

The Chosen People



Volume VIII, Issue 2 February 2002

Celebrating
Messiah in



Australia

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Celebrating Messiah in Australia



The staff of Celebrate Messiah
representing
Chosen People Ministries
in Australia are
(back row, L to R) Rita Iverskis,
Margaret Mascara,
Annemarie Ball
(front row, L to R)
Roni and Elisheva Mechanic,
and Louise and Lawrence Hirsch.

Dear friend,

Shalom! It is with great joy that I write to you this month from New York City! Your mission to the Jewish people is off to a fruitful start! Reports of Jewish people coming to know the Lord in the new year are already coming in from our various fields of service. The Lord is faithful.

In fact, we have begun our 108th year of ministry among the Jewish people, and we are still faithful to the “*Rabbi’s*

Vision”—that of our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn. After receiving Jesus as his Messiah in 1892, his only desire in life was to help his fellow Jewish people come to know the Savior. It is our dream and the passion of our souls to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to our Jewish people around the globe—until He comes.

We have more missionaries today and operate in more countries than at any time in our history! The Lord is faithful and our missionaries around the world are poised for another year of exciting and blessed ministry to our Jewish people.

A Vision of Future Hope and a Call to Prayer

We cannot do this without you. Recently, I was reading through the Book of Isaiah and was profoundly moved by the words of Isaiah in chapter 62, verses 6-7. The great statesman/prophet writes,

“I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

This chapter describes Israel’s glorious future. Isaiah paints a majestic picture of that future day when all the promises of God will be fulfilled. The people of Israel will be united with the Land of Israel and, most importantly, with the God of Israel. When will this great day arrive? Only when the Jewish remnant embraces Jesus as the promised King and Messiah! Then, the blessings will flow from Jerusalem to the entire

world—as promised to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 and depicted by the Apostle Paul in Romans 11:12-15.

What a day that will be! What perspective this gives us today on the state and condition of our world! As believers, we have the personal hope for salvation that is rooted in the work of the Messiah, Who died and rose to redeem us from sin. This is God's gift to those who place their trust in Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

We also have a future hope for our nation and our world. The time will come when terrorists and all those who make war against Israel will be defeated. Jesus will reign as King and there will be peace in Israel, throughout the Middle East and across the globe. This precious hope is the answer to our fears.

This hope also motivates us to pray. A little later in Romans, Paul urges God's people to be *"rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer"* (Romans 12:12).

When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6), we are in reality praying for the realization of His glorious promises for the entire world.

We must take up our post as **Watchmen on the Walls**. We must, as the prophet writes, *"give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth!"*

We cannot fulfill our ministry

Praise God, for more than a century, we have been the blessed recipients of the prayers and support of fellow believers. Thank you for loving the Lord and our Jewish people, and most of all, for your prayers. Thank you for being **Watchmen on the Walls!**

Celebrate Messiah

I am especially delighted to tell you a little more about our ministry in Australia in this issue of *The Chosen People* newsletter. There are more than 100,000 Jewish people now living in Australia. I have had a burden for these dear people for more than twenty years, after my first ministry trip to what is affectionately called "Oz" in 1981. At that time, I met a few missionaries to the Jewish people who were laboring faithfully in Australia.

One of these faithful workers was Betty Baruch, who recently went to be with the Lord. Betty was a Jewish believer who faithfully proclaimed the Gospel to the Jewish people of Australia for some years, when very few were doing so. A wonderful publication called *The Vineyard* has been in circulation for many years, describing the glorious future of the Jewish people and the need to bring the message of the Gospel to the Jewish people.

Yet in recent years, the Jewish population of Oz has grown, and a new generation of Australian Jews has arisen. Many of these are new immigrants from South Africa and the former Soviet Union.

More work was needed. The laborers were few and the harvest was white! This is why I am so delighted to tell you about Lawrence and Louise Hirsch—who lead Chosen People Ministries in Australia.

Lawrence, whom I have known almost since the day he met the Lord, founded Celebrate Messiah in 1995.

Lawrence and his devoted wife, Louise, who are originally from South Africa, began this ministry to reach this new generation of Jewish Australians.

Along with a dedicated and capable board of directors, the Hirsches have labored for many years. When I visited them, wondering how we could help their work, Lawrence asked if Celebrate Messiah might join the fellowship of Chosen People Ministries International.

