

www.rockofisrael.org

800-722-ROCK (7625)



(Above) Carolyn passes out tracts on Campus.

ROI Volunteers at the Festival of Roses in Portland, OR



(Right) Pat witnesses to youth at Pioneer Square.



(Above) Ed passes out tracts at the Portland Courthouse.



(Above) Casey takes advantage of a person's pet snake to start a conversation.



(Right) Steve has a conversation with an Anti-Zionist.

CDs by Marty Goetz and Paul Wilbur



Songs of Israel
CD by Marty Goetz
\$17.00

The Watchman
CD by Paul Wilbur
\$17.00



CD Orders: \$3.00 TOTAL POSTAGE, regardless how many CDs you order!

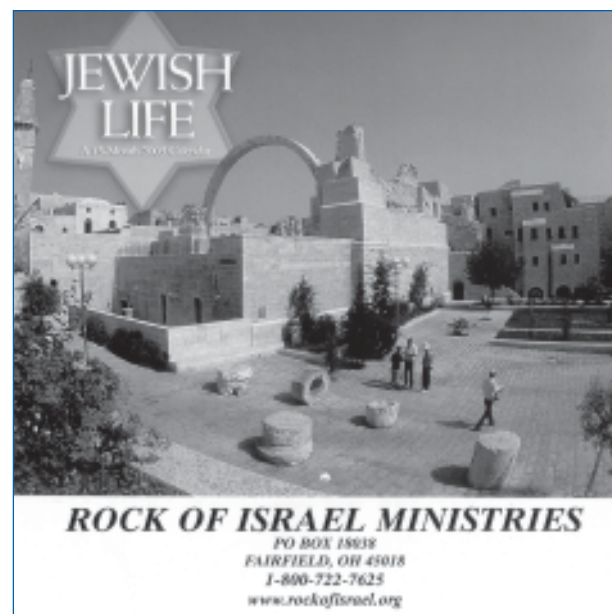
In *Songs of Israel*, Marty Goetz adds his resonant voice to 10 of your favorite songs: "Exodus," "Sunrise Sunset," "Hava Nagila," "Hatikvah" and more! Words and melodies having to do with a rich tradition, an eternal people, and a Promised Land. A real treasure!

The Watchman, recorded LIVE at Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, features world-renowned Messianic Worship leader Paul Wilbur.

Look on our website for many other selections.

Order Your JEWISH CALENDAR!!

The Jewish New Year starts in October this year. We are ordering copies of a Jewish Wall Calendar like we



did last year. They have beautiful color photos on each page. You may like to give them as gifts to your Jewish friends or relatives. Please let us know how many you would like. We are selling them for only \$6 each or 5 for \$25. If you would like to charge them on a credit card, call us **Tuesday through Friday at 800-722-7625.**

ROCK OF ISRAEL Update

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

Summer 2005

PORTLAND REPORT

By Robert Specter



Portland was a very beautiful and clean city but it reminded me of the "Old West," outlaws and rugged individualists, drifters and runaways, all mixed together to survive the hardships of a life without purpose. I apologize to the hard workers and Christians who live in

Portland, but, you are not as visible as the rebellious of mankind in your city.

We just finished our outreach in Portland, Oregon. To say the least, it was nothing like I expected. Since we had veteran volunteers going to Portland, and since this was one of our longest street evangelism outreaches (nine days), I sent 35,000 gospel tracts to Portland. We ended up handing out 18,000 tracts, just over half of those available.

From the very first day, I could tell Portland was different than any other city we have evangelized. The people and the city seemed cold to the gospel. Even the weather was uncommonly cold for this time of year. Praise God, even though the forecast was for rain most of our time there, God kept us and our tracts dry most all the time we were out on the streets sharing the Gospel. In every city we go to, God protects our outreaches.

In Portland, we encountered rebellious youth, many homeless, New Agers, alcoholics and drug addicts, even hard-hearted Christians. Surprisingly we met and talked with many unbelieving Jews. Though we

weren't able to get very many addresses for follow-up, we gave out the scriptures (The Book of Hope) to some of the Jewish people we met.

It is no wonder that God had prompted only experienced volunteers to join our team in Portland. I am not sure that a new volunteer would have been able to adequately handle the darkness and coldness we felt there.

Our team consisted of Scott Roberts and me as leaders, Ed and Carolyn Strong from Oregon, Pat Sekanic from Cleveland, Casey Grist on staff with Light of Messiah in Atlanta, and Steve Kaplan, who is also a missionary from Atlanta. Each of us has been on many outreaches and we all felt the darkness in the city, but also the breakthroughs that God gave us. I asked Casey if she would write about her experience in Portland and have included her comments in this newsletter.

