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Jesus



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Jewish Way

Rock of Israel Ministries



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Ministry President Robert and Carrie Specter

October 2024: Here's an update on the ministry in the past month.

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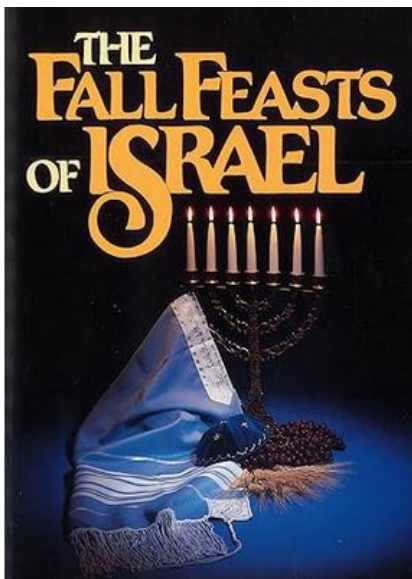
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Sadly, sometimes email servers send our newsletter there.

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The Fall Feasts of Israel are this month.
Read our article about them at the bottom of this newsletter.

Crowded Fairs last month



The Fairs in Toronto and NY brought out big crowds

Last month was a month of powerhouse outreaches. We had two simultaneous booths up. One at the New York State Fair and one at the Canadian National Exhibition. Between NY and Toronto, there was just too much that happened to put into one newsletter, so this update will merely be **part one**.



Our Toronto Booth

It was in Toronto that we faced much push back for merely having anything Jewish at our booth. Toronto was a time of extremes. The conversations were great (see excerpts below), but the negativity was bad. We thought we had dodged a bullet, as the first few days of the Fair were relatively quiet. But then the weekend came, and it was almost nonstop; every hour, “FREE PALESTINE” a few people shouted as they walked by. And here's a new one: “Free Palestine” stickers on our “Jesus Made Me Kosher” banner in front of the

booth. Our staff had to check it every 30 minutes to remove any stickers.



In NY, the State Police came to our booth and told us to call them if we had any problems.



We kept getting these stickers put on our booth in Toronto.

With all that being said, it really made the Jewish community feel a kinship with us. Those visiting the booth saw much of this happening, and they specifically said to us, "Thank you for being out here." We

had just over 475 face-to-face conversations with unbelieving Jewish people at these two events last month. Most all took our gospel bookmark, and many even took a free book of testimonies we offered.

Here are just some of the conversations from these two events as reported by our staff.

** One woman shouted at us, “Jesus was a Palestinian!”

** A Jewish lawyer about 65 has been coming to our booth for many years. We are like old friends for the short time he visits with us. He is not Messianic, but still buys something from us every single year. This year I turned around, and Jerry (not his real name) was there at the booth. I had a big smile on and asked, “How are you?” to an old friend. He looked nervous and said quietly, “I have cancer.” Of course that changed the conversation. I mentioned how God can heal and that if we know Jesus we don’t need to be afraid. He said kindly, “I could never be a Messianic Jew, but I respect your views. I respect all views.” I said I would pray with him after he finished looking at our items. And so before he left, I prayed with him for healing, and he received it, bowing with me in prayer. Afterwards he was touched. He also said sheepishly, “I know you had to pray in Yeshua’s (Jesus’) name.”

** A Jewish woman and her Catholic friend came up to the booth; she said, “I’m Jewish, but I don’t believe in any messiah.” I asked, “Would you be open to some evidence?” She said sure. Then the Catholic woman with her started affirming what I was saying. The Jewish woman accepted a book of Jewish testimonies and then went over and looked at our jewelry. She said, “I would love to wear this Star of David necklace, but I would be too afraid to because I work at a university and they would react. I could be in danger.”

** An Iranian (Persian) woman came up, and she was very gentle and nice, but had questions. When speaking about Jesus, she said, “God sends a prophet for each generation. Jesus was only for that generation” (implying Muhammad was the last for all generations). She added, “Muslims believe in Jesus”, and I said, “Well, here’s what separates faith in Jesus from every other world religion - the payment for our sins on the cross.” I gave her a prophecy sheet, and I mentioned that she should go home and read the gospel accounts. It ended as a very good conversation.

** Several people came by the booth filming us.



Our booth was tiny compared to the Egyptian booth a few yards away from us.

** Some Palestinian Christians (I believe) came up to the booth. The family was reluctant to come up, but the father came up first and the rest followed. He was intrigued, looking at all the books. Their teenage children were very uneasy, you could see. Almost grabbing their parents away. However, I started talking with them and stressed that I'm a follower of Christ and I gave a little bit of my testimony. I also made a quick joke and by the end of the conversation, we all had a laugh together. Even the teenagers. Praise the Lord.

** In Toronto, Susan (Greg's wife) talked to a Pakistani believer. Her Jewish husband occasionally went to a Baptist church with her and her mother. She said he was open, but he viewed Jesus as just a major figure, not the Son of God. He believed Jesus connected the Old and the New Covenant, but he needed to know theologically why. Jesus was just an amazing man to him. A week later, on a Zoom call made with the wife's help, I explained to him that Jesus was much more than a great figure. I shared that He was God incarnate, our Messiah, and He paid for our sins on the cross. He nodded in agreement. I asked him if he wanted to make Jesus his Lord and Savior, and he said yes. I led him in a prayer of repentance right there on the Zoom call, and all the angels in heaven rejoiced.

