

**YOUR February 2024**

**Apple of His Eye**

**Mission Society Newsletter**

**PRINT EDITION TO SHARE**

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Reminder: New mailing address - PO Box 1649 Brentwood TN 37024



## Where is YOUR Corner?

By Steve Cohen

Starting any new venture can be gut wrenching had best. As a new believer in Jesus, I was introduced to the Jews for Jesus ministry when Moishe Rosen, the founder, came to the Lutheran Bible institute in Seattle and showed slides of what they were doing. I saw them take to the streets with gospel tracks, face paint, and a zeal to want to raise the question of who Jesus is. My initial reaction was, "I have a college degree I am well educated. I am not a radical street preacher who faces the scorn and ire of others."

In 1974, I was invited to come to San Francisco to see first-hand what the ministry was doing. My week with that group at that time changed my life. While there, I was invited to join a team of four other people to go to downtown San Francisco and distribute gospel tracks. I chose to tag along even though there was an uneasiness. **I felt totally unprepared.**

My training took place in the car as we drove the thirty minutes from San Rafael to San Francisco. I was told: 1) **hold the gospel tracks** so that people who are coming towards you can see the title; 2) **offer the flyers** to all who pass by with a smile and an invitation to have a conversation about Jesus; 3) **stay on the corner** that we assign you and do not leave! We want to be sure to find you when we're done. **That was it!**

We got to the North Beach area of San Francisco where there were five corners, one for each of us. I knew that the team leader could keep an eye on me as I could see the others doing the same things. The corner they put me on was in front of a club that was called the **Garden of Eden**. Inside was the stage which presented live sex acts. To my surprise, as I offered the flyers to passersby, they took them and a few even stopped to have conversations.

Not long into the outreach, one of the barkers (read bouncer) left his post at the doorway and came up and asked me, no he directed me, to leave the corner and go up halfway to the next corner up the block. He said I was interfering with his attempts to get people into their establishment. He seemed like he was twice my size, and I couldn't believe that the next words out of my mouth were, **"I was told to stand on this corner. I don't want to lose my job by leaving."**

Needless to say, he wasn't happy. So, he went to the other door and got his co-worker who was bigger and the two of them approached me. I felt like I was a Steve Cohen sandwich in between in between these two very large individuals. They not very subtly urged me to leave. Not knowing exactly what to do, I went across the street told the team leader. He corralled the rest of the team and the five of us stood on that one corner. Of course, tensions increased, and I was sent to get the police to have the harassment stop. But the police were not going to interfere or help. Our two hours ended, and we returned to the office and informed the leadership of what happened.

**The next night, 14 of us went back to that corner** and had an attestation of the gospel and God's love. The owner was not thrilled, but when it was explained to him that we were standing on public property and had a constitutional right to be present without being harassed, he yielded, and we were able to continue our witness at that location. We stood on that corner!

On reflection, I wondered what came from our time there and what difference was made when we stood on that corner and did not yield.

About 20 years later, I was in Pasadena working on my master's degree in missiology. We took some time to go to the Santa Monica pier to hand out gospel tracks. A couple came up to us, saw our shirts and the literature, and told us the following:

*Back in the early 1970s we used to work on the stage at the Garden of Eden in San Francisco. I remember one evening seeing some of your literature float throughout the auditorium. I picked it up and read the gospel tract. I didn't fully understand it, so I contacted one of my Christian friends. They patiently help us understand about Jesus the Messiah and our urgent need for his gift of salvation. We both confessed Jesus as our Messiah, settled into a local Christian Church for discipleship and quit the sex industry following our marriage. Now we have a ministry to people who are oppressed in that industry and seek to help others find freedom in Jesus.*

We don't often hear how the gospel seeds that are planted, take root, flourish and multiply. But when we do, it is a blessing to be sure and an encouragement to know that the promises of God are still fully applicable: ***that is faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God; and the word of the Lord will not return void.***

It is not up to us to make converts, that is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit.

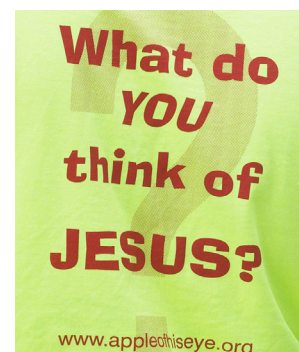
It is simply up to us to be faithful to stand on the corner speak truth in love and invite others to find out for themselves the good news of Jesus the Messiah.

### **Where is your corner? Where are you standing?**

We want to encourage you to be faithful in telling the good news.

The words of First Corinthians 15: 58 hold out great promise:

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. ESV*



# Parable of the Fishless Fishermen

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Year after year these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing.

