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Reach Your Interfaith Married Friend

Joined Together is a 45-minute documentary featuring four interfaith married couples who share their discovery that faith in the Jewish Messiah can bring a dynamic and joy-filled basis to their marriage. Holidays can be a time of meaning and unity instead of indecision and tension. Growing numbers of intermarried Jews and non-Jews have discovered that knowing *Yeshua* (Jesus' Hebrew name) is the key to building that longed for and lasting bond of unity.

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Jewish people there, where almost twenty percent of the world's Jewish people live.

Here in the UK we believe that our efforts are very important. There are few Jewish believers in Yeshua reaching out to the Jewish people. We have a life-transforming message: the Messiah has come, He is risen from the dead, and He lives at the right hand of the Most High. The Apostle Paul once said that if He is not risen from the dead, then our preaching is in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). Our faith in Him is a sign to our community that He lives.

We greatly appreciate your loving support that enables us to bear witness among our Jewish people to "that Man" (Yeshua/Jesus) whom we love. The Scriptures attest that He is the One who will ultimately bring peace to our troubled world—even to the Middle East. He is also the One who can bring peace to human hearts—one heart at a time. Please remember us in your prayers and giving.

Yours for the sake of the Gospel,

Daniel
 Daniel Nessim



UK Director Daniel Nessim

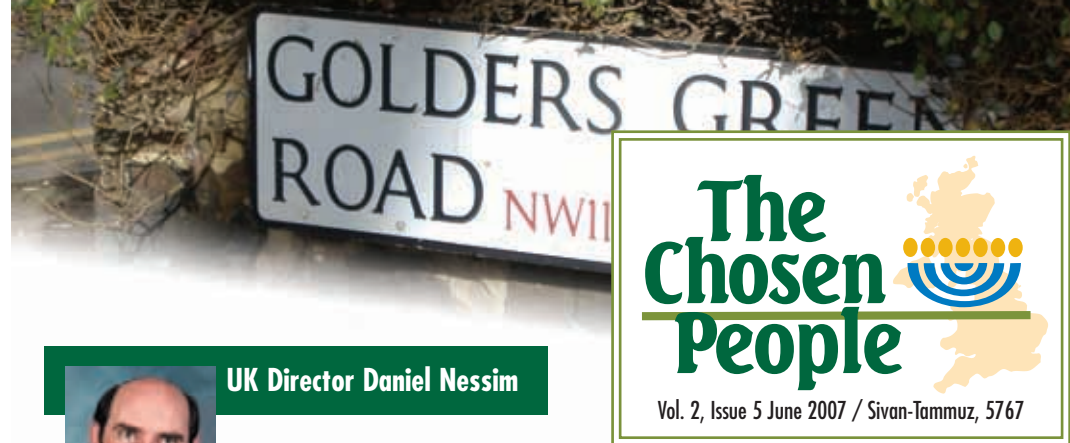
Dear Friend,

As conflict continues to rage in the Middle East, we are reminded that there is only one Man who can make a difference. That Man is the one we call the Messiah, the Son of the Almighty. He is the One we love and seek to introduce to other Jewish people. He is also the One who rose from the dead. The Middle Eastern tomb in which He was laid could not hold Him.

Naturally, there are always those who seek to cast doubt on Yeshua's (Jesus') claims to be our risen Lord. As they do this, they place obstacles in the minds and hearts of those whom we are trying to reach—and sometimes even among those who already believe! So what is the truth about the latest claims that Yeshua's family tomb has been found?

During the past month, we have had the joy of seeing a team of workers come from overseas to help us minister to the children of Jewish believers in Yeshua. We have conducted a special outreach in London in the form of a religious opinion survey. We have held meetings to reach out to our Jewish people. Our Messianic Centre is becoming an increasingly busy place.

