

ROCK OF ISRAEL

Update

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

Winter 2003

Happy Hanukkah



*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!
From The Staff & Board*

Messiah has come and He has no limits.



By Scott Roberts

Dear friends, celebrating our Savior's birth is a time of great joy and proclamation of God's wonderful grace at work in our lives. During the Christmas season I am reminded of the angels who first announced our Messiah's entrance into this world. What wonderful words we find in Luke 2:11, "For there is born in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord". YES MESSIAH HAS COME!

At this time of year Jewish people light Hanukkah candles reminding them of God's miraculous power to deliver his Jewish people from their bondage and redirect them in acceptable worship. When we reflect on the celebrations of Hanukkah and Christmas we can only conclude that God has no limits when it comes to proclaiming HIS message.

We at the Rock of Israel ministries embrace HIS message with great passion. Jesus, the Jewish Messiah has come. Only Jesus has the power to deliver men from sins and redirect them towards true worship. As believers we boldly proclaim, "We worship God in spirit and truth".

Susan and I want to thank you for making it possible for us to reach Jewish people with God's message of grace this last year. Thanks to the many pastors, churches and individuals who have supported us. Together we rejoice over the salvation of Jews and Gentiles. If it were not for your support, there are people who would not be included in God's kingdom today.

God has used you! Together we have made a

difference. Not only have you made it possible for us to share Jesus with people who would never darken the door of the church, but we have seen people in our services come to faith. Countless others have been encouraged by our ministry; others are better prepared to witness to their Jewish friends and relatives. YOU have been used by God and we love you for it.

Susan and I consider you our Christmas gift. The wonderful thing about your gift is that it goes on and on. Unlike a sweater that can only be used when it is cold or a candy that fades from our memory as it is consumed and forgotten, your gift of support is likened to the bread and fishes that Jesus fed to the five thousand. Your gift is multiplied over and over again in the lives of people. The final impact of your giving can only be realized in eternity.

As we move into the coming year, remember *Messiah has come and there are no limits* to his power as we proclaim his message. God once used angels to proclaim the Messiah now he uses you.

May you and your family experience a great Hanukkah and Christmas season. Susan and I are asking God to give you a year filled with answered prayers, divine promise, happiness and vision.

Peace to you,

Scott and Susan Robert ❖

Dear Rock Of Israel... Email And Letters From Friends

Is this the same Rock of Israel that has a missionary named Robert Specter? I read about this ministry in the Pentecostal Evangel magazine. Even if it's not, I'm glad I found this sight. Love you all, May G-D continue to bless your faithfulness.

Gary, NJ

God bless you all. Hello, this is Michelle - I was on your Boston {Street Evangelism} trip. The Lord is good. I read all your newsletters. They are a blessing. Call me if you need to set up a base in Greater Cincinnati. Thank you all.

Love, Michelle, Covington, KY

Dear Sir,
Please send me information on how I can sign up for the summer evangelism program. Send all the information you think I need to know, how much, when you

go. Please send me a catalog of tracts, and music. I was given such a desire for the Jewish people.

Greg, Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Dori:

Shalom! Thank you for the postcard. Your words of appreciation are touching. However, may we express to you and Rock of Israel our heartfelt appreciation and love for your powerful ministry. May Adonai continue to bless others, and may the Ruach HaKodesh lead and guide you in these troubled days ahead. May He bless Israel. May He bless His people.

We love and support Israel. Our bed is stained with tears as we weep and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May He give His chosen ones strength. May they know we stand with them. May they know we love them. May they know how grateful we are for all they have done. They gave us the Scriptures. They

It's a New Year! Where does the time go?



By Doug Carmel

I have a question for you. Can you think back over this past year and remember each and every meal that you had? Of course not. No one can.

But even though you don't remember them all, they were all still important for your physical health, right? After all, where would you be today if you missed some days or even some weeks of eating in 2003? Maybe more than a few would be sick today? Maybe several would even be dead? Scary thought isn't it.

We are blessed in this country to have an abundance of food. And rightfully so, we should thank God each day for our daily bread. But why don't we realize that just as our physical bodies need bread, so do our spiritual bodies. That is exactly what Jesus equated the Bible to... "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." (Luke 4:4)

How would you like a famine to hit America? I shudder at the thought! But how can America be so fat with Bibles and yet people don't read them?

We need to read the Bible constantly to feed our spirit.

Did you know, the Jewish people have public reading of the Scriptures each and every week in Synagogues around the world. The five books of Moses are divided up

gave us the Messiah. We will always be eternally blessed because of the blessings of the Jewish people.

We love you Rock of Israel. We are but a small-rural East Texas community of rolling hills, pine trees, and lots of cows! We know our gifts are not much, but please know we will continue to support you as our Lord enables us. We love you.

In the Name of Yeshua our Saviour,
Pastor, Hawkins, TX

Hello Rock of Israel!

May God richly bless all you do in reaching the people!

I am 17 and in a 4-H program. God richly blesses me through it and He wants you to be blessed also. Please use it where you are led by His spirit!

