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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism

Eternity in our hearts

by David Brickner

Executive director, JFJ in San Francisco

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.

Maybe it's time for me to toss my bottle of Eternity.

I don't know if it's any better or worse than other colognes, but the designers could have put "Forget about it" on the label and that would have been a great description of how the scent has impacted my life. But the concept of eternity, unlike the cologne, is one I want to remember every day. How about you?

Many of us are like the little kid who, when asked what he thought "eternity" means, said, "I don't know but it sounds like a really, really long time." That's the mystery because, in fact, eternity is timeless.

I recently had occasion to think about eternity from the perspective of two Scriptures that I was asked to read and comment on at the memorial service for Ceil Rosen, wife of Moishe Rosen, founder of Jews for Jesus. The first passage from Ecclesiastes 3 is often read at funerals, while 1 Corinthians 13 is a favorite at weddings. One of Ceil's daughters asked me to tie the two together, particularly Ecclesiastes 3:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. In these two passages we see the gift of eternity, the



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mystery of eternity, and the promise of eternity.

Both of Ceil's daughters came to know Yeshua (Jesus) through her witness, and both read Scriptures to her and prayed with her often during the last several months of her illness. Ceil seemed to find comfort in Ecclesiastes 3:11 as she and her adult daughters talked about the hope of heaven.

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

It's a good verse to reflect on when the prospect of death can be, frankly, fearful. After all, the very thing that can cause us to fear is evidence of a wonderful gift; we would not be afraid of death if we did not instinctively long for the eternity that God has put in our hearts!

Even our inability to "find out what God is doing from beginning to end" can be a comfort. He's all-knowing and we aren't . . . we can stop trying to analyze and find answers for why everything happens the way it does, as we enjoy the blessings as well as endure the pain of this life.

God has given us the gift of eternity in our hearts, yet that very gift remains a mystery to us. We can't wrap our minds around certain painful events any more than we can understand how there can be such a thing as forever. Yet the more we know God, the brighter will be our glimpses of eternity. And the Lord does give us glimpses, hints here and there, whispers of His eternal love for us. These bits of timeless reality are so-

metimes seen in the lives and loves we enjoy while on earth.

Maybe that is one of the reasons death is so agonizing. In the loving relationships we so cherish while on earth we are experiencing part of the eternity that God has placed in our hearts. When a loved one dies, the longing for forever wells up. Longing rages against loss, and for some that longing turns to despair. But for those of us who have found shelter under the wings of the Almighty through faith in Israel's Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), that pain we feel so acutely right now as we miss believing loved ones can be mysteriously married with a very real hope. It's the hope of being reunited with them and with all those who have trusted in God—a hope of being reunited forever in eternity.

We can hold the gift of eternity in tension with the mystery of eternity because of this promise:

God has put eternity in our hearts and that is why death is so strange and painful. We long to be in the arms of our loved ones, but most of all to fully embrace the love of our Creator. We cannot fathom eternity nor all that God is doing during this fleeting life of ours. But one day we will know, because of the love of God that we experience through Messiah. Meanwhile we are called to love as He loves.

Ceil Rosen's life is a beautiful example of that love: love without pretense, love that doesn't keep score, love that is full of grace. Simple and powerful. This is the eternal love of God. It's a love that we can reflect in our lives . . .

just as Ceil did in her life.

C.S. Lewis once said, "Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself. All that is fully real is Heavenly. For all that can be shaken will be shaken and only the unshakeable remains."*

This is the love of God in Jesus. Unshakable!

The first album I ever produced as music director for Jews for Jesus was called "Times and Seasons." One of the songs, "The Seasons of Our Love," seems to reflect on Ecclesiastes 3 as well as 1 Corinthians 13:

"And when time has reached its goal, and the Lord is all in all, we'll discover a season without ending, with the nations gathered home, we will sing the endless song, praising Jesus the Lord of time for evermore. And we'll never miss the springtime of our love, for we'll have found a love far deeper than we knew."

