

Global Prayer Digest

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Pray That the Jewish Peoples of Eastern Europe Be Saved!

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Editorial



Dear Praying Friends,

When I was a teenager, I asked an attractive blonde I worked with for a date. She said she was Jewish, so she could not go out with me. I was puzzled. She looked like the rest of us. She spoke American English, so aren't we the same? I thought.

From what you will read this month, you will learn that Jewish people in Europe don't stand out any more than they do in the United States. They speak the local language, serve in the military, and root for the same sport teams. Yet they prefer to stay different, though similar to the local population. At home some of them speak Yiddish or Sephardic, and they attend a synagogue, not a church. As you will see in some of our daily prayer entries, it has become difficult to keep the younger generation from assimilating into the local culture. Yet on the Joshua Project list, Jewish peoples are almost always considered unreached.

This month we are going to do something about that by praying for their hearts to be opened to Yeshua, Jesus. You will have the privilege of helping to fill the bowls of incense for unreached Jewish nations that have a very special place in God's loving heart.

In the name of Yeshua, the Messiah,

Keith Carey, editor-in-chief, *GPD*

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Feature of the Month

PRAY FOR

*A Disciple Making Movement Among
Every Jewish People in Europe*



AN OVERVIEW OF THE JEWISH PEOPLES OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

A Quick Historical Scan

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There's lovely Jewish tradition about how we Jews came to Poland. In the midst of fleeing from various persecutions, we were led by a vision to a safe haven, a place whose name in Hebrew means "God dwells here" Polanya – Poland. In time, Central and Eastern

Europe became the heartland of much of Jewish life and culture in Europe.

Prior to the WWII, over 60 percent of the world's 18,000,000 Jewish people lived in Europe, with most of the population concentrated in the central and eastern European lands. The vast majority of the Jewish people wandered into the region from the 10th through the 17th centuries. It was here that Chasidic (mystical, ultra-Orthodox) Judaism was born. Here, too, is where the Yiddish language and Yiddish culture flourished.

Two events changed all of that; one horrific, the other miraculous. Tragically, the Holocaust liquidated one third of the world's Jewish population. But just three years later, they witnessed the rebirth of the modern state of Israel. Since that time, waves of Jewish people have made Aliyah (immigrated to Israel). Today, for the first time in nearly 2,000 years, more Jewish people live in Israel than anywhere else in the world. But significant Jewish population centers continue to exist in central and eastern Europe.

JEWISH PEOPLE IN EUROPE

The Former USSR

Real numbers are hard to obtain; but perhaps as many as 500,000 Jewish people still live in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. Ever since the collapse of the USSR in the early 1990s, Russian-speaking people have proven to be the most responsive Jewish people to the gospel worldwide. God, of course, is the architect of that interest. But the responsiveness on the human level can be credited to at least the following factors.

The failure of the Soviet regime and its ideology created a vacuum of disbelief. Now Jewish people, like everyone else, needed to fill that vacuum with faith.

The thoroughness of the Soviet blackout on religious instruction had shielded the Jewish people from the standard “Jewish” objections to Jesus that were common in the West. In the former USSR, the mantra, “You can’t be Jewish and believe in Jesus” wasn’t as widely known or automatically believed.

Amazingly, the openness to the gospel hasn’t waned in the past 30 years. Though large numbers of Jewish people have already immigrated to other lands, a significant “field” remains in Russia: approximately 100,000 – 150,000 Jewish people live in Moscow; another 100,000 in St. Petersburg, and still another 80,000 – 100,000 in Kiev, Ukraine.

Hungary

Hungary possesses the largest indigenous Jewish population in central and eastern Europe outside of the former USSR. Most of those Jewish people live in Budapest, the Hungarian capital. Approximately 80,000 Hungarian Jewish people make Budapest their home, out of a total city population of 1.8 million. In addition, Jewish tourists from the West and from Israel visit Budapest every day because of the city’s rich Jewish heritage, and because of historical landmarks, like the Doheny St. Synagogue (the largest in Europe), and the birthplace of Theodore Herzl, the “father” of modern Zionism.

When you add in the Jewish populations of the smaller cities, along with the many Israeli students who study in Budapest and Debrecen, the total Jewish population of Hungary comes close to 90,000-100,000.

The story of Jewish evangelism in Hungary is genuinely thrilling. Starting as early as the mid-1800s, a long line of preeminent messianic Jewish “giants” came from Hungary, including Rabbi Isaac Lichtenstein, the scholar Alfred Edersheim, and the missions pioneer, Leopold Cohen.

JEWISH PEOPLE IN EUROPE

Germany – the Great Surprise!

In 1990, the German Jewish population numbered some 31,000 people. Then, Germany opened her doors to Jewish immigration from the former USSR, and by 2005, the number of immigrants had swollen to over 200,000. That number included messianic Jews who had come to faith in the former USSR, and who shared that faith with their fellow refugees. Most of the Jewish immigrants settled in major cities like Berlin, Cologne, and Düsseldorf, where messianic congregations and missionary agencies continue to carry on a significant evangelistic work. But an even newer Jewish field has opened up in Germany. In recent years, more than 22,000 Israelis have moved to Berlin.

A Tragic Scattering

The Jewish communities of most central and eastern European countries never recovered from the devastation of the Holocaust. Today, according to a variety of online sources, the official Jewish population of Romania is 11,000-12,000. In the Czech Republic, a mere 3,000-5,000 Jewish people remain.

Prior to WWII, Poland was home to over three million Jewish people. By the war's end, only 40,000-100,000 survived. Many of these survivors chose to immigrate rather than try to rebuild their lives in Poland. Today, the official Jewish-Polish population stands at 6,000-8,000. But most Jewish sources acknowledge that this number is far from accurate. The real number may be as high as 50,000, with most Jewish people living in Warsaw.

Why the great disparity? In the first place, the official numbers only reflect those Jewish people who are “registered” with some type of Jewish organization such as a synagogue or cultural institution. The disparity is also due to the tragic, continued existence of anti-Semitic sentiment in some segments of Polish society. In light of the past, many Jewish people prefer to keep their Jewish identity to themselves. One final factor: Many Jewish people are the descendants of children whom loving Polish citizens hid from the Nazis and raised as Poles. Stories intermittently appear in the Polish press about men and women who only recently discovered their Jewish heritage. In a sense, the Jewish community in Poland is waiting to come fully back to life.

