

ROCK OF ISRAEL

Update

PO Box 18038, Fairfield, OH 45018
(800) 722-ROCK • www.rockofisrael.org

Summer 2003

*Tell the towns of Judah
"Here is your God" Isa. 40:9*

By Robert Specter, President

Rock of Israel needs more Volunteers for our five weeks of Summer Evangelism. As of the time of writing this newsletter, we need volunteers for each of the Cities. We will go regardless of full teams but we will not be able to cover as much ground. Besides, this is a great opportunity for people to receive practical training in evangelism (and not only Jewish evangelism.) Please talk to college students, retired, self-employed, or people who have vacation time about spending a week on the mission field this summer. If Satan had his way -no one would share their faith, -no one would tell the Gospel message, -no one would show their gratitude to God for His gift of eternal life.

Surprising as it may seem, I have met other missionaries coming from their native countries to share the Gospel here in the United States. Even though the United States is thought to be a Christian Nation, it has millions of people who do not have a personal relationship with God.

Take a look at our chosen Mission Field where over 1 million Jewish people and millions of Gentiles need the Gospel:

Our Mission Field, outreach dates (with approximated population numbers):

Chicago- (June 29-July 5) 3 million people
(250,000 Jewish people)

Cleveland- (June 29-July 5) 1/2 million people
(80,000 Jewish people)

Long Island- (July 13-19) 3 million people
(300,000 Jewish people)

Washington DC- (July 27-Aug 2) 1 million people
(200,000 Jewish people)

San Francisco- (Aug 10-16) 3/4 million people
(200,000 Jewish people) ❖



Hyman Israel Specter Scholarship Fund gives first \$500 scholarship to Jewish student, Will Rosenberg, at Vanguard University in Southern California.

by Dori Specter

On May 1st Wuffy Evans*, Janna Specter, Roger Specter (two of Hyman's children) and myself went to Costa Mesa to Vanguard University. Many years ago Hyman, his sisters Ruth and Fay and their mother all graduated from the Bible School that would one day become Vanguard University. After Hyman passed away, Wuffy suggested we have a Hyman Israel Specter scholarship fund at Vanguard University. This was started and many folks contributed to it. Hyman has been gone 6 years and finally we had the pleasure of being at the award ceremony where the first award went to a Jewish student. The scholarship was awarded to Will Rosenberg.

Will wrote to us: "I just wanted to thank you for blessing me. It is a privilege to be receiving this award in Hyman's honor. He really seemed to be an amazing man. ...This Scholarship is a real blessing to me and my future ministry. Please pray for me in these pivotal years as I continually pray for God's will in my life."



Hyman would be so pleased. He had, on numerous occasions helped others in ministry, and not only in Jewish ministry. He well remembered his struggles to make ends meet when he first started out in the ministry (and even later at difficult financial times.)
*Ruth (Wuffy) Evans, Ruth Specter Lascelle's adoptive daughter who arranged for and helped fund the Scholarship. She has also set up a Scholarship in Ruth Specter Lascelle's name at Seattle Bible College where Ruth taught for 30 years. ❖

Rock of Israel's new Volunteer

In the middle of April, George Geesey, (a Gentile believer with a heart for Israel) from Kansas City, Missouri came to Cincinnati for 6 months to help us in any area of need. (So far, he has traveled to services with Robert Specter, manned a booth at a convention, answered phone calls, made phone calls to summer evangelism volunteers and churches, and responded to email inquiries.) What a blessing! We could not afford to hire another staff worker and God sent George to help us. George has nearly completed his graduate studies and is looking for where God would have him work in Jewish Ministry. Pray for God's continued leading in his life

We are still looking for someone to house him while he is with Rock of Israel Ministries (through October). If you know of someone with an extra room in the Cincinnati area, please contact our office. Or if you would like to help with his financial needs while he is volunteering with us, you can designate your donation to "George" and we will make sure he gets it. ❖



