

The Chosen People



Volume IX, Issue 3 April 2003

It is Finished...



**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

Israel's Redemption and Ours • Witnessing through the Passover •
Passover through the Ages • Studies in the Book of Revelation

Passover

Israel's Redemption and Ours

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from New York City. As I write this note to you, the world stands on the brink of war. By the time this newsletter arrives, we might already be in the midst of that struggle, or perhaps some solution has presented itself to avoid the death of hundreds—and

perhaps thousands—for a short time. How grateful we would be for the extension of life and the opportunity many will have to come to faith. Wars and rumors of wars will increase and continue to the end—until the day that the Prince of Peace reigns on His throne. At that time He will establish a peace that the politicians and generals of this world could not even imagine—nor could they produce. It is a peace which comes from the very nature of God Himself and is beyond our human ability. This peace is coming—soon—though we do not know the precise hour or day; but be assured, His peace through His presence among us will come.

This is why it is so helpful to look back on biblical and Jewish history; to marvel at the way God delivered His people and kept His promises of redemption to His chosen people. Seeing His faithfulness in the past helps us to trust Him during difficult times—like the days in which we are living at this very moment.

The first Passover demonstrated the Lord's power to deliver His people. It also pointed to His ultimate act of redemption in sending His only Son, Yeshua the Messiah, to die as a sacrifice for our sin. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

He is the One we wait for and He is the Anointed One through Whom our Heavenly Father will establish peace: not merely political peace, nor simply an armistice, but a lasting, genuine peace that flows from the transformed nature of men and women submitted to His Lordship and leadership.

Passover is a vivid reminder that He is faithful to His promises and that the day of complete redemption—the everlasting result of Calvary—will come to earth and His will on earth will be done as it is in heaven. Be assured and remain hopeful—that day shall surely come. It is faith in this Messiah that brings us forgiveness, reconciliation, love and the certain promise that *"the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God"* (Romans 8:21).

And this is the very heart of what Chosen People Ministries is all about. Our calling is to help our Jewish people—across the globe, now in five continents—to hear that the Passover has been fulfilled in Jesus the Jewish Messiah. Thanks to your help through your prayers and financial support we are able to carry out this mission as we have for more than 109 years.

The Passover season is one of the most wonderful times of the year for Jewish evangelism. We are going to speak in hundreds of churches around the world—telling the story of Messiah in the Passover. If you would like to know if we will be in your area, please call 888-405-5874 and we will let you know where you can see this powerful demonstration near you. It is also the perfect opportunity for you to bring a Jewish friend or neighbor to hear and see the Passover prophecy fulfilled.

Our branches and congregations will have full Seder dinners where you can participate as well in the celebration of Jesus the Bread of Life and Lamb of God. Again, just call 888-405-5874 for more information.

And pray for me and for the other Messianic Jews involved with Chosen People Ministries. We will have the Seder with our families and perhaps because you have upheld us in prayer, we will find a natural and sensitive way to tell our families about the Lord. This is the deepest desire of our hearts. Thank you for loving the Jewish people and Chosen People Ministries! Happy Passover!

Yours in Him,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Witnessing through the Passover



Passover Witnessing Points

A number of persuasive items can be taken from the Passover that point directly to the life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah.



God is faithful. The same God of creation who made His covenant with Abraham is faithful to guide His chosen people through history to their ultimate destination.

“So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob” (Exodus 2:24).

“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob’” (Romans 11:26).

Who is this Deliverer? It is Messiah Jesus, the *“Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29).



The sacrifice of Passover points to the sacrifice of Messiah. Jesus took the already existing elements of the Matzo (Unleavened Bread) and the third cup of Passover (the “Cup of Redemption”) and fulfilled their meaning.

“You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall

eat unleavened bread” (Exodus 12:20).

“Now the [Lamb’s] blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:13).

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you’” (Luke 22:19–20).



The Exodus from physical bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt points to our spiritual redemption in Messiah.