Please keep in prayer the names of the Jewish people that I spoke with: **Cristen**- a young Jewish lady whose father is a believer, but who says it is hard to believe that there would be only one way to God; **Salome**- a Jewish woman I met at the Rose Festival Parade. She asked why I thought Jesus was the Messiah. I referred to the Prophets and specifically Isaiah. She agreed to read the book that I would send to her; **Barry**- a Jewish man who wanted to know why I felt I had to proselytize Jewish people. I told him that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and that if a doctor found the cure for cancer, he would want to tell all the cancer patients about the cure. I told him that I felt compelled to give the great news of Yeshua (God's Salvation); **CJ "Earth Woman"**- a Jewish woman who sounded like she was into New Age and accepted all religions; **Another**

continued on Page 3

Chosen, Who Wants to Be Chosen?

By Scott Roberts



When a Jewish person is referred to as “Gods’ chosen people”, often they respond with, “Chosen, who wants to be chosen?” This response has evolved after thousands of years of persecution from the world at large.

Winston Churchill said, “Some people like the Jews, and some do not. But no thoughtful man can deny the fact that they are, beyond any question, the most formidable and most remarkable race, which has appeared in the world.”

History bears out the fact that Winston Churchill is correct. The children of Israel have suffered extensively over the centuries. In spite of their **tsures (the Yiddish word for trouble)**, the Jewish people continue to be identified as “God’s Chosen People,” the most remarkable race which has appeared in the world.

Why are the Jews so remarkable? Is it because they are so numerous? Hardly so, it is estimated that there are less than 15 million Jewish people living around the world today. Is it because they are faithfully religious? Hardly so, it is believed that only 14 percent of all Jews live an orthodox lifestyle. Is it because they are a powerful nation? Hardly so, for nearly three thousand years the Jewish people have been dispersed around the world. It wasn’t until 1948 that the Jewish people re-established their God given state, Israel. Even now the number of Jews living in Israel is less than six million. The Israeli military is so small, that all Israelis, men and woman are required to serve. Modern Israel’s power, like ancient Israel’s power, is not in itself, but by the God Who watches over her.

The reason why the Jewish people are so REMARKABLE is because the ONE TRUE GOD has made covenant with them. God says to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 (CEV), “Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will bless you and make your descendants

into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless anyone who blesses you, but I will put a curse on anyone who puts a curse on you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you.”

The Jewish people survive today because God is, or as he states in Exodus 3:14, I AM THAT I AM: this name demonstrates him as absolute God, Who is acting in unfettered liberty and self-dependence. GOD alone has made the Jewish nation remarkable. He is fulfilling his covenant promise to Abraham.

God’s relationship with the Jewish people has made it possible for the body of Christ, even the world to be blessed. Genesis 12:3 states, “you will become famous and a blessing to others.” I believe it is time for those who call Jesus “Lord” to support Israel. By this I mean more than the land of Israel, but the covenant people of God, the Jewish people where ever they live.

By the end of the year I will have participated in five of the Rock of Israel outreaches. I will have traveled thousands of miles, spent over a hundred nights in a strange bed, and brought the Gospel message to thousands of people. This is not a complaint but an appeal for your help in reaching these REMARKABLE people, the Jews. Will you consider joining us on one of our eight outreaches this year? Maybe you can’t, but you can pray and or help financially.

God has given us a vision to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ this year. Please join with us in reaching this remarkable people, the Jews.



Scott passes out tracts on campus during the downtown Portland Festival of Roses.

Defenders of Sinai

continued from Page 6

all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:18-19)

Today, the Law is still as needed as ever to convict the world of right and wrong. It also still serves as a constant reminder that we are all accountable before the God of the Bible for our actions. At heart, the growing derision of Christians and of the Judeo-Christian ethic reflects humanity’s growing rebellion against the whole thought of having to answer to our Maker.

EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITIES:
You have the opportunity to participate in Rock of Israel’s Street Evangelism. (Must be over 17.)
Call for an Application Form today!
(800-722-7625)



*****Farewell to Michael and Nancy LaPoff*****

With sadness I must tell everyone of Michael’s decision to leave Rock of Israel Ministries. For nine years he has been on staff as a Missionary/Evangelist of Rock of Israel. His music ministry and messages have blessed thousands of people all across America. Of course, Nancy has been by his side helping and supporting him in ministry. They are quite a team! They also have raised support for the Rock of Israel Ministries, to enable us to accomplish our mission and purpose of reaching Jewish people for the Messiah.

