



**The  
Chosen  
People**



Volume XVII, Issue 6 September 2011

"MY HEART'S DESIRE AND  
PRAYER TO GOD FOR ISRAEL  
**IS THAT THEY MAY  
BE SAVED.**" ROMANS 10:1

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# A NEW YEAR— NEW BORDERS?

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City. Jewish people around the world are now entering the sacred High Holiday season, which starts with the festival known as Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) beginning on the evening of September 28. The holy days continue with the observance of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) on October 8; this is the apex of the Jewish year. The season concludes with Sukkot (Tabernacles), which begins on the evening of October 12 (see Leviticus 23:24-44).

Remember to wish your Jewish family and friends a joy-filled Happy New Year, and if you have the opportunity, share a plate of apples and honey with them—a symbol for a sweet new year. I know that your Jewish friends will be touched by your thoughtfulness.

## **Land, Peace and the Mideast Conflict**

This High Holiday season will be marked by several serious events in the life of Israel and the Jewish people. September could very well be the month when the United Nations votes on the Palestinian request for U.N. membership. As you might imagine, this vote has far-reaching implications, not the least of which is the recognition of Palestine as a distinct national entity.

There is another somewhat troubling event scheduled for September. The Durban III Anti-Racism Review Conference will be held this month at the UN Headquarters (about four blocks away from the Chosen People Ministries International offices) and is planned to coincide with the vote on Palestinian entrance to the United Nations. The first Durban Conference was held in Durban, South Africa in 2001, and the second, which was called the “UN Conference Against Racism,” was held in Geneva in 2009. Many countries—including the United States, Canada, Australia and Israel—boycotted this second conference because of its blatant anti-Israel bias. The president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, made a speech on the last day of this conference in which he denounced Israel, equated Zionism with racism and denied the Holocaust. It was so bad that the representatives of the remaining European nations left the conference in protest.

What troubles me about the Durban Conferences is that they have a history of Israel-bashing that casts virtually all of the blame for the present conflict on Israel, and they also tend to recycle the old accusation that Zionism is racism. This situation must be bathed in prayer, and we should fervently intercede for the peace of Israel and all her inhabitants—Jewish, Arab, and others.

These are matters for deep concern, and I would like to share with you my perspective on these sensitive issues, which also reflects the historic position of Chosen People Ministries.

I personally believe that the Land of Israel was given to the Jewish people by God as detailed in Genesis chapters 12, 15 and 17, for example. There are some more extensive articles on our website at [www.chosenpeople.com/holyland](http://www.chosenpeople.com/holyland) and I hope you will read them and listen to the messages we have posted.

However, as much as I believe that Israel has the “divine right” to the Land, I also know that Israel will never merit the gift of the Land any more than you or I could merit the gift of salvation. I also believe that the Jewish people will never enjoy the full benefits and blessings of the Land until we turn *en masse* to Jesus as our Messiah (Zechariah 12:10). I look forward to that day...as do you!

## The Priority of the Gospel

In order to place these current events in the context of biblical truth, I want to take a step back and clearly spell out our priorities as a Mission. Quite simply, we are called to bring the Gospel to Jewish people and to empower others to do so as well. Whatever the politics of the moment may be, I do not want you to think that our mission has changed, or that we have become more concerned with the stability of Israel than with the salvation of Jewish people—quite the contrary!

So, my dear friend, you might ask some questions: Why then are we so concerned about the U.N. resolution and about Zionism being equated with racism? Why are we encouraging our fellow believers to give serious consideration to the Bible’s words about the divine deed to the Land of Israel?

The answer is simply because I believe God still has His holy hand on the Jewish people, and that one day His promises of full restoration will come to pass (Romans 11:12-15). I take the words God gave to Abraham



seriously and literally: that He will bless those who bless the Jewish people and curse those who curse them, and that He will bring great blessings to the world through the Jewish people. Just as the Jewish people played a key role in the first coming of Jesus—so the Jewish people will play a definitive role in His return!

