

# JEW FOR JESUS®

THE NEWSLETTER  
FOR CHRISTIANS WHO  
**WANT TO KNOW ABOUT  
JEW & EVANGELISM**

## GOD CHOSE YOU—TO BE FRUITFUL!

by David Brickner, executive director

As Thanksgiving approaches I have been meditating on Jesus' words: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain . . . (John 15:16).

Jesus told His disciples that He is the true Vine. Just as He did with the twelve, He calls us today to abide in Him as branches that will bear a special kind of fruit: fruit that will remain. This life-transforming harvest is unlike any other, because the fruit is not ours, but God's. It's fruit that is—well, supernatural. It comes only as God works through us by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Our role is to remain in Jesus. Our purpose is to bear kingdom fruit that will stand the test of time, fruit that will bear more fruit, fruit that will proclaim Him as the promised Messiah.

This important passage of Scripture reminds me of God's calling for Jews for Jesus: to relentlessly pursue His plan for the salvation of Israel. We do so with the conviction that He will bring a harvest of believers who will walk with Him and serve Him for a lifetime, and beyond. Over the years we've seen thousands of lives transformed by His love, grace and salvation for—literally—eternity. Let me tell you the story of one such life. Avi Snyder grew up in a traditional Jewish home in New York and New Jersey. His family went to synagogue on holy days and kept kosher. Being Jewish was central to his identity. And yet, he says, by his early 20s, "If you asked me whether I believed in God, I would have identified myself as an atheist."

In retrospect, he explains, "I wasn't really an atheist; I was just [\(continued on page 2\)](#)

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*Our purpose is  
to bear kingdom  
fruit that will stand  
the test of time.*



Photo by Getty Images/Egal

Vine because Avi became a follower of Jesus and brought forth fruit that remains.

During our relatively short time on this earth, we're all tasked with being productive, with recognizing that the fields are ripe and ready for harvest. You don't have to be a full-time missionary to be fruitful, to be used of God in bringing in His harvest.

None of us should ever underestimate the value of fruit that remains and what our connection to the one true Vine will produce. You may never see the extent of the impact that you (or any other individual) have for the kingdom of God.

Each life we touch for God's purposes, each one that is transformed by His power, will serve Messiah in paths we cannot plan or predict.

*(continued from page 1)* angry with God because of the Holocaust, and because of a philosophy I'd taken up."

Avi began working in professional theater in New York at age nine. From then on, he says, he never stopped working, either on Broadway or off Broadway. One day he ran into a Jew for Jesus guy on the streets. "I was livid," he says. Turning to the friend he was with he said, "Tell him you can't be a Jew and believe in Jesus." His friend replied, "Tell him yourself."

Avi took the pamphlet, written by Susan Perlman, and read it. Then God brought into his life a family of caring Christians who weren't put off by his argumentativeness when it came to the gospel. He loved having discussions with them. And whereas he once would have held the message at arm's length simply because he was Jewish, having received Susan's pamphlet, he could no longer deny that there were Jews who believed in Jesus.

After three months, on March 14, 1977, Avi says:

"I knew that what I'd learned about Jesus was true. And if Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, then as a Jew I had to deal with that. It was the most Jewish thing I could do. That day I told Jesus that I was sorry for denying Him and for harboring such hostility in my heart toward Him."

God heard that prayer and forgave Avi. Now instead of anger Avi has answers; instead of pointlessness there is purpose. After being discipled and trained by Jews for Jesus, Avi has pioneered our ministry in Ukraine, Russia, Germany and Hungary. He now serves as our European Director. Countless other Jewish people have become connected to the true

Can you name the person who led Billy Sunday to Christ? Who led D.L. Moody to Christ? Who is the person who led Hudson Taylor to Christ? Or Billy Graham or Moishe Rosen?

Who led you to Christ? Did they understand the value that God placed on your life and how you would impact so many others? Each life we touch for God's purposes, each one that is transformed by His power, will serve Messiah in paths we cannot plan or predict. And as they do, they'll multiply the impact of our labors together—and the kingdom—in amazing ways.

When you pray for and support Jews for Jesus, you participate in countless connections for God's kingdom. I can only imagine the other ways that God is making you fruitful as you abide in Him. I'm thankful as I ponder the unique roles He's given to each of us. May He give us a bountiful harvest this month and in the months to come.

