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Do we have any students in your city or country? Now you can find each other with our new map feature!

Add a pin with your location and contact info to the Holy Language student map, and see who else is in your area, [here](#). (You can also find the link on the Classroom page at [holylanguage.com](http://holylanguage.com).)

We hope this will be a fun and useful feature that will enable you to network with each other, especially you international students from over 100 countries who have signed up with us!



We're reading Deuteronomy 7 and 8 for Hebrew Chapters this week. Watch and share the trailer [here](#), and join me for the whole study [here](#)!

Meet Jo, one of our Hebrew students. Here's her adventuresome story.



*My name is Jo Anna Watson. I am a missionary living in Uganda originally from Chicago. In the mid 70's I moved to the north shore suburbs of Chicago, a mostly Jewish community and lived there for over or 20 years. I had not previously been acquainted with any Jewish people prior to moving to the north shore. It was also during this time that I met my first Messianic couple and attended services with them*

*a few times. During that time I also attended some of my Jewish friends children's Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.*

*I had an opportunity to tour Israel in Nov 2006, which was a desire of mine since living in the Jewish community. I loved being in Israel so much I returned in January 2007 on Christian mission trip and had an opportunity to live as a full time missionary in Jerusalem from mid 2007 to the end of 2008. When I was in Israel for the first time I knew I would return because it felt like I belonged there as if it was my home. The truth is I would love to actually live in Israel, but that is quite hard to do unless you have Jewish blood.*

*My mother was Catholic and my father Lutheran, though he never attended church, so I was raised Catholic. I received salvation in Jesus in 1972 but it was when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1978, that I had said to my friend "I should have been raised Jewish"...I didn't understand that at the time as I did not know any Jews or Messianic Jews at that time.*

*In 2007 and 2008 while living in Jerusalem it became more difficult to obtain long-term visas so I relocated to Uganda. I had been ministering there yearly, since 2002. I have been living in Uganda since 2010 and within the first couple of months I meet some people who taught Hebrew Roots. I also met a Ugandan Evangelist Drake Kanabo who is the founder and director of Christians4Israel NGO and another organization Christian Friends of Israel, Uganda, director John Gudo. I know Ray and Sharon Sanders from CFI Jerusalem during my time living in Israel so this was quite exciting for me. I believe these connections could have only happen through Holy Spirit.*

*I have been meeting almost weekly since 2010 with a group to study Torah and Christianity's Hebrew Roots, which has triggered a desire to learn to read and speak Hebrew. We also celebrate the Feasts to include Shabbat. Some do not agree, but I do believe Christians should celebrate the Feasts. I especially look forward to the weekly Shabbat. Sometimes it is difficult for me to celebrate Shabbat on Friday night to Saturday, but I do pick another day during the week if I am ministering on Saturdays. It is said that a family who prays together stays together. What better way than through Shabbat! Just imagine what could happen in our societies if every family celebrated Shabbat, blessing their families every week! It is my opinion that Christianity received a great loss when Christianity broke from her Hebrew roots.*

*There are about 100 Israelis living in Uganda (secular Jews) but they do celebrate the Feasts of the Lord, which I have had the privilege to attend. Since I was in the USA in March of this year, I was so blessed to attend 2 Passover Seders. One was a Messianic Seder celebrated at the beginning of the Hebrew Passover and the other was on Resurrection Sunday as a Passover Seder for Christians. For some reason this year, these two Passover celebrations impacted me greatly. I saw such a connection between the Passover Seder and Jesus being our Passover Lamb that I had not seen before, inspiring me to write an article, Jesus the Passover Lamb, which can be found on my website [www.touchingheartsint.org](http://www.touchingheartsint.org). I also had the privilege to speak on Yeshua as the Passover Lamb twice while in the States and again twice when I returned to Uganda in April.*

*As a missionary in Uganda, I believe my main purpose for being here is to preach, teach and disciple according to Matthew 28. I disciple on the Sermon on the Mount as a lifestyle and preach mostly on the love of the Father or the Father's heart of love toward humanity and the power of grace to pursue holiness by living a separated lifestyle and passionately loving and following Jesus by returning to 'first love'.*