## Israel and Messiah’s Return – An Unbreakable Link

I realize that many sincere Christians—including many who support Chosen People Ministries in our evangelism and discipleship work—hold differing views about the modern state of Israel and its relationship to the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. But we do not have to agree on every point of doctrine to believe that Jewish people, like everyone else, must receive Jesus as their Messiah in order to have a personal relationship with God. This is certainly an essential belief for all of

us, no matter what we think about the Land of Israel and the role of the Jewish people in God’s plan of redemption. Our dedication to sharing the Gospel with Jewish people is what unites us, and we must let nothing threaten our unity in this matter!

I maintain, however, that the nation of Israel and the return of Messiah are closely connected. Let me explain why. I believe that Christians’ support for the nation of Israel and the Jewish people is making a difference in Jewish evangelism, particularly in Israel. Paul makes it clear in Romans 11:11 that the Gentiles are to make Jewish people jealous and I believe that jealousy is provoked

through the way in which Christians show their love for the Jewish people. Many Jewish people still view Christianity through the lens of the Holocaust—a fact that is tragic, but true. Therefore, the outpouring of evangelical Christians’ love and support towards Israel has been gloriously remedial in helping my people understand that true Christians really do love the Jewish people. Christians have expressed their love for the Jewish people in tangible ways, and this has not been lost on the Jewish community.

Dear friend, let’s keep our focus on Jesus—the author and finisher of our faith. Let’s be faithful to the Word of God—both the Old and New Testaments. May we be His servants in reaching Jewish people in Israel and around the world with the message of the Gospel—preparing the way, through evangelism, for the fulfillment of God’s promises.

This is a big month for Israel and the Jewish people. Let’s pray without ceasing!

Your brother  
in Him,

*Mitch*  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

# ISRAEL'S BOUNDARIES ARE AT STAKE

## A Historical Review

The vote by the United Nations to create a distinct Palestinian state—thus implementing a Two-State solution—is scheduled for late September. The U.N. Security Council must first approve the proposal and the United States would have its last opportunity to veto the measure before it goes to the General Assembly. A positive vote would give the Palestinian Authority a seat at the United Nations and make Israel vulnerable to sanctions by the international community if the resolution is not enacted.

The General Assembly of 192 nations does not have the power to create a nation, but only to make recommendations and accept new members.

The critical issue under discussion today is the future boundaries of Israel and the proposed Palestinian state. This dialog was amplified by the suggestion a few months ago by the U.S. President that Israel return to its 1967 borders, with land swaps.

The decisions made over the next few months will deeply influence the future of millions of Jews and Arabs, both within Israel and throughout the world. The relationship between Israel and the United States is also at a key juncture because of the evident disagreements between the two countries regarding the U.S. President's plan.

It is essential for believers in Jesus to understand the gravity of the current situation and the significant roles that Israel and the Middle East play in the consummation of the ages according to Scripture. We must therefore pray for the *shalom* (peace) of God to fall upon Israel, the Jewish people and her neighbors.

### A Brief Historical Survey: Israel's Borders

The Jewish people have maintained a presence in Israel since biblical times, even though the ten northern tribes were scattered throughout the Assyrian empire and the remaining two tribes in the south were taken captive to Babylon in the 6th century BC. The Jewish people returned to Israel and continued to grow in population and influence despite being dominated by major foreign powers such as Persia, Greece and Rome. Yet there was never any doubt that this Land was the historic home of the Jewish people. Only the most radical opponents of a Jewish State of Israel suggest that the Jewish people have no historic right or link to the Land of Israel, or that the link does

not entitle the Jewish people to the Land. Although the Jewish people were uprooted from Israel and scattered throughout the nations for many years, there was always a *remnant* of Jewish people living in the Land.

