

The Chosen People



Volume XII, Issue 10 November 2006

Thanking Him for the Harvest

Grapes and dates ready to be harvested in Israel with the Judean hills visible in the background

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

Giving Thanks to the Lord of the Harvest • Israel's Glorious Future
The Transforming Touch of Jesus • David the Warrior King



Our harvest in 2006 came in the form of new believers because of the ministry of faithful workers. One of this summer's Outreach Israel teams is pictured below and on the bottom right are some of those who attended the ROCK Conference in Germany.



Moses and Yeshua Himself—but there have been new names added to the gallery of the faithful, including Leopold and Joseph Cohn, Emil Gruen, Harry Bergen, Daniel Fuchs, Eleanor Bullock, Alexander Marks,

Hilda Koser and so many others now in glory. There are also some who are living witnesses like Muriel Fuchs, Clara Rubin, Ruth Wardell and former presidents Harold Sevenser and Sam Nadler.



My dear friends, the focus of our mission has not changed. Our deepest desire remains to serve our Messiah Jesus by bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people in a Jewish way, and to help those we lead to Him grow in faith and service.

We—and I intentionally say “we” because without you we could not continue in this work—WE are called to advance this great ministry and not simply to be stewards of past achievements. And so we look to the future with a sense of holy urgency because we do not know when the Lord will return. Every day both Jews and Gentiles are going to an eternity without having experienced the saving power of Jesus the Messiah. We cannot rest! We must do more and do it well so that our Jewish people and others will hear the Good News and receive the gift of eternal life.

It is my prayer that our mission will never lose its passion for the salvation of Israel and that we will never accept the complacency and comfort this world offers to us. We must keep our eyes focused on eternity!

Dear friends,

Shalom in His grace! I am especially thankful this Thanksgiving season. As I look ahead to 2007, I am immensely grateful that I will celebrate my tenth year as president of our great mission to the Jewish people this coming May. And we do have much to celebrate! The Lord continues to breathe life into our 113-year-old Mission as we are



growing in numbers, influence, finances and ministry capabilities. Clearly, we are building the future of Chosen People Ministries on more than a century of

the dedication, sacrifice and great achievements of those who have gone before. As the writer of the Book of Hebrews tells us,

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).

There is no doubt in my mind that our ministry has a great cloud of witnesses as well. These witnesses include Noah, Abraham, Sarah,

Thanksgiving for His Blessings upon the Messianic Movement

We must also recognize that Jewish missions and the Messianic movement have entered a new and wonderful season! For this we are GRATEFUL.

There are more Jewish people who believe in Jesus today than there have been since the Second World War. The glory must be given to the Lord, as it would be difficult to trace this growth to the strategies or work of men or women!

There have been two main movements that have increased the numbers of Messianic Jews in the last five decades. The Jesus Movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s was the first wave of renewal among Jewish people, and many of our current leaders, including myself, came to faith at that time.

The second wave is more recent, as we have witnessed the growth of the Messianic movement among Russian Jews throughout the world. We are now at the “tail end” of that movement, and Chosen People Ministries continues to develop the ministries and leaders who have come to the fore as a result of this great stirring of God.

But there is another wave—though a bit smaller at the moment—which is taking place in Israel, as we are now beginning to see quite a few Israelis come to faith. This wave is still young and we have yet to see its full fruition.

For these and many evidences of the Lord's faithfulness WE GIVE THANKS.

Messianic Congregations

The result of the activity of the Holy Spirit among Jewish people through these waves of decisions over the last 35 years has



resulted in both growth and change. One of the major changes has been the proliferation of Messianic congregations across the globe.

There might be as many as 500 Messianic congregations throughout the world at this time, which is about 495 more than there were in 1970!

Chosen People Ministries has planted or helped plant two dozen congregations over the last 20 years, everywhere from Chicago to New York City to Israel and Argentina! Many of our finest missionaries and leaders serve as pastors of Messianic congregations still connected with Chosen People Ministries.

We have so much to be THANKFUL for!

Training Leaders for the Future

Because there are so many new Jewish believers today, we need leaders more than ever. We need missionaries to the Jewish people and those who can lead Messianic congregations. This requires special training for those working within the Jewish community.

This is why I am so THANKFUL and excited about our **Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies**, developing in partnership with Biola University's Talbot School of Theology.

We are attempting to begin a new degree program in New York City through Talbot that will train workers for Jewish ministry. It will include

professors who are either part of Chosen People Ministries or have experience in Jewish ministries. We will be offering a summer program on the Talbot campus this year. We value this relationship, since Talbot is unflinching in preserving the essentials of the Gospel message and our historic Evangelical faith—just as we at Chosen People Ministries strive to be.