Hope, Silt, CO ❖

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**"Giving out the Bread of Life."
(the gospel, "Book of Hope")**

into basically 52 parts and read through every single year. No matter where they are in the world - they do not forget the Word of God. (Unfortunately, most Jews do not read the scriptures at home though - that's another story.) We have tons of Bibles in America. Let's make sure that we feed ourselves each day.

And one final thought. For those of you who are raising up little ones. How dependent are they upon you for food? Totally dependent, right? You need to sit them in the high chair and open up that jar of baby food and spoon feed them... or they will starve!

Well then, do these children get the Word of God from you? Do you spoon feed them a promise from Psalms? How about some meat from Matthew? They will not get the Word of God in public school - I promise you that! Therefore, don't let them starve at home as well. Feed them. My wife and I are constantly teaching our little ones the Word of God. We want them to be well nourished on God's Word. "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs." (John 21:15) ❖



JUBU'S



By Robert Specter

Have you met Jew-Bhu's (JuBu's), Hin-Jews, and gurus who grew up Jewish? It would not surprise me if you have. In fact, one of our board members and one staff minister were Jewish Buddhists before they met the Messiah.

The leaders of many of the Eastern religions in America were also born Jewish. Some estimate that the Jews in cults are as high as 12 percent. **It is estimated that 30 percent of the American Buddhists are Jews.** These estimates are amazing especially when you consider that only 2 percent of the US population is Jewish.

In searching the internet for information, I found that there were pages and pages of links to papers, books and articles about Jewish Buddhists.

Maybe you've heard the joke about the Jewish grandmother from New York who makes a long and difficult trip to the Himalayas to see a guru. 'So what does a Jewish grandmother want with a guru?' you ask. Well, after encountering many obstacles and delays on her long journey, she is finally ushered into the master's presence and says, 'Sheldon, come home.'

One of the articles I found on the internet was the story of an 18 year old girl from New York. She says "I'm a Jewish Buddhist.



My parents are both Jewish, but they started practicing Buddhism in their twenties. I am a member of a perpetually displaced second generation of Western Buddhists. I consider Judaism to be my culture, but at an early age I had already chosen Buddhism as my spiritual practice. My trip to Nepal was a chance to finally see a predominantly Buddhist culture up close."

This is not only an American phenomenon, young Israeli backpackers by the thousands are making their way to India and the Far East. Israelis are drawn to Buddhism because they think it offers a release from the terrorism and hard life they have to deal with in Israel.

Why Buddhism? Here are some of the reasons that I have found:

During the Holocaust many of the spiritual leaders and teachers were killed. After the Holocaust many Jews lost their faith in God. They could not believe that God would allow the senseless annihilation of 6 million Jews.

Many became atheists and agnostics. They are attracted to Buddhism because there is no God in Buddhism. Their children were also bereft of faith in God and have a need to believe in something.

Many children of religious Jews feel a lack of spirituality in Judaism.

Buddhism does not have a history of anti-Semitism. In fact, the Tibetans are seen as co-sufferers, both people groups have been displaced and persecuted.

Followers see Buddhism as a philosophy without creeds or laws to follow.

One does not have to convert to Buddhism to accept Buddhist thought.

Many Jews retain their cultural identity as Jews and still practice Buddhism.

Most Jews are secular, not religious, and therefore have a spiritual void that needs to be filled. **“...fewer than five percent of American Jews define themselves at all religiously, ...”** (The Jew in the Lotus : A Poet's Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India by Rodger Kamenetz)

So what should Believers do?

We need to show them the way to God. Help them see the supernatural power of God.

(“Jews require a sign.”) Tell them that He has not forsaken Israel. (Romans 11:1) He said in Jeremiah 31:35-36 that as long as the sun and moon give light we would know He still loves Israel. The absolute truth is- Jesus the Jewish Messiah is alive. He resurrected from the dead and **He is the answer for all who are seeking spiritual fulfillment**. Jews can retain their culture and still accept their Messiah. Though they do not have to “convert” (accept another religion) they do need atonement and they need to turn to the God of their fathers and have faith in the Messiah whom He sent. Most importantly, we need to pray for all these non-religious Jews who are swallowing the lies of Satan. He has not changed his tactics. **Satan is the father of all lies, including Buddhism.**

(If you would like a copy of Dan Gruber or Michael LaPoff's dramatic testimonies, let us know and we will be glad to send you a copy of each.)❖



Michael LaPoff

Street Evangelism Update

The big steam ships (Tall Stacks) came to Cincinnati October 15-19th.

There were an estimated 700,000 people who came to the celebration, but we only had four full time volunteers and two staff missionaries. (Actually Doug Carmel had to bear most of the responsibilities because Robert Specter came down with the flu and only got in on the last two days of the outreach.) Three people from Montgomery Assembly of God also came down to the river for a couple hours to help on the last day of Tall Stacks. We handed out 17,500 gospel tracts in Cincinnati. Continue to pray that we will be able to recruit more volunteers to our street evangelism outreaches.

