

ROCK OF ISRAEL

Update

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Spring 2004

Street Evangelism



Miami, Florida: *Ellen Shoaps, Suzanne & Charles Utts, "You next year?" Robert Specter, Doug Carmel, Dennis Brooks, Steve Kaplan, and Elizabeth Melick*

Miami, Florida: Street Evangelism



By Robert Specter

We had eight on our street evangelism team in Miami (two ladies were added just a little over a week before we went to Florida) We were from six different states: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, Georgia and Pennsylvania. This was the largest winter team that we have had. I am surprised that more people don't come to Florida in the winter to do evangelism. In the 80s, not only was the weather perfect (it only rained one morning of our week) but many people were out on the streets and beaches, accessible to us and the Gospel tracts we are handing out.

Though Doug Carmel, the co-leader was sick when he arrived, he only missed one morning out. I thank God that he felt better and was there helping me lead the team.

The first couple days we were in downtown Miami and at the University campus. We also went to South Miami Beach and to the walking street (Lincoln) where many tourists and shoppers congregate. We met people going to the large boat convention, and at Bayside where the cruise ships and tourist shops are. I was surprised at the number of Orthodox Jews we saw there.

On our team was a Jewish man named Steve Kaplan, who has been on several other outreaches with us. He is a magnet for Jewish people and is a bold witness. He wanted to go talk with the people at the Chabad Lubavitch Center, Yeshiva (school) and Synagogue in Miami Beach. He said he would ask for a tour but I knew they would never allow that, especially with us wearing our tee shirts that said "Rock of Israel" on the front and "Jesus is the Rock" on the back. But he wanted to go, so he and I went. I dropped him off, told him not to get them mad, and went to park the van. When I walked back to him he was being questioned by around 20 young Jewish men. Most were curious but insincere with their questions, regardless they saw we were sincere and we proclaimed Jesus the Messiah. We stayed until the Rabbi told us to leave the property. We then went over to the Synagogue and asked to take a tour. When they asked



Dennis on the streets in Miami

who we were, I told them we were a group who believed that Yeshua was the Messiah of Israel. The man immediately asked us to leave. But who knows what God can do with this simple proclamation.

The last three days of our week in Miami were spent at the Coconut Grove Arts Festival along with several Jews for Jesus staff. This was in a very Jewish area of Miami and the Arts Festival drew many Jewish people. In fact, it seemed like about a third of the people there were Jewish.

We handed out some of the Jews for Jesus tracts that capitalized on the interest and controversy of the film "The Passion." Many Jewish people were voicing their opinions about the movie and most assumed that it was anti-Semitic. Of course they have much tragic history to cause them to believe a movie about Jesus would be anti-Semitic. And I believe we must pray that those people who are anti-Semitic will be thwarted in any attempts to use this movie against the Jewish people. The fact is that Jesus was a willing blood sacrifice and that his death (and resurrection) was designed and foretold by God.

There was a small Hare Krishna group who were chanting and dancing all around the festival area. When I saw them I thought that the leader was Jewish. Steve Kaplan went to talk to him and sure enough he was Jewish, his name also was Steve. As I said in our last newsletter, there are many Jewish people involved in Eastern cults. They are searching for truth but in the wrong places. I pray that we can lead them to Jesus "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." ❖

Blessed are the Unusual, they shall be heard.



By Doug Carmel

OK, I realize that isn't really part of the Sermon on the Mount, but maybe it's a scriptural principle after all. Let me explain... part of what Rock of Israel does each summer (and now each winter too) is to take out small teams of people to major U.S. cities and pass out thousands of cartoon drawn gospel tracts to pedestrians. The team usually has on a Rock of Israel shirt that says "Jesus is the Rock." People can see that we are out there for a special purpose and sometimes take a tract just to 'see what this is all about.' Each summer we pass out well over 100,000 gospel tracts this way.

Recently, the Lord laid it on my heart to do something a bit more unusual. I wasn't really sure what it was and I did try several different things at first... but in December I hope I finally got it right. I had a professional 3 foot tall gospel sign made. It was for the Christmas shopping season in Chicago. The banner said, "The reason for the season is Jesus. His gift is forgiveness forever. But you must ask Him for it." I took it to Michigan Ave. in Chicago – which attracts thousands of Christmas shoppers from all over the Midwest – and put it on a tall pole that went up about 8 or 9 feet in the air. Then I began to walk up and down the street among the people and listened with glee as they all read the banner as I walked past them.