“It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this [Passover] service” (Exodus 12:25).

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption

Passover might be the most emotionally satisfying Jewish holiday of them all. Why? Because Passover is family. Somewhere in the soul of even the most cynical Jewish agnostic there lurks the memory of a multi-generational family gathering where the story of the Exodus was told and the tastes of the Passover meal were savored.

For this reason, Passover is a marvelous opportunity to connect with your Jewish friends and neighbors. But above all, Passover tells the story of Messiah, the Lamb of God, toward which the redemptive story of Israel’s Exodus from Egypt so eloquently points.

through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13–14).

Passover – Journey Toward Messiah

For many Jewish people, the glorious tale of liberation from bondage to Pharaoh and the journey to the Promised Land has come to summarize the whole of Jewish history—a painful journey homeward undertaken against all odds. What a blessing it is to help the Jewish people journey all the way home through the remarkable witness of Passover and its fulfillment in Messiah.

HOW CAN I ARRANGE TO HAVE A CHOSEN PEOPLE REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT THE PASSOVER IN MY CHURCH?

Just call 1-888-405-5874 or e-mail Julia Freeman, Supervisor of Church Ministries at julia@chosenpeople.com. We will be happy to arrange this for you.

Passover

Through the Ages



The Passover celebration is one of the cornerstones of Jewish observance. The rousing tale of Moses the Deliverer and the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt contains all the elements of Jewish history: God's promise, Israel's somewhat reluctant obedience, and a faithful servant to inspire them and lead them forward.

As we see from the Book of Exodus, Passover reaches back into ancient times. However, as the centuries have unfolded, the Passover has developed in many ways and in many places. Wherever the Jewish people have formed communities, Passover traditions have been established as each one adds the particular flavors of its respective culture.

Passover – A Brief History

The exact date of the Exodus is a matter of some debate for historians have different views. Conservative scholars assert that it occurred in the 1400s BC during the reign of Thutmose III or Ahmose, the founder of the 18th dynasty. Some scholars place it even as early as 2200 BC. But no one really knows with certainty who the Pharaoh “who knew not Joseph” (Exodus 1:8) actually was.

Scripture records the first Passover celebration in Exodus 12. There, we find the essential elements that form the basis of the modern-day Seder (Order of the Passover Meal). They are the sacrificial lamb, the unleavened bread and the bitter herbs (Exodus 12:8).

Along with the Feast of Weeks (*Shavuot*) and the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*), Passover is one of the three festivals mentioned in Deuteronomy 16 that must be celebrated in Jerusalem. It is observed for seven days in Israel and eight days everywhere else, beginning on the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which comes in either March or April.

Passover in the Hebrew Scriptures

Scripture shows us the spotty record of Israel's kings and its people in the area of faithfulness. Suffice it to say that after David and Solomon, idolatry and other pagan practices were not uncommon. However, around the year 619 BC, in the reign of King Josiah, things took a turn for the better. Josiah instituted widespread religious reform, and returned to the true faith of the God of Israel.

The sign of the national repentance Josiah had inaugurated was none other than the celebration of Passover. Scripture records, “*There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as Josiah kept, with the priests and the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem*” (2 Chronicles 35:18).

Alas, Josiah's reforms did not last, and God permitted first the conquest of the Northern Kingdom in about 721 BC and then the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 586 BC. During the Babylonian Exile, without the Temple in which to sacrifice, Passover began a transformation that led to some of the additions to the Passover Seder that have survived to this day. The presence of the egg on the Passover Plate, for example, is thought by some to have been added through the influence of the cult of fertility emphasized by the Persians. Today, the Jewish people view the egg as a symbol of the sacrifice that cannot be offered in the absence of the Temple.

Passover at the Time of Jesus and Beyond

Passover at the time of Jesus was a major event—bigger than the Super Bowl, the World Series and the Fourth of July combined! During



normal times, Jerusalem then had a population of about 25,000–35,000 people. Joachim Jeremias, a noted scholar, asserts that the population of Jerusalem would grow by another 150,000 at Passover. The Talmud describes Passover as a festive time in Jerusalem, when travelers came from every far-flung Jewish community in the world. Accommodations were hard to find, and people stayed in nearby villages or else camped out in the countryside.