We prayed about this and after a season of fruitful joint ministry among Russian Jewish immigrants in Melbourne, Lawrence and I—and the Boards of our respective missions—decided that we should make our partnership official. And so we did! Celebrate Messiah is now part of our global network of ministries. We are now serving in countries representing 96% of the world's Jewish population.

Now, Roni and Elisheva Mechanic (and son James), who are from the United Kingdom, have joined the Hirsches in Australia. I hope you will pray for our work in Australia and around the world as we reach Jewish people for the Messiah.

Thank you for your partnership and for joining us on the Wall... watching and praying for the salvation of His ancient people!

Yours in Him,


Mitch



Mitch Glaser
President



Ayers Rock is one of the recognizable landmarks of Australia

call to the Jewish people without your prayers and involvement!

Evangelism in Australia

A Time to Grow



Melbourne is the center of our Jewish outreach in Australia

The growing work of evangelism among the Jewish people in Australia is being carried forward through a partnership between Chosen People Ministries and Celebrate Messiah Australia, another thriving Jewish evangelistic outreach. Celebrate Messiah was established in 1995 and operates under the direction of its founder, Lawrence Hirsch.

Celebrate Messiah has been involved in various forms of Jewish evangelism such as street work and personal ministry. Two Messianic congregations—one for English speakers and one for Russian speakers—have also been planted to meet the needs of the Jewish people who have come to faith through their ministry. Celebrate Messiah's vision is to expand their ministry to reach Jewish people living in all the major cities in Australia.

Celebrate Messiah's Russian Jewish work began in 1997 when Lawrence started a Bible study with one or two Russian Jewish believers. The group grew and a total of 27 Russian Jewish people came to faith that year. This encouraging start set the stage for more to come.

In early 1998, Chosen People Ministries President Mitch Glaser came to Australia to explore how Celebrate Messiah and Chosen People Ministries could work together to reach the Jewish people

of Australia. As a result, Chosen People Ministries sent Klaudia Zhelezny, a gifted Jewish missionary from Ukraine, to help Lawrence in an outreach in Melbourne. For two weeks, Klaudia worked tirelessly with Celebrate Messiah as they led Bible studies, conducted special evangelistic services and visited with individuals and families. By the end of Klaudia's visit, 40 Russian Jewish people had received Jesus as Messiah.

The exciting ministry to the Russian Jewish people of Australia continues. As Celebrate Messiah enters its eighth year, it has been used of God to lead over 160 Jewish people to faith in Messiah. Partnership with Chosen People Ministries has proven to be a blessing that continues to build the Kingdom in Australia.

Chosen People Ministries and Celebrate Messiah entered into a formal partnership in 1999. Celebrate Messiah is now part of Chosen People Ministries worldwide, which is currently serving in ten countries, including Israel and the former Soviet Union.



Lawrence, with his wife Louise, is the director of Celebrate Messiah

Lawrence Hirsch

A Jew for Messiah Today

I was born in South Africa to wonderful Jewish parents and grew up in



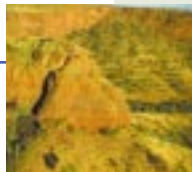
Jewish people were among the very first European settlers in Australia, although they did not necessarily come willingly. Eight Jewish convicts arrived at Sydney Cove with the English First Fleet on January 26th, 1788. The first free Jewish settlers came in 1816 and soon formed the institutions that characterize Jewish communities everywhere. The first synagogue was formally established in 1837.

By 1861, there were 5,486 Jewish people in Australia. By 1901, that number had jumped to over 15,000, most of whom had come from Britain. They were joined in the 1930s and '40s by a large influx of Jewish immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe. By 1991, the official Jewish population stood at 75,000.

The next large immigrant group, Jewish people from the former Soviet Union, began arriving in the 1990s. Melbourne alone has a population of approximately 25,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union. Today, the estimated Jewish population of Australia is 120,000 people.

Today, about .2% of our Jewish people in Australia believe in Jesus. The challenge to bring the Gospel to them is great!

Source consulted – Article, *Asia Pacific Survival Guide for the Jewish Traveler*, by Michael Cohen, Asia Pacific Jewish Association, 1988.



