

JEWES FOR JESUS™

AustralAsian Newsletter / September 2020

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For the Christian who wants to learn about Jews and Evangelism



By Invitation Only: God's Banquet is Ready

BY DAVID BRICKNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to you, our partners, we get to extend God's amazing invitation of salvation through Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). Our mission is first to Jewish people, and yet Jesus' wonderful story of "The Great Banquet" in Luke 14:16–24 compels us to push the boundaries.

A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, "Come, for all things are now ready."

There are actually two invitations here. First, the master of the house "invited many." It was assumed people would want to attend the feast, but if they were unable, no doubt it was considered polite to inform the host at once. When the master sends the servant, it's to announce to those who were previously invited that dinner is served! Come on and find your seat!

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused." And another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused." Still another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." So that servant came and reported these things to his master.

In rabbinic teaching, things often come in threes to emphasize the similarity between each. That is the case with these excuses. They are all bogus. Not one of them is justified. Remember, the excuses come just as the meal is being served. They are inappropriate, ill-timed, and unacceptable.

I think of God's invitation for people to come enjoy His presence and His provision. He gave the Jewish peo-



“I know about you Jews for Jesus” the rabbi said. “You convert five times as many Gentiles as Jews.” Moisheshe responded with a smile, “What do you want us to do, throw them back?”

ple prophetic warnings as well as promises of a future redeemer. He even set up holidays to point to His redemptive work, two of which will be observed this very month (see page 8). And even for those who don't know the Scriptures, the Master of the Universe sent an invitation to know Him: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). The apostle Paul wrote, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). There is that word, excuse.

Just like the master of the house in Luke 14, God not only invites, but graciously sends His servants so that no one can forget or ignore the gracious invitation. And who are those servants?

All of us who know the Master have been instructed by the Great Commission to announce the joyous good news—dinner is served. “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8).

Yet, just as in the story, the announcement is often met, not with gratitude, but with excuses. And so, Jesus brings His story to a powerful conclusion:

Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.” And the servant said, “Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.” Then the master said to

the servant, “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.”

Think for a moment about the servant. His mission was not a particularly comfortable one. Yet, there is no indication that the servant made any sort of protest, let alone an excuse. Even those of us who are the Master's servants can be tempted to make excuses when we are sent to certain people. Maybe our comfort zone or the cares of this world threaten to crowd out the priorities of the kingdom of God. But the servant, though not the focal point of the story, sets a great example.

Notice where the servant is sent to find the disabled and the disenfranchised: to the streets and lanes of the city. These are the outcasts of Israel—the people who don't expect to be invited. That's why, in the Luke parable, the master says to compel them to come.

These people are likely to say, “But I don't deserve to be invited!” And the master and his servant both say, “YES! But I am inviting you just the same.” And so, they come to the banquet. The psalmist points out that this has been God's intention all along. “The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:2–3).

So often, the outcasts and the brokenhearted are most responsive to the invitation. They know their need. They know they are undeserving, and

so they are grateful for God's grace. This is why so many of our newsletters have praise reports from our Mekomi team in Israel, as they reach out to the homeless, many of whom are drug addicts and prostitutes.

But as we see in the parable, there is much more room at the banquet table, so the master sends the servant out again. And where does the master tell the servant to go? The highways and hedges. Outside the city. Outside of Israel. Go to the nations. Go to the Gentiles.

This would have been a stunning, shocking instruction to the ears of those listening to this story. Gentiles were not just outcasts in their view. They were absolutely excluded! But again, this inclusion had always been the Lord's intention as declared by the prophet Isaiah, “‘For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.’ The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, ‘Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him’” (Isaiah 56:7–8).

Our founder, Moisheshe Rosen, was once in a radio debate with a rabbi who leveled an accusation. “I know about you Jews for Jesus,” he said. “You convert five times as many Gentiles as Jews.” Moisheshe responded with a smile, “What do you want us to do, throw them back?”

God's salvation is ready, and He is inviting people from every nation, without regard to social standing! What a privilege to follow up on His invitation. I am so grateful that I can be part of that mission and so can you!



Celebrating Jewish holidays —still?

BY RUTH ROSEN, SAN FRANCISCO, CA USA

This month Jewish people around the world will celebrate the High Holidays. The Feast of Trumpets (in Hebrew Yom Truah), also known as Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), begins at sundown, September 18. Nine days later, the Day of Atonement (in Hebrew Yom Kippur) begins at sundown, September 27. Whether in person or online (should COVID restrictions still be in place in some cities), our teams around the world will be hosting holiday events.

