

JEW FOR JESUS®

FOR CHRISTIANS WHO
**WANT TO KNOW ABOUT
JEWS & EVANGELISM**

THE GREAT INNOVATOR by David Brickner, Executive Director

God's plan of redemption has always defied all expectation. Consider Passover, the Feast of Redemption, that begins on Friday night, April 19. Jewish families all over the world will gather to celebrate how God rescued us from slavery in Egypt. A couple of days later, Christians will greet each other with a joyous, "He is risen!" to commemorate how Jesus makes freedom from sin and death possible.

Who could have predicted the miracles of Passover, or that Jesus would conquer the power of sin by dying and rising from the grave? (Okay, in the case of Jesus, prophets like Isaiah did have a clue.)

God's plans defy human expectations, meeting people's deepest needs in unexpected ways. He turns things

upside down to shake free notions that might be hindrances to the gospel. At Jews for Jesus we push ourselves to develop new ways to relentlessly pursue God's plan of salvation for the Jewish people. If God stepped into humanity through creative and unexpected means, so must we.

Our work, our call, has not changed over the last 45 years, but we've needed to adapt our efforts with bursts of innovation over the years. Fresh challenges and opportunities require creative new approaches to reach Jewish people with the good news.

In the last few years, especially as we approached our 2018 Jerusalem outreach, we prayed long and hard for another burst of creativity to reach specific groups of Jewish [\[continued on page 2\]](#)

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people—people we would miss unless we adapted. I believe God answered our prayers. Let me give you just one example.

The ultra-Orthodox community is the fastest-growing Jewish segment worldwide. These Jewish people desperately strive to obey the Law. Like the Amish in America, they are isolated, resistant to technology, and wary of outsiders. Unlike the Amish, they are forbidden to believe in Jesus.

Many of the men spend their days in theological study, leaving young wives at home to care for the children—sometimes many of them—on very little income. Some of the women of Jews for Jesus put together a team to reach out to the women of the ultra-Orthodox community by serving them. Through house cleaning, helping with child care, cooking, and more, our all-female team showed love and care for women who can often be incredibly isolated.

One team member tells about an encounter that we never would have imagined was possible:

Raya had five children with another one due any day. Our team helped her with housework, and also helped the kids with their homework. She wanted to know why we cared to help, and we explained that we had received God's love in Yeshua (Jesus) and wanted to bless others with that same love. When her husband spoke with their rabbi about us, the rabbi warned him not to allow us back to their home.

We kept praying for Raya, and though we knew she could not invite us in, we felt compelled to bring some groceries and donated clothing for the children. When we arrived, she exclaimed, "You've fallen from heaven to help me!"

We went with her to the park, where one of us played with the kids, and another explained the gospel. Raya had so many questions, and many of her misperceptions about the gospel were shaken loose.

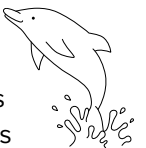
Through these kinds of acts of love, Jews for Jesus is planting gospel seed in hearts we've never been able to reach before.

There are more groups of people who've proven to be open as we've found innovative ways to reach out: Russian-speaking Jews in Israel, Israeli travelers who are seeking meaning and truth right after their military service is completed, Jewish-Gentile couples who want help navigating their cross-cultural communication, and so many more.



Both faces have been altered due to extreme pressure exerted by the ultra-Orthodox community, not only on us as messengers, but on any who choose to engage with us.

It's an exciting time to be part of God's plan for the salvation of the Jewish people. The same God who parted the Red Sea and who conquered death by sending His Son to die on the cross invites us to be creative and innovative in how we make His unchanging, ever-relevant gospel known. I hope that encourages you, not only to stand with Jews for Jesus, but also to look for new ways to reach out to all kinds of people that God has put in your life.



Find out more about David Brickner, his writings, speaking schedule, and possible availability to speak at your church at jewsforjesus.org/david-brickner

JEW\$ F✪R JESUS. established 32 A.D., give or take a year
WE RELENTLESSLY PURSUE GOD'S PLAN FOR THE SALVATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

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bits from the BRANCHES

YOUR MISSIONARIES IN ISRAEL AND LOS ANGELES HAVE NEWS FOR YOU!



Igal, who serves on our Israel team in partnership with Christian Witness for Israel, reports: “I met Stephan during an outreach to the homeless in **Tel Aviv** when he was 30 years old and addicted to drugs. When I told him how Yeshua freed me from addiction, Stephan began to weep.

I comforted him, explaining the gospel and inviting him to begin a new chapter in his life. Praise the Lord, Stephan came with me to rehab and consequently professed faith in Jesus as his Messiah and Lord.



