

The Chosen People



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Chosen People Ministries:

A Presence for Peace in GOD'S Promised Land

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Chosen People Ministries: A Presence for Peace in God's Promised Land

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City. I hope this special Israel edition of the Chosen People Newsletter encourages your heart and fuels the fires of your prayer life. Once again, the eyes of the world are turned to that tiny piece of hallowed land that means so much to so many. We need your prayers. We simply cannot do our work without them. As the Psalmist writes, *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you'"* (Psalm 122:6).

The Ultimate Peace Accord

When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we are praying for far more than political peace. We are praying that the Lord Jesus, the promised Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7), will establish His throne in the midst of His people.

This peace comes to the heart of individuals the very moment they receive Jesus as their Messiah. True peace is the result of having our sins forgiven (Romans 5:1). It is only at that moment that a man or woman can truly understand the words of Jesus when He said,

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

As believers in Yeshua the Messiah, we are also called to be emissaries of His shalom to a world filled with hatred and strife. However, the peace we are called to "broker" cannot be

politically defined or implemented by human effort alone. Real peace is found in a Person—Jesus the Messiah.

So, let's be clear—acknowledging His Lordship is the first step in God's authentic peace process.



Chosen People Ministries in Israel

For more than 106 years, Chosen People Ministries has been sending His messengers of peace among the Jewish people. This includes a long history of preaching the Gospel of peace in the land of Israel.

Chosen People Ministries' involvement in Israel began at a critical moment in modern history. The year was 1933 and Hitler's rise to power caused thousands of European Jews to emigrate to what was then known as Palestine. Along with the refugees came missionaries of the American Board of Missions to the Jews (renamed Chosen People Ministries in 1986) to preach the message that Jesus is the only way to true peace.

Frank Boothby was our first missionary in Israel. Prior to joining the staff of Chosen People Ministries in 1933, Rev. Boothby had been a faithful volunteer for twelve years, distributing copies of our evangelistic

newsletter, *The Shepherd of Israel*. His work continued until his death in 1940, when the mantle of ministry passed to another worker, Sigourd Biorness.

The rush of European Jews escaping the ravages of Nazism during the war placed the ministry under a great deal of strain. Resources were limited, expenses were high and the needs of the refugees were enormous. Yet, by God's grace, Chosen People Ministries persevered. It continued the work of evangelism and relief under the leadership of Herbert Singer, another European Messianic Jew who escaped the Holocaust.

The end of the war brought an even greater flood of refugees to Israel. Haim Haimoff and the McClenahan family served at that time under the auspices of Chosen People Ministries and offered the Gospel message of peace and hope. This work continued until 1953.

The 1960s brought a renewed vision for evangelism in Israel as Peter

Gutkind, another European Jewish immigrant, began work in Haifa. He used radio as an evangelistic tool from 1969 to the mid-1980s.

During this period, Jacob and Leah Goren, both Messianic Jews and Holocaust survivors, began their ministry in Jerusalem. Jacob helped lead a Messianic assembly in Jerusalem during one of the most difficult periods of Israel's history. It was also a time when Messianic Jews—Jewish believers in Jesus—were unknown and endured considerable persecution from the average Israeli.

Mrs. Goren is still alive—a living testimony to those stirring days. Chosen People Ministries is honored to provide housing and retirement benefits for her in the Holy Land.

Revival Among the Russians

The work continued to grow and in the early 1990s Russian Jewish immigrants began to arrive in Israel in vast numbers. Many of these new immigrants to Israel were very open to the Lord and so Chosen People Ministries turned its attention to bringing the Gospel to this latest wave of newcomers.

It has been an extraordinary period of blessing!

Today, Chosen People Ministries has a team of missionaries who focus on reaching the hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

These missionaries themselves are Russian Jewish believers who came to faith in Messiah after their arrival in Israel. They have proven to be most effective in reaching their fellow Russian Israelis with the Gospel.