Roni Mechanic Jewish and A “Jesus Person”

Being Jewish is something I have always enjoyed—the kosher cooking, Jewish festivals and synagogue worship all contributed to my sense of identity and well being. Sure, there were those who did not appreciate Jewish people, but in my experience they were a minority that did not affect me much.

Coming to faith in Yeshua 32 years ago while an art student in Johannesburg, South Africa, was the most exciting thing that ever happened to me. I was part of the movement in the 1960s among young people that in the States came to be known as the “Jesus People.”

At that time, the Spirit of God also began to move in Johannesburg. Our bell-bottom jeans, long hair and beards were part of our “uniform.” Soon this movement embraced many young adults in South Africa and, as a result, a number of young Jewish people came to faith.

However, my Jewish family and friends did not share my newfound joy—nor did they want to know anything about Yeshua, Jesus.

Personally, I have found that being a believer in the Jewish Messiah, is the most wonderful and fulfilling thing in life. Yeshua brings us into a new family—the people of God in every nation. He has also given me joy and peace and a message of hope to share.

Now, Jewish believers are no longer a fringe movement. By God’s grace, growing numbers of Jewish people are coming to faith all over the world. Hallelujah!

Somerset West, a village near Cape Town, where the Jewish community there was very active and tightly knit.

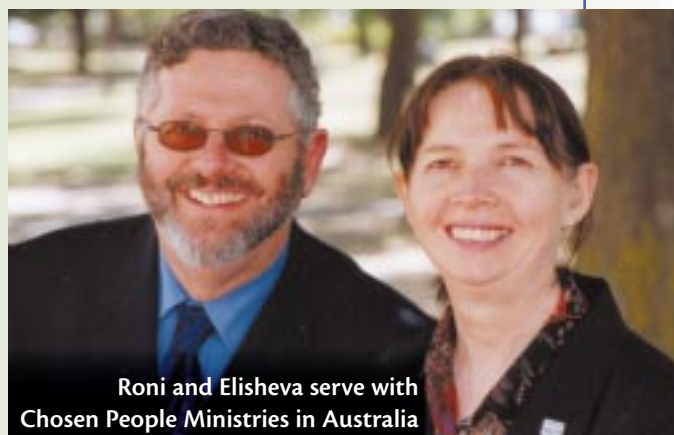
My grandfather, Isaac Lazarus, was a very religious man. I have fond childhood memories of walking with him to synagogue every Friday evening and listening to him chant the familiar Sabbath liturgy. I went to Hebrew School and had my Bar Mitzvah. As far as I was concerned, Jesus was the “god of the Gentiles” and not for us. Jewish people believed that the Messiah was yet to come.

Things first began to change when my older brother, Alan, came home from the army with the news that he believed in Jesus! This new revelation caused my parents much heartache. At first, I also had several heartfelt “Jewish objections” to Jesus. We spent many nights discussing the Messianic prophecies in our own Hebrew Scriptures. Isaiah 53 particularly struck me. For the first time, I realized the purpose and mission of the Messiah. Also, when I finally read the New Testament,

I was amazed to see how “Jewish” Jesus is. In light of all this, I came to confess Jesus as my Messiah.

My life changed dramatically! For the first time, I truly sensed the love of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. One immediate evidence of God’s presence unfolded when I called my darling Louise, who had been my sweetheart from childhood, and was still living in South Africa. When I told her of my decision, Louise told me how she had gone to church with her brother and had also prayed to accept Jesus. So, on the same Sunday night, Louise and I both came to faith in Jesus—she in South Africa and me in Australia!

After we were married and as we grew as believers, it was obvious to both of us that God was calling us into full time missionary work among the Jewish people. We have been missionaries for twelve years now and during this time we have been raising four lovely children. That is where our hearts are, and we rejoice to see God making our lives fruitful for Him.



Roni and Elisheva serve with Chosen People Ministries in Australia

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



ZECHARIAH AND THE GOD WHO REMEMBERS

There have been moments throughout Israel's long and varied history when it seemed that the chosen people of God could sink no lower. Their slavery in Egypt was one such time. Yet, the Scripture tells us that God "remembered" the children of Israel (Exodus 2:24).

Another such moment was during the Babylonian Exile. So in light of God's promises, it is fitting that one of the foremost prophets of the day, Zechariah, bears the name that means "God remembers."

