

# JEW<sup>S</sup> F<sup>✪</sup>R JESUS™

AustralAsian Newsletter / **MAY 2020**

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism



**Joshua Turnil is a gifted musician and Bible teacher, and he sings Hebrew liturgy beautifully! God has used all these gifts and more to open doors we never could have imagined—including the opportunity to help with High Holiday services for a non-Messianic congregation. (See our December 2019 edition.) Here's an amazing follow-up to that story.**

**E**laine, president of the Jewish groups we'd collaborated with for the High Holidays, invited our team to their Tu B'Shevat (considered a New Year of the trees) celebration. Originally, we were simply coming as guests. But all that changed when I received a phone message from Elaine just

three weeks before the holiday.

Her tone was a bit panicky as she explained that the rabbi was in Israel and would not be back for Tu B'Shevat. The cantor was also unable to attend. Could I help? That is how I ended up leading holiday services for this local Jewish congregation!

After the service, most people lingered to talk. One after another asked me, "How long have you been the rabbi?" or "Are you the rabbi of this community

or another?" Each time, I explained that I'm not a rabbi, but a pastor—and very positive conversations about Jews for Jesus opened up. Everyone saw that being

Jewish and having faith in Jesus are not, as is often believed, mutually exclusive.

This was a rare and deeply meaningful way for us to express both our commitment to the Jewish community and our commitment to Jesus. Thanks to you, our part-



ners, for helping to make it possible!

Around 60 people attended the service. We had a tree-planting ceremony (pictured

on the cover), calling on a child whose grandfather had planted the first Tu B'Shevat tree on behalf of the organization. He planted the tree along with Elaine's husband, Lev. I gave a bit of background and



said some blessings; then we went back inside for some music and a Tu B'Shevat seder (liturgical meal). (Our Jews for Jesus Paris team organized the meal, the music, registration, etc.)

A few members had asked Elaine about Jews for Jesus, and she wanted us to have the opportunity to explain who we are. She told me that I, and anyone on our team, should feel free to explain Jews for Jesus in one-on-one conversations, during the seder meal, or after the service. The seder was quite good fun, and all of our team members had meaningful conversations.

Elaine (shown above with Joshua

Turnil) shared some news about the synagogue, and I gave the message from Scripture, quoting the apostle Paul, who described Israel as an olive tree upon which Gentiles who know the Messiah are grafted in.

We sang Hatikvah (Israel's national anthem) in Hebrew. Then I introduced the French version, explaining that it had been written by evangelical Christians who identified strongly with Israel. The words are quite beautiful and everyone there was touched. They had never sung it in French and robustly chimed in.

Elaine sang loudest of all.

The evening ended with Havdalah (a ceremony at sundown, at the close of Shabbat), led by Lev.

We'd met quite a few of the synagogue goers during the High Holidays. It was great to continue getting to know them, and to speak freely about our faith in Jesus. We also met some new people who were taken aback—in a positive way—to find that I was not a rabbi, much less that I serve with Jews for Jesus. One couple who lead a local cultural organization told me, "We want you to speak at our next event!"

Again, your prayers and support were a major factor in how this amazing event came together. We wanted you to share our joy and to be praying for Elaine, Lev, and all the people we connected with at the Tu B'Shevat celebration.

Names are changed to protect privacy.

# prayer prompts

Your prayers help move mountains!

Please join us in asking God for:

- The Spirit of God to work, not only through Jews for Jesus, but through every church and Christian organization, to be the best possible ambassadors for Him, particularly in navigating the far-reaching effects of COVID-19; may wisdom, compassion, and a readiness to share the gospel characterize our response to each situation we and those around us are facing
- New ways of expressing the gospel for each segment of Jewish people we hope to reach
- God's blessing on our efforts, both sowing and reaping
- Our newer staff as they are in training, and good transitions for some staff who are retiring and still actively serving the Lord in their new stage of life
- Elaine, Lev, and all who attended the Tu B'Shevat service in Paris, to be open to knowing more about Jesus

## ADDRESS INFORMATION

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



# Sowing & Reaping

BY DAVID BRICKNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**M**ay is a season of sowing as well as reaping and Jesus wants us to take joy in both. “Sowing” and “reaping” are each mentioned 50 times in the Scriptures—sometimes in the same verse. Yeshua (Jesus) comments on a well-known maxim of His day in John 4:37–38:

For in this the saying is true: “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.

Jesus’ statement comes on the heels of His conversation with the woman at the well, after she runs off to tell everyone about Him. He wanted His disciples to understand that God uses partnerships in His soul-saving work—implying that each should be humble about his or her role.

I have been thinking about this recently, and reflecting on our Jews

for Jesus core values of passion for the lost, teamwork, and dedication.

## Passion for the lost

Jesus told His disciples, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me” (John 4:34). Jesus had an immense hunger to do God’s will—that’s what

satisfied Him beyond anything else. And God’s will was for people to repent and be saved. Note the urgency: Jesus warned His disciples, “Do you not say there are still four months and then comes the harvest?” In other words, don’t rely on the routine, the normal seasons. The time is now. We must not miss opportunities. Some say that Jesus was pointing to the people coming out through the ripening grain fields from the Samaritan village as the visual illustration of this truth.

