

FOREWARD

By: Tom Huckel

Book: "To The Jew First" by Mitch Triestman

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God told the Israelites that if they would ever worship "that which is not God" and in turn "move Him to jealousy (Deu. 32:21a), He promised that He would then "move them to jealousy" via "those which are not a people" (i.e. the Gentiles, Deu 32:21b). Paul very likely had this reference in mind when he wrote to the saints of Rome: "I say then, have they" [the Jewish people] "stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy" (Rom. 11:11). God in a very special way desires to use Gentile believers to be effective witnesses to His people. By giving us the Messiah that rightly belongs to the Jewish people, God can use us as instrument to provoke them to jealousy. The questions that believers must ask themselves are: Am I effectively reaching Jewish people with the gospel? Am I a tool fitted for the master's use?

Since Jewish Evangelism is not an option, but a mandate for both the Jewish and Gentile Christian alike, then the answers to the questions must be "yes", and worthy of our time to find out how. There have been times when I found myself looking for an effective way to just get the entire gospel message out, let alone see fruitful results! Did you or do you presently ever find yourself in contact with Jewish people, and feel that you want to tell them about the Lord; but you just don't know how to get started? Perhaps you mustered up the courage once to say something about the Lord, but ended that conversation by saying: "that's a really good question - I'll have to get back to you with that later." The fact that I have been a volunteer, part-time and full-time missionary to Jewish people since 1976, make me somewhat of an expert on mistakes you can make when witnessing to Jewish people. In nearly every church in which I have spoken, inevitably I meet believers who are looking for advice on how they might be able to effectively and sensitively present the gospel to a Jewish friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative.

The one person you would want to write a source book on any given subject would be the person most proficient in that field! As far as I am concerned, the author of this book,

Mitch Triestman, is without a doubt, the best one-on-one missionary to Jewish people that I have ever met. Mitch presently serves as a missionary with The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministries and he teaches a course in Jewish Evangelism at the Institute of Jewish Studies at Philadelphia College of Bible. My relationship with the author started in 1976 as his missionary trainee at Chosen People Ministries. I lived firsthand some of the experiences that Mitch shares with you in this work. The Lord richly blessed me and you will be too as you learn what Mitch share about understanding Jewish sensitivities. He'll give you some provocative answers to some of the most difficult objections to the gospel message that you'll ever encounter. Far more importantly however, I trust that as you read this book's contents you will have an encounter with the heart of this writer. Without ever having to verbalize it, Mitch has taught me by his example that the most important ingredient necessary in reaching Jewish people with the gospel is to love them. Know the best terminology to use when sharing the gospel with Jewish people is important, and being able to handle Jewish objections correctly is very helpful, but there is no substitute for a genuine love of Jewish people. They have no defense prepared for love! It's not something you can fake - it has to be real - and I can verify that this author's love for Jewish people is very real.

The first day that I started as a full-time missionary, Mitch Triestman drove me to a Jewish cemetery in Philadelphia. We got out of the car and walked up to the fence. I couldn't help but notice the many tombstones with common Jewish last names; many had a star of David on them. At that point Mitch asked me a question that I'll never forget! He said, "Tom, how many of these Jewish people do you think died without know the Lord?" It was as if a magnet drew my eye and now my heart with them back to the gaze on the tombstones once again. I shuddered at the very thought of what his words meant. At the same time, however, I suddenly found myself feeling very fortunate to be saved. Without even waiting for my answer (I was speechless anyhow), Mitch then turned to me and said, "Well, then I guess we still have a lot of work to do." Yes, we do Mitch!

