

The Chosen People



Volume VII, Issue 4 April 2001

A Youth Shall Lead Them

Ministry to the Next Generation



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A Youth Shall Lead Them

Ministry to the Next Generation

Believing in Jesus is one of those lines Jewish people are not supposed to cross. For the average Jewish person, a step of faith in Jesus is seen as a step out of the Jewish community. It is considered ethnic suicide.

That was my grandmother's generation. Today's Jewish young people have open minds and open hearts. They are not afraid of hearing about Jesus. I believe that one of the most dramatic areas of potential increase will be among the next generation!

I am concerned for this new generation of Jewish young people.

The best figures we can muster tell us that there are now 15 million Jewish people in the world. Many of these are young people—under the age of thirty—yet less than one percent believe in Jesus as their Messiah.

This new generation of Jewish young people do not have grandmothers who experienced the Holocaust. Very few of their parents are old enough to have sensed the exhilaration of Israel becoming a nation. These young people are spiritually curious and willing to consider the possibility that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. They live in the United States, Canada, Israel and around the world.

Because of the efforts of Chosen People Ministries and other Jewish outreach organizations, many of them have grown up at least hearing about Messianic Jews.

Today's Jewish young people are struggling to develop their own sense of Jewish identity in a post-Holocaust Jewish community. They yearn for a sense of belonging, for community and a Jewish identity that is not necessarily based upon traditional Jewish religious beliefs. So many of these young people are looking for something to live for that is larger than themselves.

We must let them know that the message of the Gospel is true and worth their full dedication and devotion. We must tell them that believing in Jesus is actually a very Jewish thing to do.

Now is the time to proclaim the Gospel! And we hope to turn much of our evangelistic attention to this new generation of young people in the days ahead. We now provide training in Jewish outreach for a younger generation of believers through our summer programs and internships.

Enjoy this newsletter and be sure to give it to a college-age person or teenager in your congregation or church. Help us involve a new generation of young people in reaching their own generation—both Jews and Gentiles—for the Messiah!

Thanks for your love, prayers and support.

Your brother in the Messiah,


Mitch



Mitch Glaser
President

Dear friend of God's chosen people,

I remember this conversation of many years ago like it was yesterday.

My father and I were visiting his parents who, of course, lived in Brooklyn! My grandfather was an agnostic who was probably more sympathetic to Marx than to Moses and my grandmother was a delightful woman and the best Jewish chef in Brooklyn!

We were eating lunch at their apartment in Coney Island and engaged in a deep theological discussion over a bowl of chicken soup and matzah balls.

My dear grandparents were trying to figure out why I believed in Jesus as the Messiah.

After a few moments of kind discussion and passionate debate, I finally blurted out a question: "Dad does not believe in God. He never attends synagogue and yet he still says that he is Jewish. I, on the other hand, believe in the God of our fathers, learned Hebrew, married a Jewish girl and believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

"Which one of us is the better Jew?"

Grandma did not hesitate to respond. She replied, "Your father!"

What was she really saying? Just as most Jewish people like herself, my grandmother thought that being Jewish was not a function of belief, but rather of community identity. A Jewish person could maintain that identity as long as certain lines were not crossed.



justin kron

Who are the Gen-Xers and how do we reach them?

by Justin Kron

READ John 4:1-54

Let's see what we can learn from Jesus' approach that we can apply to our outreach to Jewish young adults:

The generation so affectionately un-named "Generation-X" or "Busters" has often been linked to descriptive words like "slackers," "directionless," and "broken"—not the most endearing of images, are they? Divorce, AIDS, abortion, and various dysfunctions have contributed to the makeup of the children of the Baby Boomers. This generation, like any other generation, is in desperate need of an authentic, life-changing encounter with a living Messiah. For this to happen, we must become the hands, the feet, and the mouth of God.

Check out Jesus' approach when He spent some time with a Samaritan woman at a well. We don't know her name, but this woman came from a spiritually deprived background. The Samaritan community developed from Jewish people who lived and intermarried among pagan peoples. They were long abandoned by the Jewish community, which refused to make any attempts at bringing them back to the God of Israel. They wouldn't even enter into their neighborhood! But what Jesus did in reaching out to this "broken" woman provides us with an insight into reaching a maturing generation of Jewish young adults who, too, have grown disconnected from their spiritual roots and live in a society where boundaries have been re-drawn and truth has become relative to individual preference.



