

# The Chosen People



Volume XIII, Issue 9 November 2007

# New York City

*The Heart & Soul  
of the American  
Jewish Community*



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# New York City— The Heart of the American Jewish People



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**S**halom from the heartland of world Jewry! That's right — there are still more Jewish people living in New York City than in any other city in the world.

Of course, from a purely spiritual perspective, there is no place on earth like Israel and no city in the world like Jerusalem. But when it comes to sheer numbers of Jewish people, New York City has more potential as a Jewish mission field than anyplace else!

I want to tell you a little about how my personal story and the history of Chosen People Ministries converge, and how reaching the millions of Jewish people living in the New York City area is *still* one of our greatest passions and priorities.

## A Road with Many Turnings

I was born in Brooklyn — which I joke is the “true Holy Land.” My

grandparents were immigrants from Eastern Europe and my mom and dad saw to it that we had a very Jewish home! But in time, I simply found myself far more interested in other things besides Judaism. Eventually I rebelled and after dropping out of college in 1970, I left for San Francisco and became a “hippie.” You can only imagine the kind of life I led!

But my two best friends, also Jewish New Yorkers who were living in San Francisco, became believers and shared the Gospel with me. I told them they were both “meshugenah” (a wonderful Yiddish word that means “pleasantly crazy”). But in spite of myself, I became interested and one day, I asked God to show me if Jesus was the Messiah.

That evening, I found a New Testament in a phone booth in the

middle of a redwood forest at a campground where I was living and working at the time. I “stole” the Bible and began reading it. Soon, I came to realize that Jesus was Jewish and that He was the Messiah of Israel. I became a believer just before Thanksgiving of 1970. In fact, Thanksgiving was the first holiday I ever celebrated as a believer.

I became involved with the Northern California branch of the American Board of Missions to the Jews (now Chosen People Ministries), which paid my way through Bible college — and for which I will be forever grateful. I then attended seminary at the Talbot School of Theology (part of Biola University) where I studied with Dr. Charles Feinberg, who was the founding Dean of the school and who himself came to faith through

Chosen People Ministries as an Orthodox Jew in the early 1920s.

While at seminary, I joined the staff of Jews for Jesus and worked with that ministry for more than two decades. When I received the blessing of the leadership to move back to New York City, my *dream for ministry* had come true! All I really wanted to do in life was to serve the Lord in New York City—reaching my family and friends for Jesus.

### My Heart for Ministry in New York City

I moved my young family to Brooklyn and was the head of the New York branch for five years. Eventually I felt it was time for me to leave Jews for Jesus. I did so, but did not leave my ministry in New York City.

I served for 15 months with Ariel Ministries — another Jewish work that also had a relationship to Chosen People Ministries. Both Arnold Fruchtenbaum, the founder of Ariel Ministries and Moishe Rosen, the founder of Jews for Jesus, came to know the Lord through Chosen People Ministries! I cannot tell you how many missionaries to the Jewish people have come to faith through Chosen People Ministries since the Mission began in 1894!

Chosen People Ministries was looking for a new president in 1997 and asked if I would be interested. The problem was that the Mission had moved its headquarters to Charlotte, North Carolina. My wife Zhava—who had also come to faith through Chosen People Ministries—and I felt it was the Lord's will that we could not take the position unless we could stay in New York City.

The Board agreed and for a few years I traveled to Charlotte for one week each month. I was thrilled when we moved the offices back to New York City and recruited a wonderful team to serve here. Today,



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we are literally bursting at the seams in our three-story Messianic Center and headquarters located in the heart of Manhattan!

We have started Bible studies, a Messianic congregation, and outreaches among Russian Jews in Brooklyn and in New Jersey. We are serving in the suburbs sharing the Gospel with Jewish students and working to reach the hundreds of thousands of Israelis living in New York City. We have seen a steady stream of Jewish people coming to faith in Jesus in the greater New York area, but even after ten years, I feel as if we have just begun to reach the Jewish people in this great city.

### Renewing Our Commitment to Our Roots

New York City is where Chosen People Ministries started, and I am glad to tell you that we are still here! We have not wavered from the vision that our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, put forth 113 years ago—to reach our beloved Jewish people with the Good News of Jesus the Messiah.