Later this month we will send a volunteer to New York to work in outreach to the



The Chosen People

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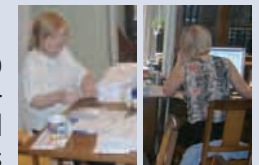
Prayer & Praise
 from around the World



From Here in the UK

Two and a half years can seem like a long time—or a very short time. We are not sure which, but the Lord has helped the

Nessim family to get well settled in their Golders Green habitat. Here opportunities to minister to people abound, and some people referred to them live just around the corner. Daniel and Deborah are both Jewish believers in Yeshua (Jesus). While Daniel is happy to say that he even has one grandfather who was a believer in Yeshua before the Holocaust, Deborah was the first one in her family to believe. They met in the USA, and married three years later. Since Daniel was British born, Deborah says that being married to him was her first introduction to British culture. Please pray for them as they seek to be a witness to their community.



We are happy to see that our ministry's centre and worker residence is becoming quite a busy place. Requirements for meeting, office, and storage space continue to grow. As a result we are looking for more help in our office duties, so that we have more time to do ministry in the field.



The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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The “Jesus Family” Tomb

by Dr. Darrell Bock, New Testament Scholar



The release in early March of the television special about the “family tomb” of Jesus at Talpiot, a site in Jerusalem, has created quite a sensation. But, in reality, it’s an old story now being recycled in an effort to make far more of it than the evidence really justifies.

First, there is a suggestion that this is a family tomb of Jesus. But the problem here is that when Jesus was in Jerusalem, it was as a pilgrim—not a Jerusalem resident. How did his family have the time in the aftermath of His death to buy the tomb space, steal the body and continue to preach that Jesus was raised bodily, not merely spiritually? The point is important, because the earliest Christianity came out of a Judaism that believed in a physical resurrection (2 Maccabees 7), which is why a claim about only needing a spiritual resurrection does not fit with historic Christianity.

Second, we have to believe that this family tomb included some who were not in the family—such as Matthew. There is no record of a Matthew being a part of the family of Jesus. Explanations that place him there because he wrote a Gospel are mere speculation. Also, if Matthew can be there as a non-relative and a significant disciple, then could the same be true of Mary?

Third, we have to accept that the mourning family scrambled to steal the body from Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb (where several knew the body was originally placed). This would mean they preached an empty tomb and resurrection when they actually knew that Jesus was not raised, doing so at the risk of their own lives as Jesus’ half brother’s death (James) in AD 62 shows. Not only that, they had to have already prepared an ossuary over a year’s period. This is quite unlikely.

Fourth, there is great fuss about the name Mariamne. But this name, a variation of Maria, is one of the most common of names of the time. In fact, 21% of Jewish women were called Mariamne (Mary). The chances of the Mariamne among the ossuaries being Mary Magdalene of the New Testament are slender—and there is no evidence anywhere that she was married to Jesus.

Fifth, there is the DNA showing that the Mariamne and Jesus DNA residues do not match. This proves nothing. This evidence