Stephan, when Igal began meeting with him



Stephan and his bride

“Before long, Stephan was baptized and began serving the Lord in our congregation. Eager to share the gospel with others, he completed a Bible training course and now serves the Lord at the rehab center.

“Last year, Stephan began dating a woman from our congregation. Recently, he and his bride were married at our congregation. I thank Jesus for letting me see the fruits of the gospel. Please keep Stephan and Kira in your prayers, for God to continue blessing them and making them a blessing.”

Cyril Gordon, from our **Los Angeles branch**, reports:

“The Lord has laid it on my heart to reach out to Jewish people in nursing homes in the Los Angeles area. Many have lost most of their family and friends and hardly ever get visits. I love to see their faces light up when they see me. Praise the Lord!

Sarah put her faith in the Lord Jesus for her salvation during my second visit with her. She’s the only Jewish person in her elder care facility and is bedridden following several heart attacks. She also enjoys it when I bring my dog Mootles with me. Please pray for Sarah’s spiritual growth as I continue to meet and read the Bible with her.









“A Jewish man named Jerry also professed faith in the Lord Jesus for his salvation on my first meeting with him. His father was Jewish, but his mother was Catholic. Jerry had heard the gospel but had never been born again according to the Book of John. He’s been a tormented soul, and the care home director was very excited that I offered to reach out to him. Please pray for Jerry’s spiritual growth and transformation as I continue to study the Bible and pray with him. I believe the Lord sent me to visit him to bring him God’s message of hope and healing at this trying time in his life.

Names of many people our staff meet are changed to protect privacy.

PRAYER PROMPTERS

Please pray for:

-  God's favor as we employ new ways to bring the gospel to Jewish people
-  grace and strength for newlyweds Stephan and Kira, and continued spiritual growth as they serve the Lord
-  grace, strength, and transforming power for new Jewish believers Sarah and Jerry
-  wisdom for those attending our Jews for Jesus leadership summit next month
-  continued transitions and adaptation surrounding new leadership roles for those in our ministry
-  more laborers for the field

RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWS ELECTRONICALLY, ALONG WITH BONUS STORIES, PRAYER REQUESTS AND BIBLE RESOURCES!

Email: jfj@jewsforjesus.org and ask to hear from Jews for Jesus via email or go to jewsforjesus.org/subscribe and make sure we have your email address.

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: j4j.co/nl1904



PRE-EVANGELISM: WHAT IS IT, WHY IS IT, & HOW YOU CAN DO IT TOO

It's always exciting to have gospel conversations with people who don't yet know Jesus. We are always praying, preparing, and looking for opportunities to do just that!

But not every conversation is a gospel conversation. Many people need their curiosity piqued or their trust built before they are ready to discuss spiritual things. Jesus understood that when He began a conversation with the famous woman at the well (John 4).

Jesus was a great conversationalist! He knew how to listen and ask thought-provoking questions. He didn't explain everything to everyone every time He spoke. He met people right where they were.

Pre-evangelism really is part of evangelism. Painters know that preparation makes up a big portion of the job; cracked and peeling layers need to be removed and smoothed over, then the primer is applied, and the paint can then adhere beautifully to the wall.

The best pre-evangelistic work is prayer. Nothing prepares a heart to receive the gospel like faithfully asking God to work in someone's heart for their good and His glory.

Sometimes pre-evangelism means helping to meet one kind of need, and praying that an opportunity will open to point people to the One who can meet a deeper need. But remember, not all needs relate to poverty. Think about the rich young

ruler who needed to care more about the Lord than his possessions. Jesus loved that young man and was sad to see him go. We want to develop compassion for various kinds of needs.

Asking (and really listening to the answers) is a way to care for people, and goes a long way in building trust. That trust can work like a primer. Then there are thought-provoking questions that can open up spiritual discussions.

Holidays can be a great time to ask questions. If you have Jewish friends, it would mean a lot if you wish them a "Happy Passover" later this month. But why not also take the opportunity to ask what they plan to do to celebrate, or what some of their favorite childhood memories are of Passover? Then a thought-provoking question might help the conversation take a turn. Something like:

"At Passover, when you think about being set free to serve God, do you ever wonder about what might hold people captive and prevent them from loving and serving God today? Not physically, like Pharaoh, but in other ways?"

Most journeys to faith in Jesus involve many people and lots of preparation. It's always a privilege to have whatever part God gives us as we partner with Him—and with one another—to see Jews and Gentiles find forgiveness and new life in Jesus.