



You're Helping Feed Souls in Tel Aviv

BY DANIELLE STAVI

Sometimes feeding the soul begins with feeding the stomach. The pandemic forced us to close our soup kitchen in Tel Aviv, but generous partners like you made it possible for us to continue meeting the needs of our community—with a food truck! Our “mobile soup kitchen” lets us feed people on the streets two to three times a week.

While ministering on the streets, we meet people who are in all kinds of distress. During one food run, we heard a woman screaming uncontrollably as she was under the influence of drugs. I tried reaching out to her, but all she could tell me was her name—Sharon. Finally, she asked my colleague Maayan for a drink of water. The police came to remove her because she

was making such a scene, and we wondered if we’d ever see her again.

Thankfully, we did have another chance to reach out to Sharon. She was able to talk briefly but was distracted by drug dealers and her addiction. But by God’s grace, when we encountered her yet again, she was alone. Though clearly under the influence of drugs, she listened as we shared the gospel, and as we offered her rehabilitation and hope in Jesus. She responded that every time we come, the street feels different, and she senses something new and hopeful. I believe God has more in store for Sharon, and I am so grateful that you have given us the means to continue reaching out to her and so many others on the streets of Tel Aviv.

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Stirred But Not Shaken



BY AARON ABRAMSON,
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER*

2020 has been quite a year, and it's not over yet! My wife Victoria, our three children, and I left London to move back to New York City within months of the COVID-19 outbreak. The last time I saw New York hit this hard was September 11, 2001. I had relocated to New York City with my wife to begin missionary training with Jews for Jesus. Amidst the devastation, many Jewish seekers contacted Jews for Jesus looking for answers. Though the circumstances today are very different, I am seeing a similar response.

One Jewish woman recently told me she wanted to take a closer look at Jesus because, "It looks like the beginning of the end. If the pandemic weren't enough, our country has been increasingly divided over racial tensions, the economy, the elections. . . . It feels like one thing after another." On some level, she sensed that this world is desperately in need of redemption.

I want to thank you for helping us reach people like this woman who are seeking as never before. We have reason to be optimistic, not only because of these kinds of interactions, but because of all God's promises. I'm drawn to the book of Hebrews as it invites followers of Jesus to come boldly into the presence of God, and gives us something positive to experience and share with others.

Hebrews was written to a community of believers who knew about hardship and suffering. Persecuted and often imprisoned for their faith, they needed hope. They needed a call to persevere in the faith no matter the circumstances. Hebrews 10:22–24 continues to instill hope in me, as I hope it does for you. It can shape our response to 2020 or any other year.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. *Let us hold fast* the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. *And let us consider one another in order to stir up* love and good works. (Emphasis added.)

"*Let us draw near*" is a call to lean into God, especially when we are tempted to do the opposite—and when it comes to the opposite, I've been there. My parents immigrated to Israel when I was a teenager. Like other Israelis, I was required to serve three years in the Israel Defense Forces. I served with a paratrooper unit in southern Lebanon where a close friend was killed in conflict. I needed to draw near to God, but instead I ran from Him in anger and bitterness. Several years later, when I finally began to draw near to God, He welcomed



WE RELENTLESSLY PURSUE GOD'S PLAN FOR THE SALVATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

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me with open arms; His mercy is everlasting. Let's remember His call to draw near, even (and especially) in the midst of adversity.

"Let us hold fast." The author urges these followers of Jesus to hold on to Him. Times of upheaval and uncertainty may tempt us to hold on to our abilities, our comforts, and our resources, none of which provide true security. The world is volatile and unpredictable; only God is constant, a solid foundation we can build on.

Finally, we read, *"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."* In the midst of hardship, the Hebrews were instructed to help one another be more like Jesus. The word used for "stir up" is from a term meaning "to jab." Sometimes stirring one another up can be uncomfortable. Over the years, my Jews for Jesus colleagues and I have challenged each other to grow in our love for God and others. There are so many ways to stir up good things in others; sometimes it's by setting a godly example, and sometimes it's speaking the truth in love.