Challenges

Sadly, anti-Semitism remains a persistent and dangerous reality. In central and eastern Europe, the anti-Semitism is often a carry-over from the religious anti-Jewish teaching found in the medieval church. But racial anti-Semitism exists as well: The Jews are regarded as “aliens,” who threaten European life and culture. An anti-Israeli sentiment is also on the rise, especially among younger Europeans.

JEWISH PEOPLE IN EUROPE

Ironically, a new threat to the people's well-being may be found in the hearts and actions of Christians who actually claim to respect and love the Jews. These Christians mistakenly assert that Jewish evangelism is both unnecessary and even anti-Jewish! How tragic and how dangerous. In historical context, when Jesus said, "No one comes to the father but through me," He was speaking to his fellow Jews (John 14:6). If Yeshua is indeed the only way for anyone to be saved, then to withhold the message of eternal life from the Jewish people is not an act of love or respect at all; rather, it's just the opposite.

The Importance of European Jews to World Evangelization

The Scriptures explain that the Jews have received only one national call: to be an evangelistic light to the nations (see Exodus 19:6, Isaiah 43:21, and Isaiah 49:6). According to the Apostle Paul, that call hasn't been revoked (Romans 11:29). What a redemption of history it will be when Jewish missionaries carry God's message of love and promise of eternal life to the nations where so many of them have died!

How to Pray

- Pray for the salvation of the Jewish people, just as the Apostle Paul prayed in Romans 10:1.
- Pray for the individuals and agencies that faithfully share the gospel with the Jewish people: AMZI, Ariel Ministries, Chosen People Ministries, Evangeliumsdienst für Israel, European Initiative, Jews for Jesus, Operation Mobilization, and others.
- Pray that God will turn the hearts of European anti-Semites into hearts filled with love for God's chosen people.
- Pray that Bible-believing believers in Europe will not abandon the cause of Jewish evangelism. There is no name other than Yeshua's by which Jews and Gentiles may be saved (Acts 4:12)



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— Avis Snyder serves as the European director of Jews for Jesus. He and his wife Ruth currently live in Budapest, Hungary.

JEWES FOR JESUS IN EUROPE

ROMANS 10:1, NIV

My heart's desire and prayer to God for them [Israel] is that they will be saved.

This month pray for Jews for Jesus and other organizations to be used of the Holy Spirit to draw Jewish communities to salvation in Yeshua, the messiah. This will be our theme this month.



There were 13 great “Jews for Jesus” that were accused of “turning the world upside down.” Twelve were Jesus Christ’s apostles, but the thirteenth one was especially called

by the risen Savior—the Apostle Paul. His dynamic Saul to Paul conversion is still happening for Jewish people all over the world!

Jews for Jesus is an organization on the forefront of Jewish evangelism. It is reaching Jewish people for their Messiah in 14 countries and 26 cities. Jewish people have the eternal promise in the Old Testament that their messiah is coming. Jews for Jesus workers share that he has come, and he is coming again.

A Jewish person is much better equipped to reach another Jew than is a Gentile believer who uses Christian presuppositions and lingo. Often a Gentile Christian’s efforts reinforce the belief that Jesus is for “them” and not for “us.” Jews for Jesus is innovative, using tailored evangelistic literature, music, and drama to open eyes to the truth of the messiahship of Jesus. Once a Jewish person wakes up to the reality that his savior is Jesus, he often becomes an eager evangelist to his family and friends. Association with other messianic Jews strengthens and supports the faith of all.

Pray that as the last days predicted in the Bible approach that Jewish people will encounter their risen messiah. Pray for Jews for Jesus to spread to every country in Europe.—JS

BOSNIAN JEWISH PEOPLE

DAY

02

(This story is intended to illustrate real situations today.)

“It is an honor to have you come to lead us in our services during the High Holy Days, but I hope we will soon have our own rabbi.” Jacob, an Orthodox Jew living in Sarajevo, was talking with a rabbi from Israel about their situation.



He continued, “We feel integrated but not assimilated. As you can see our synagogue is tucked into the neighborhood in an unassuming way; wedged between a school on one side and an apartment complex on another. Inside we treasure our Torahs and respectfully worship God with Hebrew prayers. Almost everyone in Bosnia is either Muslim or Christian, and we get along fine with each group. Ironically the fact our community is small is one of the biggest challenges facing us in Bosnia and Herzegovina today. There are only about 650 of us living here in Sarajevo, which is most of the Jewish people in the country. Between 2002 and 2012, there were 43 funerals and two newborn babies in the community. Then, in 2014, 10 new babies were born. Now we are considering opening a kindergarten.” Although the Bosnian Jewish people do not feel they are discriminated against, they feel spiritually weak.

Pray that followers of Jesus will reach out and share the saving power of Yeshua (Jesus) with them. May they soon disciple others in the ways of their savior.—PD

PS 98:2-3, NET

The Lord demonstrates his power to deliver; in the sight of the nations he reveals his justice. He remains loyal and faithful to the family of Israel. All the ends of the earth will see our God deliver us.

Pray that the Jewish peoples of eastern Europe will understand God's loyalty and faithfulness to them, and be willing to take his name to the nations.

CROATIAN JEWISH PEOPLE

IS 42:1, RSV

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Pray that the Croatian Jewish people will understand that because the nations conspire against them and against Israel, that they need their messiah Jesus all the more.

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Can you think of a reason why Croatian Jewish people would boycott the Holocaust Remembrance Day? They were trying to make a statement. They don't believe the Croatian government is doing enough to fight "modern-day Nazism," which they believe is in the form of ultra-nationalism. The Croatian government seems to support a slogan, "For Homeland Ready," which indicates that the "homeland" is only for Croatians, not "outsiders" like Jewish people. "For homeland only" is now a rallying cry for Ustase, an anti-Semitic movement gaining popularity in Croatia, a country carved out of former Yugoslavia. Antisemitism has gradually been increasing, and many Croatian Jews are justifiably concerned. Some Jewish Croatians are leaving the country out of fear.

Almost all of Croatia's population of 4.28 million are Roman Catholic. Three quarters of Croatia's 2,000 Jewish people live in the capital of Zagreb, while others primarily live in three smaller towns spread throughout the country. Although intermarriage has been widespread, most of the Croatian Jewish people have a strong Jewish identity. The community building in Zagreb contains a synagogue, an art gallery, a Jewish library, and a Holocaust research center.