*I include the importance for Christians to return to our Hebrew roots and Torah. I have come to believe that we cannot rightfully walk out the New Covenant in Jesus without going deeper into the knowledge and understanding of the Old Covenant; for the New Covenant builds on the Old Covenant. In fact the Sermon on the Mount is directly from Torah. I have my Phd. in Biblical Studies, but my studying of Hebrew roots and Torah has given me a greater understanding of the Bible as not only a history book on the life of the Hebrew people, but a greater revelation and understanding of God's intentional and extravagant love for all humanity. Now my next step on my journey into Christianity's Hebrew roots is for me to read and speak Hebrew so I can get an even greater understanding of the Scriptures and be able to teach on a deeper level.*

*I have a couple of books on learning to speak Hebrew and have a software package from Hebrew World and follow the teachings found at [www.Hebrew4Christians.org](http://www.Hebrew4Christians.org). Unfortunately I have not put as much effort into actually learning God's holy language as I would like, but I have learned most of the alphabet and some prayers in Hebrew through Hebrew4Christians website.*

*I just finished writing my first book, entitled, Love the Heartbeat of God for Revival and am currently re-editing it, then I need to find a publisher or publish it myself. However, I began writing this book in 2004, but was unable to finish it. It wasn't till*

*after I went back to Christianity's Hebrew roots that I understand why I was unable to finish my book and why I said so many years ago, "I should have been raised Jewish". I know that I would not have been able to write what the Lord has commissioned me to write without going back to my Hebrew roots.*

*It is important that Christians understand our Hebrew roots and the history of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and His love and purpose for His covenant people Israel. It has given me a much great understanding and revelation of the intentionality of God's love for humanity as a whole and personally for each of us individually.*

*I have not been back to Israel since 2011, maybe next year in Jerusalem. L'Shanah Ha ba'ah Bi yerusalayim! I love Israel, the people, the land, and the language and along with many others in Uganda, we gather to pray for Israel every week. If God cares so much for His beloved Israel, than we ought also care!*

*Only God knows if I have Jewish blood or not, but what is most important is that I have Hebrew roots and I know from where I come from. As Christians we ought to appreciate greatly the Hebrew nation, Israel and the Jewish people for it was through them that Yeshua, the way of Salvation has come to all of us. It is now up to us to receive God's love, love Him back then give His love away.*

*I now look forward to continuing my journey through Holy Language Institute so I can learn to read and write God's Holy language. Thank you Izzy for making this opportunity available to those of us who desire to learn the language of God.*

*Shalom, Jo Watson*

I love hearing from my students and sharing your stories! **Could I share your story, too?** Just reply and tell me how you started following Yeshua and studying Hebrew, and then how you found us and how it's all going! Attach a picture of yourself, and I'll share it with the tribe. Don't do it for you, do it because your story glorifies God! Thank you!

# news lineup

[Israelis and Palestinians skeptical of latest round of peace talks](#)

[Israel's Deepest Well Targets 1.5 Billion Barrels of Oil](#)

[13 Scientifically Proven Ways To Be A Happier Person](#)

[Obama's UN nominee sees 'unacceptable bias' against Israel at UN](#)

[Jerusalem Terror Victim: I said Shema Yisrael](#)

[15 Excuses That Are Guaranteed To Waste Your Life Away](#)

[Israel furious at EU directive to stop doing business with Israelis residing in 1967 lands](#)

[Airline Refuses Services to Israelis in New York](#)

[Gush Katif: 8 Years on, 50% of Expellees Still Homeless](#)

[Netanyahu lashes out at EU, rejects 'foreign dictates about borders'](#)

[Thousands of Jews gather at Western Wall to mourn Tisha Be'av](#)

[Portugal becomes 2nd country, after Israel, with a Jewish law of return](#)

[Israel's Strike On Syria Was A Brilliant Tactical Move](#)

[Study suggests Jewish practice of refraining from sex during menstruation may raise men's testosterone levels](#)

In Yeshua's love,

Izzy Avraham

*Founder & Director, Holy Language Institute*

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