We have a team that will be in Las Vegas the week between Christmas and Jan 3rd. Then we will be in Miami the middle of February. Depending on our finances and volunteers, the places we plan to go in July/August 2004 will be: Washington DC; Long Island, NY; Pittsburgh, PA; Los Angeles, and San Francisco, CA. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact us for the exact dates and an application. ❖



*Two of the Tall Stacks volunteers,
Pat Sekanic & Dennis Brooks*



*Vickie Olds on the bridge between
Kentucky & Ohio during Tall Stacks*

Evangelism opportunities:

You Have Opportunity to Participate in Rock of Israel's Autumn/Winter Street Evangelism

- 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!

Dates for winter 2003/2004 Outreaches:

Las Vegas	December 28 – January 3
Miami	February 10 – 16

**Call for an application form today:
1-800-722-7625**

A Lesson In Humility



By Dale Cohen

The first word in the book of Leviticus in Hebrew is V'yechrah meaning "And he called". It is making reference to God calling out to Moshe (Moses), but in Hebrew much more is being said. In this word the last letter, called aleph, which is the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet, is diminished. The term "He called" is a term of endearment and indicates the intimacy between God and Moshe. The letter is diminished in this verse to remind us of the humility of Moshe. Moshe is considered to be the most humble person who ever lived. Although Moshe was privy to speak directly to the Holy One, he remained small in his own eyes and was not haughty.

It reminds us that none of us has achieved the lofty standing of Moshe and reminds us that although we may be used by God to do great works we should take a lesson from Moshe and not become impressed by our achievements. We learn that in order for us to become successful in our work and study of Torah that the call



given to Moshe was prefaced with a small aleph, meaning to come humbly. It is also interesting that the letter aleph is actually made up of three letters. Two yuds or yods, which is the first letter of the Divine name of God, combined with a diagonal vav which symbolizes man. Many Jewish commentaries see in this the idea the celestial and earthly worlds linked together by the vav.

Tying this together with what we learned about the vav in the last newsletter and how it related to the Messiah, we get another interesting picture. For Messiah does connect the celestial with the earth, for He is the mediator between God and man and joined God and man together at his crucifixion. ❖

Egyptians Matching Gifts

Remember the story of the Exodus, where God tells the children of Israel to go ask for silver, gold, and jewelry from the Egyptians? They later needed it to give for the construction of the Tabernacle and its furniture.

Recently my sister, Janna Specter, found out that the company she works for matches up to 50% of

any employee's charitable giving. She thought that it would only apply to gifts for Unicef or American Heart Association or some non religious organization like that. But, she asked if she could give to any charitable organization. She was told that as long as it was a tax exempt non-profit they would match 50% of her giving. Wow, that is like silver from the Egyptians. Of course, I don't mean that they are slave drivers or anything like that. I just mean, here are unbelievers (for the most part) helping my sister support Rock of Israel Ministries, a work of God! (My brother Roger also donated his vehicle to "Cars For Causes" and we received a donation from the sale)!

Maybe more supporters on our mailing list will find that their employers will match their charitable contributions to Rock of Israel. ❖

What's New

Great Savings on Books, CD's & Video's For Holiday Gifts

Books by Ruth Specter Lascelle

“Christmas & Hanukkah” \$2

“Global Harvest”

Missionary journeys and history of Rock of Israel \$6

“Two Loaves, One Bread”

Jews and Gentiles, the Body of Messiah. \$6
Set of both books for \$10

“We Have A Great High Priest”

Commentary on the book of Hebrews

“A Dwelling Place for God”

A study of the Tabernacle in the wilderness.
Set of both books for \$25

Other books

“Jacob's Gift”

A childrens story by Max Lucado \$10

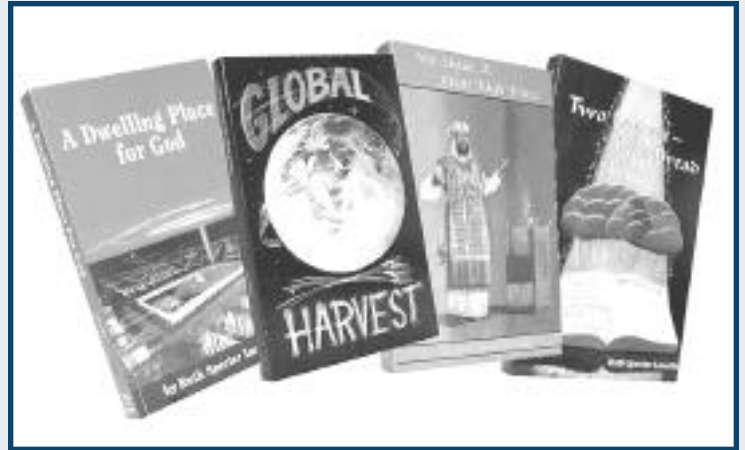
“Celebrating The Sabbath”

By Warren Frankel \$2

“Liberty” Interpretive Dance video \$10

Plus 15% shipping and handling
(express service costs more)

For credit card orders please call our office (800-722-ROCK)
or email sales@rockofisrael.org.



Look on our Web Site for many other selections.

Music cassettes \$10, CD's \$15 (three cassettes for \$25, or three CD's for \$40)

“The Bride”

Original songs by Michael LaPoff (Staff Missionary)

“Bury Your Heart In Wounded Me”

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