- 1. He "crossed the lines."** Jesus was comfortable with spending time with someone different than Himself. If you don't know a Jewish young adult, then identify someone who is outside of your comfort zone (generationally, spiritually, culturally, whatever...) and get to know his or her story, family life, traditions, and beliefs.
- 2. He listened.** The woman was probably skeptical of Jesus at first, but soon became curious and engaged by Jesus' genuine interest in her life. Gen-Xers, especially those who have a preconditioned distrust for your faith, need to know you're willing to hear their thoughts and feelings. Don't be surprised by what you hear. Just listen, and when you speak you might want to start by saying, "Help me understand."
- 3. He was creative.** Jesus didn't just hit her with the truth. He used the image and physical reality of water to present the spiritual fulfillment of God. Learn to present the truth of Scripture in ways Gen-Xers can relate to through their everyday experiences.
- 4. He was flexible.** Even though Jesus was on His way to Galilee, He was willing to enter into and spend time in the woman's community. We need to be willing to go out of our way in order to be vessels of light in a hurting world.
- 5. He was affirming.** Jesus was not condemning of her lifestyle nor insensitive to her background. He focused on the solution: Himself. Be intentional to affirm the Jewishness of Jewish Gen-Xers and show them that there is nothing more Jewish than to follow the promised Messiah of Israel!

Our youth are our future! This is particularly true for God's people and one of the "vital signs" of Chosen People Ministries' growing ministry is a renewed emphasis on reaching Jewish young people. A growing number of children raised in Messianic homes also presents us with a welcome challenge.

Youth Ministry

A "Vital Sign" of Life

TeenSTEP – Training and Ministry Put Together

Jay and Lauren's vision for young people extends far beyond the snows of January. One measure of the success of "Snow Camp" was that at the end of the weekend, around half the young people had expressed a desire to participate in *TeenSTEP*—

Chosen People Ministries' summer youth outreach program in New York City.

TeenSTEP, which will run from July 7-15, is a young people's version of *STEP*, our Summer Training and Evangelism Program. This well-supervised introduction into the world of Jewish evangelism is a combination of evangelism and a cultural immersion into Jewish New York City, the crossroads of the world.

Last year, the first *TeenSTEP* ever consisted of a group of eighteen young people. This year, Jay and Lauren hope to add more teens interested in exploring opportunities in Jewish evangelism. One new feature being added this year is the opportunity for churches to organize their own short-term mission programs for teens and participate in *TeenSTEP*. Already, two groups—a church and a Messianic congregation—have signed up. Jay says, "Over the long run, it is good for everyone. The teens and their leaders learn about

Gifted Leaders for Exciting Programs

Chosen People Ministries' missionaries Jay and Lauren B. serve among the Orthodox Jewish people in Brooklyn, New York. Yet, they have also found a way to combine their ministry to the religious with a ministry to young people.

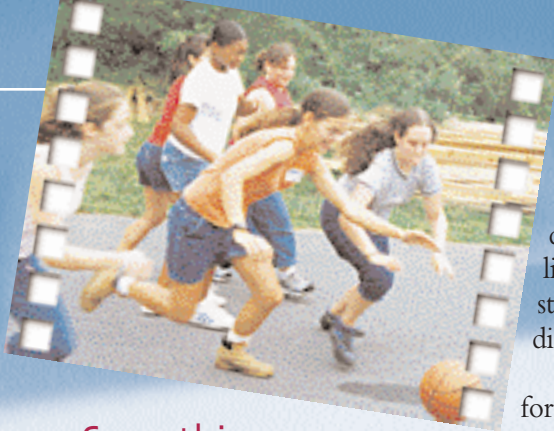
Recently, they led a group of 25 young people aged 13 to 19 from Canada, Maryland, New York, New Jersey and New Hampshire to a *Snow Camp* sponsored by the Word of Life ministry in Schroon Lake, New York. The program included outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, horseback riding and indoor sports such as volleyball.

Jay gave the morning and evening devotionals, emphasizing the importance of living for God and serving Him by serving others. Jay says, "I taught that we can serve the Lord even as young people and emphasized that they needed to find their own faith in the Lord and not rely on their parents' faith."

To find out more about these opportunities for service and growth among the next generation, call 888-2-YESHUA (888-293-7482)



Jewish evangelism in New York City and then return to their own communities better equipped to share the Gospel with their Jewish neighbors.”



Summer Camp – Something for the Younger Set

Chosen People Ministries’ summer camping program, *Simchat Yeladim* (the Children’s Joy), is a fun-filled week of fellowship in the beautiful Pennsylvania hills. Led by Bruce and Suzi Elman, this camp is especially designed for children 8 to 15 years old. In addition to the usual array of summer activities such as swimming, sports and crafts, this Messianic children’s program is a wonderful opportunity for children being raised in Messianic homes to form friendships with others their age.