Background and History

Zechariah, who was born in Babylon, belongs to the period of the first return of exiles from Babylon to Israel when Zerubbabel was governor. Along with about 50,000 exiles, Zechariah made his way back to Israel under the edict of Cyrus the Persian. According to Jewish tradition, Zechariah was a member of the "Great Synagogue," an institution that collected and preserved the Old Testament Scriptures.

Zechariah's ministry began two months after Haggai had

commenced his prophetic office in 520 BC, in the second year of Darius Hystaspes. The length of Zechariah's prophetic ministry is unknown (see Zechariah 1:1; 1:7; 7:1).

The Primacy of the Temple

The Temple plays a prominent role in prophetic literature after the exile. Both Haggai and Zechariah agreed that the Temple was the center of Israel's religious life and the symbol of their return from exile. They also concurred on the priority of rebuilding the Temple immediately. While Haggai wrote a plain and simple plea with no poetic or highly imaginative language, Zechariah's "prophecies in technicolor" belong to the apocalyptic literature akin to that of Ezekiel, Daniel and the Book of Revelation.

Like Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Zechariah was both a priest and prophet (Zechariah 1:1; Nehemiah 12:4). Zechariah's prophetic ministry gave special emphasis to spiritual integrity, for God raised up the prophets particularly in times when the ministry of Israel's priesthood deteriorated.

The Book of Zechariah – An Overview

The contents of Zechariah's book fall into two main divisions. The first includes visions, recorded in chapters 1-8, which are concerned primarily with the rebuilding of the Temple.

Another important aspect of Zechariah's prophetic ministry is the Messianic emphasis in his message. The importance of this topic is reflected in the visions described in the book's second section, located in chapters 9-14.

These deal chiefly with the future—with special emphasis on both advents of the Messiah. These two sets of visions were separated by a period of two years.

Zechariah's prophecy is far-reaching. He speaks more fully of the work and person of the Messiah than all of the other Minor Prophets combined. We will explore Zechariah's Messianic prophecies in upcoming issues of *The Chosen People*.

Zechariah's prophecy was wonderfully inspired by the Spirit of God. His words in 4:6, "...not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord" have become a part of the musical worship of the contemporary Church and are indeed words to live by for believers in any age. ☆

Outreach Banquet Brings Salvation

Jewish professionals form a significant group in New York City. For this reason, Chosen People Ministries sponsored a Hanukkah banquet for Jewish executives and professionals late last year at the Yale Club. Coordinated by Laura Fels, who is “on loan” to Chosen People Ministries from Executive Ministries of Campus Crusade, the banquet’s featured guest was Al Kasha, a two-time Academy Award winning Jewish believer who composed the scores from *The Towering Inferno* and *The Poseidon Adventure*. About 30 Jewish professionals were in attendance, and four people indicated on a reply card that they had prayed to receive Jesus as Messiah!

Two Peoples – One Messiah

While in Israel, Chosen People Ministries’ Henry and Darlene Matarrita ministered to Francisco,* an Argentine Jewish man who has been living in Israel since 1963. His wife, a German believer in Jesus, had been praying for her husband for many years. After listening to him tell of his struggles, the Matarritas shared the Scriptures with him and finally asked if they could pray with him to trust Jesus. He said yes and is now being disciplined through his wife’s congregation. Later, the Matarritas visited a Palestinian family where Darlene shared the Gospel with a searching young woman who likewise opened her heart to receive the Lord.

Chosen People Ministries Expands in Canada

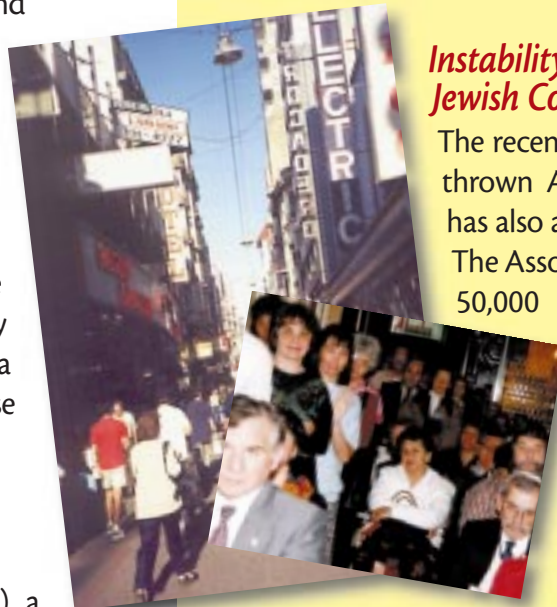
International Ministries to Israel (IMI), a Jewish evangelistic mission founded in 1911 and based in Winnipeg, Canada, will merge with Chosen People Ministries. This new relationship will enable Chosen People Ministries to establish a branch in Winnipeg, which has a well-established Jewish community. Elvin Ensign, the