We praise God for the way He has increased the movement, and we hope to be used by Him to recruit, train and nurture this new generation of Messianic leaders.

The Future Is Bright!

There is so much more I could say! I think you now understand why I am so grateful to God for what He is doing among the Jewish people through Chosen People Ministries. He is the Lord of the



harvest, and what harvest could be more precious to God than the one He Himself has outlined for these end times? As Paul writes in Romans 11:25-26, *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 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."*

This Thanksgiving, I am THANKFUL to our staff and Board—and to you—for partnering in this great work of reaching His chosen people for our Messiah Jesus...until He comes!

Your brother,

Mitch
Mitch

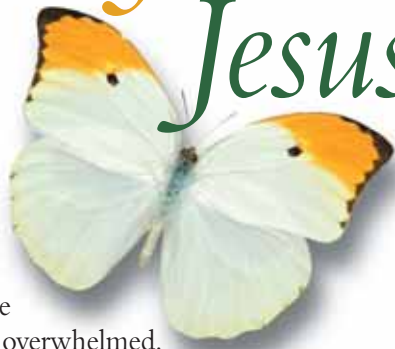


Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Giving Thanks to the LORD of the Harvest



The Transforming Touch of Jesus the Messiah



When we think of the Lord's sweeping promises to Israel and the nations, we are awestruck and overwhelmed.

However, it is good for us to remember that Messiah's ministry was also to ordinary people such as ourselves—men and women whose individual lives were transformed by the healing touch of the Master who dwelt among us.

Their stories are a testimony to the Lord's unfailing love. And through them, our lives and our faith may also be renewed.

Messiah Heals and Forgives

The healing miracles of Messiah were occasions in which He revealed some aspect of His Father's nature at work in Him. One good example is the healing of the paralyzed man recorded in Luke 5:18-25. Imagine the scene: a house so crowded with seekers and skeptics that the man had to be lowered through the roof on his cot! Then, Luke records,

When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God (Luke 5:20-25).

Here we find the dramatic, instantaneous healing of this paralyzed man linked to the gift of forgiveness of sins. Marvelous as physical healing most certainly is, which is the more precious, more lasting gift?

Messiah Overcomes Our Sense of Shame

Another moving story from the Gospels is Luke 8:43-48. It concerns the woman who suffered from a chronic hemorrhage—an affliction that made her ceremonially unclean and therefore isolated and ashamed. It took courage for her to jostle her way through the press of the crowd merely to touch the fringes that Jesus would have worn along with his normal garment. Luke writes,

Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately (Luke 8:47).

Her body healed, the woman then received an even greater gift—words of affirmation from her Lord and Deliverer: *"And He said to her, 'Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.'"*

Messiah Transforms Lives Today

The afflictions of humanity have not changed. We still suffer from physical illnesses, a sense of shame, and above all, a need to be forgiven for our failures in God's sight. But the same Messiah Who came to earth to bear our griefs and carry our sorrows (Isaiah 53:4) is there to welcome us into His presence if we will accept Him as our Master.

That is the Good News foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures and fulfilled in the New Covenant.

Israel's Glorious Future— Redemption in Messiah



The Lord's redeeming love is one of the great threads of the story of salvation that is set forth in the prophets. This love is not only for individuals, but also for the nations. And if it is true for the nations, it is certainly true for Israel!

The story of Israel's redemption is key to the world's future that is foretold by God. This is why it is given such great attention by the Apostle Paul in Romans 9-11. Yet, as marvelous as Israel's restoration may be, it does not stand alone. It is part and parcel of the glorious work of renewal that the Lord knew even from before Creation. The Word reveals so much to us about the redemption and blessing of Israel.

Israel's Election and the Chosen Remnant

The Apostle Paul's characterization of Israel's present situation is captured by the word *remnant*. This concept was familiar to the Jewish readers of Paul's day who were well versed in the Hebrew Bible.

Paul first refers to the remnant in Romans 9, as he quotes from the prophet Isaiah, "*For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return...*" (Isaiah 10:22a). He returns to it again in Romans 11, in the familiar reference of the Lord's answer to Elijah's anguished lament that he was the only faithful Israelite left: "*...I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal*" (Romans 11:4).

Now Paul takes this familiar imagery in a new direction. He writes, "*Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work*" (Romans 11:5-6).