We continue to be on the front lines of spreading the message of Messiah Jesus in Israel. Chosen People Ministries has its “finger on the pulse” of the immigrant Jewish populations in Israel.

Our workers have prayed with dozens—if not hundreds—of recent

Russian Jewish immigrants in Israel to receive the Lord. We have planted congregations in Tel Aviv, the town of Ariel in the West Bank and now we have set our sights on Jerusalem!

We plan to move our Israel headquarters to Jerusalem, where one day we hope to create a Messianic Center. For now, we will establish an office, conduct Bible studies and develop various types of evangelistic and discipleship programs. When you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, please remember to pray for our new efforts in what I consider the spiritual capital of the world!

Our Future Shalom

Many people ask me if Chosen People Ministries supports the modern nation of Israel. In my understanding, the support of Israel is a simple matter of understanding the Word of God. If Scripture teaches that the land of Israel (defined by the borders outlined in Genesis 15:18-21) belongs to the Jewish people, then I believe Israel should maintain her God-ordained borders. I do not support every decision made or each action taken by the modern State of Israel. I know of no Jewish person who does.

The modern State of Israel is comprised of both Jews and non-Jews who need to know the shalom of God found only in Jesus the Messiah. Israel today falls short of her glorious future. The Bible teaches that the future of Israel is assured (Jeremiah 31:35-40) and her glorious future includes the Land of Promise.

But we must not stop there!

The people of Israel were also destined to be ruled by the King of Israel—Jesus the Messiah. In fact, I am persuaded that the people of Israel will never enjoy the fullness of God's blessings until the day they look “*on Me whom they pierced...*” and “*...mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son*” (Zechariah 12:10, Romans 11:12, 15).

Israel will be at peace when she receives her Messiah. This peace will not only be enjoyed by the children of Israel, but by the sons and daughters of Ishmael—and by all who bow the knee to Yeshua and confess Him as Lord.

So please join me in praying for the peace of Jerusalem, recognizing that the answer to peace is found in a person—Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Thanks for loving the Lord and His chosen people.

Yours in the Messiah,


Mitch



Mitch Glaser
President

Michael Z. – Man of Vision

Call Michael a dreamer and a smile will crease his bearded face. He'll say to you, "Am I a dreamer? Everything starts from a dream."

As the Director of Chosen People Ministries' evangelistic outreach in Israel, Michael knows as well as anyone how often visible results begin with a vision and the courage to act upon it.

The Faith of Jeremiah

Throughout its long history, Jerusalem has been at the heart of Jewish aspiration. Even in exile, the heartfelt prayer, "Next year in Jerusalem," has reverberated each Passover in Jewish communities throughout the world.

When times are hardest, God supplies a sign of hope. As the Babylonians stood poised at Jerusalem's gates, the prophet Jeremiah was nonetheless commanded to purchase land. Although the city would fall into enemy hands, God's promise to redeem it was made certain—*"Behold, I will gather them out of all countries...I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely"* (Jeremiah 32:37).

Michael Z. is one of many who are a living testimony to God's faithfulness. Is it any wonder that he chooses to hope and to dream, even in the face of enormous trials?

A Time of Struggle

The Babylonians are no more. But the obstacles that confront our Chosen People Ministries staff in Israel are formidable nonetheless. Jerusalem, the living symbol of Jewish identity, is at the heart of it all.

For those seeking to share the Gospel in Israel, matters are further complicated by the fact that religious opposition to Jewish evangelism is at its highest pitch in Jerusalem. To "set one's face toward Jerusalem," as our Messiah did so long ago, would seem to some a foolhardy venture. Yet that is precisely what Michael and Natalie Z. have done. As he explains it, "God has placed a desire in my heart to move from our suburb of Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He has given me a vision to establish a Messianic Center in Jerusalem. The need for such an outreach is just overwhelming."

A Messianic Center for Evangelism and Discipleship

There is nothing vague about Michael's vision. He says, "I believe God has shown me clearly what He

wants us to accomplish under the umbrella of such a place."