Who was responsible for the expansion of the Passover service and the creation of the Seder—the order of the Passover service? It was the Pharisees. Before the destruction of the Second Temple in the year AD 70, the Pharisees began to implement changes—some of which we find in the New Testament accounts of the Last Supper and which exist to this day. The cups of Passover wine, the reclining at table, and the dramatic

telling of the story of Exodus at length all stem from the Pharisees' innovations of the time. In time, the asking of the Four Questions and the liturgy of Scriptures read at Passover would also take their standard place in the ceremony.

The destruction of the Second Temple, the Jewish Wars and the devastation of Jerusalem vastly altered Passover observance. The Lamb could no longer be sacrificed. Emphasis was placed on other aspects of the observance, such as the Haggadah (the telling of the story), the unleavened bread and the bitter herbs. These elements had been there from the start. Now, they serve to remind the Jewish people of their long and painful history from the time of Moses.

Passover Around the World

The Passover celebration is similar to many other aspects of Jewish life. It borrows from the traditions of the cultures that surround it and reinterprets them in such a way as to

tell the unique story of Jewish struggle, survival and hope.

And, as with many other Jewish holidays, food plays a major role.* Jewish people from around the world have developed a number of differing culinary traditions. For example, the Sephardic Jews, who trace their roots to Spain and North Africa, eat lamb at Passover, whereas the Ashkenazi Jewish people from Eastern Europe do not. There are many Passover cookbooks with hundreds of recipes from around the world that the adventurous cook can try out.

Passover's message of freedom and endurance speaks to all people. Even more importantly, it is a dramatic and compelling example of how Jesus the Messiah fulfills the message of the prophets. He is truly the Lamb of God, who died for our sins—once and for all—so that through faith in Him, we will join Him as He reigns in the Kingdom.

*You can try out Zhava's recipe for Matzo Ball Soup—a Passover Favorite.

You can't play golf with them...you can't play tennis, and you certainly can't go bowling with them...or at least you're not supposed to! Matzo balls (pronounced mat-zah, not mat-zoe), a traditional Passover delicacy, are supposed to be so light and fluffy that, although they are served as an appetizer, they almost float away before the meal.

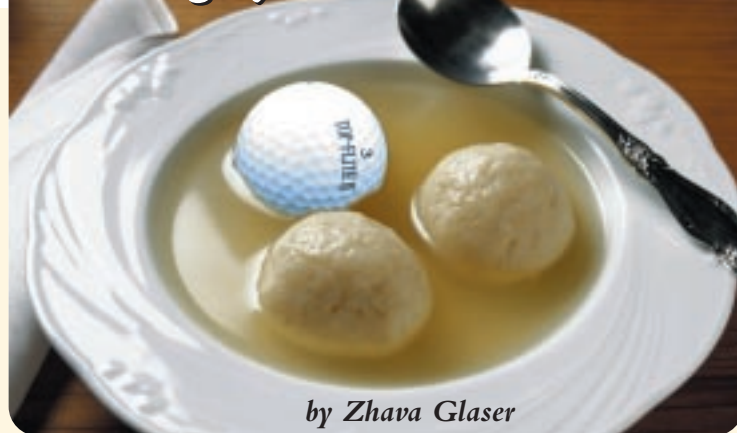
Everybody has an opinion on matzo balls. Who makes the lightest and fluffiest? I must admit my mother-in-law's are the best in the world. I want to share her secret recipe that will help you win any matzo ball opinion survey hands down.

Of course, you start with matzo meal: you can buy it, you can make your own by running pieces of matzo through a food processor until they make a fine flour, or you can do it my way: pick up a package of Manischewitz Matzo Ball Mix!