The Lawrence Welk Show

And World Missions



By Doug Carmel

When I grew up in New York City during the late 60's early 70's, it was my Yiddisha Grandmother who helped raise me. (Yiddisha is an affectionate term for an old Jewish female immigrant from Europe.) She was an immigrant who would have lived all alone in her little Bronx apartment except for my staying with her as constant company. This was at the request of my mother who believed I helped keep away grandma's loneliness. I lived with her for many years. My parents only lived one block away so I really had two homes growing up. One thing I remember about her was her love for the Lawrence Welk show. (Ok, I know some of you out there remember that show... fess up!) Each week the show would be filled with song and dance and wonderful old music. Sometimes they would even play a song where they would put the words up on the screen and you would need to "follow the bouncing ball" to sing along synchronously with the song. Remember those days? Well, God wants the world to enjoy His song too. He gave the Jewish people a "bouncing ball" to follow the words. It's called The Tenach or Old Testament. He entrusted the Jewish people with the "bouncing ball" so that they could tell the world about the Coming Messiah who would bless them. *Gen 12:3* Then, the nations could all sing songs of praise when He one day arrived because they had "followed the bouncing ball". "The bouncing ball" is of course Messianic prophecy. God gave us these prophecies so that

when Messiah arrived we could rejoice and sing. Simeon did at the Temple one day with the newborn babe Jesus in His arms saying, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

Luke 2:28-32

Did you see that? Simeon knew that the Messiah was to 'lighten the Gentiles'. So many times we meet people who wish they were Jewish. They try so hard to discover some hidden ancestor who may have been Jewish. May I tell you today that if you proclaim Messiah to the Gentiles, you are being MORE Jewish than most Jewish people today! That's what God wanted from the Jewish people... to tell the world of His Love, His Messiah! Paul knew that too. Just look up Acts 13:46-47. Paul was saying, "I'm gonna do a Jewish thing! I'm gonna tell the Gentiles about the Messiah!" (my paraphrase)

So you want to do a Jewish thing this week? Tell someone, Jew or Gentile, about the "Bouncing Ball". Point them to the words, the only words, the words of life, by which they can follow - being led to Jesus- which will put a song of joy in their heart. ❖



Shalom Jerusalem



By Michael LaPoff

Pray for the shalom (English: peace) of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.”

(Psa 122:6)

He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; (Isa 59:16)

As I sit here writing, our country has been at war with Iraq for about two weeks. The television is filled with “experts” spouting forth opinions on issues that they have no direct knowledge of, and contradicting one another almost as fast as you can change the channel. While it appears that we will accomplish our objectives, no one is certain how much damage will be done, both physical and political, in the process. I wish there was no war in the world. I wish there were no “bad” people and everyone could live together in peace and harmony. I wish there was no killing. But despite my wishes this is not the reality of life in a fallen world. There are bad people. There is evil and war and killing. Accepting that reality and responding to it is necessary to maintain order and stability in our individual lives and world.

Paul, in Ephesians 6:12, tells us that “our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” In short there is a spiritual war going on between God and satan, and every believer in Christ is in the battle. I wish there was no such person as satan. I wish there were no harassing evil spirits. I wish we could just live in peace and harmony. But despite my wishes this is not the reality of the Christian life. Accepting this reality and responding to it is necessary to appropriate the fullness of Christ in our lives and to

further God’s will and goals for this world.

I have found it interesting to watch the strategy that our armed forces have employed in this battle. There seems to be two major components: A missile attack emanating from submarines and airplanes and then a ground force to “take the land.” Using bombs like Tomahawks and Bunker Busters, they target specific and strategic sites and destroy them. They stay at it all night, night after night until the targets are destroyed. After they are done then the ground forces move in and accomplish their task. It is still a difficult fight but the missile attack paves the way for a ground force victory.

What a great strategy that would make for the spiritual battle we fight. We should have battalions of intercessory prayer warriors targeting specific spiritual strongholds that would keep battering those strongholds until they were destroyed. Then the ground force (missionaries and other one on one evangelistic efforts) would go in and lead the people to Jesus. It still might be a difficult battle but victory would be assured!

It would of course be essential that the intercessors focus their sites on the right target. Imagine in the Iraqi war if the persons responsible for firing the missiles just fired them wherever they wanted or just at random targets. It would be a disaster. When the ground troops moved in they would be under much greater opposition and would take many more casualties. Fortunately God has given us all the answers with even more precision than the armed forces have. It’s called the Bible. In it God clearly details His desires and plans and gives all of us a precise blueprint to follow in order to accomplish His goals. 1Cor 2:16 says “we have the mind of Christ.”