Continually they searched for new and better definitions of fishing. They sponsored costly nationwide and worldwide congresses to discuss fishing and to promote fishing and hear about all the ways of fishing.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called “Fishing Headquarters.” The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn’t do, however; they didn’t fish. They organized a board to send out fishermen to where there were many fish. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the idea of fishing in far-away streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived.

Also the board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Expensive training centers were built to teach fishermen how to fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology, but the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, graduates were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters filled with fish.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. A speaker’s bureau was also

provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing. Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded, and were sent to fish. But like the fishermen back home, they never fished.

Some also said they wanted to be part of the fishing party, but they felt called to furnish fishing equipment. Others felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen.

After one stirring meeting on “The Necessity for Fishing,” a young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it.

So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen’s General Board as a person having considerable experience.



Now it’s true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen’s clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men?”

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who didn’t catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish?

<https://www.chick.com/battle-cry/article?id=Parable-of-the-Fishless-Fishermen>

# I Don't Hug

*“Do nothing out of rivalry or vanity; but, in humility, regard each other as better than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3 CJB*  
*“Be respectful to all — keep loving the brotherhood, fearing God and honoring the emperor.” 1 Peter 2:17CJB*

How are we receiving others into our local bodies of Christ? Kindly, friendly, welcoming? How are we respecting each other? Established members, visitors, seekers, and new members? With Christ like *Welcome*? Or, if you aren't related to one of our clans then we don't recognize you? If you speak with an accent, aren't in my political arena, new to this city/state, look different, then you are on your own and alone. How on earth can we bring visitors or new converts into our worship with these attitudes?

*“Beloved friends, let us love one another; because love is from God; and everyone who loves has God as his Father and knows God. Those who do not love, do not know God; because God is love.” 1John 4:7,8*

I love the heading of this article and I was absolutely laughing as I wrote it. However, it's true. I don't hug. I don't like to be touched by people, except as I know them. I shake hands. So, what does this have to do with the body of Christ and reaching others? Well, a lot. Toi told me, “Be honest. Tell people that you don't hug. Believers will respect that and love you for who you are” Uh..no. I have received genuine anger from “Christians” because I don't hug. Really!?! It's very unwelcoming when you are disrespected for your idiosyncrasies.

The only exception to this was when I lived in Russia. They not only give you an insane bear hug when you meet, but they also kiss. They kiss each cheek and then sometimes repeat. They also kiss directly on the mouth. Men to men and women to women. Yep. The women will also brush your chest while they talk to you (it's to show empathy). I used to carry my Bible in front of my body while talking. Toi would turn her head when they would try to kiss her on the lips. It took a lot for me to get through each greeting, but I did it because we were trying show them the love of Christ through acceptance. Praise God we don't have those traditions!

We have visited so many different churches. I had a pastor's wife literally tell me “I hated you when I first saw you.” Saw me! We were friends when she admitted that to me. Really? What happened to the verses:

*“This is what I command you: keep loving each other!” cjb John 15:17*

At this time of our year, we experience many visitors in our churches. We are not the Holy Spirit, so we don't know who true believers are. Therefore, we need to have our hearts ready and purified through the Word and surrender. Being obedient to God is the very way we show salvation to our lost and dying world.

*“I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from me you can’t do a thing. <sup>6</sup> Unless a person remains united with me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire, where they are burned up.*

*John 15:5,6*

Steve and I share the gospel daily, as the opportunity gives itself. I must say, as I have come from a strong witnessing background, Steve is the most devoted soul-winner (one who shares the gospel) I have ever known. This is the calling for the entire congregation, not the Pastor alone. Everyone who has been born again is commanded to **care** (pray 1Thessalonians 5:17 and love others Colossians 3:14), **wear** (the armor Ephesians 6:11), and **share**(the gospel Mark 16:15-16). This is the only hope man has. Yeshua

Bottom line, stop judging others, love the body of Christ, and let the visitors see a difference from the world

1Peter 4:8 “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins”

1John 3:23 “This is his command: that we are to trust in the person and power of his Son Yeshua the Messiah and to keep loving one another, just as he commanded us.”

Cjb

**Salvation means**  
**We are going to heaven**  
**Submission means**  
**Heaven comes to us**  
*copied*

Love, from my heart, nanC

(If this article has blessed you – share it)



# A Holy Calling

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV).*

As a missionary for the Apple of His Eye, I am a missionary in New Jersey. As of recently, we have been talking about getting a team to work with me here in New Jersey, and part of that process has involved me taking up the task of typing up a job description. What kinds of talents, skills, and characteristics does a full-time missionary internship require?