## Teamwork

Regardless of which role we have

in the harvest at any given moment, we are all in this together. We all can rejoice in each other’s labors, sharing the joy of success because, “neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:7). As you partner with us in Jews for Jesus, you likewise join with us in the sowing and in the reaping as well. I hope you also share in our joy.

This year we will continue to sow into new initiatives that require faith. Please pray for us as we continue to sow into Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) ministry, build our growing work in Jerusalem, continue to find ways to connect with our new neighbors now that our New York branch is in Greenwich Village, and expand our digital efforts. We are also looking to build new partnerships, especially with the burgeoning church in the Far East.

We have a wide range of Jewish audiences—different ages,



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(1 Corinthians 3:7)

geographical locations, and cultures—not to mention different levels of religious and non-religious backgrounds. We need your prayers as we work to understand the needs of each group; we are asking for God's wisdom to make sure our gospel-centered events and messaging are speaking to everyone in the most engaging way possible as we sow and reap.

#### Dedication

As Jews for Jesus moves closer to our 50th anniversary year, some faithful staff who have been laboring side-by-side since the early days of our ministry are stepping back, and some have actually moved on. Newer staff have grown into leadership positions and newest staff are just beginning. I believe Yeshua's comment on one sowing and another reaping implies that His disciples are entering into a harvest that has been a long time in the making. In effect, He reminds them they are standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before—from the prophets of old all the way up to John the Baptist.

We likewise stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Let their dedication serve as an example for us to carry on, so that we might leave a similar legacy of dedication for those who follow after us. That kind of dedication requires us to continually cultivate humility, recognizing that we are rejoicing in a harvest we did not labor for, as well as laboring for a harvest that we will not see.

I am inspired by this passage in Hebrews and pray that it will characterize not just Jews for Jesus, but the whole church, in these very difficult days. "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:11–12).



**"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9**

Print newsletters are prepared more than a month in advance, so we have no way of knowing what the COVID-19 situation will be by the time this reaches you. We do know two things:

- in the best-case scenario, there will still be genuine and serious challenges for all of us as a result of what has happened and
- even in the worst-case scenario, our God and King is still in control and our hope has ever been in Him, not in the situations and circumstances of this world.

We think of our partners as a community, though most of you have never met one another. We want you to know we are praying for you, and hope you are praying, not only for us at Jews for Jesus, but for the whole community of Jews for Jesus partners.

# Messianic Resources

FEATURES RESOURCES FOR YOUR LEARNING, CELEBRATING AND GROWTH

## JEW S F ✪ R JESUS™

### 100 Prophecies Fulfilled By Jesus

An clear-to-read oversized pamphlet that speaks to the very heart of the hope found in Jesus, the Messiah. It's amazing to discover that Jesus fulfilled more than 100 prophecies fore-told 400-1500 years before his birth. This best-selling pamphlet arranges prophecies into those related to Messiah's birth, life, ministry, death.

**PRICE \$8**



### Jonathan Settel: Amen

The rich basso profundo and the Hebrew AND Spanish songs will thrill you and bring to your mind the power of the resurrection and the life of Yeshua.

See him singing here: <https://youtu.be/U4A2dQhKVdM>

**SPECIAL PRICE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST \$14**

### Shabbat Candlesticks Swirl design

- \* Shabbat Candle Sticks
- \* Brass
- \* Twirl Design
- \* 7.5"

You may buy as many as you'd like. Traditionally they are used in pairs, but you may buy them singly.

**PRICE \$25 EACH**



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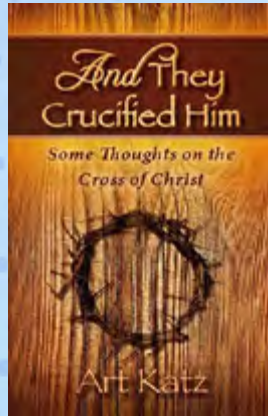
# And They Crucified Him

By Arthur Katz

God's choice of the cross as the ultimate depiction of His divine being is the pivotal point of true faith. All that mankind would think appropriate to God's dignity and power is contradicted by His willingness to suffer a criminal's death. It is almost as if God went out of His way to contradict every human notion, every man-made concept we might have of Him. The crucifixion of God ought more rightly to be seen as His greatest act: namely, the revelation of the nature of God in His suffering and death.

Read this devotionally as the Day of Resurrection has just passed us, or anytime throughout the year.

**\$26 INCLUDING SHIPPING**



## 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."

### Two spies with Grapes

The Biblical story comes alive. God instructed Moses to send spies into the Land of Canaan and 10 came back with a 'bad' report.

Two returned in faith, and even brought back a giant cluster of grapes. Whose report will you believe? Use this weight, Size 12x18 Cm Silver 925 Electroforming to remind you to trust in the Almighty and not in your own understanding.

**PRICE \$49**



### Final sale on 2020 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.

**PRICE \$7**



**Yellow kangaroo sticker**

**PRICE \$3**



**Stay safe  
support one another  
and stay connected**