

# The Chosen People



Volume XVI, Issue 1 February 2010



## PURIM EDITION HE WATCHES OVER ISRAEL

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

May He Who Makes Peace Above Make Peace for Us and for All Israel...Amen! • Searching for Peace and Spirituality

*May He Who Makes Peace Above*

# Make Peace for Us and for All Israel... Amen!

people are willing to consider the Gospel when they are far from home.

Our ministry teams also traveled to India to reach Israeli youth, and met many who are in “search mode” and open to the Lord!

Over the years I have seen many Jewish people open their minds and hearts to Jesus during times of transition. We have witnessed this on a grand scale over the last few years, as Russian Jews have come to the Lord by the thousands.

These seasons of change are great opportunities for us to share the message of His peace with those whose lives are unsettled and sometimes in turmoil!

The peace we experience when Yeshua (Jesus) comes into our lives is a foretaste of the ultimate peace He will bring at His second coming.

## **Purim and Peace**

We are now entering a season of the year when Jewish people think more about that future day of Messianic peace—and celebrate the Feast of Purim. This festival commemorates our deliverance from the hand of evil Haman, the Persian official who attempted to destroy the Jewish people but was thwarted by Esther and Mordechai.

Purim is all about peace and the faithfulness of God, although His name is not mentioned even once in the entire Book of Esther. The story reminds me of one of my favorite synagogue prayers, which is also sung as a folk song and includes the refrain, “May He who makes peace above make peace for us and for all Israel... Amen!”

In some ways, this reminds me of the Lord’s prayer, asking God that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Peace is our ultimate destiny! Jewish people are waiting for the day when the One who makes peace above will make peace on earth and with His people Israel. Jewish tradition expects that one day the curse will be lifted, the wolf will lie down with the lamb and our weapons of war will be transformed into farming tools.

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom from our Chosen People Ministries headquarters in New York City. I hope your heart will be warmed by the wonderful stories in this newsletter about the Lord’s work among Israelis in New Zealand! It is simply amazing how Israeli young



Exhibit in The Israel Museum (Jerusalem) of a modern Jewish bride from Yemen adorned in traditional costume (left). It is customary to wear costumes and give gifts at Purim.



I believe the Lord is coming soon—just look at the lineup of enemies that the Jewish people have today in the Middle East! We see the Scriptures unfold before our very eyes—but as believers, we also know how it is going to end. What a glorious day it will be when the Lord reigns as King in Jerusalem!

Dear friend, knowing that the future is in His powerful hands keeps me going and encourages me to witness for Him.

Although terribly threatened—especially by a potentially nuclear Iran—we know that the Jewish people will not be destroyed, because God will deliver His people. I don't know if He will raise up a new Esther or Mordechai, but I do know that the promises He made through the prophets—especially this one through Jeremiah—cannot fail.

*“Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): ‘If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever’” (Jeremiah 31:35-36).*

Nothing will keep God from fulfilling His promises to the Jewish people and to our world. One day, Israel will be at peace with her neighbors because the Prince of Peace will reign on His throne.

That day cannot come soon enough for me! But until He comes and His promises to reign on earth are fulfilled, we are His emissaries, bringing His message of peace to the Jew first and also to the Gentile (Romans 1:16).

## **Inside the Crisis in the Middle East: Finding Peace in a Troubled World**

We have planned a major national conference, “Inside the Crisis in the Middle East: Finding Peace in a Troubled World,” to be held October

1-2, 2010 in Chicago. The venue for the event will be the historic Moody Church in downtown Chicago.

The conference title says it all! We hope to give believers a better understanding of God's plan for Israel and the Middle East by pulling back the curtains of media and propaganda and shining the light of Scripture on this critical subject.

I hope you will want to come... and bring your family and friends.

### **An Overview of the Conference**

The conference will begin with a Friday night celebration including music, testimonies and a message from God's Word by Joel Rosenberg, author of *Epicenter* and *The Ezekiel Option*.

On Saturday, we will hold all-day sessions in the Moody Church sanctuary from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (with a special pastors' breakfast starting at 7:45 AM). The program will include Bible-based messages, testimonies, and discussions, with a lunch break at noon. On Saturday evening, Joel Rosenberg will preach at Moody Church and Steve Wiggins (formerly of Big Tent Revival) will lead worship.

The conference speakers will be Dr. Irwin Lutzer, pastor of Moody Church; Dr. Charles Dyer, provost of Moody Bible Institute; and Dr. Michael Rydelnik, professor of Jewish Studies at Moody Bible Institute. These are some of the leading evangelical thinkers, writers and preachers on Middle East issues. I will also be speaking, along with others from the Chosen People Ministries staff. The messages will focus on four important areas of common concern we share as followers of Jesus the Messiah:

- The economic and geopolitical crises facing the U.S., the world and the Middle East today, from a biblical perspective
- The calling and role of the Jewish people according to the Scriptures

- The impact of radical fundamentalist Islam, and its future according to the Scriptures
- The power of the Gospel as the only hope for true and lasting peace in a troubled world—and the ultimate solution for peace in the Middle East

We will hold a series of chapels and special meetings at Moody Bible Institute as well. We are so appreciative of both Moody Church and Moody Bible Institute for partnering with us in this strategic conference!