What exactly is on God's mind? One easy answer is Israel (i.e. the Jewish people.) The word Israel appears in the Bible 2596 times. More than four times as many as sin, love, or holy. The Bible is a book about the Jewish people. God chose the Jewish people to be a "billboard" to the world saying that He is alive. No matter how much the world may hate them or persecute them or kill them they always survive to be a display of God's power, love, and faithfulness to His covenants. And even more amazingly God has declared multiple times in His word that He will save the Jewish people. They will know Jesus as Messiah and then Jesus himself will return. The time for the Jewish people to know Jesus is now. And not unlike Saddam Hussein, satan knows his time is short. He has ordered his dominions to use (spiritually speaking) chemical weapons, terrorist tactics, and human shields against the believers. In short, he fights dirty. Can you imagine if in Iraq the soldiers responsible for firing those missiles just decided not to do it. Or if they were watching TV or playing basketball when the missiles were to be launched, thinking someone else would launch them. It would have disastrous consequences. The ground troops would advance and in some cases be overwhelmed by the enemy because the

missiles hadn't cleared the way. The war would go on even longer with many more casualties than should have been.

There is a great need for prayer and intercession in the body of Christ for God's troops. Prayer is one of those things that we talk and talk about but seldom do (Isa 59:16.) I challenge the readers of this article to become soldiers (2Ti 2:3-4) in the spiritual war that you are already in. Don't look back at past failures in regret or condemnation but start now. Some of you should come with us to reach the Jewish people in America. For those who can't or won't we need targeted intercession.

Romans 11:8 speaks of three things on the Jewish people in these days: 1) A spirit of stupor 2) Eyes to see not, 3) Ears to hear not. Pray to God to remove from the Jewish people the "spirit of stupor" to "open their eyes to see," and to "open their ears to hear." Pray against the enemy's spiritual forces in the individual cities we will be ministering in. Pray for God to protect the nation of Israel from her enemies. Pray for the shalom (fullness, wholeness, completeness, peace) of Jerusalem. -The salvation of the Jewish people. -The peace that only comes from knowing the Prince of Peace, Jesus. ❖

Digging Up Israel



by Dale Cohen

This year we have two exciting archaeological digs coming up. The first dig will be done in Kursi from August 30th through September 22nd. Last year our group at Kursi found a marble floor with benches, a cold pool, coins, lots of pottery shards, jewelry, bells, glass ware, beads, etc. This year we will continue to excavate in the area where we found the cold pool and open up a couple of new areas. Kursi is the location where Yeshua cast the demons into the swine. We desperately need people for this dig. The second area we will be excavating this year is Capernaum. We will be excavating the first century area. This was the headquarters for Yeshua's min-

istry in the first century. There was some work done in the area in the 1970's but the area that we will be working has not been excavated. The archaeologist that worked on Capernaum in the 1970's will be a part of this excavation team. The dig at Capernaum will be from September 28th through October 22nd. Although both of these digs are 24 days in length, people can opt for a 14 day trip.

On both digs we work from 6 a.m. until 12:30 -1:00 p.m. We work 5 days a week and travel during the weekend to other places of interest. This would be a great opportunity for people who have been to Israel before and would like something different. For more information or registration forms please contact Dale S. Cohen @ dcohen@rockofisrael.org or call him at 972-222-5297 or 972-467-8940. ❖

"Do your giving while your living. Then you're knowing where it's going."

By Rock of Israel Board of Directors

Many years ago, Hyman Specter, founder of Rock of Israel Ministries had this slogan printed on a card for people to have or give out to others. Of course it is true but there is another way in which to know that you are contributing to the Lord's work even after you pass away. Of course I am talking about giving through your Will or Bequest. (We are all informed about the need for a "Last Will and Testament" or a "Living Trust", but sometimes forget the opportunity to contribute to the Lord's work in this way.)

One of the many ways God has supplied the needs of Rock of Israel is through bequests. Though there have not been many through the 32 years of ministry, when they have come it has been just when we needed an extra boost to pay off debt, or invest in a new avenue of evangelism, or needed equipment.

There have been bequests that left a gift of a certain amount, say, \$10,000, and others that left a percentage of their estate (for example 10% of the remaining estate after all liabilities are met.). I think the largest gift we have received was just over \$100,000 about 10 years ago. What a blessing that was to Rock of Israel! The small gifts have also made their impact on the growth and effectiveness of this Jewish Ministry.

When the Board of Rock of Israel met last month it was decided to again remind our prayer and financial supporters of this great way to contribute to the ongoing work of God. Please seek the Lord's direction as to what you might do with your legacy to help the Rock of Israel in it's ongoing efforts for the "Lost Sheep of the House of Israel." ❖



By Scott Roberts

Since September 11 2001 I have felt the need to fly the American flag. Not because I see myself as a super patriot, though I do consider myself a patriotic American. Nor do I have a spiritual conviction or spiritual reason for flying the flag on my house. My love and devotion for God has no bearing on why I fly the flag.