Ceil Rosen joined Moishe in the arms of that deeper love on 7 December 2018. We had a wonderful celebration of her life on 5 January, which you can see at: <https://vimeo.com/310226520>.

Some of you may know, without Ceil Rosen, the ministry of Jews for Jesus would not have been born. Many Jews and Gentiles are with God forevermore through the witness of Ceil and Moishe. And they influenced countless people to consider and share the gospel.

JEWES FOR JESUS™

by Carolyne Rohrig,
Co-Labourer in Messiah Coordinator



Want to Do More to reach Jewish People For Jesus?

Do you want to be part of a team of people who are passionate about offering the gospel to Jewish people around the world? If your eyes just brightened, here's a wonderful opportunity that might be just right for you —and you don't need to be Jewish!

We need volunteers to serve alongside us! We provide the training and the fellowship through our Co-Labourer in Messiah (CLIM) program. Our next one-of-a-kind training in Jewish evangelism will be in Sydney in January 2020.

What does a CLIM do after training? You get to choose from a variety of projects, or launch your own. For example: One group of volunteers has signed on to be agents in our chatroom on the internet. They have meaningful conversations with Jewish people, and even have the privilege of praying the prayer of faith with some. "The chatroom allows me to connect with people who need the comfort of the Lord," Regen says. Alley, another CLIM, enjoys participating in theological discussions during her live-chat sessions.

Margarita Holley, in Northern California, teaches weekly Bible studies to the elderly in two retirement homes, with several Jewish people attending. "I love teaching the Bible to people

who can't get to church; I bring church to them."

Corrections, and this ministry is uniquely suited to me," he says. Lesa Lovejoy, from Colorado, served as chef for our council meetings for many years. She has recently enrolled in Bible college to be better equipped for ministry. Kristy Welles, from Washington state, runs a booth at the Mercer Island Summer Art Fair every year, where she and other CLIMs talk to many Jewish people about Jesus.

A group of 12 CLIMs from around the country has been calling Jews for Jesus donors every week, not to solicit funds, but just to thank them for their financial support. This leads to meaningful conversations, and opportunities to pray with and for our faithful supporters.

Russell Rintelmann from Michigan has a letter ministry to prisoners all over the country. "I'm a retired officer from the Michigan Department of Corrections, and this ministry is uniquely suited to me," he says.

Bob Oxford, from Oregon, especially likes serving in Ashland, home to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival where, in the summer months and holidays, he talks to many Jewish students who come into town.

Shiva Myers, from North Carolina,

keeps busy teaching Bible studies in church and sometimes in prison. She loves highlighting the Jewish roots of the faith, from the Old to the New Testament.

Paula Perry, from Nebraska, loves direct evangelism. She's been all over the world—Russia, Israel, Australia (she served in our Sydney Summer campaign a couple years ago), South Africa, to name a few—with the gospel. "Nothing gives me more joy than telling people about Jesus," she says. Twice a year she and a friend travel by car to neighboring states to speak to students on college campuses about Messiah.

Those CLIMs who are not as comfortable speaking with folks they don't know, serve in meaningful ways, too; they write thank-you postcards to our donors, host prayer groups in their homes, and pray for our ministry outreaches and needs.

Can you picture yourself in any of these scenarios? Or maybe they've sparked a brand new creative idea of how you can serve alongside Jews for Jesus. We invite you to call or write Carolyne Rohrig, CLIM Coordinator, at carolyne.rohrig@jewsforjesus.org,

THE SEED HAS SPROUTED!

Leonid and I served one week in Sydney, Australia, in 2018. As a part of our ministry we visited Russian-speaking Jews known to the local messianic congregation.

When we approached the door of Mila, Natasha (one of the congregation's leaders) explained that Mila was "very shut down and does not want to hear anything about Jesus," despite the fact that they have prayed fervently for her.