We are thrilled that the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies in New York City is now up and running! But right now, we are out of space and praying about what the Lord would have us do to find more room in this *space-squeezed* city. Some friends have suggested that we sell our building and move to the

suburbs, where it is cheaper. We — my staff and Board — have said a resounding NO! We want to stay in the heart of the city, which is the most strategic spot for us to reach Jewish people in the New York area. Please pray for wisdom and for God's provision!

Also, please pray that the Jewish people in this area would become open to the Lord. More than anything in the world, we want our fellow Jewish people to know, along with us, that He loves us and sent His Son to save His people from sin.

Would you consider sending a gift this month to help us in our work? We have already had to rent some additional space for ministry and have taken on additional staff to meet the demands of our growing ministry in New York City and around the world.

We have a matching grant of \$50,000. If you give a gift today of \$75 or more, it will be doubled dollar for dollar by funds held in our Daniel Fuchs Memorial Fund — up to \$50,000. Let me know on the enclosed response card if you would like your gift to be matched.

Thanks again for loving us and loving God's chosen people.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Ever since my first Thanksgiving as a believer almost 37 years ago, I have had a special love for this holiday. I am so thankful for all the Lord has done in my life and I am thankful for you and for your love and prayers for the Jewish people.

In Him,

  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

P.S. If you would like a copy of a DVD of my full testimony, just let us know on the card and we will send it to you!



**For several weeks this summer, our STEP team shared the love of Jesus with people on the streets of New York City and encouraged folks to attend the debate.**

New York City and the Jewish people have long been linked with Jewish life. As the city's Jewish community has expanded, Chosen People Ministries' evangelistic outreach has grown along with it. Now we are meeting the challenge in city and suburb in a variety of ways.

### **The Strong and Vibrant Jewish Community in New York City**

New York City is one of the most exciting centers of Jewish life in the world, so it should come as no surprise that ministry in this great city would take creative and cutting-edge forms. There are many kinds of Jewish people here, and each group requires its own particular approach.

In this modern-day Athens where the exchange of ideas is one of the primary pastimes, book tables laden with Gospel literature are a surefire way to start conversations. Staff members often give out New Testaments and other Gospel

literature as they engage people in spirited discussion at tables on university campuses or in city parks. One Israeli woman stopped by our literature table in Central Park to read the text of Isaiah 53 in Hebrew



that was prominently displayed. Reaching the end of the passage, she declared resolutely: "This is talking about Jesus!" She soon accepted Him as her Messiah!

The Jewish people of New York City may be found in virtually every walk of life. One important segment of the population consists of business executives and other highly accomplished professionals. These well-educated, hardworking and ambitious men and women are not easily impressed. For this reason, Chosen People Ministries puts on programs with well-known speakers at strategically-located venues.

Dr. Mitch Glaser, President of Chosen People Ministries, and his wife thrive on the opportunities such events offer. At a special outreach banquet held at the Yale Club in midtown Manhattan, they were seated next to two Jewish seekers

# All Around Message

who came at the invitation of Christian friends. Both of them came to faith in the Messiah soon after the event.

### **Jewish Immigrants – Newcomers Awaiting New Life in Messiah**

Jewish immigrants have always played an integral part in New York City's pulsating energy. From the beginning, Chosen People Ministries has paid special attention to Jewish newcomers. After all, the Mission's founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, was himself an immigrant from Hungary. These days, the most numerous and visible group of Jewish immigrants is from the former Soviet Union. Some of our most gifted staff are from this group as well.

Reaching this particular sector of the Jewish population requires patience, sensitivity and understanding. Many of them reside with extended families, and one of the most fascinating and close-knit subcultures of Jewish immigrant life is that of the Bukharan Jewish people who have immigrated mainly from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Numbering about 50,000 in New York City, they are concentrated in the borough of Queens, where staff members Randall and Luda Ford have painstakingly labored over the past several years.