I am also very excited about the evangelism that will be done as part of the conference. We will participate in two outreach events within the business community in Chicago, and the Saturday night event will be highly publicized and hopefully will draw many Jewish people who do not yet know Messiah.

### **Why Not Register Today?**

You can pre-register for the conference by checking the box on the enclosed card—where you can also send a gift to Chosen People Ministries for the work of Jewish evangelism. Your registration for the conference and gift of support will be a great encouragement to us! Please take a look at the card and pray about giving, and going to the conference.

Thanks for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your love for the Jewish people and for Chosen People Ministries—your partnership means so much to me and to our staff. We could not do this work without you! I hope that you will read through the Book of Esther during the next couple of weeks and be reminded that the Lord who preserves Israel is the same Lord who preserves His Church.

Happy Purim!  
Your brother,

  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

# Opening Home and Heart to Israeli Backpackers

New Age festivals like Shantipi (center) are popular with Israeli young people, many of whom travel to India (right) and New Zealand seeking spiritual enlightenment.



After serving as founder and congregational leader of a Messianic congregation for almost twenty years, Scott B. and his wife have embarked on a new adventure. In 2008, they relocated to New Zealand, where they reach out to international backpackers, particularly Israelis, who often travel abroad after their military service.

The opportunities for evangelism in New Zealand among Israeli travelers are boundless. Thousands of Israelis visit every year in search of new experiences amid nature's beauty. Many are also seeking spiritual truth while they are away from their everyday lives and the stresses of life in Israel. One aspect of our ministry is to hold weekly evangelistic outreaches in regions that are favored by Israelis for hiking and extreme sports. In addition, we are privileged to train local Christians in Jewish evangelism and the Jewish roots of Christianity, often in partnership with existing ministries.

New Zealand has several networks of Christian households with doors (and hearts) wide open to Israeli travelers. How amazing that this faraway nation of shepherds is making such a powerful impact on "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" through the simple medium of hospitality! But these dedicated hosts need help. We often hear dedicated and compassionate

believers say, "We love the young Israelis who stay in our home . . . we just wish we were better able to reach out to them with the Gospel."

I have heard this longing expressed so many times by so many of these dear hosts that I began scheduling free seminars for intensive training in Jewish evangelism. Our first seminar was packed with enthusiastic hosts, some of whom have hosted thousands of Israeli visitors in recent years. These days of training, prayer and fellowship are a great encouragement for those in attendance, making them more confident and competent in their loving outreach to Israeli guests.

Another form of outreach to backpackers who are both spiritually and physically hungry is through "Gospel Sizzlers"—barbecue outreaches for Israeli and other young international tourists hiking through New Zealand. These events have proven so successful that we plan to hold them in other parts of the south island where backpackers abound. In addition, our first mission team from Chosen People Ministries USA arrived in the first week of February for a three-week evangelistic trip.

The Lord has also provided some further opportunities for ministry to an

even wider audience. Last April, a Christian radio station invited me to offer weekly "Jewish Perspectives"—brief teachings about the Scriptures from a Messianic point of view. None of us really knew how these would be received, but praise God, the live weekly interviews have become so popular that they are repeating the broadcasts during prime time! Among other blessings, this exposure launched a relationship with an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who recently moved to New Zealand from Brooklyn, New York. We discuss the Jewish roots of Christianity, and he is asking questions about Messianic Jewish faith and practice.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to make our ministry in New Zealand an instrument of His redeeming grace. 🕊

— By Scott B.



# Searching for Peace and Spirituality

Each year, 40,000 Israelis travel to India in search of spirituality, as well as fun and new experiences. Why do they go? After their mandatory military service, these young Israelis take a year off and travel in order to unwind from the stress of life in Israel. Those who go to India are generally seeking peace and spiritual enlightenment. They are particularly drawn to Goa, a beach region with a culture that is much like Woodstock in the 1960s. Hippies, poetry readings and music in the moonlight are all a part of the scene. Drugs are available at every turn, and spiritual discussions are a common occurrence, though such discussions tend to veer toward a vague, New Age kind of spirituality.

I am struck by the fact that in Goa we find the children of Israel in a foreign land, seeking a foreign god. That is why we have established short-term missions outreaches to India and New Zealand, another popular destination for backpacking Israelis. Our desire is to share the God of Israel with the people of Israel. Last month, a team of about a half-dozen of us traveled to India to share the Gospel.