Pray for God's protection for Croatia's Jewish population. Pray that believers in Croatia will ask for God's forgiveness and be filled with God's wisdom, understanding, tact, and compassion so they can be good ambassadors for Christ.—PD

SERBIAN JEWISH PEOPLE IN SERBIA

DAY

04

How Serbia has changed! Twenty-five years ago Serbia was noted for their severe persecution of Muslims, a religious minority. Today, the vice president of the World Jewish Congress commends the Serbian government for their friendly treatment of their Jewish population. There are historical and cultural ties between Serbia and Israel. The Serbian government recognizes Judaism as one of the seven “traditional” religious communities of Serbia, and they make a point of recognizing the tragic Holocaust. They are even making an effort to compensate Serbian Jewish people for property which they lost under the post-WWII communist government! The Serbian Orthodox patriarch has expressed how important it is for Christian and Jewish people to care about each other, because this is what God would want. Gradually the Jewish community is growing strong in Serbia, and more are attending synagogues. Jewish people in Serbia are involved with community projects and cultural advancements like the theater. However, there are only 1,200 Jewish people in Serbia, which is less than half of what was there before the early 1990s.



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IS 52: 13- 15, RSV

Behold, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. As many were astonished at him. His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of men—so shall he startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they shall see, and that which they have not heard they shall understand.

Pray for harvesters to find Serbian Jewish people who are ready to see their suffering messiah in the scriptures and join the harvesters.

Pray for believers in Serbia and their Jewish neighbors to come together in friendship in such a way that it will be easy for them to share spiritual beliefs. Pray that the Jewish people will see their need for the messiah.—PD

SERBIAN SPEAKING JEWS IN MACEDONIA

PS 110:1-4, RSV

The Lord says to my Lord:
 “Sit at my right hand, till
 I make your enemies your
 footstool.” The Lord sends
 forth from Zion your mighty
 scepter. Rule in the midst of
 your foes! Your people will
 offer themselves freely on
 the day you lead your host
 upon the holy mountains.
 From the womb of the
 morning like dew your
 youth will come to you. The
 Lord has sworn and will not
 change his mind, “You are
 a priest for ever after the
 order of Melchizedek.”

*Pray that the Jewish peoples
 of Europe will see that David
 was writing that the messiah
 is greater than himself, and
 their only remaining priest
 is Jesus!*



Sarah, a Macedonian Law student stood before a group of Jewish students in Israel and began her speech. “I’m only one of 250 Jews now living in Macedonia, a country between Greece and Bulgaria with a population of a little over two million. The Jewish community was formed by Sephardic Jews after the Inquisition, when they fled Spain and Portugal.

Most of us today speak Macedonian which is similar to Serbian.”

“In the 1940s, Bulgaria occupied Macedonia. Soon afterwards they signed an agreement with German officials to deport all the Jewish people for extermination. The Jewish community is slowly starting to recover. A new synagogue—the first in generations—was inaugurated in March 2000 in the city of Skopje. Macedonia is also home to the second largest Holocaust museum in Europe. We celebrate all the Jewish holidays. I’m very active in the Macedonian Jewish Youth Club which focuses on infusing Jewish history lessons into the Macedonian educational system and creating a law against Holocaust denial. I decided to study law because I believe I can have influence on the political agenda in Macedonia.”

Most of the Macedonian Jewish people face spiritual emptiness without knowledge of God’s word. They are trapped in a fear of the past.

Pray that God will open their eyes and hearts so they will have a full revelation of his saving glory. Pray that they will soon find their messiah and be disciplined in his ways.—PD

JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE SLOVAK REP.

During the past centuries Eastern Europe has had a high percentage of Jewish people. Today there are only 2,600 in Slovakia. Constitutional freedom of religion is generally respected by the government in Slovakia.

As the older Jewish people die, the Jewish community, customs, and language

regress. Many younger people are ignorant of their Jewish identity. However, in Slovakia, some Jews are trying to keep Jewish culture alive. They are doing this through schools, Judaic studies, Yiddish and Hebrew lessons, and community centers that promote cultural events such as Israeli dance and theater.

Religious Slovakian Jews believe God is the supreme being, creator of the universe, and ultimate judge of human affairs. Beyond this, the religious beliefs of the Jewish communities in Slovakia vary greatly. While most Slovakian Jews are religiously affiliated, many are non-religious, especially the younger ones, who have not been immersed in Jewish culture like their elders. Slovakian Jews understand their connection with the Abrahamic covenant. However, there is an historic rejection of the messiah, Jesus Christ, who fulfilled that covenant. The complete Bible, JESUS Film, audio and online resources are available in the Slovakian language.

Pray that as the gospel is shared, it will not be viewed as anti-Semitic, rather as the fulfillment of God's promise through Abraham.—KH



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Even the young love Jewish bread!

PS 14:7, NET

I wish the deliverance of Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the well-being of his people, may Jacob rejoice, may Israel be happy!

Pray for the Jewish people in the Slovak Republic to seek their restoration in the messiah, Jesus Christ. May they rejoice when they find him!

CZECH SPEAKING JEWISH PEOPLE

EZEK 37: 10- 12, RSV

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel.

Pray that the Lord will prepare the hearts of Czech speaking Jewish people to soon receive this good news of their restoration!



became part of a society in which all religion was considered irrelevant.

Especially younger Jewish people have assimilated into Czech culture; they have become less religious and more secular. They consider the Jewish community too rigid, old, and Orthodox. Many today do not identify with any religion, referring to themselves as agnostics.

The church has a window of opportunity because there is government-allowed freedom; but there is also a spiritual decline. A grassroots church-planting movement has begun within the Czech Republic as a small number of believers, house churches, and cell groups are growing. Discipleship is occurring as young Jewish people are being taught. Written, audio, and visual resources, including a new version of the Bible in everyday Czech language, are now available.

Pray that existential and spiritual heaviness will be eliminated by the Holy Spirit, and that his light of truth will shine forth into every level and aspect of Jewish Czech culture.—KH

PRAGUE FELLOWSHIP

DAY

08

Cirkev Krest'anska' "KS" (Christian Fellowships) are independent, indigenous Czech churches (registered with the Czech Ministry of Culture) formally established in 1990.

The denomination has grown quickly, offering contemporary worship services, Bible-based teaching, and emphasis on meeting regularly in small groups to build relationships. There are now about a dozen KS congregations in Prague and close to 50 throughout the Czech Republic.



1 JN 3:23, NET

Now this is his commandment: that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he gave us the commandment.

Pray that the Prague Fellowship will fulfill its mission to allow their love for Jesus to lead the lost to the Savior.