** A woman stopped and loved all the items. She said she was Jewish and that she believes in a 'higher power'. I said, "Would you be opposed to that higher power being Jesus?" She had to stop and think. I said, "Let me give you a book of stories of Jewish people who are believers in Messiah." She took it and said, "But I already do feel close to my higher power." So, I replied, "Maybe this is the higher power calling you closer to Him, through the Messiah?"

To Be Continued.... More stories next month

Ministry President Robert Specter's encounter



Pro-Palestinian woman
harassing us



Ministry President Robert
Specter at the Fair



Rabbi harassing our volunteer

At the New York State Fair, we had many conversations with Jewish people, but we also had several encounters with either Palestinians or Pro-Palestinians (anti-Israel). One lady said point blank: "I hate Israel, I love Hamas!" Another encounter was with a "Christian" Palestinian woman (and daughter) who kept saying she was ashamed of us. She didn't believe Christians should support Israel, whom she said was committing genocide. Not only that, but she also said that Jesus was a Palestinian, and that she and He had the same DNA!

I asked if she read the New Testament. There is no mention of Palestine, and Jesus was born to a Jewish girl named Miriam (Mary). After she left, I thought to ask her if she knew what was written on His cross in three languages: Yeshua, King of the Jews. Needless to say, I never convinced her, and she went away angry.

Other Palestinians asked why we were praying for Israel, that we should pray for Palestinians. Since then, I have thought about this and have decided that I do need to pray for the Palestinians. Pray that they will not be deceived by the propoganda against Israel, pray that they will not let their children be indoctrinated to hate Israel, pray that the Palestinians will throw out Hamas as their representatives.

Pray that they will change the Palestinian Charter which has a stated purpose to destroy Israel. Pray that they will truly want peace. Pray they will accept Jesus as Lord. So, by all means, let us pray for Palestinians. Of course, we also know peace will only come with the Prince of Peace who will be King of Israel and the world. Yeshua the Messiah and Lord.

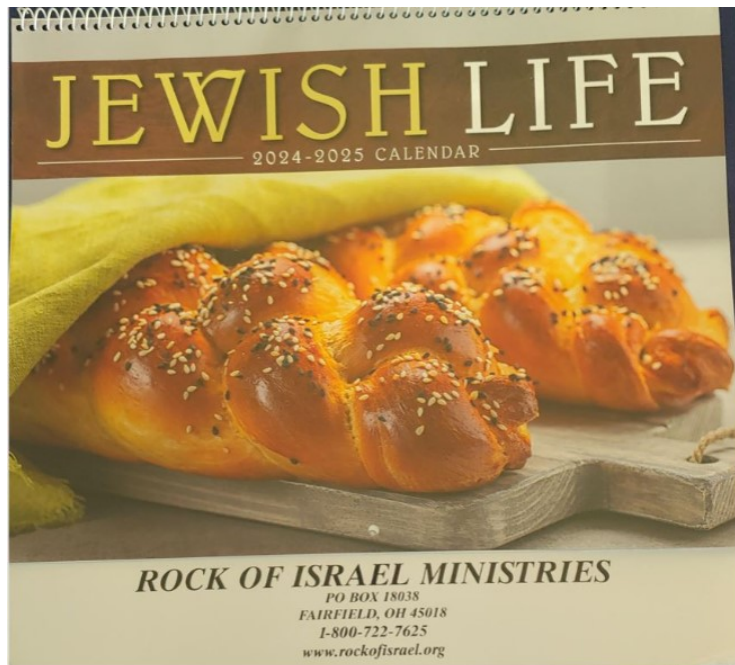
Here is a list of some of the names of Jewish people we met at the New York State Fair: Cliff, Samuel, Leah, Dan, Jack, Jean, Lisa, Jacob, Rachel, Aden, Styler, David, Dillard, Markus, Karen, Mike, Susanna, Manny, Eileen, Jay, Jason, Natalie, Justin, Amy, Solami, Mel, ...

October reminder:

God has all things under control.
The Wedding banquet plans are still on.



This month's offer:



2025 Jewish Wall Calendar

Did you know that the Jewish calendar year starts in September and runs until next September. This is for the Sept 2024 - Sept 2025 year. Beautiful photos. The holidays are all listed.

Contains the dates for:

- * Rosh HaShanah
- * Yom Kippur
- * Sukkot (Tabernacles)
- * Hanukkah
- * Pesach (Passover)
- * And much more!

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<https://www.rockofisraelstore.org/products/jewish-wall-calendar-year-2025-5785>



"There is no sacrifice like heartbreak."