Drawing a parallel between the faithful few of former times, Paul likens them to the Jewish believers in Messiah in his own day. Although these Messianic Jews may not yet be numerous, they stand in the midst of all Israel as faithful followers of the God of Israel and His Messiah.

The Remnant and the End Time

Finally, Paul directs our gaze to the revealed mystery (revelation) toward which all of history presses—a history that is bound up with the inclusion of believing Gentiles and the long-awaited national repentance of Israel. For the concept of the ingathering of the remnant is closely connected with the Day of the Lord—the consummation of history as we know it.

Quoting again from Isaiah, Paul writes, "*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; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins'*" (Romans 11:26-27).

For Paul, the remnant represents those who have been tested and have remained true. They are a sign of hope that points to Israel's glorious future. At "*the fullness of the Gentiles*" (Romans 11:25), Israel will be fully restored to God and the promise to Abraham concerning the nations in Genesis 12:3 will be completely fulfilled.

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



DAVID THE WARRIOR KING

*“...Saul has slain his thousands, and
David his ten thousands” (1 Samuel 18:7).*

The Scriptures portray King David as a skillful and effective warrior. As a man after God’s own heart, David was used by God to preserve Israel. His military record is a good source of information about the nations surrounding Israel against whom he prevailed.

LOT’S DESCENDANTS, THE MOABITES AND AMMONITES

Descendants of Lot through his son Moab, the Moabites occupied the territory east of the Jordan on the Arnon River. It was the Moabites who called upon Balaam to curse Israel in the well-known episode in Numbers 22-24.

When fleeing from King Saul, David took refuge among the Moabites (1 Samuel 22:3,4). But he ultimately devastated the land of Moab, and those who survived became his servants (2 Samuel 8; 1 Chronicles 18).

Jeremiah later prophesied against Moab (Jeremiah 48).

The Ammonites were the descendants of one of the sons of Lot (Genesis 19:38). Not long after Israel settled in the Promised Land, the Ammonite troops assisted the Moabites in war (Judges 3:13). For 18 years, they oppressed Israel in Gilead and crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah and Benjamin (Judges 10:7-18).

David captured Rabbah, their capital, and tremendous loot was carried back to Jerusalem. He took their king’s golden crown, placed it on his own head and made slaves of the Ammonites (2 Samuel 12:26-31; 1 Chronicles 20:1-3).

THE EDMITES, ARAMEANS, SYRIANS AND PHILISTINES

Descendants of Esau, the Edomites were promised territory by divine

command (Deuteronomy 2:4-6). But David destroyed 18,000 of them at the Valley of Salt and forced the entire nation to pay tribute (2 Samuel 8; 1 Chronicles 18). Because they consorted with the enemies of Israel, the prophet Obadiah later pronounced judgment against them.

In the table of nations (Genesis 10), Aram is listed as the son of Shem. The Arameans’ area included Damascus and a large portion of Syria. King David destroyed their forces at the Euphrates, captured 1,700 cavalry and 20,000 infantry and lamed their chariot horses (2 Samuel 8; 1 Chronicles 18).

The Scriptures record two major campaigns against Syria. In the first, David’s forces killed 22,000 Syrians from Damascus (2 Samuel 8:5-8; 1 Chronicles 18:5-8). In the second, David gathered all Israel together, passed over the Jordan, slew 700 charioteers and 40,000 horsemen and forced the Syrians to make peace and to serve Israel (2 Samuel 10:15-19).

In addition to all of the above, David fought six successful military campaigns against the Philistines, whose forces included some of Goliath’s gigantic relatives.

LESSONS FROM THE WARRIOR DAVID

It is little wonder that when David purposed in his heart to build a house for the Lord, God declared to him, “...You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war...” (1 Chronicles 28:3). War is not a state to which we should aspire.

However, as believers in Jesus, we are involved daily in spiritual warfare. We wrestle, not “against flesh and blood” but “against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Let us rejoice that God has provided for our victory as we “...take up the whole armor of God...” (Ephesians 6:13). ☆



Olivier Melnick

FERVENT PRAYERS BRING FRUIT FOR THE KINGDOM

The fruit of consistent prayer has been harvested in the family of a Jewish friend of Olivier Melnick, one of our faithful staff members in Southern California. Olivier reports, "We have had many chances to share with Clara's* elderly parents over the last couple of years. Then, after many visits to our home Bible study and congregation, Clara's mother invited the Messiah into her heart. We all rejoiced! Clara's father, however, continued to claim to be an atheist. We kept on praying and received our answer. Now, he has also decided to receive the Lord. Our friend Clara can hardly contain her joy!"