Luda says, "You have to get to know the people and allow them to know you before anything truly meaningful will happen. They are frightened that if they receive the

# the Town with Messiah's of Redemption

Lord, they will be cut off from their community. There was one family where one of the brothers kept rebuffing us. Then he had a heart attack and, as we visited with them over and over, he gradually became more open. We kept the relationship going, calling on them and inviting them to our home. At last, as we discussed the sacrifice of Messiah yet again, the man finally understood. And as he did he exclaimed, 'Now I believe!' As an influential family member, we pray that his testimony will have a powerful effect on his entire family."

## Reaching into the Suburbs

Jewish life in America is changing, and nowhere is this more greatly reflected than in the New York area. The earlier Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who landed in New York City once numbered about two million. As they gained a firm



**Programs designed to attract Jewish seekers—like this live debate in June—are held at strategically-located venues.**

foothold, their children and grandchildren have moved to the suburbs to raise their families. One of the most important suburban centers of Jewish population is Westchester County, about 20 miles north of the city, where Adam and Susannah [redacted] minister. This is one of the most challenging fields of ministry in the already challenging field of Jewish missions.

Like many others, the dream of Jewish immigrants has been to be able to escape from the crowded city into the fresh air of suburban life. These Jewish suburbanites have found their newly-acquired homes and gardens a mixed blessing. For one thing, many of them still have one foot in the city, as they commute to their jobs. As a result, the lives they have envisioned for themselves have turned out to be stressful and draining. Weekends, once a blessed island of relaxation amid the struggles of the workaday world, have become another hectic round of obligations.

Reaching this rather over-scheduled group is especially difficult as elsewhere in the city, but special events provide good opportunities. Adam relates, "David,\* a Conservative Jew, sat with great interest at one special service. He participated in what was familiar and listened intently to what was new. For the first time he heard that God would send a Servant into this world to 'bear the sin for many.' At the end of the service, we exchanged words for a few moments and he said,

*\*name changed*



'I have never been at a service that made sense to me and made me want to seek God.' Within a week, I was sitting in his living room sharing the Good News. I pray that this will be the first of many more meetings."

## Always Changing, but Much the Same

The Jewish people of New York City and its suburbs present an ever-changing face. Yet the fundamental need is always the same—Messiah's saving message, clothed in His redeeming love. Chosen People Ministries is, as always, ready and able to reach out to the various New York Jewish communities with the Lord's help.

The new Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies is already bringing dedicated future workers to this great Jewish population center. In the near future, we plan to open a Messianic Center in Brooklyn and to expand our outreach to the young, vibrant and more traditional Jewish community on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Steve and Carol Fenchel have already established a foothold in the area through the congregation they have planted, but more needs to be done as the opportunities are great!

# See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



## DAVID'S PSALM OF GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE

### GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE

*"Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or, where can I flee from Your presence?  
(Ps. 139:7).*

Psalm 139 is a marvelous meditation of the omnipresence of the Lord of Creation. In it, David teaches us that God is essentially everywhere present in heaven and earth. Years later, the prophet Jeremiah expressed much the same thought as he proclaimed, "*Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?*" says the LORD; *'Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD'*" (Jer. 23:24).

Simply stated, the doctrine of God's omni (all) presence teaches the following: (1) God is everywhere present, for everything is subject to His AUTHORITY, (2) everything is sustained by His POWER, and (3) all

things are open and laid bare before Him because of His KNOWLEDGE.

### GOD IS PRESENT IN HEAVEN

*"If I ascend into heaven, You are there..."  
(Ps. 139:8a).*

Omnipresence is a difficult concept to grasp. If God is everywhere, how can we say that He is anywhere in particular? It may be helpful to think of God as a king who may dwell in a city while his regal presence is felt throughout his empire. The writer of Hebrews stated, "*But you have come to...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...to God the Judge of all...*" (Heb. 12:22-23)

While God sits in heaven (Ps. 2:4) and dwells on high (Ps. 113:5), we are told with the same breath that the earth is His footstool (Isa. 66:1).

### GOD IS PRESENT IN SHEOL (HELL)

*"If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there" (Ps. 139:8b).*

How can it be said that God is in hell? For some, God will be present in hell by His absence, and for them will be reserved "the blackness of darkness forever" (Jude v.13b). Others will be tormented before the very throne of God (Rev. 14:9-10).

