

The Chosen People



Volume XV, Issue 10 November 2009

EXTENDING MESSIAH'S MINISTRY IN ISRAEL

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THE TEL AVIV MESSIANIC CENTER

EXTENDING MESSIAH'S MINISTRY IN ISRAEL



Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City! Our entire Chosen People Ministries family is very excited about our new Messianic Center in Tel Aviv. The Lord has provided a marvelous facility close to the main bus station of Tel Aviv, right in the heart of the Gush Dan metropolitan area, which is home to more than three million Jewish people!

We have rented this facility in Tel Aviv, as it is currently very difficult to purchase a property. At present, property in Tel Aviv is more expensive than it is in New York City—and that is pretty expensive!

For now, we are more than happy with the 5,000-square-foot Messianic Center that God has provided. The facility is a former banquet hall, so in addition to offices, classrooms and

various other types of spaces, there is a large area where we can seat more than 150 people for congregational worship or about 100 for a meal.

This is very important, because one of our ministry focuses in Tel Aviv is working among the poor. The facility includes a full industrial kitchen, in which we will make meals and feed hungry and down-and-out Israelis.

Two Messianic Congregations—One Messiah!

We already have one congregation meeting at the Tel Aviv Messianic Center—the Russian Messianic congregation we planted many years ago. We are also planting a new Hebrew-language congregation that

will minister largely to younger Russian Jewish immigrants. Some of these immigrants who have come to faith now live and work in primarily Hebrew-speaking environments, so they want to bring their seeking friends to a Hebrew-language congregation. They also do not want to forget about their Russian-speaking parents and grandparents who have become believers—so having both congregations meet in the same facility gives us a wonderful opportunity to keep families together and to intensify our outreach among Hebrew-speaking Israelis.

We will also have more space to minister to drug addicts, alcoholics and others who are hurting in many different ways. The government of Israel would like to do more to help

these people, but is unable to do so because of the challenge of maintaining Israel's defense budget in these dangerous times. This opens great opportunities for believers to bring God's love in practical ways to Israelis—and of course to lead these precious people to the One who can transform them from the inside out.

We have regularly been baptizing new believers who have come to faith through the drug rehabilitation ministry started by our Tel Aviv congregation. Now much of this activity will be brought to the Tel Aviv Messianic Center. Because the Center is located in a poorer area of Tel Aviv, we will actually be closer to those who really need our help.

What Did Jesus Do?

I am reminded of the account in Luke 4:16-21, when Jesus entered the synagogue in Nazareth and participated in the weekly readings from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets. He began reading from the prophetic portion for the week, which was Isaiah chapter 61, and stopped reading in the middle of a verse:

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD... (Isaiah 61:1-2).

The place where He stopped speaks volumes about His ministry. Jesus stopped in the middle of verse two, after the phrase, "to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." He did not read the second part of the verse, which says, "and the day of vengeance of our God." After closing the book, Messiah said, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

So we must ask: What are the good tidings that Jesus came to proclaim? What are the characteristics of the acceptable year of the Lord? The answer is in Isaiah 61:1. Jesus fulfilled

Isaiah's prophecy: He came to preach good tidings to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of prison to those who are bound.

My dear friends, the Lord has given us the privilege of becoming His hands, His feet and His voice in Israel in a way that we never thought possible. With the Tel Aviv Messianic Center, we now have an enormous opportunity to bring the message of the Gospel—in both Word and deed—to needy Israelis.

A Center of Evangelism

Our gifted and committed staff in Israel has already developed congregational and evangelistic ministries. We have also been working



in partnership with other ministries in feeding the poor, and our congregation in Tel Aviv had started a drug rehabilitation program. The ministries that are now housed in the Tel Aviv Messianic Center were already happening—but they were scattered throughout the city. It was very hard to organize and coordinate activities because we did not have a central place to meet. We certainly felt that we could be feeding many more people if only we had the facilities to do so.

From the perspective of our workers in Israel, the idea of renting 5,000 square feet of space in Tel Aviv seemed impossible—but we have a God who provides!

Late last spring, I traveled to Israel with some friends of Chosen People

Ministries. As we spoke with the staff in Tel Aviv and saw the work that God was doing, the need for the Center became so apparent that a few of these dear friends, after much prayer, decided to make the Tel Aviv Messianic Center a reality by donating funds for the first year's rent.