Michael wants to create an evangelism and church planting center to meet the spiritual needs of Israelis, with training programs for local believers and volunteers from overseas. Michael also envisions hosting distinguished speakers for various conferences that will help the Church in Israel grow to maturity. A prayer center would also be an integral part of this ministry. Michael also wants to produce Christian literature in Hebrew and Russian.

The Dimension of Faith

Can all this come to pass? Michael's answer is: "It can, with the dimension of faith. Our forefathers left everything behind. By trusting the Lord, they entered their once and forever promised future. Proclaiming the Gospel in Jerusalem is the same kind of journey for our ministry in Israel."

Michael Z. and his family will make the first few courageous steps next month, as they move to Jerusalem.



Leonid B. — Gospel Guide

If you can't openly preach the Gospel with words, the next best thing is to show it to people. And that is exactly what Chosen People Ministries staff member Leonid B. does on his guided walking tours in Jerusalem. He knows firsthand what a powerful testimony it is to walk where Jesus walked.

Born in Ukraine, Leonid was part of the great wave of Jewish immigrants who settled in Israel in the 1990s. He remembers, "When I came to Israel, I decided to walk where Jesus, whom I admired greatly, had walked. But when I came to the Garden of Gethsemane, I realized that Jesus was not merely a great person. He was the Messiah who suffered and died for our sins and rose from the grave! From that moment, I walked as a believer."

Now Leonid spends time showing others the wonders of Jerusalem. Along the way, Leonid explains the Gospel as part of his lecture. It is a creative way for him to pursue his calling as an evangelist.

Leonid's tours are usually attended by 20-30 people—many of them Russian immigrants. Some of the sites he visits, such as Gethsemane and Bethesda, are well known settings in the life of Jesus. Others, such as the Gihon Spring and Hezekiah's Tunnel, are from the era of Israel's kings.

Is this an effective way to spread the Word? Leonid shares, "Sometimes I pray with people after they experience what I am able to show them. At least five of them became believers and others have visited our Messianic congregation."

It goes to show you—if you are in God's will, there will be a way.

Hope of Samaria — Fishing in Troubled Waters

When Henry and Irena N. arrived in Israel in 1991, the last thing they expected was to find faith in the Messiah. Both of them are talented and highly trained musicians who met while attending the renowned Gnesin Music College in the former Soviet Union. But Henry's drug abuse had all but swallowed up his musical gifts.

In Israel, Henry met some Jewish believers and attended a Messianic conference. He soon became a believer in the Messiah and immediately stopped using drugs. Irena was so affected by the change in him that she also received the Lord.

Messiah, Music and Ministry

Henry and Irena continued to grow in the Lord and in 1995, Henry joined the staff of Chosen People Ministries. In 1998, they began a Bible study in the West Bank city of Ariel, in Samaria. From a group of six, the ministry has grown to become the "Hope of Samaria" congregation. This past January, Henry was ordained as congregational leader.

"Hope of Samaria" is indeed an island of hope in a sea made turbulent by the current political, cultural and spiritual strife. Henry continues to lead his flock, give piano concerts and attend classes at Tyndale Seminary. Irena has formed a Messianic children's choir, which recently had its first public performance.

There have also been a number of decisions for the Lord and some baptisms. Bible studies continue. As Henry recently said, "The violence and general unrest have provided a real opportunity to share the encouragement of the Gospel. The hope of the Lord is a real contrast to the terrible situation over here."



Chosen People Ministries Outreaches in Israel

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



THE BOOK OF JONAH GOD'S TRUTH IN ACTION

Who could fail to be captivated by the story of a man swallowed by a great fish? Generations have marveled at this unparalleled tale of human disobedience and Divine providence. No other minor prophet illustrates these great scriptural themes better than Jonah.