We prayed, knocked, and Mila invited us in. I smiled and told her, "I flew in from Ukraine to say that God loves you!" "I know for sure that this is true!" Mila exclaimed, much

to our surprise and delight. I asked her to tell us more. It seems God had prepared Mila for this meeting with two unlikely events. First she lost an expensive ring that meant a lot to her. She was so upset and prayed, "Oh, God, where did I lose my ring?" Three weeks later she went to the same

grocery store she'd gone to the day she lost her ring, after which she sat down on the same bench to rest. Another woman sat down and suddenly asked Mila, "Is this your ring?" And the woman pointed to where Mila's ring lay! As Mila described the scene, she said, "I was so joyful and grateful to God."

The other, more recent, event occurred when Mila left home and realized she had left her keys somewhere. Fearful that they may have been found by one of the many addicts in her building, she sighed and said, "Lord, save and protect us!" Mila returned home, where a security guard smiled and handed her the missing keys.

He'd seen her leave them in her mailbox, and removed them for safekeeping.

Mila saw these events as signs of God's love for her. She was attentive as I opened the Bible and explained how God calls us to respond to His love by repenting of our sins and being reconciled with Him through the Messiah Jesus. She was eager to do this right away!

It is so inspiring to see how God answers prayer in due season, and how the sown seed bears fruit!

—Olga Vasserman, Odessa



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more from SYDNEY

After 15 years in continual missionary work here in Sydney, Mark and Rahel Landrum are moving on. We wish them well in their continued service to the Lord. On the staff front, we have two new interns who will be starting this winter, and when they begin, we will introduce them to you.

The MeetUp group is now launched and available for any and all to join us or to sponsor an event or fellowship group, a Shabbat gathering, a cultural gathering or a walk or picnic in the park. Join the group and start a discussion or join one! <https://www.meetup.com/Sydney-Messianic-Jews-Meetup/>

Met our new missionaries (over the next few months we will keep introducing you to the newest members of our international staff, for your encouragement and prayers)

EMMANUEL MEBASSER, born in Tehran, Iran, is a fourth-generation Jewish believer in Jesus. His surname means “bearer of good news,” a legacy Emmanuel enthusiastically embraces.

He grew up in Los Angeles, attending a congregation of believers in Jesus comprised of both Jews and former Muslims. Every worship service was a testimony of the love, peace, and unity that Jesus brings when we surrender our hearts to Him.

By the age of 17, Emmanuel knew he needed to discover for himself whether or not God is real and the gospel is true. He asked hard questions about God and the Bible, and he also began questioning people about their relationships with God. That search affirmed and confirmed Emmanuel’s faith in Jesus and the Bible.

His first real contact with Jews for Jesus was during college, when he met Annette Sofaer (from our Los Angeles branch) who was sharing the gospel on his campus. Emmanuel was soon volunteering with the branch and taking part in short-term mission’s trips.

He also did two internships at the San Francisco headquarters in the web and multimedia departments.

Emmanuel met his wife Sarah on an outreach in Florida. Sarah has also served with Jews for Jesus in different capacities. In 1997, Emmanuel accepted a full-time position to lead the



web department at our San Francisco headquarters. He has remained focused on innovating our online evangelism ever since, via website strategies, videos, animations, social media, and Live Chat on the jewsforjesus.org website.

Emmanuel is fond of saying, “We harness the anonymity of the web.” In other words, we give even the most skeptical or cautious people opportunities to connect personally with a missionary via LiveChat. They can explore spiritual issues with us on their own devices in the privacy of their homes, cars, or wherever they feel

most comfortable. The great thing is, more and more people we meet on Live Chat are giving us their contact information for more personal connections.

Though Emmanuel has been part of our administrative team for a long while, he was recently accepted as a missionary specializing in online evangelism. He will receive some great training as he continues to use the web and social media to make the Good News of Jesus available and accessible to Jewish people

worldwide.

Read more about Emmanuel at j4j.co/emtestimony and find out how to volunteer for our flourishing online ministry at j4j.co/joinnet.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

The enclosed envelope is not a request, but a convenience for those who want to give. For those who want to give online, this URL makes it easy and secure: <https://bit.ly/JFJdonate>