Michael has told me that they are beginning their own ministry, which I am sure God will use to bless many people.

Pray for them and their new endeavors (and pray that God will send another minister to help us as we continue to reach out to the Jewish people, the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel.)

MATCHING GIFTS

By Robert Specter

Recently I was reminded, that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and provides for all our needs.

In Exodus 12:35 & 36 it says: “Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; ³⁶and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, ...”

Recently we received a donation from an insurance company! I am aware that some in the insurance company, including stockholders, are believers. But having a secular company donate to our ministry reminds me of the Scriptural passage from Exodus quoted above. The insurance company matches any donation an employee gives to a non-profit organization.

Perhaps you, or someone you know, can give additional support to the ministry through your workplace. Also, please consider adding the Rock of Israel to your Will. God has used Bequests from supporters who pass away to meet large needs. Gifts like these are unexpected blessings that help us accomplish the work God has called us to do. We don’t have fund drives or telethons, yet God always meets our needs.

Let us be good stewards and make full use of the resources that God has made available to us.

Defenders of Sinai

By David Parsons

This article was printed in "The Jerusalem Post" and on the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem news service.

AMERICA'S 'culture wars' took an unusual turn recently when a cross-section of Jewish leaders, rabbis, scholars and commentators - with comedian Jackie Mason thrown in, as well - announced in late April the formation of a new group committed to fighting the "epidemic" of "toxic" slander and bigotry against Christians.

"Christians are under assault because of the values they embrace," said Don Feder, long-time columnist and president of Jews Against Anti-Christian Defamation. "By maintaining their loyalty to the eternal values revealed at Sinai, Christians have become pariahs in the eyes of the establishment, but heroes in our eyes."

For several decades, Feder and many of his colleagues in the newly formed Jewish advocacy group have been standing alongside conservative Christians on such burning moral issues as the right to life, prayer in schools and public displays of America's religious heritage. Their current remarkable gesture of admiration and synergism arises out of a recognition that the fate of traditional Judeo-Christian values in the United States rests in the hands of the nation's much larger yet oft-ridiculed Evangelical community.

Evangelical Christians indeed have been feeling the sting of the cultural left of late, also due to our principled support for Israel. Time and again, Christian Zionists are being openly branded as dangerous, racist and thirsting for Armageddon. In but one example, before her recent demise, Author Grace Halsell charged that Christian Zionists practice the same form of "muscular Christianity" that their forefathers followed when they slaughtered Indians to "win the American West." The "American Fundamentalists," she claimed, see Armageddon as an event "most earnestly to be desired."

THE IRONY is that - despite their animus towards religion - many in the radical left, not only in the U.S. but also in Europe and elsewhere, have aligned themselves with militant Islam out of their mutual hostility for America, for Israel and for the moral and democratic values these two nations share. In recent years, secular leftists and Muslim extremists have marched hand-in-hand to oppose the U.S.-led war on terror, the war in Iraq, and the legitimacy and very existence of the Jewish State. It would

seem that those passionately devoted to the humanistic ideals of liberty, reason and racial and sexual equality would steer clear of radical Islam - with its regressive ideology, oppression of women, other faiths and cultures, and promotion of suicide terrorism in the name of Allah. Yet these strange bedfellows have linked for what is shaping up to be an epic struggle over the continuing influence in our world today of the Judeo-Christian value system - founded on the centrality of the Ten Commandments.

It is thus well and proper for Jews to be joining with Christians to defend our shared biblical heritage - notwithstanding our theological differences. For although the laws of God were revealed to the Israelites at Sinai, even the great Jewish sage Maimonides acknowledged eight centuries ago that it was Christianity which took those commandments to the four corners of the earth and gave them universal standing. In so doing we defend not just a nice set of moral rules for individuals and societies to live by, but the revelation of the very nature and character of God to humanity.

The Ten Commandments were placed in human hands as an expression of God's holiness and glory. In His covenant with Abraham, God elected a man through which He vowed to redeem the world, but we were still not aware that we needed redeeming. The Mosaic covenant was then added to instruct us of our sinful nature and our desperate need for Him, much like a speed sign must be erected to inform us when we are going too fast.

Without the law, we would never have known when we have done wrong, and yet through it we are all shown our inadequacy to measure up to God's holiness (Romans 4:15; 7:7). His offer of grace to all humanity through Abraham's seed could only be fully appreciated if all humanity were shown its fallen nature.

