

**From:** Jewish Outreach International <newsletters@savethejews.org>

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**Subject:** News from Jewish Outreach International

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Newsletter

February 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:

Please pray for our **MINISTRY TABLES** at the Johnny Hunt Mens **CONFERENCE** in Woodstock, Georgia February 5 to 6.

Please pray for **MINISTRY** in California: February 8 to 15, Nevada: February 15 to 21, Texas: February 21 to 26 and Arizona: February 26 to 29.

Sincerely,  
Steven Barry Kaplan, President  
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## Atlanta Gift Show

Many **PEOPLE** were challenged, when my friend **STEVE** and I wore evangelistic t-shirts and walked around the show! I interacted with two of my regular Jewish vendors who actually sell me Christian merchandise!

I went to visit one vendor in a showroom with several vendors, and the owner of the showroom turned out to be Jewish! She saw the Jewish star on my t-shirt, and said she liked my shirt, until I moved away my name tag and she saw Jesus!

We went into a showroom filled with Orthodox Jews! They were polite, and we discussed my belief! One man lived on E 8<sup>th</sup> St between J and K in Brooklyn, New York, and was surprised to learn I lived on E 24<sup>th</sup> St between J and K!

I visited one of my usual showrooms and met a new salesperson who just happened to be Jewish! She asked what I do for a living, so I told her, " I tell Jewish people about Jesus!" She asked how it was going, so I said, "Sometimes good, sometimes not so good!"

## Russian/Jewish Outreach

My Russian/Jewish BARBER of 15 years closed up shop? She was literally around the corner from my house. Although she attended an Orthodox Synagogue, she was somewhat secular, somewhat open and sometimes let me share with her. Please pray for her salvation!

As fate would have it, there is another Russian/Jewish BARBER in my neighborhood. I started going to him instead. I gave him the Russian version of JONATHAN BERNIS' book about the afterlife I had brought back from the Ukraine last year. He was most appreciative to receive a gift!

As I was leaving my DENTIST's (South African Jew) office, a Ukranian/Jewish WOMAN was inquiring about using him as her dentist. I made sure to give the dentist a good recommendation, and when the woman saw my t-shirt, she burst out laughing!

## Ministry Partners

Please pray for **PEOPLE** we equip with evangelistic t-shirts and jewelry. Last month we sent t-shirts to people in TEXAS, MARYLAND, BELARUS and RUSSIA and sold t-shirts and jewelry at a Messianic **CONGREGATION** in Brandon, Florida!

**CONGREGATION** Shoresh David in Tampa used our t-shirts for outreach at the Gasparilla Festival.



We make t-shirts for **ROCK OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES** and they buy our Jewelry wholesale to witness with at state fairs. Here's their booth in West Palm Beach, Florida!





**FIRST BAPTIST WOODSTOCK** (my home church) donated our t-shirts for teams to minister with in **ISRAEL!** Here's a group wearing our shirts while cleaning up the beach in Tiberius, Israel!



***"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)**

Eddie wrote: "I wear a Hebrew 'Yeshua Loves You' t-shirt almost every day. Often times, it's been quite a challenge. For example: At the airport, car inspection, restaurants, driver's license renewal, etc. Thinking about all the things that can go wrong; Ye of little faith. I'm

getting somewhat better at this (smile).

Well, going to 'The Ministry of Interior' about my citizenship and passport... this was a biggie. Should I wear the shirt? I wore it, but it was a cold day, so it was covered by my jacket. What a shame, as I sigh of relief. At the Interior office we have to provide all kinds of proof that we were still together & living in Israel: rent receipts, utility bills, pictures, etc. We were sitting at the clerk's desk when Lura pulled out required documents... the photos, there I was, next to Lura with the t-shirt on, in every picture!

The Russian pastor of Arad invited us to a 'Healing Service' since there was going to be translation provided. Lura was having pain in her left shoulder which was miraculously healed during the service. Once again we had to put our van in the shop. We were hoping that they could fix things right then and there, but we were told it would be ready the next day. Anyhow, we left a couple of testimony books in the waiting room, then looked at and priced new vans, which seem to be cheaper than our current one we bought 13 yrs. ago. Thirteen years ago we had to pay a 150% importation markup fee; this time the fee is much lower.

Have you heard of all the knife attacks at bus stops and on buses around Israel lately? Well, we get to the bus stop and low and behold... 5 Arab male youths show up! I immediately, went into high alert mode. Before I could sit between them and Lura, the bus came. After situations like this, I ask myself, "How did I do?" On a scale of 1

to 10, I blew it because I failed to pray. The thing is, I get many more chances/tests to get a 10. When we got on the bus, it was full; mostly Arabs and a couple (male & female) IDF soldiers who got up and gave us their seats. Every time we ride the bus, I think of how a Jewish mother with her little children must feel.

The Russian Supermarket in Beersheva dons itself for Christmas each year. Also, if one has a craving for bacon, this is the place to go (smile)

We have a pastor friend and his wife, from Holland, who religiously send us Hebrew, Russian, Amharic and Arabic... Christian Calendars each year. On rare occasions, one language might be missing, this year it was Hebrew. I love giving these calendars out along with a Bible and book.

They used to call themselves 'The Black Hebrews', now calling themselves 'The Hebrew Israelites'. They have a wonderful community, school, stores, etc., in Dimona, Israel. A thing I will always remember them for, is the [baptizing of Whitney Houston in The Jordan](#). Years ago I provided the community with a couple hundred OT/NT Bibles for their students. I am now dealing with a whole new group of kids, teens and adults. The Bibles are so awesome, looks like everybody wants one. First the request was for 400, but word got around and the request doubled.