Some have asked us, “Why do you celebrate these holidays since you are no longer under the law?”

As Jews sharing the gospel with other Jews, we have the joy of a shared heritage with those we are reaching. We love having these holidays as a common experience and point of connection. We are blessed to be able to host holiday events that not only express our heritage as Jews, but point to our faith in Yeshua. Those events have played a part in many people coming to know the Messiah. And that makes perfect sense when you think about it.

When people celebrate your birthday, they’ll probably learn a little more about who you are based on the kind of party you have. If you invite people to join you in celebrating a landmark wedding anniversary, your guests will probably discover how you met the love of your life. So, it’s no surprise that when we celebrate the feasts God gave us, we come to know a whole lot about who He is and who

we are in relation to Him. And if we already know, it’s always good to be reminded!

These feasts and festivals memorialize what He did for us. This is a great blessing because:

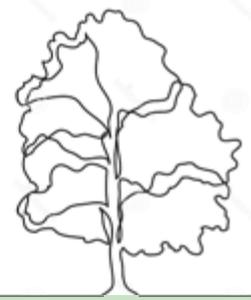
- We need the lessons of the past to help us live in the present and look forward to the future.
- God wants us to have faith and not to rely on seeing miraculous things every day to know that He is real. If God meant to part the Red Sea every day, we would not need a holiday to remind us of that miracle.
- God has compassion on our weaknesses. He knows that we can be forgetful. He knows that we can grow doubtful. That is why He gives us special ways to remember who He is and how He cares for us.

So as our missionary teams around the world prepare for High Holiday services, we do it for ourselves and for the other believers who attend. And we do it for Jewish people who don’t yet believe, but are willing to join us as we celebrate God’s promises, presence, and provision, found not only in these special days, but also in the person of Jesus. If you have Jewish friends, consider sending them a Rosh Hashanah card this year. It is a great way to let them know that you appreciate and affirm their Jewish heritage.

• **If you live near Sydney, join us for our meetings at St Peter’s Anglican HALL, Watson’s Bay. Due to COVID, you have to book here:** <https://bit.ly/RHHash5781>

Bits from the Branches

Sept 2020



From Odessa, Ukraine:

Igor Barbanel reports: I met Igor (a common name in Ukraine) while ministering on the streets of Odessa in August, 2016. Last year Igor and his wife, Olga, who is Gentile, attended the Rosh Hashanah service for the first time. We had a good talk afterwards. When I invited him and Olga to our Bible study at the office, he said that he “wasn’t ready” to come yet, though he would keep attending our Jewish holiday events. When COVID-19 curtailed all our in-person contact, we began holding Sabbath livestream meetings. I invited Igor and Olga to join us online, and they began attending our Sabbath meetings regularly. I realized that Igor and Olga were seeking God, and His Word was touching their hearts.

After several weeks, Igor called and asked me to tell him more about my personal faith in Jesus. Wow! I shared with him my personal testimony and explained the gospel message. As we conversed, it became clear that Igor recognized himself as a sinner and

believed in Yeshua. I asked if he was ready to confess his sins and receive Yeshua into his heart, and he confidently replied, “Yes!”

From the USA:

Bob Mendelsohn reports: It’s not often Jewish people reach out to us with a sense of urgency due to a spiritual situation that they think we can change. That was the case, though, when my own aunt back in the US asked for my phone number. Within minutes I had heard from a couple of cousins and I was on the phone with my aunt. She told me many things, including the devil was in her room (retirement village) and only I could help her. It wasn’t long and we had an excellent conversation about spiritual realities. I told her that when a bully attacks a school kid, the kid is well advised to get home quickly and to hide behind her parents. No need to take the bully on herself. She readily saw my imagery and within a few minutes we were praying for her to receive Yeshua as Saviour. The next week I contacted a local

church within one mile of her residence and one of the pastors is already arranging to visit my aunt. Thank God for the Body of Messiah and for hunger to find eternity that God is placing in the hearts of his people.

From New York City

A young Orthodox Jewish man, Solomon,* called our New York office because he was interested in learning more about Jesus after reading some parts of the New Testament and seeing a few articles on our website. He connected with Elizabeth and seemed very open, but when he stopped returning calls, Elizabeth wondered if he’d been genuinely interested. However, he recently reconnected and wanted to hear more about the gospel and what it would look like for him to follow Jesus as the Messiah. Elizabeth talked through the gospel with Solomon, and he really seemed to grasp and believe the message. He said that he could no longer deny that the gospel is true and made a profession of faith, but he is still working

through what it would look like to share this with his family. They will likely feel obligated to reject him if he becomes open about his faith. Please pray for Solomon and his family.

