

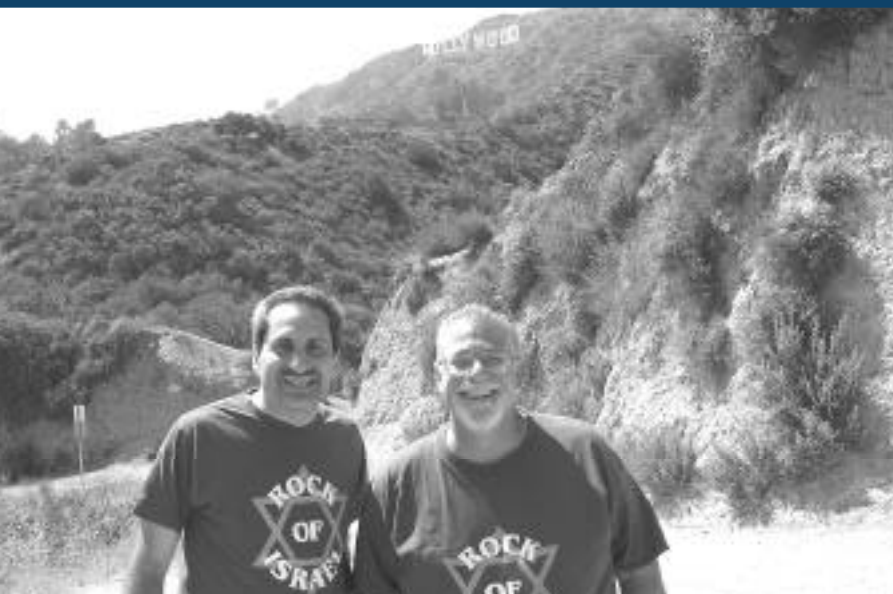
# ROCK OF ISRAEL

# Update

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Fall 2004

## Summer Evangelism



Doug Carmel and Scott Roberts in L.A.

*“Reports  
from the  
Mission  
Field”*



*By Robert Specter*

Last year at my prayer and planning retreat I felt the Lord leading me to reach these cities in street evangelism this summer: Los Angeles-Pittsburgh-Nassau County, Long Island-Washington, DC-San Francisco. This year we had to raise the cost for volunteers and I was concerned that we would have fewer volunteers. God brought those who heard His call from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, South Carolina, Georgia, and Pennsylvania.

Following are short reports on each city: the volunteers, number of tracts and conversations (some prayed to receive the Lord.) Each city had different dynamics and opportunities. First I want to acknowledge and thank all those who supported this effort financially and kept us in prayer while we were on the streets sharing the gospel. We couldn't have done all we did without our partners in ministry.

### LOS ANGELES

Our staff ministers (Scott Roberts & Doug Carmel) ended up being the only ones to do the Los Angeles outreach. No one else volunteered. Someone asked why we went if we had no volunteers. The answer is that, “the fields are ripe, the laborers few.” Also, maybe this was a test of obedience and next time God will send more laborers. Please continue to keep our outreaches and especially the volunteers in prayer. I am sure the enemy throws every attack he can on the people

# Is the world ripe for a leader who will relieve their fear?



By Scott Roberts

I remember going to Disneyland as a young boy and finding myself lost. Somehow I wandered away or missed my parents cue to follow them as they moved from our present location to the next. Finding myself alone and surrounded in a sea of people whom I did not know, my reaction was fear. Looking frantically around and not seeing my parents or siblings I began to grow more fearful in my search for them. As I scanned the crowd a second time with growing fear in my heart my eyes settled on a park policeman. I then remembered my parent's instruction, "If you get lost, look for a person of authority for help".

Human and biblical history record times when human authority has come into question. Even now authority is being questioned and scrutinized. Police departments across America are accused of improper behavior by the officers of the communities they serve. The United States has been forced to re-examine the treatment of the military combatants held in Guantanamo, Cuba and the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. The current Presidential candidates appear to fear the ever changing American economy and the public perspective of global terrorism.