In a small bowl, lightly beat four eggs together with four tablespoons of vegetable oil. Blend in one cup of matzo meal, about 2 teaspoons of salt, and a bit of garlic and onion powder to taste. Then add THE SECRET INGREDIENT: 1/4 cup of club soda or seltzer (don't tell, but the bubbles are what make the matzo balls so light!). Now it's time for a nap. No, not for you—for the matzo balls! The mixture needs to rest, covered, in the refrigerator for 15 minutes.

YOU still have more work to do! While the matzo ball mixture is resting (shhhhh), bring about 3 quarts of chicken soup

Thoroughly Modern Matzo Balls



by Zhava Glaser

or stock to a brisk boil. Now wet your hands and begin to form the matzo ball mix into 1-inch balls...but it's really important that you don't squeeze them! Remember, the key word is light and fluffy, so go gentle on them! You should have about 16 or so matzo balls—don't worry if you have a few more or less.

Reduce the heat and drop the matzo balls one by one into the boiling soup. Cover the pot tightly and cook for about 30 minutes. Serve them nice and hot, two or three per person.

Between the bubbles in the club soda and your gentle, loving touch in forming them, I guarantee that you'll have the lightest and fluffiest matzo balls on the block.

Enjoy!

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.



Messiah's Messages to the Seven Churches – Part 2

Messiah's words to the seven churches contain messages that are applicable to our day. As we mentioned last month, each message begins with an attribute of the risen Lord and generally contains AN APPROVAL, A REPROOF, A PRESCRIPTION and A REWARD.

The Pergamos Assembly (Rev. 2:12-17)

Beginning with Ephesus and Smyrna, which were covered in last month's issue of *The Chosen People*, John moves on to the church at Pergamos.

In John's day, Pergamos was a center of idol worship. The serpent was their symbol and the city was Satan's seat. Messiah's approval of them is for their faithful testimony in Satan's stronghold and for the martyrdom of Antipas. However, the Lord reproves them for "*the doctrine of Balaam*" (corruption through immorality). Balaam, a false prophet, attempted to curse Israel (Numbers 22-25; see 2 Pet. 2:15; Jude 1:11). Unlike Ephesus, they failed to reject the "*doctrine of the Nicolaitans*" (2:15).

Messiah's prescription for them is similar to that of Ephesus—"*Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them...*" (Revelation 2:16). If they heed Messiah's words, they will receive the reward of "hidden manna" to eat. This reference to God's provision for the Children of Israel during their wilderness wandering also reminds us that Messiah is the "Bread of Life" (John 6:35). The hidden manna reference also shows us how deeply rooted the New Testament Church is in Jewish imagery, even at the end of the first century. The faithful at Pergamos will also receive a white stone and a new name (Revelation 2:17; 3:12). This image points to the High Priest, who wore the names of Israel's tribes on the twelve stones of his breastplate in Exodus 28.

The Assembly at Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)

Thyatira, known for its trade guilds, was located 35 miles southeast of Pergamos. Today, the town of Akhisar in Turkey is in that same location (see Acts 16:14). Messiah found much to commend in this church: "*I know your works, love, service, faith and your patience...*" (2:19). However, Jezebel of Thyatira, a false prophetess, was permitted to teach (2:20).

Messiah's exhortation to them was, "*But hold fast what you have till I come*" (2:25). The Lord wanted this assembly to hold fast in their resistance to evil until His return for His people. If they held fast, their reward would be great—they would be overcomers and have power (rule) over the nations (see Psalm 2:8,9; Revelation 20:6).

The reward for their faith and obedience would also consist of nothing less than the Morning Star—Messiah Himself, the "*Bright and Morning Star*" (Revelation 22:16). This reward assures His very presence as a gift to His people.

