



# Evangelism

PERSON to PERSON

August 2008

Dear Friend,

Shalom from Israel! Zhava and I have been in the Holy Land for the last six weeks, encouraging our staff and meeting Israelis, both believers and non-believers. We want to be as much help as possible to the great team we have in Israel. I feel as if I have one ear to the ground and one ear towards heaven asking the Lord to help me and our Israel staff to determine the best strategy for sharing the Good News among Israelis.

I would like to tell you some of what our staff and volunteers have done in Israel this summer, but I also want you to know about some **very exciting developments** in New York City. We focus our summer short-term mission teams on Israel and New York because **these two places contain more than 75% of the world's Jewish population!**

So this month, in place of our usual issue of *The Chosen People* newsletter, I want to fill you in on some of our summer evangelistic activities. After all, you have made so much of this ministry among the Jewish people possible through your prayers and support!

## Summer Evangelists in STEP

Chosen People Ministries' Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) in New York City, which was held from June 15-23, has been a key element of

The 2008 STEP team gears up for a day of street evangelism in New York City





First Outreach Event at the Brooklyn Messianic Center

our short-term missions for many years. We find that the right combination of training, evangelistic opportunities and exposure to New York City's rich heritage of Jewish history and culture proves to be a very memorable investment of time and resources.

This year, one of our special outreach events was a lecture on the spiritual roots of antisemitism—the first special event to be held at our new Brooklyn Messianic Center, which is in the heart of a very Jewish neighborhood!

Jennifer Rodgers, one of our gifted young leaders, wrote a stirring report about the event:

Many of the Russian Jewish believers happily interacted with the young ladies, sharing the Gospel and loving these ones who desired to pull people away from the Gospel message.

*Our STEP team was on the streets near the new Center passing out fliers and inviting people to come to a lecture on the spiritual roots of antisemitism. The team encountered both interest and opposition by the locals, they learned that there was now a nearby Center proclaiming Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah.*

*As the lecture began, Russian Jewish believers and seekers gathered to hear Greg Zhelezny share about antisemitism*

*throughout history and tell about the Messiah of Israel and His redeeming work. As the evening progressed, a group of Orthodox Jewish people gathered outside of the Center, protesting the message of Jesus and arguing over the validity of presenting Him as Messiah.*

*Near the end of the lecture, six young Orthodox Jewish women came into the Messianic Center and stood in the back of the room. As Greg finished his message, he opened up the floor for questions. Immediately, the group of Orthodox women moved to the front of the room. One of the young ladies turned to address the crowd and began to argue that Jesus could not be the Messiah, and that we should not be teaching these things to Jews. Greg asked the girls if he might speak with them after the event, and our music team closed the evening.*

*After the lecture was finished, the Orthodox women remained in the building attempting to convince the attendees that they should not believe in Jesus, or listen to those teaching about Him. Our missionaries, including Mitch Glaser and many of the Russian Jewish believers, interacted with the young ladies, sharing the Gospel and loving these ones who desired to pull people away from the Gospel message.*

**So began the ministry of the Brooklyn Messianic Center!**

We also had a successful event on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, reaching a very different type of Jewish population. We handed out tracts, took surveys, set up a café in our New York Center, and invited non-believers to visit and talk. I wish you could have been there!

Maybe next summer you can be one of our short-term missionaries in



The STEP team handed out tracts prior to the event



New York City. This could be a great opportunity for your congregation or church to do this type of evangelism. Call Robynne at (212) 223-2252 if you think you might like to do this.

I have had doors open easily to evangelistic opportunities because people have sincerely asked me to share in their lives.



## Outreach Israel and eXperience Israel: Shining the Gospel Light in the Land of Promise

I love hearing from Rachel G. Since she moved to Israel, her emails are brimming with an extra helping of vitality added to her already vibrant walk with Messiah. As she does every summer, Rachel leads teams of young evangelists who are part of Outreach Israel, our summer program for young people in the Holy Land. Rachel shared some reports with me from the young people who were part of Outreach Israel:

*One day at the Holocaust Memorial, I spoke to an army officer who was so impressed that I had come to Israel. I have had doors open easily for evangelistic opportunities because people have sincerely asked me to share in their lives. Another day, I was walking down the street asking directions and one young man offered to guide me. As we conversed, and I told him I was a Jewish Studies major, he was really curious about my faith. He was amazed that I, a believer in Jesus the Messiah, really cared about the Jewish people.*

—Brandi R.

*At sunset one night, when we were camping on the Sea of Galilee, I saw three girls wanting to have their picture taken together. I offered to do it, and then they invited me to sit and chat with them. They told me about their lives in Israel and about how going into the army had shaped them. I found so many points of contact with them, and it was so natural to share my faith. Tyler (another team member) gave them a Hebrew New Testament. We've already been in contact with them over the Internet.*

— Rebekah S.

eXperience Israel, led by Justin Kron, is a short-term missions program designed for young adults who want to engage with God by walking through the pages of biblical history and serving the people who live there. Each year, our teams have unique opportunities to be the hands and feet of Messiah in the Land where it all began. After participating in the program, one team member wrote:

*My faith unequivocally grew as a result of the trip. Being able to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and actually see the sites that are discussed in the Bible was invaluable. I now have a better perspective on the land of Israel, its people, and their culture.*

Aren't these striking accounts? Think of it—ministering in the Land where



Outreach Israel can be a time of real spiritual growth as team members worship in the Land of Messiah and minister to others like these newly immigrated Ethiopian Jews (pictured above)



Touring and shopping is also part of the Israeli experience



Each year young people from the States participate in one of several ministry trips to Israel. Justin Kron (top right) teaching the eXperience Israel team.

Messiah Himself ministered, sharing the Gospel that He first proclaimed twenty centuries ago. And it can be so easy and natural as we go to places where young believers from the States can mingle with young Israelis. Believe me, this “conversational” evangelistic strategy really works.

If you are between 18 and 30 years old and are interested in Outreach Israel or eXperience Israel, please call Robynne at (212) 223-2252.



## Help Us Beat the Summer Slump

I do not often ask you to help us by sending additional funds during the summer, but this time I really need to ask. As you can see, we are doing as much outreach and evangelism during the summer—or more—as we do during the rest of the year. But we, like many other ministries, are beginning to feel the pinch of reduced giving. I sympathize every time I fill up at the gas pump!

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The summer—and August in particular—is often a great challenge because many people are on vacation, and some of our regular supporters are not home to put a check in the mail. Along with the financial strain on all of us, plus our increased evangelistic activities across the globe, I am concerned that some of our missionaries who are raising support and some of our these critical projects will be under-funded.

The summer can become a real problem for some of our missionaries, as they need our monthly support to receive their regular salary package. We are “faith missionaries” and we all raise our support—including me. I know God will supply—but because I love our staff, I do need to ask.

**Would you think about sending in an extra \$50, or maybe even doubling your usual gift this month?** If you have never given before, now is the time to send a gift of support for Jewish evangelism.

My dear friend in the Messiah, I will leave the rest to the Lord and to you—and whatever you are able to send during August will be much appreciated.

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



Chosen People Ministries