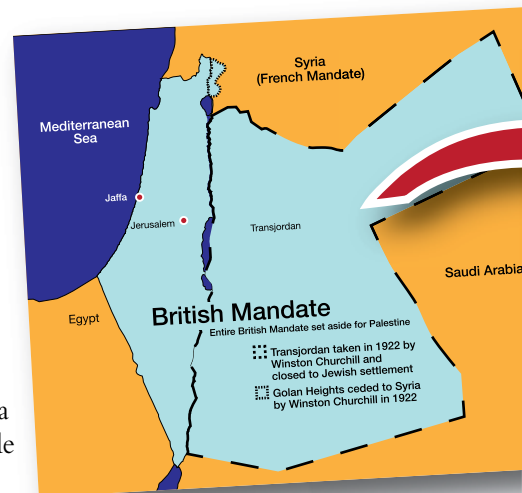
The Balfour Declaration in 1917

declared British intent to grant the Land of Israel to the Jewish people, and the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine of 1922 affirmed this. The British created the Transjordan (modern-day Jordan) on the east side of the Jordan River. Lopping off this part of Palestine was designed to satisfy promises of independence to the Arabs of Palestine. The area remaining was allotted to a future Jewish homeland. Modern Israel at this early stage included both Gaza and the West Bank, and both Jews and Arabs lived in the Land.

In the decades that followed, Jewish people came to Israel by the thousands, seeking refuge from European antisemitism, which was growing in ferocity. At the same time, similar numbers of Arabs came to the land seeking economic opportunity created by the growing Jewish community. The emergence of Nazi Germany and the murder of six million Jewish people during the Holocaust intensified the belief that the existence of a Jewish state was the key to the survival of the Jewish people.

After the conclusion of World War II, the United Nations approved a Partition Plan in 1947 (U.N. Resolution #181), again dividing what remained of Palestine west of the Jordan River into Jewish and Arab states. Jerusalem was to be an international city, governed by the United Nations as the home of three great Abrahamic faiths. The Jews accepted this plan, though the portion of land was smaller than what had been previously determined by the Mandate. The Arabs within Israel and outside rejected the boundaries and immediately attacked Israel after the declaration establishing the modern State of Israel on May 14, 1948.

The nascent State of Israel successfully defended itself, but the 1949 Armistice Agreements that followed established temporary borders, leaving Transjordan in control of the West Bank and Egypt in control of Gaza. A year later, Transjordan