In Mark six, Jesus and his disciples attempt to rest from the insistent crowd and travel to a place of isolation by boat. When the crowd sees they are in retreat the scriptures say, "The people ran from the surrounding cities to the place where Jesus would be." When Jesus sees the great multitude of people waiting for him at that end of his voyage he is moved with compassion and says, "They are like sheep without a Shepherd" he then continues to minister to the crowd despite his and the disciple's fatigue. If the crowd was running to be with Jesus, it is obvious they were looking for a leader who could help them with their concerns and fears.

While on the streets of Los Angeles and Washington DC this summer with the Rock of Israel Evangelism Team I came in contact with people who were ripe to find relief from their fears. Like Jesus, I was approached by them for help.

Unknown to me a man who recently stopped taking drugs was walking in my direction. I attempted to hand him a Gospel tract. He mumbled something and refused my offer as the signal changed from green to red. He was now forced to stand next to me and wait for the signal to change before proceeding on his journey. Turning in my direction for a split second I smiled and greeted him. That was all it took. He began to tell me why he refused my Gospel tract. He said he

was struggling with drug abuse and was fearful he would fail God if he was to try and serve him. The night before he attended a local Bible study and knew of Jesus promise of deliverance. After sharing my testimony I was able to pray with him on the corner of 7th & Hill Street in downtown Los Angeles. Finishing my prayer I opened my eyes and saw a Chinese woman staring at me as I prayed. With a determined look on her face she waited patiently for me to finish with the man. She asked me to join her in prayer for her friend's deliverance from alcoholism. For a moment I felt like I was in church leading a prayer line and not on the streets of Los Angeles. God stands ready to calm the world's fears.

In a Washington DC restaurant I gave the host the number in our party. As the host was ready to seat our group a man leaving the restaurant approached me. He asked me who we were. I told him we were Christians sharing Jesus with the people of Washington DC. He immediately told me he is an alcoholic and his addiction was killing him. I realized he wanted help and that he was consumed by fear. I asked Christopher to step outside, and I began to share my testimony of God's deliverance with him. Several times he told me he was afraid his addiction was going to kill him. After a few minutes I led him to the One who can set us free, Jesus. I went on to tell him God would make him into a new creation through Christ Jesus and that God does not give us the spirit of fear, but power, love and a sound mind. After praying with him, I wrote on the fly leaf of his book a couple of God's promises of deliverance and the name of a local church he promised to attend the next day. Christopher left for home to read his Bible with the promises of God fresh in his mind and Jesus in his heart. One afternoon in DC, a young lady approached me as I handed out Gospel tracts. She questioned me being Jewish and believing in Jesus. I began to share the scriptures, explaining how Jesus was the promised Jewish Messiah. She told me her father was born in Israel, and her mother in Colombia where she grew up. After sharing further with her she agreed that I could send her information about Jesus the Jewish Messiah.

We live at a time when people need answers to their questions and fears.  
Jesus is the answer! ❖



# Sacred Cows make great Hamburgers



By Doug Carmel

Sometimes I love talking with my unsaved Jewish brethren. Why? Because it just reinforces all the more how sure I am that God's way is best, and unsaved man knows so little about God and His Word. Let me explain.

Typically, when I talk with unsaved Jewish people, I hear the same things from them over and over again, "Have you ever looked into what the Rabbis have to offer?" or "What about all the Jewish tradition that you are leaving behind," or the ever famous "What do your parents think about this?"

Do you see the point in all this? They give me every reason from man's point of view to not believe, but hardly ever do I get anything from God's Word from them. Take for example the recent email letter that I got from a Jewish woman whom we met in Brooklyn while on our team evangelism week there...

"I don't want to argue with you for sure. Thanks for writing. Obviously, we are both very involved with being Jewish and spiritual and I don't judge people for being observant or not. But, it is not in Jewish tradition for the messiah to be Jesus.... What is the point in believing in Jesus? Jesus was a man, now dead a long time. We are all children of G-d. There has been a long tradition that your grandparents and those before held and it is worth your checking into it...."