Each local church has its own pastor and elders. A council of KS pastors addresses national issues and provides oversight for the churches. Since the end of 1996 the English-speaking community has been led by Pastors John and Kelsie Mullen.

Prague community is the English-speaking congregation of this larger Czech body (KS) and is made up of believers from many countries and various traditions. Ministry and outreach are focused on the international and English-speaking communities in Prague. Worship is expressive, the teaching is based on the word of God, and the ministry is dependent on the leading of the Holy Spirit. They hope to be known for their belief in Jesus Christ and their love for one another (1 John 3:23, 24).

Pray that KS Fellowships will not be known as a religious system, but rather as a fellowship with the living God made possible by the messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that unity in the Lord Jesus will be strong and evident in every phase of this growing ministry.—KH

E. YIDDISH SPEAKERS IN ESTONIA

DEUT 18:18-19, NRSV

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

Pray that the Lord will find ways to make Yiddish speaking Jewish people realize the terrible price they are continuing to pay for not heeding God's words through Moses, and the words their messiah spoke to them in person.



Romans 1:16, NET: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Freedom of religion is not a guarantee that God's word will be accepted by a people group. Religious freedom is only an open door. Such is the case in Estonia. Estonian Jews, population 1,800, represent part of the largest Jewish population in Eastern Europe.

They speak Yiddish, a German/Hebrew dialect. Although the complete Bible, JESUS Film, and Global Recordings Network (GRN) audio materials are available in the Yiddish language, there are no known followers of Jesus among them.

Religious Estonian Jews believe God is the supreme being, creator of the universe, ultimate judge, and they understand their connection with the Abrahamic Covenant. However, they also have a history of rejecting Jesus Christ as messiah, the one who has fulfilled that covenant.

Pray that the gospel will not be viewed as anti-Semitic, but rather as God's provision, and the way to find a better identity. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth loving believers to work among Jewish communities. Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of Jewish people toward God's people.— KH

GREEK JEWISH PEOPLE IN GREECE

DAY

10

Alexandros, an old man with white hair, stepped off the tour bus in Corinth, Greece wearing a Star of David medallion around his neck. Off in the distance were some Roman era ruins. A tour guide led Alexandros and the others from the tour bus towards some broken Roman columns. The guide told them, “Experts believe the Apostle Paul preached to a crowd at this temple in the 1st century AD. Any questions?” Alexandros asked, “Was Paul a Jew?” The tour guide replied, “Paul was educated by some of the leading Jewish scholars of his day. He became convinced that Jesus was the Jewish messiah. He spent the rest of his life preaching about Jesus.” Alexandros pondered this. If Jesus was good enough for Paul, then maybe he should take the claims of Jesus seriously, he thought.



PS 16:8-11, KJV

I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Pray that the Lord will do whatever it takes to convince Greek Jewish people that the messiah that was crucified 2,000 years ago is risen, and he is sovereign.

The first Jewish people arrived in Greece around 300 B.C. They were still there when Paul and various apostles planted the first churches in Greece. There are about 4,500 Greek speaking Jews living in Greece today. They are the remains of a much larger Jewish population that once lived in that country. After World War II many immigrated to Israel.

Pray that the Greek speaking Jewish people would come to see Jesus as the long-awaited messiah. Ask God to raise up faithful workers to take Christ to them.—WK

SEPHARDIC JEWS IN GREECE

ZECH 12:9-10, RSV

And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child and weeps bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born.

Pray that the Lord will anoint messengers to communicate to the Sephardic Jewish people that they can be forgiven from their sins and treated with compassion. Pray that they would call on the name of the Lord, the one who was pierced for the sins of all nations, including their own.

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(These events are hypothetical)

Maria, a middle aged Spanish teacher from Argentina, walked the streets of Salonika, Greece.

David, a history teacher, was with her. They spotted some old people talking to each other. “I recognize some of the words,” said Maria. “That sounds like Spanish with a funny accent.” David nodded. “They’re Sephardic Jews, and they’re speaking Ladino, a language spoken by their ancestors since the time the first Sephardic Jews arrived in Greece around 1500 A.D.” After hearing this Maria pondered for a moment and nodded.

Ladino is a variant of Spanish with loan words from several other languages. It is spoken mostly by Jewish people. In 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella, the rulers of Spain, expelled all Jewish people from Spain. Many settled in Greece rather than convert to Catholicism. They retained an identity separate from the Greek speaking Jews in Greece. Over the years emigration has greatly reduced the size of this people group. Those who didn’t emigrate tend to be elderly. Very few Sephardic Jews in Greece worship Jesus as their messiah.

Ask God to send an agency which will reach out to the Sephardic Jews of Greece with the love of Jesus. Pray that this people group will come to see Jesus as the son of God and not a blasphemer. Ask God to open the hearts of this people group to the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.—WK

BULGARIAN JEWISH PEOPLE

DAY

12

(These events are hypothetical)

Nine-year-old Ivan sat in a classroom in Bulgaria, reading a history textbook. When he read a certain paragraph, he blurted something out. “Incredible! One of our most famous queens was Jewish?” The teacher walked past several desks and saw which paragraph Ivan was reading. “Ah, you’re reading about Tsar Alexander, who ruled during the 14th century. Yes, his queen, Theodora, really was Jewish.”



A synagogue in Bulgaria

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PS 2:5-9, RSV

Then He will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.” I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Pray that the Lord will show the Bulgarian Jewish people that the Lord calls their messiah his son. Pray that this fear of the Lord will be the beginning of their knowledge of who their messiah is.

Ask God to open the spiritual eyes of this people group so that they can see Jesus as he is. Pray that God will raise up faithful workers who will reach out to this people group with the message of salvation and hope.—WK

ISRAELIS IN RUSSIA

NUM 21:6-9, RSV

Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord, that he takes away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Pray that the Israelis in Russia will seek and find the messiah who was lifted up to heal them.

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Teenaged Irina and her family went through an arduous and desperate process to leave Russia, where she had been born. At that time she would never have imagined herself choosing to return to Russia, but that's exactly what she did 15 years later. She found employment at the Israeli embassy in Moscow, where she met hundreds of people making a return similar to hers.