What did we do there? We came alongside these seeking souls wherever we could, joining them in music, poetry readings and discussions. By day, we shared in café settings. By night, we sat around a table, opened a Bible and responded as people gathered around to talk and ask questions. It was an amazing experience to share with Israelis in a unique environment where hearts and minds were open, and long spiritual discussions were a normal part of the day.

This month, we are in New Zealand, working with the ministry to backpackers that Scott has established. Pray that the Lord would reach many Israeli young people during these exciting short-term outreaches! 🙏

– By Robynne B.

## Why I Went to India

Before I became a believer, I was into the underground band scene with roots in Eastern religion. The Israelis who travel to India are seeking the same kind of spiritual experience. As the Lord brought me out of Eastern spirituality, He freed me from all kinds of bondage and brought a work of deliverance into my life. I went to India to build relationships with both Israelis and Indian nationals, encouraging them to apply the truths of the Bible to their lives and turn to the Lord. I wanted to be a part of that redemptive work. 🙏

– By Joshua M.

*Joshua M. was first introduced to Chosen People Ministries about ten years ago and presently attends the congregation at the Mission's Messianic Center in Boynton Beach, Florida, where he helps lead the worship services.*



# 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 NEW BUILDING PROGRAM (Matt. 16:18,19)

The last question asked of Jesus before He ascended to heaven concerned the restoration of Israel's kingdom. The disciples remembered God's promises to David (2 Samuel 7:12-16) and questioned Jesus, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). The King replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority" (Acts 1:7).

Matthew's Gospel records that Jesus had another building program in mind before the King Himself would return to establish His own kingdom in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:1-4; Zech. 14:1-4).

### THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH (Mt. 16:18)

This new building program was first revealed to Peter: "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). This is the first mention of the Greek word "ekklesia." In secular society, the term referred to any assembly or gathering of persons, such as a city council. However, the assembly that Jesus would build would be totally new and different. It would

unite believing Jews and Gentiles into a new society or spiritual household (Eph. 3:1-6).

It was the Apostle Paul who clarified that the assembly would be "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). Peter would be only one of the many "living stones" built upon the chief cornerstone. The original Greek language of Matthew 16:18 clarifies this great truth, amplified by Peter in his letter (1 Pet. 2:5).

### THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE CHURCH (Mt. 16:21)

Immediately after Jesus revealed His new building program, He began to stress that His own death would be fundamental to the plan. Matthew states, "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer... and be killed and be raised the third day" (Mt. 16:21). The new assembly (church) would be based on the truths of the Gospel—namely, the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah (1 Cor. 15:3, 4). This is the essence of the New Covenant that Jesus established at the Passover (Mt. 26:26-28).

Every day believers are being added to the structure (Acts 2:47b), both Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 3:4-6). The Holy Spirit formed the Church on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-17), and continues His ministry by attaching (immersing) every new believer to the glorious spiritual edifice (1 Cor. 12:13).

### THE FORTIFICATION OF THE CHURCH

Jesus emphasized that the new assembly would be a great success because "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Neither the power of death nor the council of Satan and his hosts will prevent the completion of the King's new building program.

The Lord Jesus conquered all the hosts of hell at His death and resurrection and has equipped believers to fight victoriously (Col. 2:15; Eph. 6:11,12). The building project will be successfully completed at His return (Jn. 14:2-6; 1 Thess. 4:14-18). Dedicated believers are praying: "Come, Lord Jesus!" Are you one of them? 🙏

*We accidentally left out Dr. Goldberg's Bible study on Matthew 16 so we are bringing it to you this month.*

## “THIS I CAN BELIEVE!”

Olivier Melnick met with Sarah,\* an Israeli woman who has lived in the United States for several decades. She was seeking the Lord and he encouraged her to read Isaiah 53. As she was reading the chapter in Hebrew and translating it into English, Olivier asked her, “Who do you think the chapter is talking about?” She replied, “Someone is going to suffer and die for his people, and then he is going to come back—that’s him, you know... Yeshua (Jesus).” As Olivier continued to share the Gospel with her, her eyes were opened to the truth and she said, “Now this I can believe!” They prayed together and Sarah received the Lord with great joy.

## MINISTRY OF VISITATION BRINGS DECISIONS FOR MESSIAH

Staff members Michael Cohen and Rebecca Lohnes have an active ministry of visitation in Southern California. As they were going room to room ministering at a convalescent home, they met a Persian Jewish woman. At first, she did not even want prayer. As they became acquainted, Michael spoke of the Messiah, and she said that she did not believe. But as Michael told her the importance of knowing Yeshua and His desire for her to have eternal life, she warmed to the idea. After further explaining the Messiah’s love, eternal life and some Messianic prophecies, Michael led the woman in prayer to receive the Lord.