We rejoice in the vision that brought about the Jerusalem Messianic Center—and now this new facility in Tel Aviv. But our vision is not limited to Israel. It extends to the more than fourteen million Jewish people around the world who will never have forgiveness of sin and a deep personal relationship with God until the day they receive the Messiah and Savior of the world—Jesus. My friend, this is the burning vision in my heart and I hope



that you will catch this vision as well. Together we can make a difference in bringing the Gospel to Jewish people in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, New York, Los Angeles, Florida and many other places.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our newsletter. During this season of thanksgiving, I want you to know that I am most grateful for you, as I believe the Lord has united us in His Body and in this great work of reaching His chosen people for His beloved Son.

Your brother
in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Good News for an "Old-New" City



Our new Tel Aviv Messianic Center where we will feed the homeless and hold services in Russian and Hebrew.

Tel Aviv, a relatively “new” city in a land as old as Israel, has been celebrating its 100th birthday this year. The city’s very name combines the contrasts of ancient and modern Israel.

Tel Aviv is the Hebrew name for *Altneuland* (“Old-New Land”), the novel penned in 1902 by Theodor Herzl, who was a guiding light of the Zionist movement. The novel described Herzl’s vision for what would eventually become the State of Israel. The city of Tel Aviv was founded in 1909 by several Jewish families seeking to escape the tense conditions in nearby Jaffa. Tel Aviv holds the distinction of being the first modern city in Israel, and immigration in the 1920s and 1930s boosted its

population dramatically. In 2003, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Tel Aviv a World Heritage Site on the basis of its international Bauhaus architectural style, which German Jewish architects fleeing the Nazis brought with them to Tel Aviv.

During the city’s hundredth birthday commemoration, Mayor Ron Huldai observed, “One hundred years later, the vision of our city’s founders—who looked at the sand dunes and saw the potential for a vibrant city—has been realized . . . [it] is a thriving global city that 400,000 residents are proud to call home.” The greater Tel Aviv metropolitan area actually boasts a population of around three million people.

Chosen People Ministries in Tel Aviv

The glittering image that Tel Aviv presents to the world is, however, only part of the picture. Beyond the nightclubs and beaches that appeal so

strongly to the younger crowd, there lurks a note of sadness. In a country that is constantly preoccupied with dangers, the exciting nightlife of Tel Aviv may provide a moment of carefree forgetfulness—but it is only a moment. The true spiritual hunger behind the party spirit cannot be satisfied with anything less than Jesus the Messiah, the true Bread of Life.

For over a decade, Chosen People Ministries has borne witness to the transforming power of the Gospel in Tel Aviv. Israel Director Michael Z. helped start a congregation there, and the Lord drew other workers to add their gifts to this growing work. Now comes the next great step forward—the Tel Aviv Messianic Center.

Building upon relationships and ministries that are already well established, the Tel Aviv Messianic Center will expand our presence in a city where the human need for God’s peace grows greater with each passing day.

Staff member Neriya A. tells of his excitement for this new ministry center:

The Tel Aviv Messianic Center is an answer to prayer for many of us serving here. I am so excited that I can’t find the words to express what an amazing gift God has given us through the financial gifts of our brothers and sisters in Messiah. I am proud to say that this new facility is going to be the launching pad for a lot of dynamic ministry.

Overcoming Obstacles

Over the past few years, Chosen People Ministries has expanded its outreach through the establishment of Messianic Centers in either purchased or rented facilities. This has not been an

easy task, as many landlords object to our ministry or are afraid to deal with us. On many occasions, we have all but “closed the deal,” only to see it fall through at the eleventh hour—so it comes as no surprise that things were not easy in Tel Aviv. Staff member Jason R., who was instrumental in the difficult negotiations to rent a facility, describes how it happened:

The search for the Messianic Center had several bumps in the road. We successfully negotiated the rental terms on a different facility prior to finding this one. After the negotiations, we were turned down on the ground that we believe in Yeshua (Jesus). They changed their minds, but only after we found our current facility, which is far better. The negotiations were definitely difficult, but in the end the Lord brought us to a facility that is much nicer and costs far less than anything we had seen in our search.