Because of repression during the Soviet Era, an exodus of one million Russian-born Jewish people left for Israel. Now about 100,000 of them have returned to Russia. Some of these twice-immigrants are making their choice because they see economic opportunities in Russia. Some are worried about security in the Middle East. Others could not adjust to their new country. Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Israel signaled an official change of attitude. A sort of Jewish revival is taking place in eastern Europe. People of Jewish background now feel that they can be part of a Jewish community. They can attend Hebrew schools, celebrate Passover, eat at kosher restaurants, attend a Jewish museum. This is not to say that anti-Semitism has disappeared. Attacks on Jews are still being reported, and according to the *Toronto Star*, "some observers believe that the community's increasing profile has sparked a backlash from nationalist Russians."

Pray to our heavenly father to touch these people and help them to find their rest in him.—CMW

JEWISH TAT IN RUSSIA

DAY

14

(This story illustrates possible attitudes.)

“**W**hat? Jews in other countries don’t kidnap their brides?” Edik was astounded. Bride-kidnapping was a given in his Jewish Tat community. He and his friend, Jacob discussed it; then they concluded: “Our rabbi approves of it.” That was good enough for them.



Jewish Tat elders

The Jewish Tat have dwelt in Russia for over 1,000 years. Because they lived 1,000 miles from Moscow, they enjoyed religious and cultural freedom. Unlike their Ashkenazi relatives closer to political centers of power, the Jewish Tat were able to maintain practices like baking matzo for Passover and lighting candles for the Sabbath.

For centuries, the Jewish Tat co-existed peacefully with the Muslim Tat community. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, however, they have been caught in the crossfire between Muslim rebels and Russian policemen. Not a week goes by without a shooting or an explosion. Many Jewish Tat have fled to Israel in the last two decades, shrinking the population from 50,000 to 5,000. Their language, Judeo-Tat, a blend of Farsi and Hebrew, is considered “definitely endangered” by UNESCO’s Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger.

Pray that God will provide the linguists to accurately complete the translation of the Judeo-Tat Bible. Ask God to prepare the hearts of those who will be among the first to read the Bible. May they be ready to join the bride of Christ, whom God did not kidnap, but purchased!—CMW

IS 40:3-5, RSV

A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken!”

Pray that the Jewish Tat people will come to understand that the word of God came to John the Baptist in the wilderness that Jesus IS the messiah for whom he was preparing the way.

JEWISH TATARS IN UKRAINE

EX 12:21, 26A, RSV

Then Moses called all the elders of Israel, and said to them, "Select lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. And when your children say to you, "What do you mean by this service?" you shall say, "It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he slew the Egyptians but spared our houses."

Pray that the Jewish Tatar people in Ukraine will receive Elijah's message expressed through John the Baptist: "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"



Asia. In recent years, violent anti-Semitism has erupted in Ukraine.

There are no known followers of Christ among the 1,700 Judeo-Crimean Tatars. There are no Christian resources available in their language. They are spread around in countries of the former Soviet Union.

How can we reach out to these persecuted people with the liberating and life-giving message of the gospel? Despite long and bitter histories of anti-Jewish violence, some are committed to remain in Ukraine and forge interfaith coalitions with leaders of the majority Christian churches. Some 600-700 Krymchaks, still clinging to their Crimean identity, live in the United States and in Israel.

Pray that the Judeo-Crimean Tatars will find Jesus Christ as their messiah. Pray that those seeking inter-faith connections will meet evangelical believers who can point them to the savior.—AHS

KARAITE JUDAISM

DAY

16

Are they really Jewish? Other Jews say yes. Fortunately, the Russians and the Nazis said no, so they escaped Russia's pogroms (eg, deadly anti-Jewish riots) and the German Holocaust.



Most Karaites live in Israel, but today our focus is on the 1,100 who live in Ukraine. They follow only the Jewish Scriptures, reject the rabbinic interpretations, and allow their followers to make their own scriptural interpretations. Like mainstream Judaism, the Karaites observe the Sabbath, practice ritual washing, and separation from Gentiles. Their prayer books come almost exclusively from the scriptures.

In 1783, Russia opened the region for Jewish settlement, making the Jews a bulwark against the Turks.

In 2014, Russia took control over the Crimean Peninsula, included the Republic of Crimea in the Russian Constitution, and made the Russian ruble legal tender. Surprisingly, the head of the Crimean Karaite group responded, "The majority of Karaites support annexation to Russia, and voted for it. Culture and people connect us with Russia, more than the Ukraine."

Jews for Jesus works throughout the region. Their website features testimonies of Ukrainian Jews who became believers because of their ministry. There is no Bible in the language of the Karaites, but it does exist in Ukrainian.

Pray that Jews for Jesus will find an opportunity to work among the Karaite people and open their eyes to see Jesus.—AHS

PS 118:22-23, RSV

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!

Pray that the Lord will move the Karaite Jewish people to search and find their rejected cornerstone.

ORTHODOX JEWISH PEOPLE IN UKRAINE

ROM 6:1-2, NET

What shall we say then?
Are we to remain in sin so
that grace may increase?
Absolutely not! How can we
who died to sin still live in it?

*Pray for a clear understanding
in Hasidic communities what
God requires of them, so that
they can die to sin, and live for
their messiah.*

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The Hasidic Jewish people are distinct by wearing unique black attire and living a separate way of life. Ukraine is home to Orthodox (Hasidic) Judaism, which

grew out of the struggles over philosophical and folk Judaism in the 18th century. Despite Ukraine being a Slavic country, Orthodox Jewry is culturally Yiddish (German-based).

Today Jewish people visit Ukraine on pilgrimages during the Jewish New Year. At that time, they visit the Hasidic Rabbi Nachman's tomb. They want to be absolved from their sins. The site of the pilgrimage is located in the town of Uman, in central Ukraine, 125 miles south of the capital city of Kiev.

Because of the pilgrims, Uman's population almost quadruples during the Jewish New Year. The Hasidic Jewish people are not happy with the crowds. Yet Uman is economically dependent upon these pilgrims. In Ukraine Jews for Jesus has outreaches in the cities of Kiev, Dnepr, and Odessa, but not in Uman.

Pray that Jews for Jesus will take advantage of the opportunity to reach both Ukrainian and Israeli Jews on the Jewish New Year, and that opportunities to follow up in Israel will result. Pray that local churches will begin to evangelize Ukraine's Jewish population and disciple them in the ways of Yeshua, Jesus. Pray that Hasidic Jews will be open to outreach and that messianic congregations will result.—TP

BIOGRAPHY, IGOR BARBANEL

I grew up in a highly educated family of what I call “Jewish atheists” in Odessa, Ukraine. My dad and older brother graduated from the Higher Military Academy



Igor Barbanel

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and were military officers. Since my childhood I wondered why the Jews were scattered around the world. My dad just told me it was “Jewish luck,” but I wasn’t satisfied with that answer. I married a Jewish girl. In the years that followed we had two children, our own apartment, friends, and a good job, but emptiness remained in my heart. I found no answers to my questions.