THE JEWISH people consider the giving of the Law at Sinai as the birth of their national existence and a most crucial moment in their calling to be a "light to the nations" (Isaiah 49:6) and the divinely chosen channel for 'mending' the world (tikkun olam in Hebrew). Even to this day, Judaism sees at the core of its mission this original vocation as the chosen purveyor of ethical monotheism to humanity. For Christians, Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount that he did not come to destroy the Law but to fulfil it,

"For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till

continued on Page 7

The Misunderstood God

By Doug Carmel



I have had the terrible misfortune of being misunderstood and misrepresented by some 'friends.' It's a terrible feeling. To know that you want to say one thing good, and someone conveys your message in a completely wrong way. It caused real grief in my heart.

As I pondered all this, it became clear to me that God must be grieved at being misunderstood

by humanity, even more so. Why? Because Israel and the Church have both been guilty of this same thing at times misrepresenting God.

With Israel, we need look no farther than the calling God gave Israel. He desired them to be a "light to the nations," (Isaiah 49:6) which they failed to do. God's desire was always that all mankind should know Him. The theme of this scripture, "and all flesh shall know that I am the Lord," occurs multiple times in the scripture. By God's desire and plan, Israel was to 'represent' Him among the heathen nations. That's one of the reasons God called out Abraham from the land of Ur and created a special people. Unfortunately, in Old Testament history, we see Israel ended up misrepresenting God.

God wanted Israel's behavior to glorify Him - so that the Gentiles, might desire to know Israel's God. Instead, Israel's behavior lacked so much that God had to bring prophets to rebuke Israel for their bad behavior. Israel's behavior got so bad that she was eventually exiled to Babylon by God.

Before we point the finger at Israel, the Church in history has been guilty of the very same thing. Did not God desire a Church who reached out to a lost and dying world with love and compassion? Instead, for many centuries, the Crusaders picked up the sword and represented God in that manner. How opposite this was from what Jesus taught. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake" (Matthew 5:10) Not, "Blessed are those who pick up the sword for my sake." Jesus taught to endure persecutions, not support them.

So my point in all this is to ask the question, how are we representing God today in this lost world? Surely God does not want us to misrepresent Him to the world. I certainly did not enjoy being misrepresented recently. It was a terrible

thing. So how do you and I represent God in a good way? By holy living. Look what Peter said, "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." (1 Peter 2:12)

As a matter of fact, Paul tells us the Gentiles were saved to provoke Israel to jealousy! (see Romans 11:11) How about that for a standard? Are we living such close lives with the Lord that people around us get jealous? Are you and I representing God in a way that makes people desire to know Him? I hated being misrepresented recently. Let's not misrepresent God in our daily lives. He deserves better than that.

2005 Street Evangelism Dates

Please pray for our upcoming outreaches in these cities:

Chicago July 2-9

Washington, DC July 16-24

Denver July 31-Aug. 7

Toronto, Canada Aug. 27-Sept. 4

Manhattan, NY Dec. 28-Jan. 2, 2006

Volunteers for Street Evangelism

We still need more volunteers for our street evangelism this summer, especially in Denver, CO. Don't be afraid to join us. It will be one of the best weeks of your life. Not only will you learn how to witness to Jewish people, but you will be an encouragement to many other Christians to witness to their friends and neighbors. Perhaps you know someone who would like to join us. Please let them know our need. *If you are over the age of 17, why not join us for a missions trip you will never forget!*

PORTLAND REPORT - continued from Page 1

Jewish woman told me that she normally didn't bother to talk to people like me, but she proceeded to tell me that Jesus was a good man, but that Jewish people never believed he was the Messiah. I told her, His disciples believed and many other Jews did, too. I said Jesus is the Messiah, but she walked off saying no, no, no. **She and many Jews and Gentiles wouldn't give their names.** Pray for all these and all the others who spoke to the rest of the team.

**By Casey Grist,
On Staff with Light of Messiah, Atlanta**

Portland, Oregon was probably the most difficult city I have ever tried to minister in. When we first arrived, the people were so cold to us. They wanted nothing whatsoever to do with us. There seemed to be so much sadness and quiet desperation in everyone's eyes. I was astounded by the number of homeless people there, and how many were teens. And they were so angry....so tired....so hopeless. As a team, we bathed the city in prayer, and we tried to bring the light of Jesus into the darkness. Little by little, I began to see Jesus turning things around. People did begin to talk to us....they did begin to smile back...receive our gospel tracts. The Christians began to tell us they were glad we were there, and the teens in the streets began to talk to us. Even the tram drivers began waving at us, on the corners, and yelling out "Praise the Lord," when they went by.

We had nine decisions for Jesus, and many many people received the gospel tracts, were prayed with and for, and ministered to. I had several street kids come up to me and tell me that they were talking to us now, because they could tell we were different....that we loved them. They told me that others had come before and shouted at them, called them names and told them they were going straight to hell, but we were kind, and loving. It made a huge difference to them. It wasn't that we compromised the gospel....not even remotely. But, these kids needed ministering to in a huge way...and spiritual boulders were moved in this week of evangelism. They were touched that we didn't condemn their mode of dress or appearance and stay away from them because of that. When I was sortie-ing at the Rose Parade on the final day of campaign, I was actually approached by six teens. They came up to me and hugged me and introduced themselves to me. Michael, one of the boys told me that they were so glad we were there....that it made them feel better because we had come. I just pray that the work the

Lord began in their hearts this week, will continue and flourish, after we have gone.

I had the privilege of meeting and praying with one very extraordinary young man, named DeWaine, while there. Yes, I prayed with and met many others....but DeWaine really stole my heart. Please keep him, and all the precious people we met in the wonderful city of Portland in your prayers. What began as the most difficult city I had ever ministered in, ended up becoming by far, the most soul-satisfying campaign I have ever been privileged to be involved in. Thank you, Rock of Israel, for giving me such a sweet gift....the city of roses, Portland, Oregon.



(from Left) ROI Staff and Volunteers in Portland: Steve Kaplan, Ed Strong, Robert Specter, Casey Grist, Pat Sekanic, Carolyn Strong, and Scott Roberts

I want to give public thanks to Ed and Carolyn Strong. They joined our Portland team, even though they had some physical problems. And they loaned their fairly new Jeep for my use (before, during and after the week of evangelism.) They also gave the team lodging before and after the week of evangelism to save on our hotel costs. Please pray with me that God will bless them mightily (physically, financially, and in every way) for their great contributions to Rock of Israel Ministries. - Robert Specter

By Doug Carmel

Frustrating! That is one way I would like to describe the recent Rock of Israel outreach in Cincinnati. The small team of seven was supposed to be handing out gospel tracts at a big 3-day public street fair called "The Taste of Cincinnati." Hundreds of thousands of people usually turnout for this big event, which is several city blocks long and has dozens of vendors there selling food and drink at their booths. Also, there are music bands playing everywhere and



ROI Staff and Volunteers in Cincinnati (from Left) Linda Phillips, Steve Kaplan, Don Zoch, Angela Kendrick, Rosalind Greiner, John Moeller, and Doug Carmel (not pictured)

Photo by Doug Carmel

people just mulling around, eating, drinking and having a good time. You get the idea.

During the very first day there a volunteer on our team, Don, who was stopped and told by the one of the organizers that we couldn't be there passing out our material. I knew it was wrong information that she had given to Don. Steve Kaplan (a volunteer from Atlanta) and I went back and handed out tracts in the center of the event, when the same lady approached and told us to stop again. Two police officers were there and they indicated that we had to do what the organizer wanted. What was so frustrating was that I knew they were all wrong. This was a public event on a public street and the U.S. Constitution's right of free speech is not suspended due to vendors selling beer!

Well, since it was Memorial Day weekend, no legal council was available, so I decided to submit to the authorities and move the team outside of the event and pass out gospel tracts to people as they were entering or leaving the gates. While they still passed out thousands of tracts there, I believe it would have been more productive to be inside the event.



Doug hands out tracts to passers by at Taste of Cincinnati

Here's the frustrating thing - on the last day of the event, this same lady spots me in the crowd and tells me, "Oh, I'm so glad to see you. I found out I was wrong. You ARE allowed to be here." Great, lady! You find out this information on the very last day of the fair. Well, needless to say, I had the team back in there for what remaining time we had. One very good report is that during the last time out, Steve Kaplan spoke to a couple, where the husband is Jewish and the wife is a born again gentile! She was so excited to see us there. She gave Steve their name and address, for us to mail them further material (which we have done).

With the tracts out at the fair and the tracts we passed out at the Cincinnati Reds baseball game - the total came to about 11,000 gospel tracts out in four short days.

Living Wills and Bequests: Please pray about making provision in your will for the continued support of Rock of Israel Ministries. Many ministries have been funded with donations from supporter's estates.