The Lord who calls us is faithful to supply what we need to carry out that calling. Our ministries in Tel Aviv are already bearing fruit—particularly among those who seem to be falling through the cracks of Israeli society.

A Vision of Hope for All Ages

Jason shares a bit more about the vision for the Tel Aviv Messianic Center:

The Center is centrally located and easy to get to from anywhere in the city or country. It is three stories high. Once a week, we will open a coffee shop outreach called the Gospel Café on the ground floor. On this floor, there is a distribution center for the needy as well as an industrial kitchen that we will use to operate soup kitchen ministries. The second floor will be a meeting hall for multiple Messianic congregations, seminars and classes. The third floor will be used for children’s classrooms, adult classes and two small offices. Within a year, the children’s rooms will be used for the first phase of a Messianic K-12 school. This facility will become a major center for ministry in Tel Aviv—serving

the believing community and reaching out to those who still need Messiah.

Michael Z., who has seen so much growth and development since his early groundbreaking, adds,

If you had asked me just a few months ago, I would have had a difficult time believing all this, and not because I am doubtful of God’s ability to do miracles. But such an outstanding miracle does not happen very often, and it comes with tremendous responsibility and a lot of work. We need your prayers as never before, because we are really facing a breakthrough. To Him be all the glory!

Join us in rejoicing in what the Lord has done—and in looking ahead to a bright future for the Tel Aviv Messianic Center. 🌈

Sources consulted:
www.mfa.gov.il
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org



MISSION PRAYER POINTS

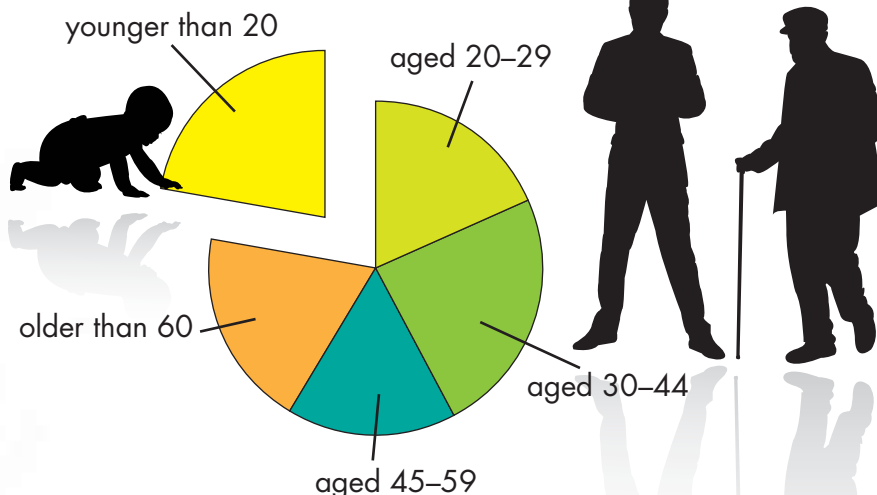
Here are some highlights from Chosen People Ministries’ global outreach. Please pray that the Lord will build upon what He has already established!

- Strength and protection for Neriya A., Jason R., Brian S., and our other staff members who minister to the homeless and drug-addicted souls at the Tel Aviv Messianic Center.
- The ministry of the “Tel Aviv Gospel Café” as it opens to serve seekers and share the Gospel.
- The growth of the already existing Russian-speaking Messianic congregation and fulfillment of the vision for a Hebrew-speaking congregation in the facility.
- The successful implementation of our plan for establishing a Messianic K-12 school.
- The blessing of the Lord as He guides and directs His growing work, not only in Tel Aviv, but in all Israel and around the world.

Tel Aviv Languages

Many languages are spoken in multicultural Tel Aviv. Hebrew is spoken, of course, but also Amharic (spoken in Ethiopia), Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog (spoken in the Philippines), and Thai.

Tel Aviv Age Profile



SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

THE KING'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (Matthew 16:13, 15)

Question and answer was a common method of teaching in Jesus' day. In the pivotal chapter of Matthew 16, where He declared that He would build a new institution, the ecclesia (assembly or church), Jesus asked two vitally important questions that command our attention to this day. At the time, Jesus and His disciples were in Caesarea Philippi, about 120 miles north of Jerusalem. It was a territory saturated with various religions, including a center for Baal worship.