God's Providence in Divine Preparation

Jonah portrays God's providence through Divine "preparations" and offers several striking illustrations of how God is able to work His will through His creation: 1. "...the LORD sent out a great wind..." (1:4); 2. "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish..." (1:17); 3. "And the LORD God prepared a plant..." (4:6); 4. "God prepared a worm..." (4:7) and

5. "...God prepared a vehement east wind" (4:8)—all of this to deal with a prodigal prophet who had obstinately refused to bring God's Word to the repentant residents of Nineveh!

God is Faithful Even when His Children Fail

Many search eagerly for their Divine calling, yearning to embrace it. Jonah was just the opposite. When God's call came to him, he tried to flee. His small vision, characterized by his hatred of Israel's ancient enemy, Assyria, clouded his thinking. He did not want Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, to receive God's grace. He wanted it to receive His wrath. But who can flee God? Yet we find that the Lord remained faithful, despite Jonah's disobedience, and offered him a second chance—"Then

the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time..." (3:1).

Jonah – A Manual for Missions

One of the basic truths the Book of Jonah conveys to us is that the God of Israel is also the God of the Gentiles. Later, Paul would declare, "Is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also..." (Romans 3:29). In fact, God created the nation of Israel to be a blessing to the Gentiles (Gen. 12:3)!

The Book of Jonah emphasizes this great truth, as God's compassion for the Ninevites is plainly stated in the concluding passage of the book, "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city..." (4:11).

Jonah's prophetic mission is a picture of the Messiah. Like Jonah, Jesus was sent to proclaim God's Word to a wicked and adulterous generation. However, unlike Jonah, Jesus obeyed God in every respect. Jesus even used Jonah to illustrate His own resurrection as He commented on the lack of faith among some Pharisees, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40).

A Lesson for Today

The Book of Jonah reminds us that the God of the Hebrew Scriptures is the same God Who is revealed in the New Testament. He is, as Jonah testifies, "a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness" (4:2). His desire is for us to place our faith in Messiah, so that we may avoid His wrath and inherit the blessings of the Kingdom forever. ☆

A Long Road to Faith

Despite the present hardships, Chosen People Ministries' Israel staff is continuing to be fruitful in God's Promised Land. There was much rejoicing when Rebecca,* a dear friend of one of our workers, received the Lord shortly before her death. Then their prayers turned to Ruth,* Rebecca's 96-year-old mother. Through God's grace and the ministry of our staff members, Ruth also came to faith in Jesus the Messiah.

Since she has no more living relatives in Israel, Ruth will be returning to Moscow, where her younger daughter lives. Pray that Jewish believers in Moscow will arrange to meet with Ruth and help her become grounded in her love for the Lord.



Joe Gray

"Discovering" the Truth

Chosen People Ministries' Toronto Branch Leader, Joseph Gray, reports exciting news from the "Discovery" seekers' group that meets in North York, Ontario. This gathering, which stresses Bible study and

open discussion, has attracted a number of young people. Two of the seekers from the group that met last fall have made steps of faith in Messiah. Now they are both enthusiastically participating in the follow-up study Joe is coordinating and they are growing in the Word. Pray that God will increase the harvest.

Ukrainian Women Come to Faith

Frank Potter's Bible study in Philadelphia continues to bear fruit for salvation. Not long ago, while discussing the early chapters of Genesis, one of the women began to quiz him about the long life span of those who lived before the Flood. This led to a discussion of God's judgment upon wickedness and His plan for salvation through Yeshua.

Frank then challenged the unbelievers in attendance to receive the Lord. Two Ukrainian

women asked Yeshua into their hearts right then. One of them, Miriam,* is Jewish and had been attending services for some time. The other, Naomi,* is married to a Jewish man and began coming to the Bible study after she met the Potters at the citizenship classes they were conducting. Please pray that these women will be properly disciplined.

Meeting the Messiah in the Air

On a return flight home after some time off, Chosen People Ministries missionary Boris Goldin found himself seated next to Barry,* a young man in his twenties whose mother is Jewish and whose father is not.

