

December 2024



Dear friends,

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year! I hope that this year's holiday season is full of joy, rest and love. Thank you again for your faithful support of our work with Jews for Jesus. We are trusting the Lord for all His provisions and looking forward to celebrating His birth. Nothing is too much for our Messiah – *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen!*

We're wrapping up a year full of activity in lots of different areas. As we look back, here are a few highlights:

- **Karen (and Suzanne):** Our relationship with Karen goes back a while. Annette first met Karen during Covid when she contacted us through the website. She was Jewish, not a believer, and eager to find answers. They started meeting and ended up studying the entire book of John together. They went through a survey of various messianic prophecies and tackled some of her toughest questions. Along the way, Karen embraced Jesus as her Messiah and started attending a church near where she lives. This summer, she was baptized. Of course we were there!! What a thrill it is to be part of what God is doing in Karen's life. And it was even better because we brought along Suzanne, another Jewish woman who recently embraced Jesus as her Messiah. Suzanne isn't quite ready for baptism, but seeing and hearing Karen's testimony made a lasting impact. Pray for both Karen and Suzanne as they pursue the Lord in their lives.
- **Sarah, Kata, Jeff, Emmanuel, and Rob.** These are emerging leaders in our ministry and participants in our most recent Leadership Training cohort. Our training program spans 18 months and covers topics relevant to their roles in three primary areas – character development, personal leadership skills and teamwork. In 2024, we met together monthly for video calls and twice in person. It's remarkable how much growth has transpired in only a year. Each of them is growing in confidence and capability. What a joy that is to see! Please pray that they are renewed by some rest during the holidays and have the Lord's vision for the year to come.
- **Chloe:** Chloe is someone who Annette met with, prayed for, and struggled over. Chloe is a newer Jewish believer in Jesus who has been struggling with lingering doubts. We had a sustained ministry to her throughout the year, but that changed in the Fall. Chloe informed us that she decided to part ways with Jesus. When Annette asked what led her away from faith in Jesus, Chloe couldn't resolve her doubts and just didn't want to believe anymore. This



*Our leadership cohort in Madrid, Spain*



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sometimes happens and is always very discouraging to hear. Currently she doesn't want contact, but we know God is still at work in her. Please pray that Chloe will hear and respond to the voice of God in her life.

- **Israel:** As you know, this has been a tough year for Israel. We've acutely felt the reality that an attack on Israel is an attack on all Jews everywhere. The lingering war in Gaza and remaining hostages have weighed heavily on us. In August, a slowdown in hostilities opened a window for a visit and Josh had the chance to go. He met with several of the staff for encouragement and support. The pain and distress are far reaching. Many of the staff also serve in reserve units and have spent months in active war zones. Please pray for the war in Gaza to end.

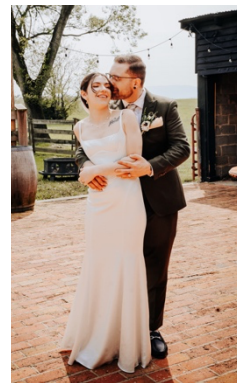


*Senior staff praying for Aaron*

- **Aaron:** We have undergone a significant transition for our ministry. After more than 28 years in his role as Director, David Brickner moved into a new position, and this Spring we elected a new leader – Aaron Abramson. Leadership transitions don't always go smoothly, but this one sure has. Aaron has stepped into the role of director with full support from the staff and leadership alike. It's been almost unnoticeable. Please pray that our ministry continues to move forward in a healthy direction in a healthy way.

We listed these highlights as individual names because our ministry revolves around people. There are lots of events and activities and outreaches that we do. But in the end, the people we talk to and share the gospel with are the core of our work. Most of the people Josh meets with are members of our staff. These meetings happen primarily through training programs and coaching. In 2024, he had 82 one-on-one coaching sessions. Annette, on the other hand, spends most of her time sitting down and meeting with Jewish women interested in the gospel, doing outreach through the LA branch, and following up on contacts we receive through our website. In 2024, she had 158 one-on-one meetings with 41 different women. Her experience and skill in follow up are significant. This year she took the role of follow-up coordinator for the local team. It's been a good opportunity for her to mentor many of the younger staff in this important activity. All in all, 2024 has been a very encouraging and ministry-filled year.

This year also marked several transitions in our personal lives, none more important than the marriage of our daughter Eliana to Patrick McMullen. To catch you up on the details of their lives – Eliana and Patrick live in Portland, OR. They met during Covid and have been dating ever since. Eliana works as an intake nurse for an ophthalmologist and Patrick works in customer analytics. They love Oregon! Because of their love of the mountains, and a love of all things unique, their wedding was unforgettable. They chose to be married in a cavern in Virginia! They weren't the first. Thousands have chosen Luray Caverns to tie the knot. The wedding and reception were wonderful. Eliana and Patrick loved the entire day. It was a blessing as parents to help them have the wedding they wanted. And now, we have a daughter named Eliana McMullen!



Taliah, our younger daughter, is wrapping up her degree at California State University Sacramento in Design Studies. Her goal is to work in a museum as a curator. It's something she's dreamed about for some time now. Growing up in New York City, she spent a lot of time at museums and has always loved those spaces. This summer, Taliah was an intern at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. She had a tremendous experience. It was her first time working in the curatorial department of a large institution. The internship confirmed for her that this was the direction she wanted. She graduates in the spring of 2025, so these next few months will be deciding her next steps.

For us, Josh and Annette, our lives have been quite busy this year. It feels like we've been trying to keep up with all the changes going on around us! We had three family weddings, including Eliana's. We had 14 different trips (ministry and personal), including 3 overseas trips. Though they were all great, we feel somewhat behind on things. And finally, we had a major leak in our bathroom which took most of the year to fix. Through all this, however, we've seen God move in and through us. Our work with Jews for Jesus has been very encouraging as we see God using us in the lives of people. We also are deeply connected in our own local church. Josh serves as an elder and Annette as the woman's ministry director. She also plays on the worship team at least once a month. We're growing in our relationship with God and with each other. There is much to be thankful for.



Please pray for us as we think and plan for the year ahead. It won't be quite as full, but we do have several things we hope to accomplish.

- We both want to get back to a healthy rhythm of exercise and better eating habits. (The eating habits are more for Josh than Annette!)
- We want to expand using our home for ministry events and outreach. We've had a monthly Shabbat meal at our home, but we'd love to do more.
- We want each of our ministries to grow – for Annette to have more women she is actively sharing with and for Josh to offer a wider number of learning opportunities for our staff.

Bless you and those around you for a happy and fruitful year ahead!

In Him,

Josh & Annette