Did you get that? Nothing about what the Bible says. All about Jewish tradition and parents. Now don't get me wrong. I am not denigrating parents or tradition. Not at all. However, the sacred cow (a view not to be challenged) is tradition and parents come first!

According to God, they must always be subservient to following Him. Isn't that what Jesus had in mind when He said in Luke 14:26 "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Hating is an idiom Jesus was using to put those people second in life and put God first - when the two opinions clash.

Putting Jewish tradition (or Christian tradition for that matter) ahead of God's Word is a sacred cow. When it's killed, you feel great. Hamburger anyone? ❖

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## Summer Evangelism Continued from Page 1

who would volunteer.

Regardless, here is what Scott and Doug had to say about their week in Los Angeles:

**From Scott:** It was different with only Doug and I in LA. Together we were able to pass out 6350 tracts, and had many conversations. I personally spoke with more Jewish people about Jesus at this outreach than any other I have been a part of. I had conversations with Jewish Iranians, Israelis, and American Jews. California has diversity of Jews as well as other people making us the hottest part of the melting pot.

**From Doug:** Had numerous conversations like with Edwin who took the tract entitled "Are you separated" and he said, "I need this!" He was sepa-

rated from his wife. Then I stopped him and explained about being separated from God!

On Venice Beach (LA Area) I spoke with several Israelis who took information in Hebrew! On the walkway, the Christian youth club from Van Nuys High School stopped me and all circled around me and asked me questions about witnessing to Jewish people. I encouraged them in their walk with the Lord and then they asked me to pray with them right there on the walkway. So we all made a big circle and prayed. They also introduced me to a Jewish teen who was with them for the day. I shared with him personally for a moment and then gave him an evangelism CD! Back in LA- I was on Hill Street attempting to get a few pictures and these two Israeli's (Eli & Yitzhak)

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# Summer Evangelism Report

stopped to listen to me share the gospel. They also took tracts in Hebrew. I also had a very angry elderly Israeli man stop and tell me Jesus was not the Messiah.

## PITTSBURGH

In Pittsburgh, Steve Kaplan (a Jewish missionary who lives in Atlanta and has helped Rock of Israel different times over the last four years) and I had 8 full time volunteers and two others who helped us on our last full day (team of 12 on that last day!) It seemed strange not having another staff minister on the team, but Steve Kaplan did the training session with the volunteers and he is always good on the streets. With this large team we were able to hand out almost 30,000 tracts and we had about 525 conversations. Eight people prayed to receive the Lord and four rededicated their lives to Him. Praise the Lord!

Joanna and Sylvia Jakubisin, sisters who have been on 5 or 6 of our outreaches came from Cleveland to help us again. Both are great street evangelists and our conversation numbers always go up when they are with us. Praise God. Luanne Kehoe also came from Cleveland area (they drove down together). She was afraid she wouldn't be able to do this sort of thing, but often it was Luanne who wanted to stay out longer and go out more often to hand out tracts. Luanne also had a great testimony how when she wrote to friends and family to sponsor her, more than enough came in and she was able to help sponsor another volunteer. Rosalind Greiner came from Indiana to help us. At the Fourth of July celebration there were people handing out samples. Rosalind led one of these promoters, a young lady, to the Lord. This day was not only America's birthday but now the young lady's spiritual birthday.

Six volunteers were from the Pittsburgh area. I think this is the first time we have had that much local participation. Melanie Pampena was with us before in Washington DC and in Cleveland. It was great to have her back. Frances Powers was only able to help the last day, but we were glad to have her help us again. Joanne Walsh also helped the last day. For her first time out, she did great. She engaged many



**Pittsburgh Team**

people in conversation and later said she had a great time. Susan Utts has helped us before (in fact, she was with us in Miami earlier this year) and is a pro at street witnessing. Anne Funkhouser was a newcomer to street evangelism. She said that she has wanted to do more evangelism and just didn't know how. Greg Flora was someone whom Joanna Jakubisin ministered to when we were in Pittsburgh five years ago. This year he was out with us ministering to people on the streets.