God's Promises for God's People

The centuries may pass, but God's sure promises are unchanging. Messiah's messages to the churches teach us that faith and obedience, even in the midst of great trials, are still required of us. If we look to God for endurance, we will find it—through the Messiah, who died for our sins and lives to strengthen us until the Day of His return. ✧

WHEN I AM WEAK, HE IS STRONG

Chosen People Ministries' Percy Johnson was not feeling his best at the Sabbath service he always conducts. The winter chill had come to Montreal and Percy was ill with the flu. Yet, he says, "I found that when I am weak, He is strong." At the end of the service, a Jewish woman approached him. She had been struggling for months with the identity of Yeshua. For one hour, Percy and worship leader Max D. shared the Gospel with her. At the end of their discussion, they were blessed to pray with her to receive the Lord. Percy praised God that "at my weakest moment I was used the most."

I TEACH AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

Cathy Wilson, Chosen People Ministries' staff member in Arizona, recently followed a friend's suggestion that she see her doctor. As she glanced at the business card, she noticed that the physician's name was Jewish. "He's Orthodox," said Cathy's friend. During the appointment, Cathy shared her testimony and told the doctor, "I share about the Jewish roots of Christianity at my church." The doctor then began to tell of the suffering he had experienced since the Holocaust. Cathy responded, "I teach against anti-Semitism." Then, the doctor looked at her with tears in his eyes and said, "God bless you. Thank you—for my people, I thank you."

Pray that the seed that was planted for the Gospel that day will take root.

IN MEMORIAM – REV. DAVID WOODS

Rev. David Woods, a retired Chosen People Ministries missionary, passed away on February 24th. He was raised in Brooklyn, New York and attended classes at the Williamsburg, Brooklyn Branch where he was baptized by the Mission's founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn. Rev. Woods joined the staff in 1960 and ministered in Long Island, New Jersey and Minnesota. He served in the mission until the mid-1980s. Ruth Wardell, who was Rev. Woods' co-worker on Long Island, said, "David was a sincere believer. He had a real knack for making friends and drawing them into the ministry." Rev. Woods is survived by his wife Alma and their children.

THE STAR OF DAVID SHINES IN ARGENTINA

Victor,* the son of a Romanian Jewish father and a Peruvian mother, reluctantly accepted a Messianic Gospel tract from a young man he knew because it had a "Star of David" on the cover. The next day, he dialed the phone number of the pamphlet, and got together with Beto, a Chosen People representative in Victor's home town of Tandil. Beto invited Victor to his house and shared the prophecies that were fulfilled in the New Testament. That night, Victor gave his life to the Lord.

MORE GOSPEL OUTREACH IN PHILADELPHIA

Chosen People Ministries in Philadelphia continues to reach out to the Russian Jewish community through well-planned, special events coordinated with Hananeel House, another evangelistic ministry to the Russian Jewish community. There was an excellent turnout at a concert where several believing Russian Jewish musicians performed and gave their testimonies. Another event that produced good attendance was a showing of the film "The Hiding Place" in Russian. Well over a hundred Russian Jewish people attended these events, the majority of them not yet believers. Many expressed an interest in learning more. Please pray that the testimonies at the concert and the impact of the film will have planted the seed that will bring many to the Lord.

*name changed

I HAVE TO SIT DOWN FOR THIS!
 Staff member Joy G. recently had an opportunity to witness to one of her nursing instructors who happens to be Jewish. When Joy told her, "I believe in Jesus," the woman groped for a chair and responded, "I have to sit down for this!" Joy then told her how the New Testament is the fulfillment of the promises of the Hebrew Scripture. She shared about how God has arranged for us to enter into His perfect Sabbath rest through the Messiah. The woman was so moved by this concept that she said "Wow! I need to talk to my rabbi about this...and do some reading also!" Pray that this seed will grow and bring fruit.





Our own **Messiah in the Passover Kit** has all the tools to help churches, classes, or families have a Passover celebration of their own—includes video, tracts, instruction booklet with recipes, Messianic Passover *Haggadah*, and poster. Passover Kit (#5001) **\$19.95^{US}**

Everything in our special **Passover Set** is made in Israel and can also be purchased individually. The **Matzo tash** (unity) is a pouch with three compartments—each one holds a piece of unleavened bread and is 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. The **Kiddush cup** symbolizes the blood of the Lamb of God.