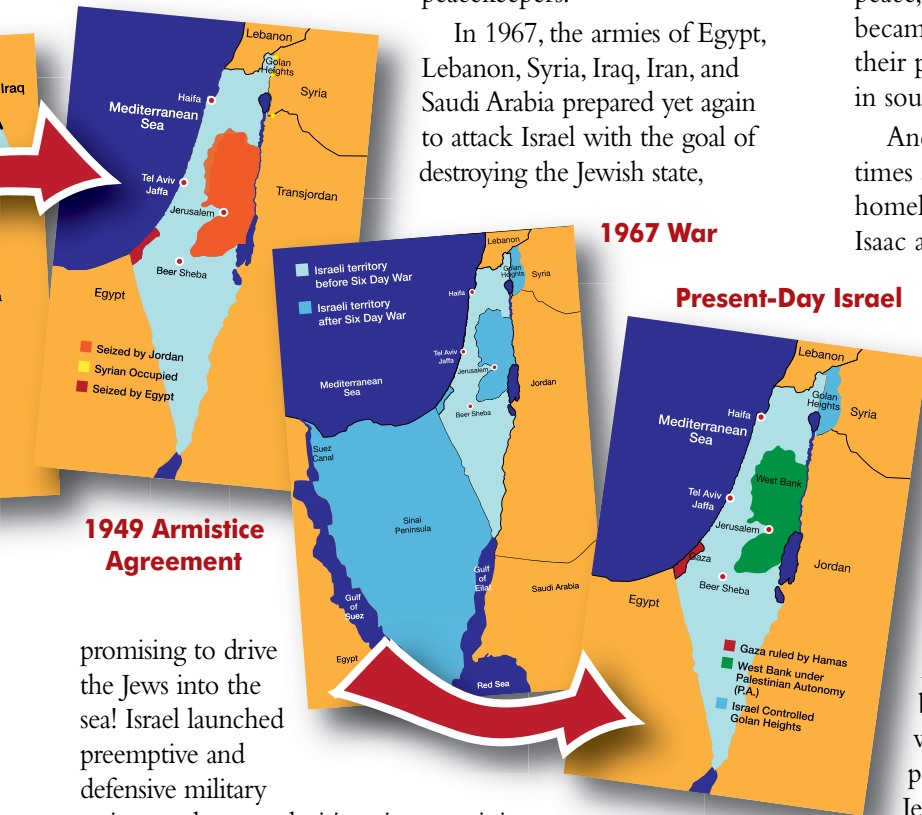
1917 Balfour Declaration

formally annexed the West Bank and took the new name, Jordan. Terrorism emanating from Egypt led to war in 1956, resulting in Israel taking control of parts of the Sinai desert but promptly returning it in exchange for U.N. border peacekeepers.

In 1967, the armies of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia prepared yet again to attack Israel with the goal of destroying the Jewish state,

In 2005 Israel made the painful decision to remove 25 settlements and nearly 9,000 residents from Gaza, leaving the entire area under Palestinian control. Israel hoped that this disengagement from Gaza might draw the parties closer to peace, but the opposite happened: the terrorist group Hamas became the elected Palestinian leadership in Gaza and used their position to launch daily rocket attacks into various cities in southern Israel.

And so history continues. Jewish people—both in ancient times and today—have fought valiantly to maintain a Jewish homeland within the territory granted by God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, according to the Bible.



### 1949 Armistice Agreement

promising to drive the Jews into the sea! Israel launched preemptive and defensive military actions and won a decisive victory, gaining control of the West Bank, the Golan Heights, Gaza and the Sinai. Israel offered to withdraw from these territories in exchange for peace, but in response the Arab leaders refused to recognize a Jewish state in the region.

On *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) in 1973, the holiest day of the Jewish year, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel. After initial losses, Israel again successfully defended herself against nations resolute in their goal to annihilate the Jewish state. Within a decade, Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt and returned the Sinai Peninsula.

Additional wars have been fought, though not always within the territory of Israel. The first Lebanon war was not against the Lebanese, but rather sought to end the attacks of Hezbollah, the Iranian-related organization that worked in concert with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). During the first Iraq war between Iraq and the United States, Saddam Hussein sent Scud missiles screaming into Jewish territory even though the Israelis had nothing to do with that conflict.

Israel recognized the PLO and signed a historic peace agreement (the Oslo Accord) with them in 1993. But PLO leader Yasser Arafat, after rejecting a far-reaching compromise brokered by President Clinton at Camp David, in 2000, launched a terror war against Israel. Daily images of suicide bombers blowing up Israeli restaurants and buses led to Israel building a fence cordoning off the West Bank, significantly reducing the Palestinian terror attacks.

### What is at Stake?

United States President Barack Obama has called for a Two-State solution with the 1967 borders as a starting point for negotiations. President Obama also declared the United States' firm commitment to Israel's security, saying that Israel had the right to defend herself against any threat. However, most Israelis believe that a return to the 1967 borders would leave Israel indefensible.

The distance from the Jordan River Valley to the Mediterranean Sea is about 40 miles. If the West Bank becomes part of the "new" Palestinian state, this distance would be reduced to only nine miles at its narrowest point. Missiles launched from the West Bank could hit Jerusalem as well as Ben-Gurion airport and its flights; and attacks on Tel Aviv could cripple the economy of Israel. Israel, already hard-pressed to defend her small territory from the surrounding Arab nations that total 650 times her size, would not be able to protect herself.