It was supposed to rain on Sunday the 4th and on Monday, but not one of our outreaches got rained out. We thought we were done on Monday afternoon and had a farewell dinner. But on Tuesday John Kerry came to downtown Pittsburgh to make his Running Mate announcement. Some of the team had already left but six of us went out early in the morning to hand out tracts to the people waiting to get into the Square where he spoke. Of course, we handed out the tract with the new title- "Is there life after Bush or Kerry?" One lady protested that I shouldn't mix religion with politics. I said I wasn't, I was just sharing Good News.



**Steve Kaplan**

**From Steve Kaplan:** Although we have no way of knowing the full extent to which the Lord used our ROCK OF ISRAEL team, the Gospel Message was verbally shared with hundreds. We prayed with several people to receive Jesus and obtained contact information from several seekers for follow-up.

Our team was assigned to Squirrel Hill, the Orthodox neighborhood. When we arrived, we saw an Orthodox man walking across the street, and I jumped out of the car to share with him, but he didn't want to hear it. I stayed on that corner for three hours and shared with some 24 Orthodox Jewish men (who were not very open) as well as many others! I had a long conversation with Amery (Gentile). Someone had given him Gospel materials recently and after sharing with him, he prayed to receive Jesus!

It is estimated over 100,000 people came to the park to watch the fireworks display. Praise God we handed out all the Gospel tracts we had with us and even went back to the hotel to get more Gospel tracts to catch the people on their way out of the park. The last couple to come out of the park were college students from Youngstown, Ohio. Mia is a non-believing Jew and her boyfriend is a Christian. Their group of friends spent a lot of time discussing Jesus after seeing us distributing Gospel tracts. Mia gave her contact information for follow-up.

I had the opportunity to walk up and down the main streets in the Orthodox neighborhood. I made sure to go in and out of shops, restaurants and grocery stores showing off my "Jesus is the Rock of Israel" evangelistic t-shirt and handing out Gospel tracts, also sharing with people and prayer walking in front of synagogues and Jewish center entrances. Ouri (French Jew), Mark (Russian Jew) and Howard (American Jew) all gave their contacts for follow-up!

### **NASSAU COUNTY, LONG ISLAND & ONE DAY IN BROOKLYN**

Doug and I had four volunteers for our week in New York.

During our week on Long Island, we definitely encountered many Jewish people. At the Hicksville train station, (where we encountered problems last year) again this year there was an angry man who made it his job to try to get Gabriella Norton and I to leave. He also slapped the gospel tracts out of my hand all over the sidewalk. Pray for him. Of course, I didn't get his name but I imagine when he becomes a believer he will be like the Apostle Paul, full of zeal and energy to spread the Gospel. This was Gabriella's first time with Rock of Israel and she hopes that a movie script that she wrote sells so that she can be in full time ministry. Pray for her script to sell!

Jetta Inskeep has been a volunteer with us before. She is also a member of CMA(Christian Motorcyclists Association) and wanted to visit the Harley Davidson shop near our hotel. She met someone there and later when she was



***Doug preaching in the streets***

out handing tracts at the train station she met them again. No coincidence. God was using her passion, to minister to people on the street. I believe God organizes many such opportunities for Christians. Too bad we don't always take advantage of them.

Marcia White (a friend of Jetta's and also a member of CMA) and I were at a concert in the park. Before we were told to leave I had the opportunity to talk to a young lady who was a Believer. After talking with her, I was handing out tracts to people and an older Jewish man, Irving, asked me what was the young lady's name. He wanted to meet her. I sidestepped his question and asked him what he believed about Jesus. We had a great conversation, please keep him in prayer.