Our Pastor Yakim texted Lura, wanting to know if we had Hebrew & Arabic Bibles, plus children books; our answer was "Yes!"

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## Donations

Designated Donations made payable to:

### **Jewish Outreach International**

can be sent to:

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PO Box 720375  
Atlanta, GA 30328

or made online:

[\*\*www.savethejews.org\*\*](http://www.savethejews.org)



\*Jewish Outreach International is a 501(c)(3) Tax Deductible Ministry

Steven Kaplan quoted in the Alabama Baptist Register:

DECEMBER 24, 2015 / THE ALABAMA BAPTIST / PAGE 9

### Mud Creek Association church holds river baptism



Photo courtesy of Allen Scott

Pine Ridge Baptist Church, Bessemer, recently held a river baptism in Warrior River. Several people from 4 years old to a woman in her 50s have been attending the church for a while and recently made professions of faith. Here Allen Scott (left), associate pastor and worship leader, baptizes Elizabeth Hyde. Mason Mardis (right), a member of the church since he was 5 years old, assists. A fellowship lunch followed the special service.

## Catholics cease to evangelize Jews; Southern Baptists urge more sharing

By Carrie Brown McWhorter  
Contributor, The Alabama Baptist

**I**n a move some hail as a step forward, the Vatican has said Catholics should witness to their faith but not undertake organized efforts to convert Jews.

In its most explicit commentary on evangelization regarding Jews, the document released Dec. 10 by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews said Catholics should take a different approach to Judaism than to other religions.

"In concrete terms this means that the Catholic Church neither conducts nor supports any specific institutional mission work directed toward Jews," the document reads.

The Vatican commission produced the new text to mark the 50th anniversary of a groundbreaking document on Catholic-Jewish relations, "Nostra Aetate," in which the Church formally rejected the notion that Jews were responsible for Jesus' death.

While Baptists do not always agree on issues related to Israel, efforts to evangelize the Jews must continue, according to Jim Sibley, a former professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Sibley argued this position in a presentation at the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism's 10th International Conference in August. Convening in Jerusalem, the conference included some 200 Jewish evangelists from six continents. He said Jewish evangelism must continue because Scripture proclaims the gospel as "especially for Jewish people."

"My thesis is a simple one," wrote Sibley, a professor of biblical studies at Israel College of the Bible in Netanya, Israel. "It is that Scripture teaches that the Jewish people should not only be a continuing priority in evangelism and missions, but that this priority is intrinsic to the gospel itself. ... Ultimately this is the case because it is rooted in the promise of the fathers, as recorded first in Genesis 12:3: 'In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'"

**"To everyone who believes"**

Paul's statement in Romans 1:16 that the gospel is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" doesn't mean simply that the Jews heard the gospel first, Sibley argued. Rather, it means the gospel was intended first and foremost for Jewish people.

In recent years Southern Baptists have increased their efforts to reach people from every ethnic group including Jews, according to the president of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship (SBMF).

Southern Baptists are "the most evangelical of just about everybody," SBMF President Ric Woodhill said, adding that Southern Baptist Commission (SBC) Executive Committee President Frank S. Page especially encouraged outreach among ethnic groups when he established a Multi-Ethnic

Advisory Council that completed its work in 2014.

Thanks in part to the advisory council's work, Woodhill said, "slowly and surely, our ethnic groups" — like SBMF — "are being supported by local Southern Baptist churches." But the work isn't finished, and Woodhill urged Southern Baptists to practice Jewish evangelism.

"All people need to hear the gospel," Woodhill said. "We need to plant seeds in abundance."

The official SBC position on Jewish evangelism has remained unchanged since messengers to the 1996 annual meeting approved a resolution that included a commitment to pray "for the salvation of the Jewish people" and to "direct our energies and resources toward the proclamation of the gospel to [them]."

Mike Ebert, North American Mission Board (NAMB) spokesperson, said evangelism and church planting efforts always keep the broader community in mind.

"When we start churches with our partners we intentionally build in cultural sensitivity. If a church is being planted in an area that has a high percentage of Jewish Americans in the population, that sensitivity will be hard-wired into the plant and the planter," Ebert said.

Matt Queen, associate professor of evangelism of Southwestern Seminary, said he is "convinced" that a "conscious affirming the importance for Jews to be evangelized exists among Southern Baptists" despite disagreement on some theological matters related to the Jewish people.

Queen said, "In addition to offering himself to be accused by Christ if only his ethnically Jewish brothers would be saved (Rom. 9:2-3), Paul desired and prayed for their salvation (Rom. 10:1). How can Southern Baptists be anything but passionate about Jewish evangelism?"

Steven Kaplan, president of Jewish Outreach International and specialist on Jewish evangelism for NAMB, said he is disappointed with the Vatican decision because the Scripture is clear that evangelism is for everyone.

"Jesus is the only means of salvation. If the gospel is not shared with the Jewish people, there is no other salvation for them. As a Jewish believer in Jesus, I am most thankful my Gentile co-workers shared Jesus with me."

Jack Morgan, congregational leader at Tree of Life, a messianic synagogue in Mobile, believes many Orthodox Jews are earnestly seeking the Lord even though they do not yet recognize Him as Messiah.

"They are open to the good news, but how we proclaim it to them is important." Fostering friendships with Jews is a first step, Morgan said.

"As Paul said in his text, we have to become 'all things to all people' so that some might be saved" (1 Cor. 9:22). (BF, RNS)

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