Then too, in Las Vegas, over New Year's Eve, we had a team of 7 passing out tracts all week long. We passed out 16,000 tracts to the myriads of people traveling from casino to casino. But I also made a special banner for that city too. It read, "The only sure thing in Vegas, Jesus forgives. But you must ask Him." I held it up loud and proud. Proud to proclaim the righteous name of Jesus in world famous 'sin city.' I also put a star of David in the center of it. Two Jewish young men stopped to talk (one was from



Downtown Las Vegas

Israel) and I shared about the conviction of sin and the forgiveness of the Messiah. On New Year's Eve I got the best responses by far. With police protection all around (and maybe angels too), hundreds of celebrators read the banner on Las Vegas Boulevard that evening. While a few took pictures of me in jest, I know that more than a few took to heart what it said and felt conviction inside.

Before you think this is a bit too radical for evangelistic purposes, let's look to the Bible and see if God has ever done anything 'unusual' to get His peoples attention before. In Isaiah 20:2, God has the prophet Isaiah walk around naked (meaning with only his inner tunic on) and barefoot for 3 years as a sign that Egypt and Ethiopia would be led away as prisoners by Assyria soon. Also, in Ezekiel chapter 4, God has Ezekiel publicly lay down on his left side for 390 days facing a model of Jerusalem symbolizing a siege to show that Israel's sins have been going on for 390 years and judgment is coming. Then he was to switch to his right side and do the same for Judah – another 40 days!

There is much more that I can say about God using the unusual to get peoples' attention (not to mention miracles too!), but I hope you can see that God's ways are not always 'business as usual.' Sometimes He takes us out of our comfort zones for His glory. ❖



What time is it?

By Scott Roberts



Most Sunday mornings my beautiful wife asks the same question over and over as we prepare for church. Shortly after she awakes from her sleep I hear the infamous question, “*What time is it?*” She then zooms through her wardrobe looking for just the right outfit to wear that morning. Minutes later, as she stands before the mirror putting the final touches on her hair, she again utters, “*What time is it?*” Shortly thereafter she gives herself a final blast of perfume as she smiles in the mirror with approval.

At this point I know she is looking for a particular pair of shoes that cannot be found. So I wait a minute and if she does not appear I call out, “*Honey do you know what time it is?*” to which she replies, “*No, what time is it?*” She then scurries downstairs with one shoe in her hand to join me in the car that has been warming up for ten minutes. As she enters the car she turns towards me with a million dollar smile as we begin our journey to minister on that Sunday. With a restrained look on my face I turn to her and say, “*Do you know what time it is?*” “*Silence*”.

Galatians 4:4-5 says, “But when the fullness of the time had come God sent forth his son born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who are under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons”. *God*

always knows what time it is. He is never late; His interaction with humanity and creation is perfectly choreographed. The pressing question is not, “*Does God know what time it is?*” but does the Church “*know what time it is?*”

Paul writing the church at Ephesus tells them, “walk circumspectly not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” Ephesians 5:15&16. Let us first look at the word circumspectly. Circumspectly suggests more than being cautious, it includes being attentive and dutiful.

In Jesus’ parable of the Ten Virgins they are instructed to keep their lamps trimmed. The trimming of their lamps is a picture of preparedness. Being virgins conveys a moral lifestyle required to fulfill the title. (dutiful).

The Virgins are instructed to be prepared and attentive so they will recognize any change in their current situation. The parable goes on to say, “at midnight the CRY was heard, behold the bridegroom is coming, go out and meet him” Matthew 25:1-13. In short *the Virgins “knew what time it was” If believers are to walk circumspectly as Paul instructs we must KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS.* Where are the hands positioned on God’s eternal clock?

Secondly let us look at the phrase “redeeming the time.” Redeem means to convert something into value. Paul is saying, turn

the evil time of which there is no value (Evil) into time that is valuable. Most every one reading this article understands that we are living at a time when evil is at a high. History may prove we are living at the height of mankind's evil. Isaiah pointed to a time like ours when he said, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil" Isaiah, 5:20.

My concern is not that we live at an evil time, but that believers realize "*what time it is*".