There will be no atheists in hell. All sinners will be forced to bow their knees (Phil. 2:10) and to realize they have chosen to separate themselves from the love and truth of God (2 Thes. 2:10-12).

### GOD'S PRESENCE PERVADES BOTH DARKNESS AND LIGHT

*"Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You....For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Ps. 139:12-14).* The Hebrew text of verse 13 states, "*... You knit me together in my mother's womb.*"

These verses refute the teaching of evolution, for not only was God present in the original creation (Gen. 1-2), but also in every conception and birth, which here are considered His handiwork.

The greatest example of God's presence is Yeshua's coming to earth to dwell in a morally darkened world. He stated that, "*men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil*" (Jn. 3:19). Yet we may rejoice that God has not left us in this condition. He has given us a choice:

*"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness" (Jn. 12:46). ✠*

## THE SON SHINES IN MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA

Mar del Plata, which is on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, is Argentina's premier seaside resort. While it is a popular spot for sun-worshippers from around the world, it is also home to a small number of Jewish people. While ministering there, Ricardo Chemi, Chosen People Ministries' South America director, was able to share the Gospel with another Jewish man named Ricardo. Ricardo visited him with Gospel literature and, after a time, another Jewish Ricardo was added to the Kingdom!

## JEWISH MAN FINDS NEW LIFE IN THE JEWISH NEW YEAR

Larry Feldman, who leads Chosen People Ministries' Messianic congregation in Southern California, has led many Jewish people to Messiah. About a year ago, a new married couple in Larry's congregation introduced him to a young Jewish man who was not yet a believer. This young man accompanied Larry on his congregation's trip to Israel and asked many pointed questions throughout the tour. After their return, he attended services and often visited with Larry to discuss more about the Messiah. Finally, this fall on the day before Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year), he came into the office and said he believed Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah!

## NEW LIFE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Boris Goldin, Chosen People Ministries staff member in the Miami suburb of Hallendale, recently led a Russian Jewish woman to receive the Lord. As in so many other cases, this woman experienced a difficult life and was brought to a Messianic worship service by loving friends. Deeply touched by Boris' Gospel message, the reverent spirit of worship in the service and the authentic love of Messiah, the woman stayed after the service and heard the testimonies of a number of people there who reached out to her. Then, her heart was turned and she prayed to receive the Lord.



## BRINGING THE GOSPEL FROM "THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" TO JERUSALEM

We know that the Great Commission commands Jesus' followers to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth, but who

would have guessed how far some would travel to bring the Gospel to Israel? Mark Lam, Chosen People Ministries' newly-appointed Hong Kong director, organized a team of about a dozen Hong Kong residents, led by Gordon L., who flew to Israel for a short-term mission. Please pray that the seeds that were planted during their stay will bear fruit, and that our staff will be able to follow up with the people they encountered.



## BOROUGH PARK SYMPOSIUM BRINGS MESSIANIC LEADERS TOGETHER

Last month marked a watershed moment in the Messianic movement as almost 70 Messianic leaders and observers from around the world gathered in New York City for the "Borough Park Symposium," whose organizing committee Chosen People Ministries helped to form. This Symposium, named for the Orthodox community in Brooklyn where preliminary discussions were held, tackled such subjects as how the Good News relates to the Jewish people, salvation and the Jewish people, and strategies for developing cooperation among various Jewish missions and Messianic congregations. Pray that there would be much fruit from this Symposium.

BOROUGH PARK SYMPOSIUM

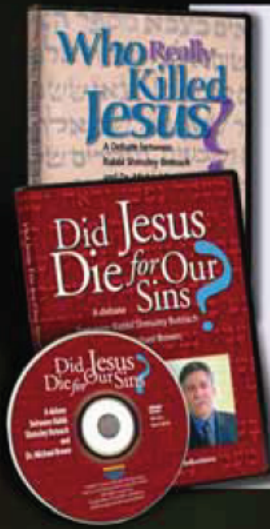
October 2007



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
 נר-דברך הוא לרגלי ואור לנתיבותי  
 (Psalm 119:105)