Question #1 "WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I, THE SON OF MAN, AM?" (Mt. 16:13)

Throughout history, men have been swayed by the thinking of others. The majority opinion is often mistaken for an indicator of the truth.

Straining to understand Malachi's prophecy that Elijah the Prophet would return (Mal. 4:5), some believed Jesus was the fulfillment of that Word. Others thought differently—for example, King Herod declared Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead. The disciples indicated that

many surmised Jesus to be one of the prophets come back (Mt. 16:14). In addition, many religious leaders of His day held that Jesus was an impostor.

In asking His question, Jesus stressed that He was "The Son of Man" (Mt. 16:13). Evidently Jesus had used this title to refer to Himself, a title derived from Daniel 7:13-14, which has Messianic significance. Being the Son of Man, Jesus was truly human. But more than that, Jesus was "*the Word . . . made flesh*" (Jn. 1:14). He was in fact the Son of God, as well as the Son of Man.

Question #2 "BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" (Mt. 16:15)

Peter may have actually been ahead of the other disciples in discovering the true identity of Jesus, as indicated in the answer he gave: "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (Mt. 16:16). Here Peter acknowledged Jesus to be both the Son of Man (human) and the Son of God (divine). Peter exalted the Messiah Jesus as the Lord's chosen and anointed Prophet, Priest and

King—the three offices of the true Jewish Messiah.

On earth, He was the great Prophet (Deut. 18:15-19). Now in heaven, He is our great High Priest (Heb. 7:17). When He returns, He will be King over all the earth (Dan. 2:37). Peter confessed Jesus as the living Son of God, the unique, promised Son who fulfilled the prophecies (Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7). Peter acknowledged Jesus as the true God, as opposed to the false deities of this world (Deut. 5:26; Rev. 7:2; 15:7).

CONCLUDING QUESTION: WHO DO YOU SAY THAT JESUS IS?

Your answer to this question will determine your eternal destiny. Jesus stated, "*. . . if you do not believe that I am He (the divine Messiah) you will die in your sins*" (Jn. 8:24).

John the Apostle concurred with Peter when he stated, "*. . . God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life*" (1 Jn. 5:11-12). 🙏

GERMAN JEWISH WOMAN FINDS FAITH IN MESSIAH

Although the Russian Jewish people who have migrated to Germany have proven to be a fertile field for Messiah's ministry, native-born German Jews are harder to reach. Germany director Vladimir Pikman met with a German Jewish couple—the husband already a believer for a few months and the wife still seeking. Instead of the expected one-hour conversation, they talked for almost three hours. As Vladimir was answering the woman's questions, God touched her heart and she asked him to pray with her. Right there, she received the Lord—and was delivered from some heavy burdens from her past. Join us in prayer for this new German Jewish believer.



"I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE MINUTES!"

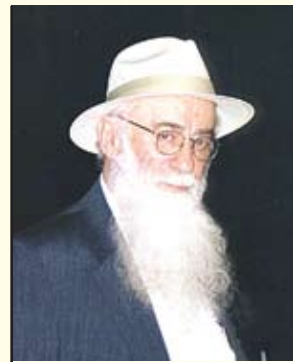
As parents of a young son, staff member Erle Snobel and his wife, Jeannette, have developed some good friendships in their home city of Montreal. One woman's son played on the same soccer team as the Snobels'. At first she was a little cautious, but one day at a soccer tournament, completely out of the blue, she asked, "So what is this Messianic Judaism all about and why? I'll give you five minutes." Not losing a moment, Erle began to share—and thirty minutes later was still talking, quoting Scriptures to her and explaining why Yeshua (Jesus) is the One and Only Messiah for all peoples. Finally, the woman asked if she could attend a Messianic service . . . and she did! Please keep her and her son in your prayers.

MESSIAH'S TRUTH COMES TO JEWISH WOMAN IN ARGENTINA

Ricardo Chemi, who directs Chosen People Ministries' work in Argentina, receives calls from many Jewish seekers. One woman, from a traditional Jewish family, had so many questions about Jesus that she did not know where to begin. Ricardo gave her a book in Spanish, *Jesus Revealed in the Feasts of Israel*, to make it easier for her to understand that Jesus is the Messiah. Ricardo writes, "The result was immediate; she received the Lord. Her faith is total, she has no doubt; the Lord is in her heart." Please pray that she can meet the challenge to talk about Him with her family and friends.