We began to receive invitations from Jews for Jesus to the Jewish holidays starting in 1992. Three years later we came to a meeting at Christmas time. After listening to the preacher, I realized that Jesus could cleanse me from my uncleanness, because he personally died for my sins. I accepted Yeshua (Jesus) into my heart. After the meeting, a missionary of Jews for Jesus told us to read the passage from Deuteronomy, chapter 28 about blessings and curses. I then understood why Jewish people are scattered all over the world. God answered my questions! God was clearly showing me that he had called me to be a missionary to the Jews, so I decided to serve with Jews for Jesus.

Pray that God would use Jews for Jesus to turn the hearts of the Jewish people in Ukraine to Yeshua.—Jews for Jesus

IS 62:1, KJV

For Zion’s sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof goes forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

Pray that Igor will disciple many who will go forth as spiritual lights to the Jewish peoples of Ukraine.

JEWISH PEOPLE IN ROMANIA

GEN 3:15, RSV

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Pray the ancient Romanian Jewish people will seek and find their virgin-birthed messiah who will crush their enemies under His feet.



Two thousand years is a long time! Jewish people have lived in Romania since Roman times. They were later joined by Polish and Spanish Jewish people, both of whom arrived during the Renaissance, the latter as refugees from Catholic Spain in 1496. More Jewish people came in the 1800s from the east. Others are from Italy, Greece, and the Middle East. As time went on, the Romanian Jewish community

became a blend of all of these communities. Until WWI, not all Romanian-born Jewish people were citizens. Between the wars, they were denied jobs and a university education. During WWII they suffered loss of property and lives. Since the war, there has been an outmigration. Today some 3,000 to 23,000 remain in the cities of Bucharest, Iasi (pron. eeyahsh), Cluj, and Oradea.

Today there is a Federation of Jewish Communities that publishes a newspaper. In Bucharest, the capital, there is a Yiddish theater and a Chabad House. Indeed, Romania was where Yiddish theatre began. Curiously, to pray that the messiah should come this year is thought to be heresy by some Romanian rabbis!

Pray that Romanian Jewish people will increasingly long for and find their messiah. Pray that as they emigrate that they will go where they may be evangelized. Pray that churches in Romania and their new homelands will earnestly seek the salvation of Romania's Jewish people.—TP

JEWISH PEOPLE OF GEORGIA

One of the mysteries of history is what happened to the ten “lost” tribes of Israel. These Jewish people were removed from the land of Israel 2,700 years ago by the Assyrians. The Jewish people of Georgia claim to be the descendants of those 10 Jewish tribes or of those taken into exile by Babylonians 2,500 years ago.



The Jewish quarter in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi is the home of most Georgian Jewish people today. Most have immigrated to Israel, the United States or Belgium in the past 30 years. Those who remain in Georgia tend to be Orthodox who have adopted Georgian as their first language. Another group of Jews, the Askhenazi, were moved from Eastern Europe to Georgia by the policies of the Russian and Soviet governments.

Georgian Jewish people work as doctors, university professors, businessmen, artists, attorneys, and writers. Many are active in government and public life. There are no known followers of Jesus among the Georgian Jews.

Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of the Georgian Jews. Ask the Lord to send Messianic Jews to bring the gospel to the Jews of Georgia. Pray that the Lord wins key leaders of the community to himself and that many others will follow their example of becoming believers. Pray that the Lord plants a growing church among the Georgian Jews.—DK

IS 48:10, 11B, ESV

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction ... My glory I will not give to another.

Pray the the Lord would get the glory he deserves by bringing many Georgian Jewish people to himself.

HUNGARIAN SPEAKING JEWS

IS 35:4-6A, RSV

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy!

Pray for the Jewish people of Hungary to read this prophesy and understand that their messiah not only has come and done all these things, but wants to do the same things through them!



Hungary is one of the nations in the world that contains Jewish people. It is home to the largest Jewish community in eastern Europe. From as early as the second century AD, there are records

of Jewish people living in Hungary, and those records continue throughout medieval times into the present. The Jews were integrated with the local people before the anti-Semitism of the early and mid 20th century.

In modern times Jewish peoples have other issues. A younger generation is growing up lacking in identity and understanding of their roots. There are efforts to educate them in their traditions so that they can keep their culture alive. This is very important because much of the Jewish culture comes from eastern Europe. If their culture is lost there, it can be lost forever.

Judaism as a religion has much in common with Christianity. This is not surprising, since Christianity started as a sect of the former. The main difference between them is that Judaism does not recognize Yeshua as the promised messiah, while Christianity does. Tomorrow you will pray about what Jews for Jesus is doing about this.

Pray that the Jewish peoples in Hungary will be able to communicate their culture to the next generation. Pray for the revelation of Yeshua Messiah, the hope of mankind, and the fulfillment of Jewish history.—BK

MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY, KATA TAR

DAY

22

I was born during the time that communists ruled in Hungary. My parents were both children of their age—atheistic communists. I was raised in that mindset and eagerly believed it until my university years when

I lost my faith in communism and started searching. I took part in a séance, which made me aware of the invisible world. One Sunday I decided to visit my friends who had become Christians. They shared their faith with me.



Kata Tar

That night God touched me and convicted me of his love and my sin. He also showed me what his call for me was (Is 49:6). Three weeks later I made Jesus the Lord of my life.

My Reformed pastor had Messianic Jewish friends who came to minister in Hungary. Jesus resurrected my Jewish identity. After eight years I joined a Scottish mission for the Jews, and we started a messianic congregation in Hungary.

I joined Jews for Jesus, and now I serve my people by proclaiming the gospel in many different ways. We do Messianic music, dance, and art shows by displaying paintings of a Messianic Jewish artist. We interview Jewish musicians, artists and scholars about their identity, film shows, and I go to streets to hand out gospel tracts. I also phone and visit Jewish people who are interested in the Messiah.

Pray for my work to result in many Jewish people embracing their messiah.—Kata, Jews for Jesus

IS 9:6, LK 1:30-32, RSV

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the son of the most high; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David ...”

Pray for this verse to become very real to Kata Tar and the Hungarian Jewish people he is reaching.