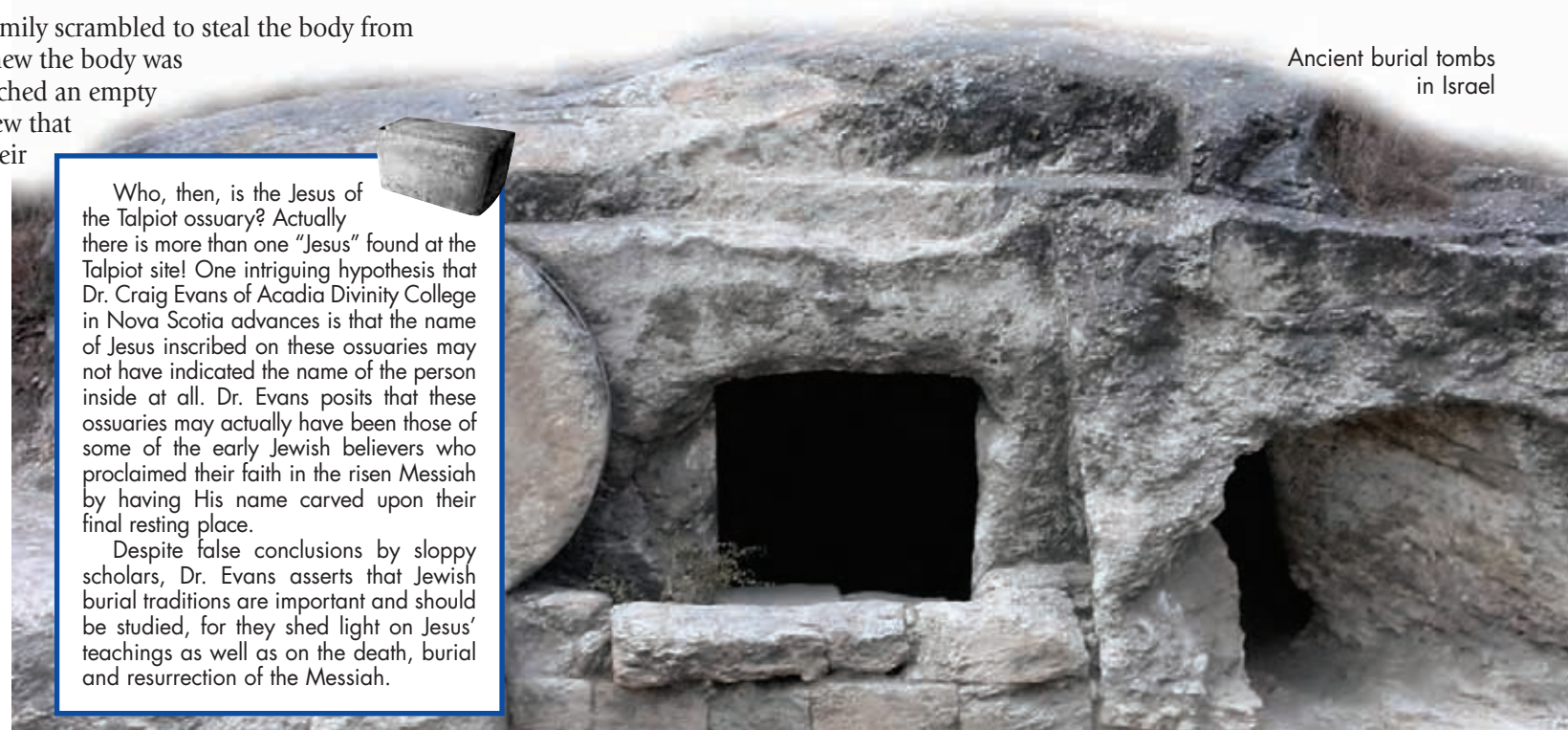
does not prove she is a wife. At most, it would only prove that Jesus and a Mary are not biologically related.

Lastly, the attempt to link the *Acts of Philip* and the *Gospel of Mary Magdalene* to show that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene is not evidence. This idea was already vetted in the Da Vinci Code discussion.

In other words, we have no way of knowing if Mary/Mariamne is Mary Magdalene, a very key point that has to be true for this claim to work. Without that, there is not even a possibility of a connection. In fact, the Harvard professor who sees Mary Magdalene in the *Acts of Philip* says this tomb theory is nonsense.

Fact or Fiction—You Be the Judge!

There are just too many questions and holes for all of those claims to line up and work. Movies are about stories that look real but are not. They are compelling and dramatic perhaps—but in the end, they are complete historical fiction. Hopefully our times have not slid to the point where we can no longer tell the difference between Jerusalem and Hollywood.



Ancient burial tombs
in Israel

Who, then, is the Jesus of the Talpiot ossuary? Actually there is more than one “Jesus” found at the Talpiot site! One intriguing hypothesis that Dr. Craig Evans of Acadia Divinity College in Nova Scotia advances is that the name of Jesus inscribed on these ossuaries may not have indicated the name of the person inside at all. Dr. Evans posits that these ossuaries may actually have been those of some of the early Jewish believers who proclaimed their faith in the risen Messiah by having His name carved upon their final resting place.

Despite false conclusions by sloppy scholars, Dr. Evans asserts that Jewish burial traditions are important and should be studied, for they shed light on Jesus’ teachings as well as on the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah.