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Subject: News from Jewish Outreach International

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Newsletter

March 2016



Steve Kaplan (Atlanta, Georgia)

Praise His Name! God bless you and thank you for supporting our ministry! Please pray for **BOLDED** items in this newsletter:

On Monday, March 21, **IGOR BARBANEL** (from Odessa, Ukraine), the Director of **JEWS FOR JESUS** for the former Soviet Union, will be giving a ministry update at my home. Food will be provided and a love offering will be taken up for his work. If you have an interest in Jews for Jesus and/or the former Soviet Union, please join us!

Please pray for "tentative" **MINISTRY** in Florida from March 22 to 26. We are planning outreach at the University of Florida in Gainesville and a Christ in the Passover presentation/dinner at a nearby church.

Sincerely,
Steven Barry Kaplan, President
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Irvine, California

We had ministry tables at the **MESSIANIC JEWISH ALLIANCE OF AMERICA** conference and equipped people with dozens of evangelistic t-shirts! Two non-believing Jewish **PEOPLE**, who happened to be staying at the conference hotel, wandered into the market place and purchased stuff from me! I was able to share with both of them!

I ran into one of them a couple of more times at the hotel, and when he found out I was going to Tucson (where he is from), he insisted I take his number and meet him for lunch! Before the conference,

I had dinner with my **SISTER** one night and the **SON** of friends another night.

Las Vegas, Nevada

I wore evangelistic t-shirts wherever I went! I ate meals at kosher restaurants, walked through three different trade shows with a large percentage of Jewish **PEOPLE** as well as through various hotels with **ISRAELIS** selling Dead Sea products! Many were challenged, several took Gospel tracts and some argued with me!

While walking through my hotel lobby, I was stopped by a **WOMAN** working at Starbucks. She said she loved my t-shirt and had seen me previously. She told me she has a Jewish **FATHER** and a Christian **MOTHER**, but she wasn't sure if she had a personal relationship with Jesus? I shared the Gospel with her, and she prayed with me to receive Jesus!

I joined a weekly **OUTREACH** at UNLV, and shared testimony at a couple of **CONGREGATIONS** and equipped them with dozens of evangelistic t-shirts!

Arlington, Texas

I attended the **LUSAUNNE CONSULTATION ON JEWISH EVANGELISM**. Leaders of various Jewish ministries get together once a year to network, learn and fellowship!

A Messianic **RABBI** told me one of his congregants bought him some of our t-shirts, and he used them to witness with while he was in the hospital. He and one of his other congregants bought additional shirts at the conference!

Also equipped one of our wholesale customers, who happens to be based in Arlington, with more t-shirts!

Tucson, Arizona

One of our supporting CONGREGATIONS likes to have their "Ambassadors" share during the month of February. I invited the Jewish MAN from Irvine to services and lunch afterwards. Amazingly, a Jewish BELIEVER I had met many years ago not only attends this congregation but was already good friends with the Jewish man I invited.

The MISSIONS BOARD, the RABBI, the assistant RABBI and his FAMILY, the Jewish man and I all went to lunch afterwards. We shared with the Jewish man, but he wasn't ready to receive the Lord. Later that night my friend from years ago called to say the Jewish man called him and wanted to know more about accepting Jesus, but was afraid he would lose his Jewish identity?

My friend called another Jewish BELIEVER, who is also a friend of mine. She told the Jewish man he was only 50% Jewish, but once he receives Jesus, he will then become 100% Jewish! He prayed to receive Jesus! He was so excited about his decision, that he called me up! Please pray for him and his FAMILY!

A Jewish BELIEVER friend from another state just happened to be in the hospital in Tucson, and I was able to visit him!

"Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!"-Romans 11:11-12



**Eddie and Lura
Beckford
(Arad, Israel)**



"Shalom Friends & Family!

So much has happened, good things and bad things, but we love the Lord and God works it all together for our good, so we will rest in that.

We went to the USA and a lot of people commented on how much

weight Eddie has lost. He also was not feeling well. When we came back to Israel, we went to the health clinic and results of a blood test showed he has an overactive thyroid, which has been causing him to lose weight. He was very weak by this time and spent a couple days in the hospital. He is now on medication to calm down the thyroid. For the first time in a couple years, he has gained a few pounds instead of losing. So he is slowly coming back to a state of health. He will see the Endocrinologist in April and he will decide on further treatment. Eddie has a few nodules on his thyroid so we have been informed there is a possibility of surgery. We appreciate your prayers!

We are still distributing audio Bibles in various languages, and testimony books, etc. We had a request from the Black Hebrews for 800 Bibles containing the Old and New Testaments, so that is a real breakthrough in that community! What an encouragement!

This winter has been very difficult for us for two reasons, besides Eddie's illness:

1. It has been very rainy (blessings) and stormy. The house we are renting suddenly decided to spring leaks in all the walls. This in turn has affected the electricity, which does not function when the walls are wet inside. So a number of rooms have no electric and are wet and moldy, including our bedroom and bathroom. The small apartment downstairs is also wet and moldy and therefore unusable at this point in time. The landlord came to see the damage and arranged for two contractors to come inspect the house to see what could be done. Our landlord told us he would release us from our lease if we wanted to move & that he would help us, but he hoped we would stay because we're such good tenants. Nothing can be fixed until the house is dry. Sand is used as insulation between floors in Israel & the sand is wet and will continue to drip for a while. We are praying for the grace to occupy until the extensive work can be done.

2. Our 14-yr. old van has given us a lot of trouble this winter. It is in the shop for the fourth time this month, as I write this. It is at the point where parts for it are difficult to find. We are praying for a new one and expecting the Lord to answer that prayer! It is a main part of our ministry here. We use it to distribute Bibles, food, clothes and to help people with transportation.

The good part regarding the rain is the green desert! It is so beautiful with yellow flowers! It is so nice to see the sheep and camels enjoying the lush green grass!

Right after we returned from the USA in Nov., we went for the yearly visit to the Interior Ministry to get Eddie's passport stamped. This time they refused on the grounds they are investigating me (Lura). They have been using this as an excuse not to give Eddie permanent status. A month later they changed their mind (I said we would take them to court again) and called us in & stamped his passport. So we are sending a legal letter asking them to show something from this so-called "investigation" or show cause why they are acting illegally. They should have given him permanent status in 2005. It's a hardship on us. The Ministry does this to a number of believers in hopes we will give up and leave Israel. Sadly, Messianic believers are not welcomed in Israel by the government.

Our mail situation seems to have cleared up somewhat. The orthodox Jews are no longer working in the local post office & so we have been receiving mail - Praise the Lord!

We hope to be able to do a speaking tour sometime within the next two years. We are listening closely to what the Holy Spirit wants, so it all depends upon the Lord's Will. We don't want to go ahead of Him. Until then we will keep on giving out the bibles and enjoying seeing the recipients fall in love with Yeshua! What a privilege! See you on Facebook? Or by email? Or visit us in Israel!

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING AND SUPPORTING US IN SO MANY WAYS!!!

Happily serving the King of Kings! Love and blessings, Lura (& Eddie)"

Eddie's online report:

<http://www.angelfire.com/super/redhorse/TheMinistry/02-2016/01.html>

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Donations

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