GERMAN SPEAKING JEWISH PEOPLE

IS 53:9-10, RSV

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise him; he had put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand . . .

Pray for German and Jewish people alike to see the astronomical price their messiah has paid for them, so that they will have willing hearts to bow their knees to him alone.



The Jews arrived on the European continent at least 2,000 years ago and much of what is considered to be “Jewish” today has roots in the Jewish peoples of Europe.

There are two main branches of European Jews—one is the Ashkenazi Jews and the other are Sephardic Jews. The Sephardic peoples come from the Iberian Peninsula, having lived in Spain or Portugal prior to their expulsion in 1492. They speak a Judeo-Spanish language known as Ladino. The Ashkenazi peoples are from the Germanic region of the world, and speak Yiddish, a language with Hebrew and Slavic elements. The religious practices of Jewish Europeans are quite varied, and there is a great deal of diversity amongst Jewish movements. Nevertheless a significant minority are non-practicing or non-religious.

Despite the history of the region, or perhaps in keeping with it, German-speaking Jewish peoples still contend with anti-Semitism, as they have throughout history. In Austria, it springs up from grass-root groups. Some believe it also comes from the state level.

Pray for the safety of Jewish peoples in Europe. Pray that they would have favor in the eyes of both the people and the governments. Pray that their eyes would be on God, and that they would be opened to the reality and identity of their true messiah.—BK

BIOGRAPHY, AARON LEWIN

DAY

24

Being a teenager isn't easy. Along with schoolwork there is the awkwardness of searching for identity. Despite being raised in a believing



Aaron Lewin

home to a Messianic Jewish father and a Christian mother, Aaron Lewin rebelled as a teenager in his quest to discover himself and joined a punk rock band.

In spite of the blue hair and pink bass guitar, God didn't let go of him and at the age of 16, Aaron was confronted with his sins. God revealed to him that he could only find a purpose for his life in Jesus. After an experience with the Holy Spirit and a well-timed book from his mother, he gave his life to Jesus Christ.

The next day, all was different. The Bible was no longer an irrelevant book; instead, the words sprang off the page and spoke directly to him. The punk music CDs were thrown in the trash, the posters were torn down, and his attitude was different. There was such a big difference that even his school teachers were amazed!

Aaron went on to study linguistics at a university before joining Jews for Jesus, where he served with his newly-wed wife and later three children for four and a half years before moving to Berlin in May 2016 to start a new office of Jews for Jesus.

Pray that the gospel will go out to all Jewish people in Berlin, but specifically to the 20,000 Israelis living there.—Jews for Jesus

ACTS 1:9-11, NRSV

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Pray that the reality of life and resurrection will stir many teenaged Jewish people to seek life and hope.

POLISH SPEAKING JEWISH PEOPLE

PS 3:8, NET

The Lord delivers; you
show favor to your people.
(Selah)

*Pray that the remaining
Jewish people in Poland will
live by this Psalm.*



*(This fictional account is intended
to portray the situation in Poland
today.)*

“Why do the Poles hate us?”
the boy asked his father,
Jacob. “They don’t hate us.

They’re just ... afraid. They don’t understand us. They
fear what they do not know.”

Jacob paused. “Do you remember the story I told
you about our people?” The boy nodded. “Most were
killed in WWII, and most of those who weren’t
killed escaped to America or other parts of Europe.”
The little boy asked, “Why didn’t our family escape?”
“Your great grandparents were very brave. Poland
was their home, so they decided to stay.” The boy’s
eyebrows furrowed as he asked, “Do we still have to
stay? Can’t we escape to America?” Jacob shook his
head. “Running away isn’t the answer.”

Approximately 90 percent of the three million Jews
living in Poland in the 1940s were killed in the
Holocaust. Those who remain today make up less
than half of one percent of Poland’s population.
Despite their small numbers, they face an atmosphere
of growing anti-Semitism.

*Ask the Lord to protect the Jewish people in Poland. Pray
for God to use the difficult situation today to give Jewish
people a spiritual hunger that will lead them to their
messiah. Pray for God to establish his kingdom in the
hearts of the Jewish people of Poland.—CL*

LATVIAN JEWISH PEOPLE

(This story illustrates things that could happen in Latvia.)

Andris looked at his co-worker Edgars with a mixture of fascination and shock when Edgars put on a yamulke before leaving work. He rushed to catch up with him as Edgars walked out the door. “Hey, Edgars, what’s with the beanie?” Edgars glared at him and replied, “It’s not a beanie. Beanies are for cartoon characters. This is a yamulke, and when you’re Jewish like I am, you wear one when you go to temple.” Andres then asked, “Did you just start getting religious?” Edgars rolled his eyes back and replied, “This has nothing to do with being religious; I was born Jewish, and this is Passover.” Andres didn’t dare ask what Passover was, so he just watched him walk away.



In Latvia, Jewish people look and dress like everyone else, so people often don’t know they are Jewish. Jewish people don’t regularly face anti-Semitic behavior, but few of them hold political power. Like the people of the other two Baltic States, (Lithuania and Estonia) Latvian Jewish people use Russian as a trade language. There are plenty of evangelistic materials in that language.

Pray that Christ’s ambassadors will go to Latvian Jewish people with the JESUS Film. Pray that Latvian believers will welcome them as friends, and show them the love of the savior.—KC

IS 53:4-6, RSV

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will so convict Latvian Jewish people that they will repent of doing things their own way rather than God’s way.

FINNISH SPEAKING JEWISH PEOPLE

IS 53:11-12, RSV

... he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Praise the Lord that he has given you the opportunity to pray for the Finnish speaking Jewish people today.



Up until the middle of the 19th century, Jewish people were forbidden to live within the borders of what is today Finland. Even after the ban was lifted, life was restricted and controlled by stiff administrative decrees prejudiced against Finnish Jewish people.

Today around 1,300 Jews live in Finland, and they are distinguished in many cultural areas including music, politics, science, and literature. The Central Council of Jewish Communities is Finland's leading group that strives to encourage Jewish culture and prevent assimilation. Along with learning Hebrew and participating in extracurricular educational activities focused on Jewish heritage, Finnish-Jewish students have the opportunity to visit Israel in order to get in touch with their Jewish identities. Finland has only two synagogues; one located in the country's capital of Helsinki and the other in Turku. Although these synagogues operate according to Orthodox Judaism, most Finnish Jews are less strict in their religion.

