



## Igal Vender's Newsletter March 2018

Shalom to you from Israel!

I want to begin by thanking you for your prayers. It's such a privilege to know that I have you as my prayer partners, supporting my ministry among Jewish people here in Israel. Our Lord is faithful and he has been answering our prayers for his glory!

In January we celebrated 175 years of Christian Witness to Israel's ministry among Jewish people at a special event in Oxford. It was wonderful to meet many of our supporters who came along to celebrate with us. My CWI missionary colleagues shared news about how they are reaching out to Jewish people in different countries and I had an opportunity to give an update on my work. It was an amazing day spent celebrating God's goodness to Jewish people through CWI. I am so grateful for those who are alongside us, supporting our ministry and praying for the salvation of Jewish people across the world.

In case you were not able to make it to Oxford, let me tell you some good news which I shared at the celebration event.

### A double portion

'Do you help addicts into rehabilitation?' That was the question a woman asked me on the phone a few months ago. It was the first step towards Dean and his girlfriend Stephanie meeting Jesus.

The caller had seen a stranger's Facebook post about addiction, asked them if they knew anyone who could help her alcoholic friend, and been given my number.

The woman's friend in need was Dean, a tailor of whom she was also a client. Remarkably, she had called not knowing either me or her Facebook contact. God was clearly at work.

I told her my own story – how the Lord had delivered me from nearly eighteen years of addiction, forgiven my



Sharing news of my ministry in Oxford in January

sins and saved me. I explained how I now help others in a similar situation – directing them to Jesus, the only one who is able to save broken lives. I encouraged her to pass my number to Dean.

Only a few days later, Dean made contact and invited me to his flat in my home city of Netanya. When I arrived there, I found him the worse for drink, with about half a dozen empty vodka bottles strewn around the room. I politely declined Dean's offer to join him for a drink but listened as he shared his tragic story.

Dean is in his late forties. His wife had cheated on him and then divorced him three years ago. Things went from bad to worse when he turned up drunk to court without a lawyer. He lost everything including his money, his flat and even contact with their 13 year old daughter.

Seeking God's wisdom, I asked this desperate and broken man what he was looking for. Dean immediately answered: 'A reason to live, and peace and calm in my heart and life!'

In response, I shared how Jesus had transformed my own life and that I have been sharing the Good News about him with others for over ten years. Like many Jewish people, Dean had never read the Bible but he said he longed for the changes that Jesus had brought to me.



With Dean (left picture) and Stephanie (right)

From then on we met regularly to read John's Gospel together. Dean particularly loved John 3:16. Then, wonderfully, a few weeks ago, having completed reading the Gospel of John together, Dean told me he wanted to pray and ask Jesus to be Lord of his life. As we prayed together, God's glory shone in that formerly alcohol-saturated room and Dean was clearly filled with joy and excitement. He also agreed he would enter into rehab and seek to strengthen his new faith in Jesus. However, there is even more to this wonderful story...

When someone enters the rehab programme they no longer have access to their phone. The day after Dean was admitted, his girlfriend Stephanie called me asking where Dean was and what had happened to him.

I explained the situation and invited Stephanie to a home group that evening. She came and heard what God had done in my life and what he could do in hers. She left with a Bible and an invitation to our Friday service. It was there that Stephanie responded to Jesus as we prayed together. God wonderfully used me to bring two dear Jewish people to Jesus! **Please pray for both Dean and Stephanie as they go on in their new faith, and for me as I disciple them.**

### Rejoicing in answered prayer

My heart is full of thanksgiving and praise to God for the wonderful grace he shows us every day. As we preach his name, share the gospel and sow the seed into people's hearts we don't always see the fruit. However, in his wonderful grace, he sometimes allows us to see prayers clearly answered and the fruit of the seed we were able to sow.

You might remember from my last prayer letter that around a year and a half ago I met with Sergey, a drug addict who lived in Tel Aviv. Sergey became an addict

shortly after finishing his military service. Praise the Lord that he went into rehab and consequently made a profession of faith in Jesus as his Messiah and Lord. He was then baptised, began serving the Lord in our congregation and completed a Bible training course to prepare him for future Christian service. He is now serving the Lord in the rehab centre, overseeing others who come to stay there.

A few months ago he started to get to know a young woman in our congregation and today, in our congregational meeting, the couple announced their engagement. There were tears of joy as I reflected on the remarkable journey he had made as a result of God's good grace. It truly felt like my own son was going to be married! It has been such a privilege to see what



Sergey and his fiancée

God has done in Sergey's life and I am excited for all that the Lord has yet in store for him. **Please uphold Sergey and his fiancée in your prayers. Pray that, as a couple, they will keep the Lord at the centre of their lives. Also please pray for all the wedding arrangements and their continued growth in Jesus.**

### On a personal note

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support as I seek to serve the Lord and preach the gospel of Jesus to Jewish people who need to know the Saviour. **Please continue to pray for my mother and father-in-law, both of who are in the late stages of cancer. Pray for my wife Milana as we go through these trials together as a family and especially when I am away from her visiting churches in Manchester in March.**

Please do continue to pray for all the Jewish people I am reaching out to and those whom I am discipling. Your prayers are so needed and much valued!

May God bless you and your families. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel!

*Igal & Milana Vender*



If you would like to support Igal's ministry please contact  
CWI head office on 01865 887830 or email [info@cwj.org.uk](mailto:info@cwj.org.uk)