## JEWISH ARTIST EMBARKS ON "ROAD TO EMMAUS"

One of our faithful staff members in Israel met a young Jewish man while in the U.S. The epitome of the struggling artist, this young man lives alone and paints day and night. He told our staff member that he volunteers in Israel and made a point of asking her if she was Jewish. She explained her belief that Jesus is the Messiah and the conversation abruptly ended. However, having learned of his need for a contact person for his artwork in Israel, she offered to help. Touched by this generosity, he became open to hearing her testimony. At the end of their conversation, she prayed for him, and the next day, he left for Israel. A week later, she received a hand-painted card with the following message citing Luke 24: "Thank you for putting me on the road to Emmaus."

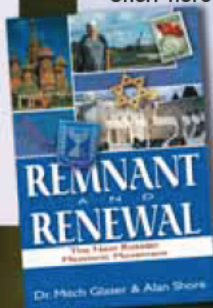


Watch as Messianic Jewish scholar Dr. Michael Brown and Orthodox Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, one of America's best-known rabbis, argue for two very different interpretations of Scripture. Originally held on the first day of summer 2007 on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, the "Did Jesus Die for Our Sins?" debate features opposing viewpoints about the hard questions surrounding the identity of the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. Another spirited debate, "Who Really Killed Jesus?", reflects the 2,000-year-old controversy that surrounds this question. This DVD will provide a number of surprising and even startling conclusions as to who was really responsible for the death of Jesus. This is a must-see for anyone seeking the truth about Messiah. This special two-DVD set from Chosen People Ministries usually sells for \$40.

two-DVD Debate Set [8037]

special holiday price of \$29.95<sup>US</sup>

Who are the Jewish people of the former Soviet Union and what is their relationship to the Gospel? *Remnant and Renewal (The New Russian Messianic Movement)* tells the story of the Russian-speaking Jewish people and of the sometimes heartbreaking, often heroic tales of those who have sought to bring the Gospel to them throughout their troubled history. These personal testimonies were compiled by Dr. Mitch Glaser and Alan Shore.



Remnant and Renewal

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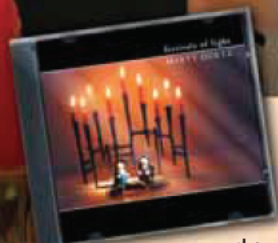
price \$13.95<sup>US</sup>

## Giving for the Festivals of Light

For phone orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936

For a larger selection of resources, visit [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com)

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.



The latest offering of holiday music by Messianic Psalmist Marty Goetz is a wonderful combination of traditional Christmas and Hanukkah songs. Though these are very different holidays, they have two things in common: music and light! We invite you to enjoy the Festivals of Light album and the celebration of our Messiah's birth.

Festivals of Light - CD [4050] price \$19.95<sup>US</sup>

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.

Come **See Israel through Jewish Eyes** when you join Chosen People Ministries in the Holy Land in April 2008.

For those interested in reaching Israelis for the Messiah, ministry trips to Israel are planned for the summer of 2008: **eXperience Israel** for young people ages 18-35 and **Outreach Israel** for college students. For more on any of these trips, visit [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com), email [opportunities@chosenpeople.com](mailto:opportunities@chosenpeople.com) or call 888-2-YESHUA.

This is the perfect time of the year to consider the impact of your giving on the kingdom of God and realize the tax benefits on all gifts donated by December 31. Furthermore, your gift is an immeasurable blessing to faith-based missionaries who need your support. There are also special benefits you can learn about if you choose to donate a gift of stock or another asset.

For more information, please call Doug McEvoy at 212-223-2252



### 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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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, International Headquarters, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. In Canada, write to: Box 897 Station B, North York, ON, M2K 2R1. In Great Britain, write to: P.O. Box 47871, Golders Green, London, NW11 1AL ([www.chosenpeople.org.uk](http://www.chosenpeople.org.uk)). In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah Australia, P.O. Box 304, Caulfield, South Vic 3162, Australia ([www.celebratemesiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemesiah.com.au)). Editors: Zhava Glaser, Andrew Sparks; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Designer: Lois Gable.



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



A higher standard. A higher purpose.