Pray that God would send Holy Spirit-filled workers with a heart for Finnish Jews to the land. Pray that these missionaries will have clear eyes and can see past any false promises of prosperity and identity in this world. Pray that Finnish Jewish people would know Jesus as the messiah, and as the one answer to all questions, all desires. Pray that the Finnish Jewish people will soon be disciplined in the ways of the savior of all nations.—EC

ITALIAN-SPEAKING JEWISH PEOPLE

God has not rejected his chosen, destined people! – Paul (Romans 11:2a TPT)



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The first Jewish people in Italy came to Rome in the 2nd Century before Christ. They were sent to secure an agreement between the Jews of Israel and an ascending Rome. Jews have remained in Italy ever since, now numbering about 28,000.

In an August 2015 interview, a Jewish Italian painter insightfully described the long, rich, and sometimes oppressive history of the Jews in Italy. “Above all, it’s a community that survives invasions, barbarians, the economy. We’re a small community that is reborn, that grows. We play a very important role in Italy.”

Despite rising anti-Semitism in other parts of Europe, Jewish leaders in Italy display unexpected optimism. They face similar challenges to small cultural communities elsewhere: shrinking populations, youth moving to other countries, and high intermarriage rates. However, Jewish vitality in Italy has grown. Italy’s diverse Jewish communities have deep cultural and religious roots with few followers of Christ among any of them. As a people, they strongly understand their connection to the Abrahamic Covenant, but they reject messiah Jesus who fulfills that covenant.

Pray for Jewish Italian hearts to soften to Jesus as their messiah. Ask for anointed believers to serve, pray, and witness in Judeo-Italian communities. Pray for strong local fellowships in every Jewish community of Italy.—CR

IS 53:7-8, RSV

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

Pray that every sacrifice of the Jewish peoples will remind them of the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world.

FRENCH SPEAKING JEWISH PEOPLE

PS 9:11, NET

Sing praises to the Lord,
who rules in Zion! Tell the
nations what he has done!

*Pray that the Jewish people
will soon understand that
the Lord wants to use them
to reach the nations. Pray
that Jewish people will use
their God-given abilities to
help the nations to see his
glory, wisdom, and might.*



Probably no other race has been as successful in adapting to and assimilating to their environment as the Jewish population. They live virtually all over the world and are very successful in their chosen occupations. No other racial group has won as many Nobel prizes as have the Jewish communities.

The Swiss have learned the art of survival through the centuries. They band together. They believe in unity; all for one and one for all is their philosophy. One would expect the French-speaking Jewish people of Switzerland to fit right into this country and its lifestyle.

Yet there are ways that the Jewish people do not fit in with Swiss ways. Switzerland has no kosher meat because of an old law about humane slaughter of animals. Its sports activities for children are always on Saturdays. This makes it hard for Jewish families observing the Sabbath day of worship. Although there are no outward, obvious signs of bias against Jews or Muslims, there are very subtle practices and observations that seem to exclude them.

Pray that Swiss believers would make a concerted effort to reach out and befriend their Jewish neighbors, showing interest in their religion and culture that might lead to opportunities to share Jesus with them. Pray that they will disciple Jewish people in the ways of Yeshua.— JS

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

DAY

30

The world's first Christian missionary movements were birthed in Europe, but today many see Europe as a "has been" for vital Christianity. Yet



God still has a heart for Europe. European Initiative (EI) was begun in the United States as an effort to reach the spiritually hungry in Europe. Just as the 1948 Berlin airlift brought food and water to desperate Germans, today's EI airlift is bringing the living water and revival to them today. EI sends teams of Americans to serve with local churches and ministries. EI's five initiatives are evangelism, compassion, teaching, prayer, and Jewish ministry.

Samuel Rotman, considered one of the top eight Beethoven pianists in the world, has been instrumental in drawing many European Jews to Yeshua. EI has hosted his concerts all over Europe. At every concert, Rotman gives his testimony. Raised a devout Orthodox Jew in America, Rotman was given a New Testament which he hesitantly read. To his shock, it was not about Gentiles, but about Jewish people! To his astonishment, Jesus himself was Jewish! Rotman gave his heart to Jesus, but knew he might pay a big price. When he told his parents, his father said to him, "You are no longer my son. You are dead to me." The price may be costly, but Jesus paid even more.

Pray for every European Jew to have the opportunity to hear that Jesus paid the supreme price to give them eternal life.—JS

PS 2:8, NET

Ask me, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the ends of the earth as your personal property.

Pray that the Lord will raise up many more workers for European Initiative to take Christ's name to the ends of earth, as well as the first places that the gospel was preached.

JOEL 2:32, NET

It will so happen that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered. For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who survive, just as the Lord has promised; the remnant will be those whom the Lord will call.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will use many from RM to draw many Jewish people to call on the name of the Lord.

iStockPhotos



Israel and the church in the last days.

The Apostle Paul first explained it to his mixed audience: For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the full number of the Gentiles has come in . . . Just as you were formerly disobedient to God, but have now received mercy due to their disobedience... (Rom 11:25, 30, NET)

Reconnecting Ministries sees Holy Spirit led prayer as the foremost priority in understanding God's strategy for doing this reconnecting. RM believes that this is God's time to unravel this mystery between Israel and the church and unite the spiritual family between Jew and Gentile. Just as Israel was used to give birth to the church, now is the time for God to use the church to release spiritual life back to Israel. RM believes the spiritual consequences will include the power of God being loosed upon the earth (Romans 11:5), and an end-time revival amongst the nations (Joel 2:28-32).

Pray for Jewish people worldwide to recognize now is their time to look to Jesus.—JS

Prayer Resources for 2018!

Ethne to Ethne

A regionally based prayer movement for UPGs working closely with *GPD*.
www.prayerstrategists.net

Global Prayer Resource

Grand central station for prayer materials.

<https://prayerstrategists.net/about/prayer-guides/>

PRAYER GUIDES

Global Prayer Digest

Daily prayer guide for UPGs. Get it free digitally!

globalprayerdigest.org

Joshua Project

Research and daily prayer materials for UPGs.

<http://joshuaproject.net/>

Light the Window

Prayer for 365 UPGs once a year through 2020.

<https://www.ltw2020.org/>

10-40 Window Reporter

Prayer for nations of the 10-40 Window.
<http://www.1040windowreporter.com/>

Prayerguard

Online general prayer for UPGs.

http://prayerguard.net/?page_id=209

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with other Christian friends who are involved in this movement.

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray. The small maps will help you locate the day's feature.