Messianic Resources

FEATURES RESOURCES FOR YOUR LEARNING, CELEBRATING AND GROWTH

Tree of Life Bible

Leatherette cover

Most Bible translations sacrifice the deep connection between the Jewish roots of our faith and the grafted-in Gentile branches, using imprecise English terms rather than Hebrew terms. The Tree of Life Version (TLV) is a new Bible translation, produced by the Messianic Jewish Family Bible Society, which highlights the rich Hebrew roots of the Christian faith. **COST: \$75**



He Said Then She Said

Helping Jewish-Gentile Couples find Spiritual Harmony

How do you explain to a Jewish-Gentile couple that Yeshua can bring them spiritual harmony, when one or both don't yet know our Messiah? Tuvya Zaretsky has written this engaging and highly-readable workbook to help you do just that. **COST: \$26**



40 Alef Bet Magnetic Letters in Reusable Tub

Alef Bet magnetic letters in a pack. Have fun spelling everything from house to cat to synagogue! **COST \$25.**



Widows Mite

Yeshua commended the widow who gave "out of her poverty by putting in all she owned, all she had to live on". These small coins are replicas of the actual mites used in Temple days in Jerusalem under Rome. Sold in pairs only. **COST \$12**



Who ever heard of a Jewish missionary?

by Bob Mendelsohn



Find out how Bob Mendelsohn's hatred for the men who told him about Jesus turned into a lifetime passion to tell others about Him. You will be touched and inspired with a man's quest to put the pieces of his life together and the personal peace that he found through a new life in Jesus. **COST: \$9**

Praise to our God CD/DVD

The first CD / DVD of this series features 15 Messianic songs from various artists. These songs were among the new songs presented in the Zimrat 2004 Music Conference, later performed in public concert in Jerusalem. The concert was an extraordinary and exciting experience to all present, due to God's special blessing and the anointing of the Holy Spirit present through the event.

CD: \$30 / DVD: \$33



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