After some conversation, the young man said, "I have a Jewish and non-Jewish background and I don't know how to have a relationship with God."

After talking some more, Boris asked Barry, "Would you like to know Jesus as your Messiah?"

Barry said yes, and Boris helped him pray for forgiveness and salvation. Now Barry has started attending a Bible study at the Chosen People ministry center in Manhattan.

Inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life

A few weeks ago, volunteer worker Doug P. and two Chosen People Ministries staff members set up a booth at the Rockland County Youth Fair on Long Island, New York.

A bright high school student stopped by and engaged Doug in conversation. Although the young man had had some church in his upbringing, when Doug asked if he was assured that he would be with the Lord when he died, he said, "No."

Doug led the student through the "Four Spiritual Laws" booklet and at the end of it the young seeker said that he wanted to receive Jesus as His Savior. After they prayed together, Doug gave him a New Testament and inscribed in the front of it, "This day I trust Jesus as my Savior" with a space beneath. The young man then took out a pen and signed his name.

*names have been changed

See Israel through Jewish Eyes

For a full-color brochure of the itinerary, call
1-800-459-9402

A Point of View You Won't Forget

Journey to Israel and retrace the footsteps of Jesus the Messiah. Dr. Ben Alpert, Chosen People Ministries' Israel guide and teacher, will open your eyes to the wonders of the Promised Land. You'll travel from the Sea of Galilee to the River Jordan, with stops in Jerusalem, Jericho and other Biblical sites along the way. Dr. Alpert's in-depth teaching brings Biblical events alive in the very location where they took place. Trips occur annually in March and November.

In the United States, May is a month to honor the heroes who gave their lives for our freedom. May can also be a month for remembering heroes of the faith—men and women who pointed us towards spiritual freedom in Jesus the Messiah. What greater way to honor their legacy than by sending a memorial gift in honor of your loved one to help Chosen People Ministries reach out to Jewish people across the world with the Gospel?

Storm Clouds on the Horizon

by Charles Dyer

Discover what Biblical prophecies reveal about what's happening in the Middle East today, and what will come to pass in the future. Daily you hear news stories about important events taking place in the Middle East. But do you fully comprehend what is going on in Israel? Do you understand the significance those events have in your own life? Find out what's happening in the Middle East today and learn how those events are linked to key Biblical prophecies.

book 3073 price **\$6.99^{US}**

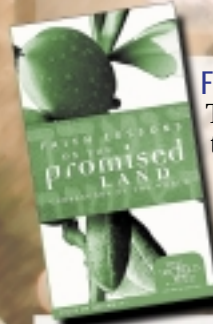


NEW

Faith Lessons on the Promised Land

This video from Focus on the Family brings the Bible to life by transporting viewers to the land of Israel. Gain a deeper appreciation of God's Word and His people.

video 8020 price **\$34.95^{US}**

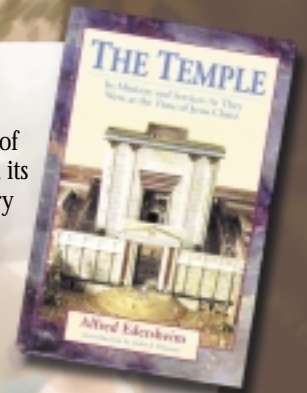


The Temple

by Alfred Edersheim

Edersheim provides a thorough study of the physical appearance of the Temple, its ordinances and worshipers, the ministry of its priesthood, and the ritual of its services. This book clearly and thoroughly explains the ministry and services of the Temple as they were at the time of Jesus and is a valuable tool to enhance your study of the New Testament Scriptures.

book 3051 price **\$24.95^{US}**



NEW

Lion of Judah

by Paul Wilbur

Come to the Feast of the Lord as Messianic musician Paul Wilbur beckons believers to join the celebration on Mount Zion and worship the One who pours out His Spirit.

CD 4041 price **\$16.98^{US}**
 Cassette 4042 price **\$11.98^{US}**



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

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