## NOW WE ARE SISTERS!

While on a speaking tour in Italy, Kirill Swiderski, who is from the former Soviet Union, encountered many Christians who love Israel. After one meeting, a Russian-speaking woman now living in Italy told how she had come to faith while on a visit to Ukraine. Kirill writes, “When she came back to Italy, she was invited to this church, and it became her family. She was suffering greatly because of her unbelieving mother. I encouraged her to invite her mother to our next meeting, and she came. After the meeting, I spoke with the mother for an hour and we prayed the sinner’s prayer together. Crying, she hugged her daughter, who said, ‘Now my mother and I are sisters in the Lord!’”

\* name has been changed



## GOSPEL CAFÉ NOW OPEN IN TEL AVIV

The Gospel Café ministry at our new Tel Aviv Messianic Center was blessed with an amazing opening, with more than 160 people attending. The Café is a once-a-week gathering that offers young people a homey atmosphere and the opportunity to enjoy free coffee and listen to good music. Our staff members often invite visitors to our new Messianic congregation, which meets in the very same place on the following day. Our goal is for the congregation to grow through outreach, and we pray that the Gospel Café will be an integral part of this growth. Please pray for Jason R., who is leading this ministry, and for all those who are involved.

## COVERED IN YESHUA’S LOVE

Saul\* and his wife had been attending our Messianic congregation in Montreal, led by Percy Johnson. Some of the members of our congregation shared their eternal hope in our Messiah, and Saul received it gladly, although initially he feared losing his Jewish heritage and his family as a result. Saul became terminally ill, and the day before he passed away, his wife, seeing that he was cold, asked him if he wanted a blanket. He replied, “I am covered in Yeshua’s love.” During Saul’s last hours, his wife called Percy, who was grateful to be present as Saul died in the peace of the Lord’s assurance.



# I Felt a Sense of Responsibility...

By Doug McEvoy

When we heard about Jewish missions in 2001, it was new to us. We were hearing Paul's proclamation of the Gospel "to the Jew first" in Romans 1:16 for the first time. It gave us non-Jewish followers of the Lord a sense of responsibility to the Jewish people I had never thought about. This grew, and over the years it formed in me the calling to encourage others to support Jewish missions financially, which is something we certainly do ourselves. Looking ahead, we want to leave bequests to loved ones, but we also want to make a generous provision for Chosen People Ministries. We encourage others to do the same.



Please write today. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at [giving@chosenpeople.com](mailto:giving@chosenpeople.com).

SAVE THE DATE!



May 28-31  
Carlisle, PA

with Dr. Mitch Glaser and Steve Wiggins

# Israel's Glorious Future According To Isaiah

## Bringing to Life the Story of God's Love at Passover

**Messianic Passover Haggadah (#3008) / \$6.95<sup>us</sup>**

This Haggadah has been prepared to show God's redemptive grace in the Passover through the death, burial and resurrection of His Messiah, Jesus, and to symbolize God's spiritual redemption of His people.

**Matza Tash (#5026) / \$26.95<sup>us</sup>**

This white Matza Tash is beautifully embroidered in Israel and is a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature.

**Seder Plate (#5024) / \$30.95<sup>us</sup>**

This silver Seder Plate is made in Israel and beautifully displays the Seder elements.

**Kiddush Cup (#5025) / \$22.95<sup>us</sup>**

This silver Kiddush Cup is about three inches tall.

**COMPLETE SET - matza tash, plate & cup (#5027) / \$73.95<sup>us</sup>**



For phone orders call 800-333-4936 in the U.S. Or for even more resources visit us online at [www.chosenpeople.com/store](http://www.chosenpeople.com/store).

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a heart to see Jewish people come to know their Messiah?

Do you have good phone and internet skills? Then you may be just the person we are looking for! Chosen People Ministries is seeking to hire a part-time Church Ministries Coordinator to secure speaking engagements for our missions staff at churches around the country. E-mail résumés to [churches@chosenpeople.com](mailto:churches@chosenpeople.com).

## The Chosen People Newsletter

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

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.celebratemessiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au)). Editor: Zhava Glaser; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Designer: Lois Gable. Cover photo by Carly Hennigan.

Serving in: Argentina • Australia • Canada • France • Germany • Hong Kong • Israel • Mexico • New Zealand • Russia • Ukraine • United Kingdom • United States

Chosen People Ministries U.S. Board of Directors: Mr. Tom McHugh, Chairman • Mr. Roy Adams • Mr. Terry Amick • Dr. Darrell Bock • Mr. Jeffrey Branman • Ms. Cindy Forbes • Dr. Mitch Glaser • Dr. Gregory Hagg • David Schiller, Esquire.

Visit us on the Web at [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com) Our Spanish website is [www.pueblolegido.com](http://www.pueblolegido.com) ©2010 Chosen People Ministries

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



Printed in the USA