As I’ve been thinking about this task, 1 Peter 2:9-10 has been coming to mind a lot; in some sense, all Christians are called to be missionaries (not all are called to be full-time missionaries) But all are called to: “proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you [them] out of darkness” (1 Peter 2:9b ESV). According to Saint Peter, Christians are part of a “royal priesthood, a holy nation” (1 Peter 2:9a ESV) And what, one might ask, does it mean to be holy? Well, when we are talking about people or things to be holy is to be set apart for a God-given purpose.

And St. Peter is quick to answer what the “God-given purpose” or “job description” of being a royal priesthood and holy nation is. It involves: proclaiming and sharing the message of Jesus with those that God places in their path. We all get to have the opportunity to tell others about how God has shown us mercy in Jesus Christ, how God has promised to raise us from the dead and grant us eternal life with Him, and how God’s Word has been a great light in our lives.

So, if that’s the job description how can we do that? First, it can begin with those God has placed directly in our lives. We can be witnesses to our friends, family, and co-workers as we have opportunities to ask them about their faith, pray for and with them, and see how God is giving us opportunities to share our testimony with them.

Secondly, it can begin with conversations at restaurants, sporting events, or coffee shops. We can begin to establish relationships with people, meet people for meals, ask about their lives, and pray for them. A question a friend of mine who works in church revitalization likes to ask is: “Are you a person of faith.” It is a question that is open to a variety of responses. They don’t need to be active in any particular religion or church to answer “yes,” “no,” or “I am unsure.” It’s okay if the individual is not ready to enter a church. We ultimately want people to be plugged into a community. We want them to be in church to hear God’s Word, learn what it means to be a Christian, be baptized, receive the Lord’s supper, and be part of the community of faith. That is a great and right desire. But, sometimes, we can start small.

We can start by praying, showing we care, and sharing the Gospel and our story of how God “called you [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9 ESV). It takes time, but building those relationships is a fruitful exercise. When you do this, you can take notes in a notebook or on your phone (after meeting with the person): What is their name? What do they do for a living? Do they have a family? Do they have any hobbies? Are they people of faith, and if so, what is their faith? Where are they on their spiritual walk? So that you can jog your memory for prayer, study, and future conversations. It’s okay if there is not an immediate conversion (there probably will not be), but we can trust that God will work His perfect will in His way and time.

***Let’s prayerfully consider how we can fulfill this calling whether we’re “full-time” missionaries or Christians living out our calling to proclaim the excellent mercies of God in and through Jesus Christ.***

Shalom, Pastor Peiser

# How long, Oh Lord?

By Steve Cohen

Micah 4:1

It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and peoples shall flow to it,

<sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come, and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;

**and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;**

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore;

<sup>4</sup> but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid,

for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. ESV

We who follow Jesus have a promise and a future hope – that the ways of this world will fall. We are bombarded by the news these days about wars, rumors of wars, hostages and rampant anti- Semitism – can we even dare to imagine a time of peace and hope?

It is in the dark days such as these that we must cling to the promises of God, find shelter under His protective wing, and pray, pray some more AND keep on praying.

*I believe there is no better time to bring the Gospel to the lost than right now.*

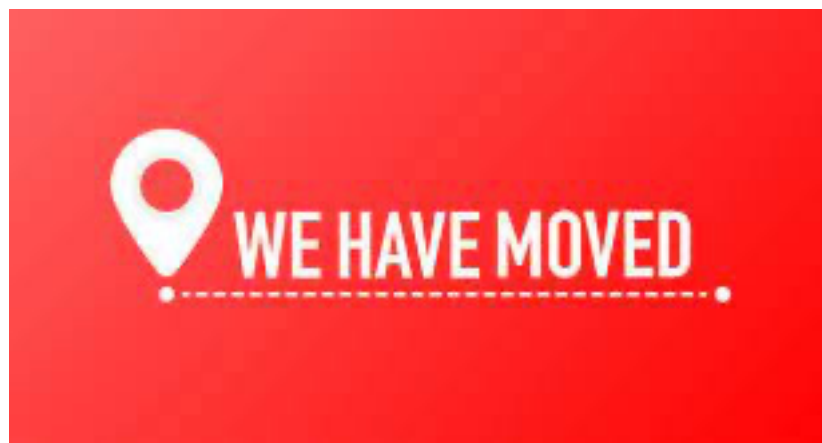
## **Please pray with us:**

1. For peace in Israel that the Prince of Peace would reign in the hearts of all there.
2. For the pastors, who serve us, that they might be encouraged in their service.
3. For God to make clear who the next leader of our ministry would be.
4. For Jordan Peiser's ministry in New Jersey.
5. For those who serve in our military especially those being sent to the Middle East.





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Please note in your  
address book, e-mails,  
etc. that we have moved  
our PO Box from St.  
Louis to Brentwood, TN.



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