Summer camp can be a source of memories to be treasured forever. Relationships formed in summer camp sometimes blossom into lifetime friendships and Chosen People Ministries knows the importance of nurturing faith at a young age. Who knows how many lives will be changed by Camp *Simchat Yeladim*?

STEP – Summer Training and Evangelism Program

For those who are seriously interested in exploring both short- and long-term mission opportunities in Jewish evangelism, *STEP* provides both the training and experience.

This four-week program runs from June 10 to July 8 and is composed of two parts. The first two weeks are held in Chicago at Moody Bible Institute and provide intensive training in Jewish evangelism. Then it’s on to New York City for street evangelism and a series of outings designed to bring the participant “up close and personal” with the Jewish



community and its rich heritage as the greatest Jewish city in the world—besides Jerusalem!

The highlight of this exciting evangelistic campaign is the July 4th fireworks celebration, when literally hundreds of thousands of people line the streets of Manhattan, and *STEP* workers typically distribute almost 30,000 tracts or more in a single day!

Jason, who will be coordinating the program for the second year, is greatly encouraged by last year’s response. He says, “There were quite a few Jewish people who came to the Lord. My hope is that there will be even more this year and that the people who serve with us will gain a better understanding of Jewish culture and an increased burden to reach the Jewish people with the Gospel.”

Evangelism and Exploration – eXperience Israel Mission Tour

Chosen People Ministries’ commitment to “Generation-X” young people extends all the way to the Promised Land. The *eXperience Israel* mission trip is a combination of spiritual exploration and hands-on evangelism. Scheduled for the last two weeks of July, *eXperience Israel* is being coordinated by Chosen People Ministries’ staff member Justin Kron. He says, “If you’re 18 to 35 years old and you want to experience deeper authenticity in your relationship with God, and you not only want to walk in the footsteps of Yeshua, but serve in them, then the *eXperience Israel* ministry tour is for you.”

We think this life-changing mission opportunity is so important that Chosen People Ministries, through the generous gifts of our supporters, partially subsidizes the cost of the trip to make it more affordable for the young adults we are seeking to reach through this program. It is an investment that is well worth making.



Internship

Internship work in Chosen People Ministries is coordinated by Stewart Jefferson. For those interested in youth programs, we run summer and winter camps for young people. Students interested in evangelism and discipleship put their skills to use in our *STEP* program and the follow up afterwards. People with communication skills can help in writing, photography and web development. Regardless of what your particular area of ministry is, you can have a part in this exciting outreach ministry to Jewish people.

Life in Messiah – the Hope of Glory

The purpose of all of these programs is quite simple: to bring young people into a living relationship with God through the gift of the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah. And it seems clear that whether you are Jewish or Gentile, believer or seeker, Chosen People Ministries has something to offer you.

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



Obadiah

The Prophet of Mystery

Who was Obadiah? The author of the shortest prophecy and the smallest book of the Old Testament is largely a mystery man. We don't even know exactly when he lived. The only historical reference to date his book

is in verses 10-14. This mention of the violence done to Judah and her captivity is the only clue to our mystery prophet's place in history.

Obadiah's Prophecy – Four Possibilities

Scholars suggest four possible invasions of Judah to date Obadiah's prophecy. One may be the plunder of the Temple and the palace of Jerusalem by Shishak of Egypt during Rehoboam's rule in 926 BC (I Kings 14:25,26). Another possibility is the invasion of Judah by the Philistines and Arabians during Jehoram's reign—848-841 BC (II Chronicles 21). Another option is the sacking of Judah by King Joash of Israel in 709 BC (II Chronicles 25). A final possibility is the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the

Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC.

Since Edom revolted during the reign of Jehoram and was a bitter antagonist, the second choice seems best.

The Doom of Edom

Obadiah 1-16 foretells that terrible disaster will overtake Edom. The heathen nations will come against her and, despite her military fortresses of strength, the Lord will bring Edom down (1-4). She shall be utterly spoiled and stripped (5,6), her allies shall deceive and forsake her and she will be completely destroyed (7).

The causes of Edom's judgment include violence against Judah (10), indifference to Jacob's trouble (11), rejoicing over Judah's destruction (12, 13) and her pride and sinful self-security (3,4).