On Jones beach and Long Beach we talked with people as they lounged on the beach or walked on the boardwalk. Of course, not everyone wanted to talk but some were more than happy to take something to read and to talk. Pray for Jim a Jewish unbeliever I met on the beach. He is willing to receive information and gave me his address and phone number for further contact. Also I met Michael a Jewish believer who feels called to go to Israel as a Jewish missionary. He needs prayer. It is not easy to get a Visa to stay in Israel. Marcia witnessed to a depressed man on the beach who was contemplating suicide. Please pray for Eddie.

In Brighton Beach (Brooklyn, where Doug also did street preaching) we handed out both English and Russian gospel literature. Before we hit the streets with Don Geraci (Missionary to the Russian Jews) we visited Phil Gobel (Missionary to the Orthodox Jews in Brooklyn) who encouraged us and prayed with us. We took the team to a Jerusalem falafel restaurant (they also served pizza, Doug's favorite food). When he saw our shirts, an Orthodox man yelled at the owner for serving us and walked out without even finishing his lunch.



***Long Island Team***

*Continued on Page 6*

# Street Evangelism Report...

I snapped this photo of a Hasidic Jew handing out literature, trying to attract Russian Jews to Orthodox Judaism. Bill Siekman (who has been a couple of times with us) had a great conversation with a Jewish lady pictured next. I don't know if he got her name but pray for the lady in the photo.



**Hasidic Jew**



**Bill Siekman**

Of course the traffic was horrible and travel time was much greater in New York. Our tract total was just over 8,000. Not the easiest area to hand out tracts. But I can't wait to go back to New York.

## WASHINGTON, DC

We had a great week in DC. I love the city for its easy logistics and great business, politician, and tourist pedestrian traffic. Scott came to Washington, DC to help me lead our week there. (Doug came for one day to do training.) There were four full time volunteers and one of our supporters (Theresa Sprague) helped two days. Scott led the chapels which I know the volunteers appreciated, especially the prayer time he led. He also kept the group entertained with his sarcasm, not quite New York but definitely Jewish. My sister Janna Specter came for the first time. On the first day (training day) we went out to the corner to give the new volunteers an opportunity to see and experience handing out tracts. We don't usually engage people in conversation because we haven't finished training. But a Jewish woman asked Janna a question which led to a discussion. Janna gave part of our father's testimony even though she was afraid she

wouldn't have all the answers. She did great during the week even though she has knee problems (no cartilage) and is helping us in San Francisco. The only other new-timer was Debbie Saylor. Debbie shared and encouraged the team with her testimonies of God's faithfulness in her life. Debbie and Theresa also did a prayer walk around the US Capital.

Alice Hatcher and Ellen Shoaps, both have been on several outreaches with us. In fact, just this year Alice was with us in Las Vegas and Ellen was with us in Miami. Both women are filled with God's Spirit and minister to many on the streets.

One of the Jewish women I spoke to was adamant that I was no longer Jewish because I believed in Jesus. Her name is Jennifer and I told her to ask God if Jesus is the Messiah. She asked, "How would He answer me?" I told her that God was faithful to answer our prayers and that she should ask for a sign, which is biblical. She took an evangelistic CD but wouldn't give her address. Pray for her.

While the team was in DC, my wife Carrie and children came to tour the Capital. My youngest daughter Sarah who is 10 years old, came to help hand out tracts one day.

We handed out 25,000 gospel tracts, had almost 200 conversations, gave out the Gospel of John and gave out evangelistic CD's and tapes in Washington, DC. Three people (that we know) gave their heart to the Lord right there on the street. Praise the Lord.



**Washington D.C. Team**



**Sarah Specter - you're never too young!**

## SAN FRANCISCO:

At this writing we have not begun our week in San Francisco. Hopefully in the next newsletter we will be able to share some great experiences from this week too. It promises to be one of the largest teams this year, for we will have 10 (four staff and 6 volunteers) missionaries in downtown San Francisco. We hope to hand out 30,000 tracts in San Francisco which would put our total at 100,000 tracts (seeds planted) this summer. ❖

# The Belt of Truth



By Michael D. LaPoff

I believe in my heart and my mind the absolute truth of the Bible. When the Bible says something that I don't understand or that I don't see happening, I very often take those verses to God and pray through them, sometimes for years, until He reveals to me their meaning. One such verse that I have been struggling with for the past year and a half is Romans 11:11 "So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous." According to this verse Jewish people (or for that matter Gentiles too) seeing our lives and our relationship with God are supposed to be jealous of us and to want what we have. Yet this does not seem to be what's taking place in my own life or in most Christians I know.