It is time to do all we can to preach the gospel and see dead lives become valuable through Jesus Christ.

Modern technology has made the world so small that what happens in one part of the world shortly affects the entire world. The drums of war and rumors of wars are getting louder each day. The finances of this world are rapidly centralizing, shifting power to nations who had no previous power in the new world community. Israel continues to make more enemies than friends, becoming a thorn in the flesh of the world. Anti-Semitism is growing to the point of alarm. Jewish people who never dreamed of living in Israel are now living in the land God promised them. As a whole Jewish people are seeking a way out from under the evil time in which they live. They are looking for God of their fathers who were promised a land of fruit and honey. *It is time to reach the Jewish people.*

Do you remember the sons of Issachar mentioned in 1st Chronicles 12:32? The scripture tells us, "the sons of Issachar had under-

standing of the times". Would you follow the example of the sons of Issachar who understood the times. Help us at Rock of Israel reach Jewish people with the Gospel!

You can help us by praying for us with regularity for the ministers. Pray that God's people will find their promised Messiah as we work in his kingdom. Ask God if He would have you join us at one of our many Team Evangelism efforts this year.

God has placed a deep burden to do more this year through team evangelism. Lastly would you make a commitment to help us with regular financial giving. Rise to the occasion as did the sons of Issachar and see God provide through your generosity.

Jesus came to seek and save that which is lost. ❖



Scott & Susan

Israel, The Evidence Of God

By Michael LaPoff



I remember as a young boy repeatedly asking my parents the question, “How can you really be sure that God exists?” This is a question that

I am asked often by unbelievers.

Unfortunately, my parents were unable to give me an answer that I could accept, which led me to abandon my Jewish faith and spend years traveling a harmful and foolish path seeking purpose and meaning for my life.

How does a God, who is spirit and lives in eternity, reveal himself to people who are flesh and live in a time/space continuum? God gives physical manifestations that reveal spiritual realities. The Bible teaches us in Romans 1:19-20 that “...what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived ... in the things that have been made.” Jesus, in John 3:8 gives an example by pointing out that we know the existence of wind not by visibly seeing the wind but by observing its manifestations. The sound we hear and the rustling leaves prove that wind exists.

I believe there are two ways God reveals Himself to people.

One is through nature. When one

observes a brilliant sunset, majestic mountains and canyons, or the beauty and intricacies of plants and trees, one must believe that a magnificent Creator exists. To believe that these things came into existence randomly or by accident, is truly the height of self-deception.

The other way that God reveals Himself to mankind is Israel. The very existence of Israel defies logic and history. In the world today there are approximately 7 billion people of which approximately 13 million are Jews. The Jewish people make up less than 1/5 of 1 percent of the world’s population. That means that 99.98 percent of the world’s population are not Jewish, and yet the front page of most newspapers and the headlines on most news programs are about the Jewish people and Israel. That makes no logical sense whatsoever.

Recently, a secular magazine published a list of the ten most important and influential people in the 20th century. Many “experts” were polled for their opinions. The top three were, Albert Einstein, Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud, all Jewish. That is humanly impossible. How can the Jewish people who make up .02% of the world’s population produce the top three most important people in a century? The answer is they can’t, God did it to show the world that He is alive.

The Jewish people are biblically known as “God’s chosen people.” What exactly were we chosen for? We were chosen for the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the



Street Evangelism Update

Summer Evangelism 2004

I come to you with our annual need. We need volunteers for our five cities of summer evangelism. We also need sponsors for volunteers and intercessors to pray for their endeavors.

Present the Messiah to the Jewish people!
Learn about Jewish culture!
Pass out thousands of tracts!
Be a part of a vibrant evangelistic team!
Strengthen your faith!
We will train you!



Tall Stacks Cincinnati Team

law, the worship, the promises, the patriarchs, and the Messiah (see Rom 9:4-5.) But we were also chosen by God to be the evidence of His faithfulness and covenants. As if God is saying to Satan and the world, “Go ahead, throw your worst against them, try to destroy them. It won’t work because I AM and my word is true.” So the Jewish people have been “blessed” to be the most persecuted race in the history of mankind. Yet God has never abandoned or forsaken us but through our very existence shouts to a lost and dying world that He is alive and His

Word and promises are infallible. Many societies, peoples, and races have come and gone but Israel continues to live on as the physical evidence of God.