It has been over a year since I first placed the flag on the corner of my house. Since that time I have seen my neighbors take their flags down and put them back up again. Over the last few days other flags have joined mine again as freely fly in their glory.

The reason I fly my flag 24-7 is to remind myself how I felt on that ominous day when I saw the twin towers crumble before my eyes. At the time of this writing the United States has been engaged in war with Iraq for eleven days. Over fifty brave Americans have sacrificed their lives fighting against this brutal regime so I can live in my beloved freedom. Now, when I look at my flag flying I see more than the crumbling twin towers, I see the brave Americans who sacrificed their lives for my freedom.

If I am honest with you, I must tell you that it is difficult, even heart wrenching to know that our young men and women are enduring such horrendous conditions for us. There is a part of me that wants to stick my head in the sand and act as if everything is ok or that the problem is so far away it won't affect me personally. But veracity forces me to look at my flag and shun denial and embrace the reality that America is in danger of a regime that would ultimately destroy all that she stands for.

We must respond to the threat that stands before us, no matter how painful it becomes.

In the past, the pacifist stance has only led to greater harm and pain. Pacifism did nothing while Nazi Germany terrorized her neighbors eventually taking their freedom. Communist Russia poised herself in Cuba terrorizing Americans to the point that we built bomb shelters, slowly squeezing our freedom from us. It wasn't until President Kennedy stood up to the communist threat that America began to enjoy her freedom again. He understood that America was in danger and by doing nothing America would grow vulnerable to the point of losing her freedom if she did not make a stand.

The flag is a focal point for me. The place where I go to get focused and discern what is real and what is not. Like the flag, the CROSS Jesus died on is a focal point, the place where we go to discern what is real and what is not.

The CROSS tells me ... "there will be wars and rumors of wars, but the end is not yet" Matthew 24:6. The CROSS tells me... to follow after Jesus and "work while it is still day, for night is coming when no one can work" John 9:4. The CROSS tells me... the "earth is not my home, that my groom, Jesus, is preparing a place for me" John 14:2. The CROSS tells me... if I remain in "Faith" "I am destined be where HE is" John 17:24. The CROSS tells me... "Fear not I will never leave you or forsake you" Hebrews 13:5. The CROSS tells me... "GOD LOVES ME with an everlasting love" Jeremiah 31:3 ❖

Are you focusing on
what is real
or what is not real?

What's New



Here is what Rock of Israel's billboard in Fort Lauderdale looks like. Of course, since it is 13'X40' the photo doesn't do it justice. It will be up for over a month, and we are anticipating many calls and web site inquires. Some will be offended, some will be Christians who don't understand the message, some will be supporters, and some will be sincere seekers of truth. Pray for all (much more than a million people) who see the ad. (an estimated 150,000 cars will pass the billboard each day that it is up (though it is a tri-vision ad so our message will only be visible 1/3 the time.)

SUMMER EVANGELISM CITIES AND DATES

Please keep these cities and dates on your calendar to remind you to pray that God will do some mighty miracles and that many people will turn from sin and follow the Lord.

Chicago- (June 29-July 5)

Cleveland- (June 29-July 5)

Long Island- (July 13-19)

Washington DC- (July 27-Aug 2)

San Francisco- (Aug 10-16)

BOOK ORDER -YOUR PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE (\$12)

Recommended by Tommy Tenney, John Dawson, Cindy Jacobs, Sid Roth, Joy Dawson, Jack Hayford. Back cover reads: Too many Gentile Believers think of Christianity as a replacement for Judaism- and Israel as something apart from God's plan. Don Finto's Your People Shall Be My People reveals God's purposes for His covenant people in these times- and how this revelation is impacting the Church.

Unlike Ruth in the Old Testament, many of us have turned our backs on the relatives of the Messiah, and we share the collective guilt for centuries of their persecution. Finto reminds us that confessing these sins is only a beginning. More than ever, we must embrace and intercede for the chosen people of God, aligning our prayers with God's plan.

With Israel and her people once again center stage at a crucial moment in world history, our prayers for them are vital. Will we make the same covenant pledge to Israel that Ruth made to Naomi? If so, our Church will never be the same!

Look on our Web Site for many other selections.