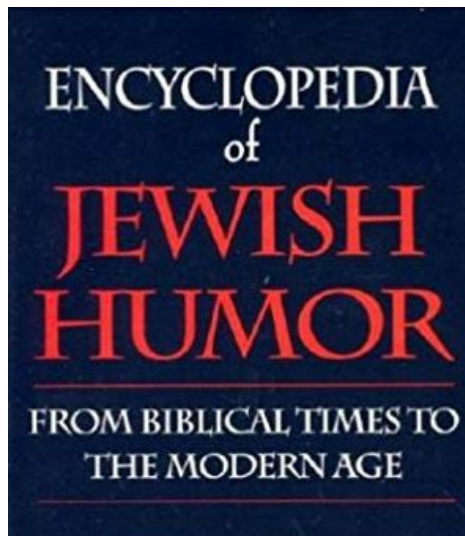
~~ Eleazar of Germiza



THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA:

Which fact about Rosh HaShanah is false?

- A) Many will throw bread crumbs into a flowing river or body of water.
- B) Jewish men must pour a small amount of oil on their head.
- C) Eating apples and honey are a tradition for this holiday.
- D) Jewish tradition says the world was created on Rosh HaShanah.



This Month's Jewish Humor

A priest and a rabbi were at a community luncheon. The priest asked the rabbi, “So when are you finally going to eat a nice ham sandwich?”

The rabbi responded, “At your wedding reception of course.”

Israel's Three Fall Feasts Begin



This month begins the annual cycle of Israel’s three powerful autumn feasts. It is the seventh month on the Biblical calendar, and it is just packed with feasts and events. Here they are with a quick summary of each:

Rosh HaShanah (begins sundown Oct 2nd)



Although Rosh HaShanah literally means ‘head of the year’ and Jewish people send ‘Happy New Year’ cards to each other, it really is not the first month of the year at all. Biblically, the feast is called ‘Yom Teruah’ and it means ‘Day of shouting /blasting.’ (i.e. trumpets or loud noise.)

One of the unique things about Yom Teruah is that the Torah does not say what the purpose of this holy day is. Just that God wanted Israel to stop work, gather, and listen to loud trumpets (or shouts).

This word ‘Teruah’ can describe the noise made by a trumpet, but it also describes the noise made by a large gathering of people shouting in unison (Numbers 10:5–6). For example,

"And it shall come to pass when the ram's horn makes a long blast, when you hear the sound of the shofar, the entire nation will shout a great shout, and the wall of the city shall fall in its place, and the people shall go up as one man against it."

- Joshua 6:5

Whatever the specifics back then, today Jewish people will attend services, the Shofar (trumpet) will be sounded 100 times, and apples and honey will be eaten. The food to signify the hope of the sweetness of the coming New Year.

Yom Kippur (begins sundown Oct 11th)



The Day of Atonement. This is the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, where the theme is repentance and atonement. It is a day of rest and fasting. Leviticus 16 gives details about this day and the duties of the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) on this day when the Temple still stood in Jerusalem.

When the temple stood, the Kohen Gadol entered the Holy of Holies in the center of the Temple, the only time of the year that anyone went inside. Doing so required special purification and preparation, including five immersions in a mikvah (ritual bath), and four changes of clothing. When inside, he would sprinkle the blood from a goat, which was a sin offering. A different goat was then symbolically given the sins of all Israel upon its head and taken to a cliff outside the camp and pushed off (lest it somehow find its way back to the camp).

Today, since no goat's blood is shed, many orthodox Jewish people will swing a live chicken above their head and then sacrifice it as a way to somehow get back to the principle that blood sacrifice is needed on this day. This is called 'Kapparot' and you can Google it for more information.

Yom Kippur is a legal holiday in the modern state of Israel. There are almost no live radio or television broadcasts, airports are shut down, there is no public transportation, and all shops and businesses are closed.

Sukkot (Tabernacles) (begins sundown Oct 16th)



Sukkot is a seven day holiday that remembers when God brought Israel out of Egypt and they lived in booths. A shaky existence, yet God took care of them. The same principle follows here: Our world is shaky, like this booth, but God provides with a good harvest.

Sukkot is agricultural in nature, called the "Feast of Ingathering at the year's end" (Exodus 34:22) and marks the end of the fall harvest time and thus of the agricultural year in the land of Israel.

A sukkah is the name of the temporary dwelling in which farmers would live during harvesting. Today many in Israel will eat and sleep in their sukkah for the full seven days.

Our "Thanksgiving" holiday has many similarities with Sukkot, celebrating God's abundant provision with friends and family at the end of the harvest.



As Messianic Jews, we see all three of these Feasts as one day being fulfilled in the Messiah, Jesus.

Trumpets – The Messiah shall sound the trumpet (shofar) and gather His own to Himself with a great shout.

Yom Kippur – Our Jewish people will one day realize that they have missed their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10) and will then know it is His blood that makes atonement for them. All Israel shall be saved. (Romans 11:26)

Tabernacles – When Messiah returns to Jerusalem to take His throne, there will be a millennium of peace. The lion shall lay down with the lamb. There will be abundant provisions, and no one will go hungry. All the world will worship King Messiah. (Zechariah 14:16)

We are waiting for You, Messiah Yeshua.

QUIZ ANSWER:

Answer - B

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