God’s plan for the Jewish people is that they come to faith in their Messiah Yeshua. Please pray for the salvation of the Jewish people. Please give generously to the work of reaching the Jewish people. Please come with Rock of Israel this summer to bring the “good news” of Yeshua to the Jewish people. One day we will stand before our Lord and hear Him say, “Well done!” ❖

2004

Evangelism Opportunities:

You Have An Opportunity to Participate in Rock of Israel’s Summer Street Evangelism

Our five cities this year are:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Los Angeles | June 29- July 5 |
| Long Island, NY (Nassau) | July 12-18 |
| Washington DC | July 18-24 |
| Pittsburgh | Aug 2-8 |
| San Francisco | Aug 16-22 |

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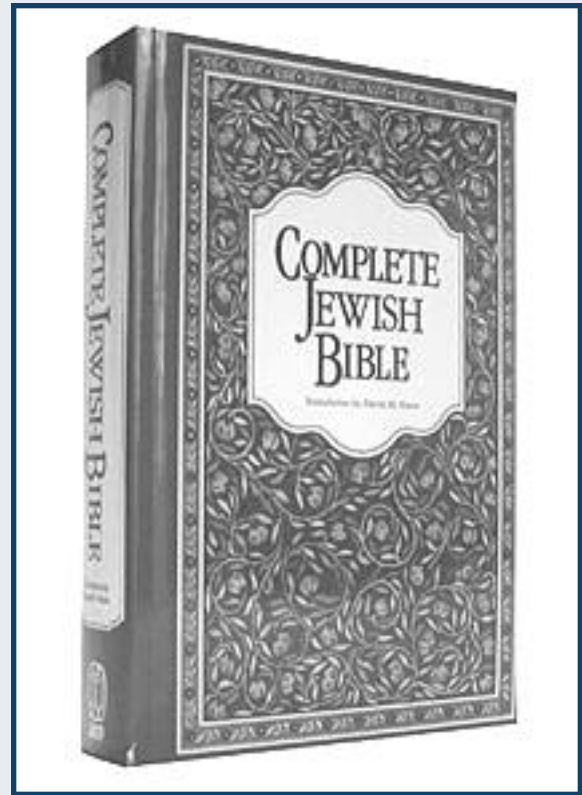
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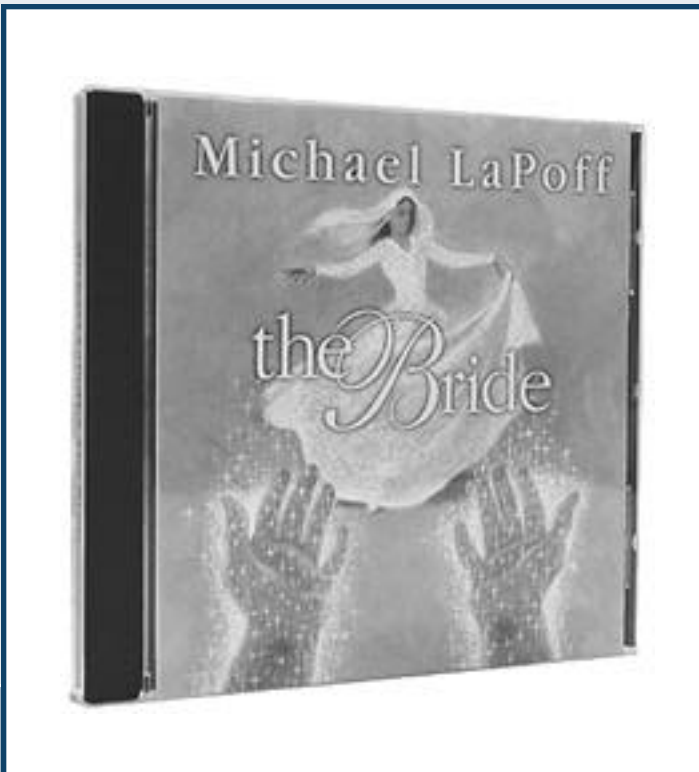
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by Sally Klein O'Connor (cassette only)

"Come Meet the Author of Life"

by Sally Klein O'Connor

"For Those Who Have Ears To Hear"

by Lisa Jackson