Edom's sins against the house of Jacob are compounded by the fact that they are so closely related. The Edomites are the descendants of Esau, Jacob's older brother. The enmity between them has passed through the generations and Edom will now reap what they have sown—*"As you have done, it shall be done to you"* (15).

History bears out Obadiah's prophetic words. After Israel's return from the Babylonian captivity, King Cyrus of Persia overcame and slaughtered thousands of Edomites. Later, the Jewish fighters dealt them a crushing blow under the Maccabees. Slowly, Edom disappeared as a nation.

The House of Jacob – Triumphant at Last

Obadiah declares in verses 17-21 that the house of Jacob will finally prevail. The exaltation of God's people will provide a vivid contrast to Edom's downfall. God's people will possess not only their own land, but also that of Edom and Philistia. The house of Jacob will at last fully occupy the provinces and countries that were promised by God to Abraham.

Obadiah describes "saviors" or deliverers who will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau. These deliverers prefigure our Messiah, the Judge of the nations (15,16), the Savior of Jacob (17-20) and the Ruler of His Kingdom (v. 21).

Obadiah's prophecy is a great commentary on Genesis 12:3, *"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you...."* It is yet another instance where prophetic fulfillment comes even within the pages of the Scripture itself. ✠

New Anti-Missionary Legislation in Israel

Recently, a new initiative to stifle missionary activity in Israel has been proposed by MK (Member of Knesset) Rabbi Moshe Gafni. This law would make it illegal to distribute Gospel material “by means of the mail, the fax, the electronic mail or by any other means, that is enticement to change religion.”

Such legislation has been proposed before, only to fail to win the necessary support. Many Israeli lawmakers are concerned about the effect of such legislation upon the principle of freedom of expression. However, attitudes can change and we urge friends of Chosen People Ministries to pray that these newest efforts would not succeed. Please also keep our staff in Israel in prayer. Be sure to check our website, www.chosenpeople.com, for updates.

The Pride of Youth and the Gift of Salvation

While recently teaching a class on “Messiah in Old Testament,” Michael Z., the director of our Israel work, was challenged by a young student named Elena.* She believed in God, but had problems believing in the stories of creation, the flood, the Red Sea crossing, the fall of Jericho and other scriptural accounts.

As Michael began to build a case for Bible history, he suddenly realized that Elena’s problem was not about believing the Bible. It was her pride. She did not want to give herself to God, because she was afraid of His Lordship. Michael stopped explaining and instead offered to pray with her for salvation and God’s forgiveness. Elena started to cry and prayed with Michael to become a follower of Yeshua.

Stepping Out on “Feet of Faith”

Nursing home visits have been a vital part of Florida staff member Stewart Weinisch’s outreach ministry for some time. Some of the older residents are receptive—some are less so. Sometimes you just never know what will trigger a decision for the Lord.

Not long ago, Stewart was teaching from the book of Joshua on the topic, “Feet of Faith,” during a Bible study at one of the facilities he regularly visits. In his closing comments, he mentioned that trusting the Messiah means taking a step on “feet of faith.” After his Gospel presentation, he asked if anyone wanted to trust in the Lord. Molly,* a woman who has attended the study regularly for some time, raised her hand.

Stewart helped her to pray the “sinner’s prayer” and Molly received the Lord that day.

*names have been changed

To the Jew First Conference in Florida Stirs Hearts – and Controversy

The latest *To the Jew First in the New Millennium* conference, which was held on February 8–10 in West Palm Beach, Florida, was a stirring event from a number of perspectives.

Hosted by First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach and Christ Fellowship of Palm Beach

Gardens, the conference explored the role of the Jewish people in God’s prophetic plan and featured practical teaching seminars on how to share the Gospel with Jewish friends.

Articles expressing strong opposition to bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people appeared in both *The Palm Beach Jewish News* and *The Palm Beach Post*.

The evangelistic concert on Saturday evening was a highlight of the conference, with a thousand people in attendance. Chosen People Ministries staff members in Florida are presently following up with the many people who expressed interest in learning more about the Gospel.