From Moscow:

Ilya Khaimovich reports: I spoke with Alexander by phone. In fact, I have been calling him for a couple of years. He used to argue with me, giving examples of famous people who don’t believe in God. But now he was a different person. He listened carefully to me and then said, “My parents have recently passed away, and my wife also died.” I prayed for Alexander’s heart to open to the gospel. Then I explained again what Jesus had done for him, and asked if he would receive this sacrifice or not. Alexander answered, “I understand it with my mind but not yet with my heart. I am going through a process right now. Something is changing in me.” Please pray for Alexander, for the work of the Holy Spirit in him, and for his salvation.

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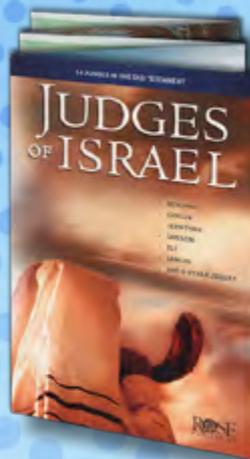


Lapel pin

This pretty lapel pin features crossed Australia and Israel flag. It is made of nickel and plated with gold color and enamel with a push-on-back fastener. A unique gift for Israel lovers
COST: \$20

Fold-out Pamphlet

From Deborah and Samson to Samuel and Gideon, see how God called upon these 14 amazing individuals to deliver Israel from oppression. Features simple summaries, quick-reference charts, an Old Testament map, timeline, and more!
COST: \$9



Long-lasting thin (tree) candles.

20 Baumkerzen (Tree Candles) Fit the 7 branch menorahs (medium and large) of 12 Tribes variety. Choose red or white
COST: \$20



Key ring

Perfect gift to yourself or a mate. Both to testify and remind yourself! The Gospel is for Jews and for everyone. Unlock your doors and gates, and remember the King of Glory who will come through the gates.
COST: \$9



Coupon (PLEASE PRINT)

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Please, fill in all spaces. Send coupon along with payment (money order, cheques, credit card) to: YOUR COUNTRY'S MAILING ADDRESS or Jews for Jesus / PO Box 925 / Sydney 2001 / AUSTRALIA



Calendar for 2020-2021

ALL MAJOR BIBLICAL/JEWISH HOLIDAYS ("The LORD's Appointed Times") explained in a special reference chart at back of calendar. MAJOR ISRAELI HOLIDAYS also included.

HOLIDAYS denoted on calendar in different colors in English and transliterated Hebrew as well as alternative Torah names of holidays. Australian, Singaporean and NZ dates also show Fascinating Hebrew LEARNING PAGES making this much more than just a calendar.

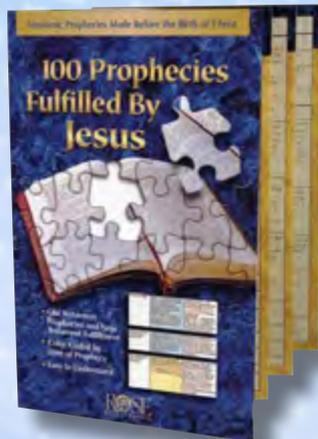
Each calendar day has a LARGE WRITING AREA. In addition, each calendar month has one or more writing spaces for reminders and notes.

COST: \$29

Fold-out pamphlet 100 prophecies

100 Prophecies Fulfilled By Jesus is an exciting pamphlet that speaks to the very heart of the hope found in Christ, the Messiah. It's amazing to discover that Jesus fulfilled more than 100 prophecies foretold 400-1500 years before his birth.

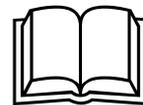
COST: \$9



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."



Scripture Studies

Over the decades Jhan Moskowitz (who passed away a few years ago) and our own Bob Mendelsohn have taught the Scriptures in a systematic method, one verse at a time through many of the books of the Bible. On the USA website you will find them all here: <https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/mp3-scripture-study-downloads/>

Since COVID has locked us down at times here in Australia, Bob has continued teaching both the books of Romans and the book of Hebrews (current). They are actually on YouTube and are on video as well. Perhaps you might start with Romans first: <http://bit.ly/RomansList> and then the current series here: <https://bit.ly/HebrewsVideos>

Share with your friends who like to study the Bible in that way, and who want to learn more about Jewish views of the Word. It might help you in evangelism as well, of course, as well.