STAND WITH ISRAEL RALLY RAISES FUNDS FOR ISRAEL

Staff member Dennis K. and his Messianic congregation in Virginia sponsored a Saturday night rally called "Stand with Israel." Over 150 people from many different congregations came to worship, pray, give and stand with Israel. The worship team was comprised of musicians and singers from four different Messianic congregations and Dennis gave a talk on the biblical understanding of what is going on in the Middle East. The rally raised over \$4,000, which was immediately sent to Chosen People Ministries and others in Israel providing support for the war victims.



LONG LOST BROTHER FINDS LIFE IN MESSIAH

Tony Savarese, who is on staff with Chosen People Ministries in San Diego, had a special Jewish New Year's present this year: a new brother in the Lord—literally! Tony's brother, with whom he had lost contact almost 15 years ago, called after locating the Savareses on the Chosen People Ministries web site. Tony's brother said that he had found the Lord and wanted to visit them. On the second day of the Jewish New Year, at the congregation the Savareses attend, Tony had the joy of seeing his brother give testimony of how he gave his life to Messiah, and watching him be baptized.



Tony Savarese

*Names changed

A CHILD'S FAITH

Anna B., one of our staff members in Toronto, and her husband Vladimir, hosted some new Jewish friends, Sonia* and her small grandson Dov*, for a *Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year's) service. Throughout the service, the young boy kept asking Anna, "What did he say? What does it mean?" Anna explained how he could open his heart to the Messiah. Then the boy climbed into a chair and bowed his head. He whispered some words and then sat for a little longer. Then he slid off the chair and said to Anna, "I did open my heart to Messiah, now what?" Please pray for Dov and his family—that they will also become believers and that Dov will grow through proper discipleship and nurture.

SALVATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Staff member Mark Ellick has an active ministry of visitation in Southern California. While visiting with a homebound believer, the man's wife, Sandra*, who was not a believer, stayed in the room and listened to Mark read the Bible. When Mark finished reading, he engaged Sandra in a discussion about the Gospel. At the conclusion of their talk, Mark asked her if she would like to pray with him to receive the Lord. She was ready, and prayed to do so. Sandra is now worshipping regularly and reading the Bible. We rejoice with them—and especially with her believing husband. Now they are truly one in Messiah.



Mark Ellick

FAITH DECISION COMES DURING HONOLULU HOMECOMING

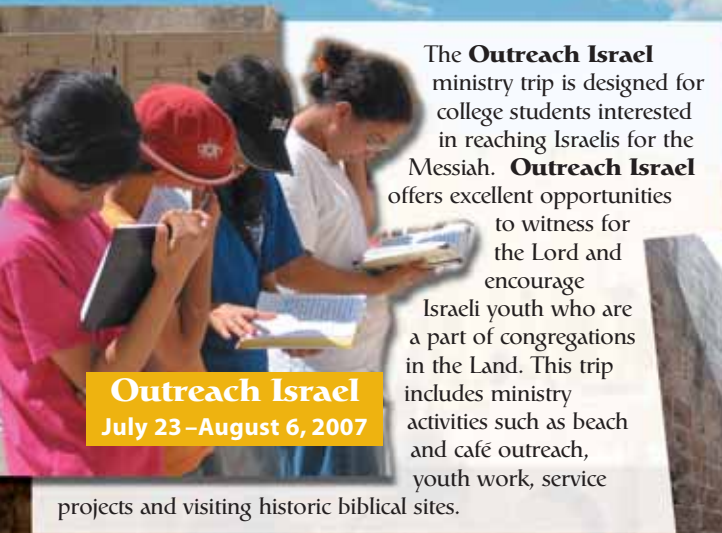
Although Henry and Darlene Matarrita live in Israel now, Hawaii is still like home to them. During a visit there, the Matarritas met several Israelis who were discouraged by the way Israel was being portrayed in light of the war with Hezbollah. After Shoshannah* heard them speak to her in basic Hebrew, she began crying as she realized how these two non-Jewish believers loved her. She was touched that the Matarritas understood her situation and she asked them what they do in Israel. After hearing the Gospel, Shoshannah was ready to receive the Lord. Right there in the famous Ala Moana Shopping Center in Honolulu, Shoshannah gave her heart to the Messiah.



The Matarritas

Walk in the Footsteps of Yeshua the Messiah

Israel is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both. A tour with Chosen People Ministries will draw you closer to the Lord and give you a whole new perspective on your walk with God.