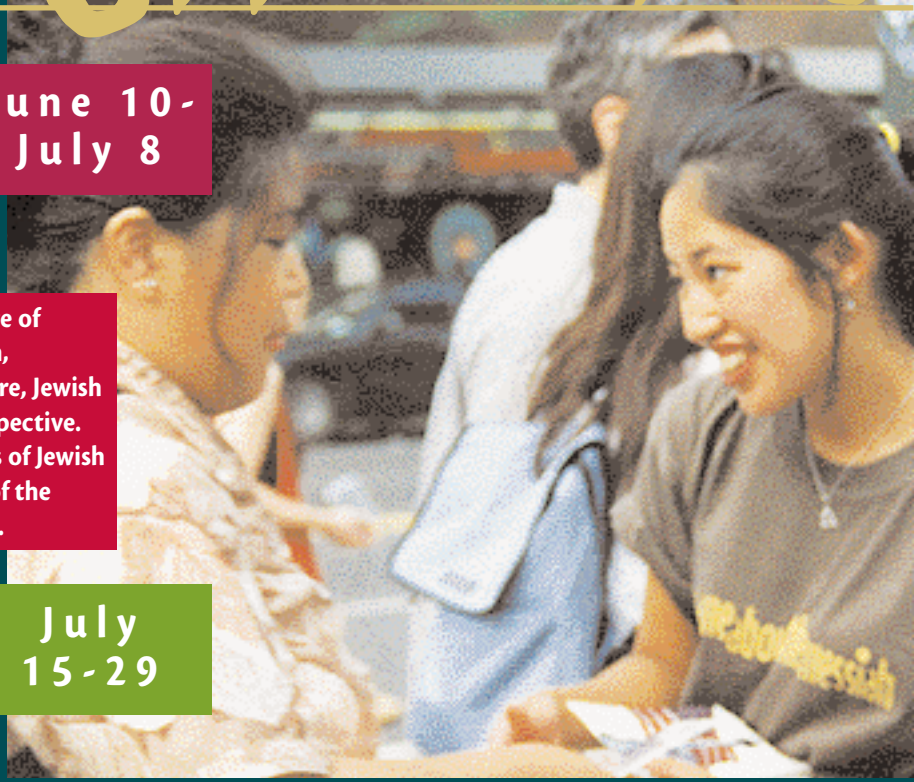
2001 Summer Opportunities

STEP - Summer Training and Evangelism Program

an exciting summer of team ministry and outreach in New York City

June 10 - July 8

STEP 1 - Chicago: Learn to communicate your love of Messiah with the Jewish people. Receive in-depth, personalized training in Jewish evangelism, culture, Jewish history and the Scriptures from a Messianic perspective.
STEP 2 - New York City: Get involved in all aspects of Jewish ministry. Put your training to work in the heart of the worldwide Jewish community. Call 212-223-2252.



Experience Israel Mission Tour

a life-defining missions tour to Israel for those of the next generation

July 15 - 29

A short-term missions tour to Israel for people aged 18 to 35, who want to experience deeper authenticity in their relationship with God. This trip includes service and creative outreach together with an extensive teaching tour to various Biblical sites. Call 773-338-5959.

TeenSTEP

a week of outreach, training in Jewish evangelism and culture in New York City

July 7 - 15

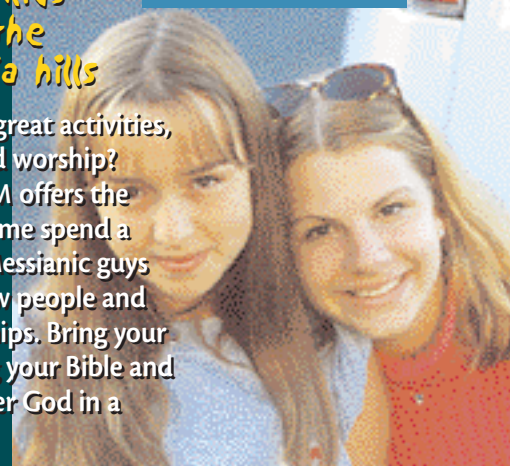
Activities include outreaches in New York City. Visit the Jewish Museum in Manhattan, go on a prayer walk in an Orthodox neighborhood, fellowship at a pool barbecue and in the evenings just hang out. Call 212-223-2252.

Simchat Yeladim

summer camp for Messianic kids 8-15 in the Pennsylvania hills

July 29 - August 5

Are you ready for great activities, fun, fellowship and worship? SIMCHAT YELADIM offers the perfect setting. Come spend a week with other Messianic guys and girls. Meet new people and renew old friendships. Bring your tennis shoes, bring your Bible and be ready to discover God in a whole new way!



www.chosenpeople.com

Call Bruce or Suzi Elman at 1-800-342-3870



The Chosen People Newsletter

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

The Chosen People Newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries
Editor: Zhava Glaser
Staff Writer: Alan Shore
Design: Lois Gable

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will.
"I will bless those who bless you."
(Genesis 12:3)

Visit us on the Web at www.chosenpeople.com