

# Jewish Missionary Stan Telchin Passes at 87

Stan Telchin, renowned author, public speaker, and missionary to the Jewish people, died June 4. He was 87.

His most popular book, *Betrayed*, tells the story of Telchin's daughter Judy, who came to believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, and how Telchin, who served on the boards of many Jewish organizations, set out to prove her wrong. But his research led him to the same conclusion as his daughter.

The book, which sold over a million copies and was translated into 30 languages, is the single most-read testimony of a Jewish person who has come to faith in Jesus in recent history. It opened many opportunities for ministry for Telchin, including hosting a daily radio program on WCTN in Potomac, Md., for eight years and appearing on national television in the United States, Canada and the Ukraine.

Telchin's Jewish parents came to the United States from Russia in the early 1900s. He was born on Sept. 14, 1924, in New York City, the youngest of six children and grew up during the Depression, first on the Lower East Side of New York, then in the Boro Park neighborhood of Brooklyn.

In December 1944, home on furlough from the army, Telchin ran into a friend from junior high school, Ethel David. David offered to write to him while he was overseas, and regularly sent him letters and packages. When the war ended and Telchin was discharged, he and David began to date and were married on May 26, 1948.

Two daughters, Judy and Ann, were born to the Telchins, and Stan became highly successful in the insurance business. As he recalls, "Twenty-six years into our marriage, we had a very large home complete with swimming pool, four BMWs and a full-

time housekeeper. Then, just months later, my world felt like it had suddenly come apart." That's when Judy, then a student at Boston University, phoned her father to tell him she believed in Jesus.

On July 3, 1975, after months of studying the Hebrew Scriptures as well as the New Testament, Telchin also came to believe that Jesus is the **Jewish Messiah**. Then, to his surprise, he discovered that Ethel had independently made the same decision. Stan left the insurance business in 1979 for full-time ministry.

After serving as pastor of Living Word Fellowship in Gaithersburg, Md., from 1980-1994, he established Stan Telchin Ministries. His focus was explaining to churches how **anti-Semitism** has made it difficult for Jewish people to respond to the gospel message, and how individual believers can, by demonstrating a change of heart, effectively reach out to them.

He received invitations to preach throughout the United States and Canada as well as in England, Norway, Iceland, Russia, Denmark, Germany, the Ukraine and Israel. Stan and Ethel were married for 52 years until her death in 2000. Telchin subsequently remarried his beloved Elaine.

Telchin served with the Jews for Jesus organization from 2003 until his death. David Brickner, executive director of Jews for Jesus, reflected: "Stan had a huge impact on the field of Jewish missions. He will be greatly missed. Even while Stan was in failing health in recent years, his book *Betrayed* remained a strong witness to Jewish seekers and I'm convinced it will keep on making an impact on the lives of our Jewish people in the years ahead."

Stan is survived by his wife, Elaine, and daughters Judy and Ann. In lieu of flowers, Elaine has requested, per Stan's wishes, that gifts be sent to Jews for Jesus.

A Celebration of Life service will be held for Stan on Monday, June 11, at 11 a.m. at Church of Hope, 1560 Wendell Kent Rd., Sarasota, Fla. A viewing wil be held at 10 a.m.