As I reflect on this past year and consider the future, I find it helpful to ask myself three questions, and I hope that you will find them helpful, too.

What am I drawing near to?

What am I holding on to?

What am I stirring up in others?

The answers to those questions continually shape our responses to the opportunities and temptations that adversity presents. Let us be thankful that when we hope in Jesus, He continues to grow us and stretch us and use us to show others His glory. The best is yet to come!

The Abramsons (left-right): Victoria, Keren, Noah, and Aaron.



**Dan (who wrote to you last month) and Aaron are our two chief operating officers. David Brickner wanted you to hear from a few of our top leaders, but he will be writing to you again in January! Stay tuned!*



prayer prompts

You can help us move mountains!

Please pray for:

- our food truck ministry in Tel Aviv, that people we meet will be spiritually hungry and open to the gospel; especially pray for Sharon and Jacob to find healing and hope in Messiah Jesus
- our ministry as we shift emphasis from how to minister in the midst of COVID-19 to how to creatively engage the variety of Jewish people groups with the gospel; may God give us His wisdom to understand how best to reach each one, and may His Spirit empower us to tell the unchanging gospel message to people whose ideas and attitudes are changing
- our staff and board members; a couple of months ago, several of our staff in the CIS were hospitalized with COVID-19—please pray for their ongoing recovery and for containment of this virus; also some of our board members have had very serious (non-virus related) surgeries in the last few months—please pray for their recoveries
- protection for staff members who live in an undisclosed location where the government is unstable and reactive
- God to continue raising up the next generation of Jews for Jesus

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At each of our stops, some of us stay in the truck to serve food and water while the rest of us go into the street to smile at familiar faces, as well as greet new people who begin to gather. It's a time for conversation and prayer, creating a place of rest and refuge for the weary. To our delight, the truck has sparked a lot of interest, and many people have volunteered to join us. We are so thankful that God has allowed us to fulfill our vision of uniting local believers and building relationships to help serve the street population.



Danielle

Each time we go out in the truck, we hand out about 80 sandwiches and drinks. But our heart is to do so much more; we look to bring spiritual hope to the streets of Tel Aviv. Anyone can come and get a cold bottle of water and a sandwich, but people also come for the loving smiles and the opportunities to connect that they've come to expect when they see our truck. For those living on the fringes of society, that is a big deal.

Recently, while we were handing out food, a man approached Maayan. We had met Jacob before, but this time was different. He began to bare his soul and tell us about his life, half of which had been spent in prison. He then started asking why we were out on the street working with people in need. In response, Maayan asked Jacob if he believes in God. Jacob said he knows that God is real and is at work all around us. Maayan shared with him not only about the God of the universe,



We have many opportunities to speak with our neighbors as we offer sandwiches, cold water, and a smile; the food truck logo is shown below right.

but about the love He has given us through Jesus, and how much Jesus loves him personally! Jacob was deeply moved and was so joyful to hear that someone sees him and loves him just as he is. Follow-up can be difficult with people who have no address, but Jacob has found us before, and by God's grace, He will make it possible for us to continue sharing the gospel with him.



Please pray for Sharon, Jacob, and all the people we reach out to on the streets. Pray that they will come to know Jesus and that He will restore them, not just in their bodies, but also in their souls!

Please also pray for us as we continue discovering new and even more effective ways to show the love of Messiah through our food truck. We are so grateful for your partnership that has made all of this possible! It is a great tool and blessing to love and serve the outcasts whom Jesus loves, and to bring others on board to join us.

Names are changed to protect privacy.



Receive our monthly news electronically, along with bonus stories, prayer requests & Bible resources!

Write to jfj@jewsforjesus.org and ask to hear from Jews for Jesus via email, or go to jewsforjesus.org/subscribe and make sure to give your email address.

For your convenience: The enclosed envelope is not a request, but a convenience for those who want to give. For those who want to give online, this URL makes it easy and secure: j4j.co/nl2011