YOUTH RETREAT YIELDS DECISIONS FOR MESSIAH

On the last night of a Messianic youth retreat in California, by a campfire with singing and sharing, staff member Michael Cohen gave a gripping testimony of how he had wasted his teenage years. His challenging message to the youngsters that Yeshua (Jesus) died for them was straight to the point. With serious looks, and some tears on their faces, a number of young people got up from the bleachers and with only the sound of crickets around them, made their commitment to serve the Messiah.



ELIEZER URBACH – "WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT" (MATTHEW 25:23)

Eliezer Urbach, one of the foremost figures in the modern Messianic movement, passed

away on Saturday, October 3, after a lengthy and courageous battle with kidney disease. His ministry as a Chosen People Ministries staff member spanned decades and his life is a testimony to God's faithfulness even in the midst of inexpressible tragedy.

Eliezer was born in Poland on December 7, 1921. After the Nazis came, he experienced increasing antisemitism and as a teenager, he was caught in the ravages of World War II. After having fled Poland, Eliezer returned home to find that his entire family had been murdered by the Nazis. Fleeing once again, this time to escape the tyranny of the Soviets, he finally arrived in Israel, where he served in the 1948 War. There he married Sara, his wife of over 50 years, who had emigrated from Poland. After a brief sojourn in Brazil, where Eliezer and Sara heard and believed the Gospel, the Urbachs returned to Israel as followers of Messiah.

Several years later, the Urbachs moved to North America to serve with Chosen People Ministries. In 1970, they began their ministry in Denver, where they became spiritual father and mother to many who were touched by their ministry.

Sara Urbach passed away in 2005. Eliezer leaves behind his second wife Jan, his daughter Nechamah, son Chaim and grandchildren.

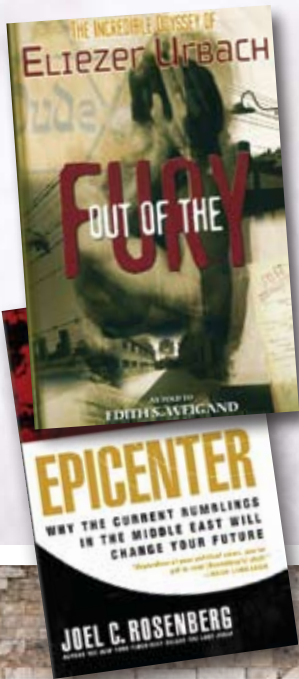
Messianic Resources for You

The flickering lights of the nine-branched Hanukkah *menorah* remind us that God is mighty to save and that Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah is truly the Light of the World. Hanukkah is a time of celebration! Now you can own this beautifully-crafted Hanukkah menorah from Israel to place in your home as a statement of your faith and hope in the Messiah of Israel and of all the nations of the world.

[5023] • Hanukkah menorah • \$33.95^{us}



For phone orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936 OR for more resources go online to www.chosenpeople.com. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.



Driven from his homeland and orphaned by the forces of Nazi evil, Polish-born Eliezer Urbach began an incredible odyssey that spanned three continents and many countries. In *Out of the Fury*, we read how, dogged by hunger, persecution, despair, and the failure to find peace, Eliezer finally found what he was looking for in an unexpected place.

[3017] • *Out of the Fury* • \$9.95^{us}

In his book, *Epicenter*, Joel Rosenberg shows why the current rumblings in the Middle East will affect your future. The politics of the Middle East can be murky and confusing. But one thing is increasingly certain: the eyes of the nations are riveted upon Israel and her neighbors, the epicenter of the momentous events shaking the world and shaping our future.

[3113] • *Epicenter* • \$21.95^{us}



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Please write today for your free, no-obligation copy of this report. Email us at plannedgiving@chosenpeople.com or call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535).

See Israel Through Jewish Eyes

March 8-18, 2010

The Holy Land is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both. A trip to Israel will draw you closer to the Lord and give you a whole new perspective on your walk with God. It is an experience that can transform your life!



For more information on this tour, call 561-737-1431 or see a complete itinerary online at chosenpeople.com/tour



The Chosen People Newsletter

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



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