Each of the four times it is filled during the Passover meal, the story of God's redeeming work among His people is unfolded.

Complete Passover Set (includes plate, cup and Matzo tash; #5027) **\$55.95^{US}**

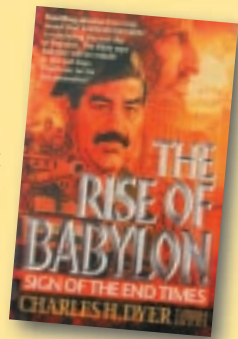
Deluxe Passover Set (includes plate, cup, Matzo tash and Passover kit; #5028) **\$70.95^{US}**

Messiah in the Passover Video
A Gospel presentation of the birth of Christianity, showing how one rabbi (Nick Mancuso) becomes a follower of Yeshua of Nazareth. This drama clearly presents the prophetic nature of the Feast of Passover and its fulfillment in Jesus. Powerful and challenging!
Passover Video (#8026) **\$24.95^{US}**

Order Your Copy of *The Rise of Babylon* Today

All eyes are turned toward Iraq. Will current events there set the stage for the last act of world history as we know it? Saddam Hussein's lust for military conquest and economic power and his hatred of Israel are well documented. But haven't we seen this all before? Dr. Charles Dyer's provocative book, *The Rise of Babylon*, delves into the Scriptures and shows the striking parallels between Saddam Hussein's Iraq and Babylon, its ancient counterpart under King Nebuchadnezzar. It also makes a case that a rebuilt Babylon in our time might trigger the world's final events. It's a stimulating and challenging read that will draw your attention to biblical prophecy and current events. Order your copy today.

The Rise of Babylon (#3102) **\$12.95^{US}**



**CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES
SUMMER PROGRAMS -
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) – June 15-July 12 in Chicago and New York City – Challenging and rewarding short-term mission.

eXperience Israel – July 13-27

Tour Israel and bring God's Word to the Promised Land – for ages 18-35.

TeenSTEP – July 13-19 – NYC

Outreach just for teens.

STEP-in-a-Week – July 13-19 – NYC

The perfect evangelism program if you only have a week to spare.

Simchat Yeladim – July 20-27

Messianic camp for kids ages 8-15. Learn the Scriptures and make Messianic friends!

For more information, call 888-2-YESHUA.

Support Jewish Evangelism through a Charitable Trust

Do you want to see Jewish people reached with the Gospel? There are significant tax advantages to setting up a charitable trust that would support Jewish evangelism during your lifetime. The way it works is this—Chosen People Ministries receives income that the trust generates during your lifetime. Then, the trust reverts to your chosen beneficiaries when you go to be with the Lord.

If you are interested in knowing more about this wonderful way to support Jewish missions, call Doug McEvoy at 1-888-2-YESHUA, extension 223.



Doug & Sally McEvoy

For orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



The Chosen People Newsletter

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

Chosen People Ministries U.S. Board of Directors: Mr. Gary W. Smith, Chairman • Mr. Roy Adams • Dr. Darrell Bock • Mr. Jeffrey Branman • Ms. Cindy Forbes • Dr. Mitch Glaser • Dr. Gregory Hagg • Mr. John Holbrook • Mr. Eugene Johnson • Dr. John L. Pretlove • Dunewood Truglia, Esq. • Mr. David C. Weland

Serving in: Argentina • Australia • Canada • England • France • Germany • Israel • Mexico • Ukraine • United States

The Chosen People newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. For more information, or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to: Chosen People Ministries, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. In Canada, write to: Box 897 Station B, North York, ON M2K 2R1. In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah, PO Box 5006, Glenferrie South VIC 3122 (www.celebratemesiah.com.au) • Editor: Zhava Glaser • Staff Writer: Alan Shore • Art Director: Olivier Melnick • Design: Lois Gable

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)