Director of IMI, will retire but continue to represent Chosen People Ministries (Canda). Please keep Chosen People Ministries in Canada in your prayers. The lawsuit that challenges our use of the stylized menorah in our logo will soon be decided.

Salvation in Germany – A Family Affair

God’s Word can work wonders. A Jewish woman in the Chosen People Ministries Düsseldorf congregation received the Gospel with much joy. At first, when she shared the Good News with her family, she experienced rejection. Still, she kept inviting them to services. When they finally started coming, they came to faith—first one, and then another and another! Vladimir Pikman, our Branch Director in Germany recently commented, “It seemed like everybody in that family was coming to the Lord—brothers, sisters, even other relatives who had just immigrated. It was great!”

We agree—please pray for our growing ministry in Germany.



Instability in Argentina Affects Jewish Community

The recent economic instability that has thrown Argentina into social upheaval has also affected the Jewish community. The Associated Press reports that about 50,000 Jewish people—roughly a quarter of the Jewish population there—are now living below the poverty line. Many have already departed for Israel, and more than 20,000 more Argentine Jews are expected to immigrate there in the next five years.

Jewish believers in Buenos Aires

The economic and social chaos has created an urgent financial crisis for Chosen People Ministries’ outreach in Argentina. Pray that God will provide the means for our work to continue.

*names have been changed

Great NEW Resources for Passover!

Passover Items

The Matza tash (unity) is a pouch with three compartments—each one holds a piece of unleavened bread. The matza tash binds the three into One—a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature.

The Seder Plate helps to tell the story of the Exodus and points to our Messiah. This one is a centerpiece that will grace your table as your family gathers at Passover.

The Kiddush Cup -

At Passover, the contents of the kiddush cup symbolize the blood of the Lamb of God. Each of the four times it is filled unfolds the story of God's redeeming work among His people.

Seder Plate # 5024	\$18.95 ^{US}
Kiddush Cup # 5025	\$18.95 ^{US}
Matza Tash # 5026	\$17.95 ^{US}
Complete Passover Set # 5027 (includes plate, cup and matza tash)	\$49.95 ^{US}
Deluxe Passover Set # 5028 (includes plate, cup, matza tash and the Passover kit below)	\$64.95 ^{US}

Messiah in the Passover Kit

This kit will help churches, classes, or families have a Passover celebration of their own. Guaranteed to make your Passover celebration an unforgettable experience. Includes the *Messiah in the Passover* video, *How to Prepare for a Passover Dinner*, *Messianic Passover Haggadah*, a poster, and bulletin inserts.

Passover Kit # 5001 \$19.95^{US}

You can give a gift to Jewish evangelism and at the same time provide income to yourself using a Charitable Gift Annuity!

When you place money in a Chosen People Ministries Gift Annuity, you will receive an annual dividend check for the rest of your life, and you will also get a sizeable tax deduction.

Plus, you have the satisfaction of knowing your money is working for you—and for the Lord—as we reach out to God's chosen people. So what are you waiting for?

Check the box on the enclosed reply card and ask for your free, no obligation quote, or call Amy Downey at our Development office, 1-888-293-7482.

Summer Training and Evangelism Program

STEP in a WEEK

July 7 - 13, 2002

A new program for those who only have a week to spend with Chosen People Ministries in New York City. This is especially designed for those who are unable, due to age, physical condition, or time constraints, to come on our usual 4-week STEP program.

Call 1-212-223-2252 for more information

Sometimes kids 8 to 15 years old need to take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to reflect, relax and renew their spiritual fervor.

SIMCHAT YELADIM offers a perfect camp setting with other Messianic kids in the Pennsylvania hills. 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! Join us August 4-11, 2002.

Camp Simchat Yeladim!

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.

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Visit us on the web at www.chosenpeople.com

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