*David Brickner is also an author, public speaker and avid hiker. Find out more about David, his writings, speaking schedule and possible availability to speak at your church at [jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner](http://jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner)*

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**We exist to make the messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide.**

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**Your missionaries in New York City, Berlin  
and Chicago have news for you!**

# bits from the BRANCHES

**Stewart Weinisch** from our **New York** team reports, “God has a way of connecting our stories like links in a beautiful chain. Four years ago Sara, a Jewish woman who had been a professing atheist, found herself with a number of spiritual questions. She called our office, and I began having weekly visits with her by phone. Within six months Sara found her answers and professed faith in Yeshua (Jesus). It was truly a life-changing reality for her.

“We continued our conversations/Bible studies by phone and I was encouraged when Sara, who is an elected official, invited the whole town council to witness her baptism. About 25–30 people attended. This past year she was really excited about celebrating Passover—her first since childhood!



Stewart

Photos © Jews for Jesus/Rachel Friedlander

“While shopping for Passover supplies, Sara ‘happened’ to meet Laura and asked if she knew any good Passover recipes. One thing led to another and Sara invited Laura to come to her house for Passover. Laura accepted the invitation, as did some of Sara’s neighbors and her pastor. This was Sara’s

first Passover as a believer, and she wanted it to reflect Yeshua, the Lamb of God, and the redemption she had experienced through Him.

“Laura had questions, and for the next few months she and Sara met regularly. Sara was able to answer many, but not all, of Laura’s questions, so she asked Laura if she would be willing to talk with me. Laura said yes, and after two phone visits, Laura also professed faith in Yeshua. As is our custom, I asked Laura to call and let someone know what

she had done. Soon I received a text from Sara, who was crying tears of joy for Laura.

“You never know who you will connect with through people you are already connected to!”

**Aaron Lewin** reports from **Berlin**, “Nathan, an Israeli, was one of 85 Jewish people who requested more information about Yeshua during our summer outreach. At our first meeting I shared with him from Isaiah 53 and we talked about who the Suffering Servant might be. Nathan’s interest was piqued, so I invited him to an evangelistic gathering



Aaron

that we were having that very evening, in partnership with other ministries. I was so delighted to see him there, just a few hours after we first met. He listened attentively and subsequently attended the local Messianic congregation (Chosen People Ministries).

“The next time we met, I could see a change in Nathan. He whipped out his copy of the *Brit Hadasha* (New Testament) and said that he’d been reading it since I had given it to him at the gathering. As we read some passages and talked through the gospel message, he suddenly asked, ‘So what’s the next step?’ I explained that when he was ready, he should accept Yeshua’s invitation to be his Lord and Rescuer. Nathan said that he was ready, so we prayed together. What a joy to see him nodding as he repeated the lines after me, and to know that the Lord had been working in his heart to bring him to this point! I’m so grateful for a new brother! Please pray for Nathan, that the Lord would keep his heart steadfast and that the enemy wouldn’t get a foothold!” *(continued on page 4)*

# PRAYER PROMPTERS

**You can make a difference in the lives of people we meet as you pray for:**



fruit that remains as we continue to meet with new Jewish believers Sara, Laura and Nathan



salvation for Molly



details to come together for our next Behold Your God Israel campaign



the next generation of Jews for Jesus, that God will continue to provide laborers for His harvest

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[j4j.co/nl1711](https://j4j.co/nl1711)

# more bits from the BRANCHES

From **Chicago**, **Arielle Randle** reports, "Molly is a young adult I met at a Passover Seder last year. Several months ago, I gave her a copy of a book of the four Gospels and challenged her to read it.

"I kept in touch with Molly, and I always asked her if she had started the book yet. She told me more than once that she had forgotten about it, so eventually I figured she wasn't interested.

"Then one Friday, Molly was at my apartment for Shabbat dinner, and I was actually a bit shocked when she said, 'I started reading that book you gave me. I was surprised to read all these things about how Jesus was Jewish!'

"We talked for a little while about what she had read, and then Molly said, 'I'm so grateful that you gave me this book that gives a Jewish perspective on the New Testament.' I couldn't help but laugh out loud. "Molly!' I said, 'That book IS the New Testament!' Now it was her turn to be shocked. She couldn't believe that the New Testament, which she'd always had heard was narrow-minded and anti-Semitic, began by describing the Jewish parentage of Jesus.

"Molly asked if we could get together again to talk more about the New Testament. Pray that she would keep reading and come to know Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. And pray that she will keep in contact with others on our Chicago staff, as my husband David and I will be joining the Jews for Jesus team in San Francisco."

*Names of those we meet are often changed to protect privacy.*



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Arielle

## If you were born before 1962 . . .

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