On my retreat this year, God answered this and many more questions for me. The scope of what he taught me, from scripture, is far beyond the scope of our newsletter. He showed me much about the nature of sin and deception in our lives, but especially the nature of the battle all followers of Yeshua are engaged in, whether we like it or not.

It seems as if the battle between good and evil, between God and Satan, is intensifying these days. If there ever was a time for Christians to respond to God's purpose for us, now is the time. In Ephesians 6 (verses 11-18) Paul clearly tells us that the enemy we are engaged with is not flesh and blood (persons in human bodies) but spiritual powers (persons in spiritual bodies.) He goes on to discuss the protective armor and weapons that God has provided us with to be victorious in our struggle. He uses as an analogy the various pieces of a Roman soldier's armor giving each one a spiritual application. The first is "the belt of truth."

Many people think this is referring to the truth in the Bible, but I believe Paul is speaking about something else since he calls the Bible our sword a few passages ahead. He is speaking of truth here rather in terms of honesty as opposed to hypocrisy. Hypocrite is a Greek word for actor. Yeshua had much to say to the religious people of his day about being two faced and double minded calling them hypocrites



or actors. Well, like it or not we are the religious people of this day and we need to examine ourselves and see how this applies to us. We must be honest with God, ourselves, and each other. We must start calling things like sin, pride, lust, anger, and bitterness what they are and repent of them instead of coming up with clever excuses for our behavior and just acting out the role of a Christian, like an actor on a stage.

The truth is one of the pieces of armor, that God has given Christians, to protect us from the Devil's attacks. When we don't put it on we become vulnerable to these attacks. When we do put it on we are using the armor that God has provided and we will have victory over sin and temptation in our lives. For years I have watched people in the Church crying out for and seeking "revival" by many different means and tools. When the church begins to wear the "belt of truth" revival is not far away. We must stop putting on the "full armor of man" and use the armor that God has given us. When we do we will have lives that reflect the glory of God and fulfill our call to make Israel jealous of us, "and so all Israel will be saved." (Rom 11:26) ❖

### Fall Feasts

**T**he Fall Feasts are just around the corner. Here are the dates in case you want to send your Jewish friends a greeting card. (Remember the holiday begins the evening before the date.)

Rosh Hashanah (New Year or Feast of Trumpets) – September 16th

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) – September 25th

Sukkot (Festival of Booths or Feast of Tabernacles) – September 30th -October 6th

By the way, we have the new Jewish wall calendars. If you will send a donation (and request the calendar) we would be glad to send one to you. ❖

### Wills and Annuities and Bequests

**A** woman who is a supporter felt prompted of God to recommend that we mention to our supporters how they could continue to support this ministry after they have passed away. Please consider putting Rock of Israel in your Will or help us by setting up an annuity. Talk to your lawyer about this, and pray for God's direction. In the 33 years of Rock of Israel's Ministry there have been several Bequests that have come in at crucial time periods. We know that God is our provider, but He uses His people to support His work. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the ongoing support of Rock of Israel Ministries. ❖



*Dori Specter (widow of Hyman Specter, founder of Rock of Israel Ministries)*

**M**any have inquired about Dori and how she is doing. So we have included a photo of her in front of her house in Victorville, California. She continues to work as our correspondence Secretary. She is also a prayer intercessor, especially for all those who send in prayer requests to our ministry. In fact many of you have received cards or notes from her at one time or another. Remember to pray for her too. She is a vital part of Rock of Israel Ministries. ❖

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