Outreach Israel
July 23–August 6, 2007

The **Outreach Israel** ministry trip is designed for college students interested in reaching Israelis for the Messiah. **Outreach Israel** offers excellent opportunities to witness for the Lord and encourage Israeli youth who are a part of congregations in the Land. This trip includes ministry activities such as beach and café outreach, youth work, service

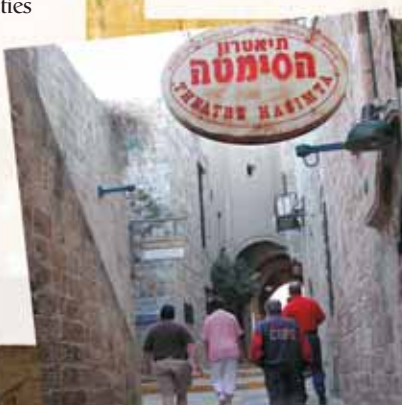
projects and visiting historic biblical sites.



For more information on any of these tours, visit www.chosenpeople.com, call 888-2-YESHUA (888-293-7482), or email opportunities@chosenpeople.com.

The **eXperience Israel** ministry tour is an adventure into the world of Yeshua for young people ages 18 to 35. You will enjoy insightful Messianic teaching, passionate worship and unique opportunities to commune with God as you walk through the pages of biblical history. You will also experience a number of outreach and service opportunities. The **eXperience Israel** ministry tour is guaranteed to provide life-changing encounters with God, His Land, and His people.

eXperience Israel
July 7–22, 2007



Impact Israel
March 5–15, 2007

Impact Israel is a ministry trip especially designed for adults who have a passion to reach Israelis with the Good News of Yeshua. You will tour a number of significant biblical sites but spend the majority of your time ministering to Israelis. The tour offers a glimpse into the connection between Jewish history and what the Lord is doing in Israel today. Join Dr. Ben Alpert, host of more than 45 tours to the Land of Israel, and Dr. Rich Freeman on an excursion throughout Israel from Tel Aviv to Joffa to the Mediterranean coast to the Dead Sea to Galilee and Jerusalem.

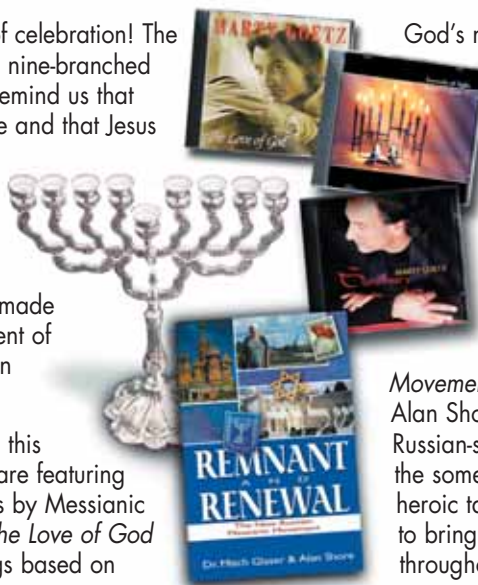
Hanukkah Gift Giving

- The Love of God CD [4019] • \$19.95^{USD}
- Festivals of Light CD [4050] • \$19.95^{USD}
- Sanctuary CD [4044] • \$19.95^{USD}
- Special **10% discount** when you buy all three for \$50.00 [4054]
- Hanukkah Menorah [5023] • \$33.95^{USD}
- Remnant and Renewal [3115] • \$13.95^{USD}

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. For a larger selection of resources, visit www.chosenpeople.com. **For phone orders in the U.S. call 1-800-333-4936.**

Hanukkah is a time of celebration! The flickering lights of the nine-branched Hanukkah menorah remind us that God is mighty to save and that Jesus the Messiah is truly the "Light of the World." Now you can own this beautifully crafted Hanukkah menorah, made in Israel, as a statement of your faith and hope in the Jewish Messiah.

Give the gift of music this year. This month we are featuring three moving releases by Messianic artist Marty Goetz. *The Love of God* features timeless songs based on



God's never-ending love for His people. *Festivals of Light* celebrates both the music of Hanukkah and the songs of Christmas—with a Jewish believer. *Sanctuary* is a beautiful album containing many songs from Scriptures.

Remnant and Renewal: The New Russian Messianic Movement by Dr. Mitch Glaser and Alan Shore tells the story of the Russian-speaking Jewish people, and the sometimes heartbreaking, often heroic tales of those who have sought to bring the Messiah to them throughout their troubled history.



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)



A higher standard. A higher purpose.