### PRAYING FOR THE PROMISED LAND

The Bible tells us that the nations will gather against Israel in the last days, and the prophet Joel writes that God will eventually judge the nations for dividing His land and scattering His people (Joel 3:2-3). As the Day of the Lord approaches, we must pray fervently for Israel and the Jewish people—not only for physical safety and peace, but also for individuals to turn their hearts to God and trust the Messiah who came once to die, and will soon come again to reign forever. We must echo the call of the prophet and pray for people to "...return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm." (Joel 2:13)

This will be a blessing to Israel and all her neighbors.

(For a full treatment of this subject, see *Understanding the Arab Israeli Conflict: What the Headlines Haven't Told You* (revised edition) by Michael Rydelnik, Moody Publishers, 2007).

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# 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 ANSWERS QUESTIONS REGARDING GREAT PROPHETIC EVENTS YET TO COME

### MATTHEW 24

Matthew 24 contains the climax of predictive teachings by the King of Kings. Its context is the nature of Jewish prophecy. Therefore, to understand Matthew 24 properly, we must focus on the Jewish expectation of the coming Kingdom of God, which will be established on the earth when the King returns (Acts 1:11).

In this chapter, known as the Mt. Olivet discourse (24:1-25:46), since it was given on the Mount of Olives (24:3), just east of Jerusalem. Jesus' disciples ask Him three questions. The historical context for this magnificent discourse is when the disciples attempted to show Jesus the newly refurbished Jerusalem Temple, financed by Herod the Great.

Jesus predicted the Temple's destruction, after which the disciples asked the following,

1. Tell us, when will these things be?
2. What will be the sign of Your coming?
3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?

In response, Messiah Jesus outlined the great prophetic events that would soon unfold.

#### The King Answers as He Chooses

As in many instances in His ministry, Messiah answers questions as He chooses—and not always according to the agenda of His questioners. In Matthew 24, He bypasses question one and reverses the order of questions two and three as He responds to them.

Both the second and third questions refer to a time after which the Church will be taken to heaven (Jn. 14:3; 1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). Jesus referred to a period called the “Tribulation” (Mt. 24:29). The Old Testament prophets taught that this time will last for seven years and include great judgments upon the earth (Isa. 2:10-22), which are expanded upon by the Book of Revelation, chapters 6-19.

This seven-year period may be divided into **Tribulation** (the first half) and **Great Tribulation**, the second three-and-a-half-year period. Daniel 9:27 refers to this as a “covenant with many for one week” that will be broken midway.

#### The King Predicts Events Coming to Pass in the First Three and a Half Years of Tribulation (Mt. 24:4-15)

The Scriptures indicate a number of events that will unfold during the first period of Tribulation:

1. False Messiahs will present themselves to Israel (Mt. 24:4,5)
2. Peace will elude the nations (Mt. 24:6-8; Jer. 30:6,7; Rev. 6)
3. Gentiles will persecute Israel (Mt. 24:9,10).
4. The world will be prepared for the revelation of the Anti-Christ, the man of sin (2 Thess. 2; Mt. 24:12).
5. False prophets will perpetuate deception among the masses (Mt. 24:11).
6. The sin of man will lead up to “The Man of Sin,” the Anti-Christ (Mt. 24:12; 2 Thess. 2).
7. Jewish evangelists will propagate the Gospel to the ends of the earth with great success (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:4,9-10).
8. The Anti-Christ will break his covenant with Israel at mid-Tribulation time, will desecrate a newly-built Temple and will demand world-wide worship. (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thess. 2; Rev. 13).

*In our next issue, we will consider what Jesus the King predicted will take place during the last three and a half years of Great Tribulation.*

## “BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK”

An ongoing part of our ministry in Australia is assembling and personally delivering food baskets to Holocaust survivors, elderly and needy Jewish people in Melbourne, especially during the holidays. One recipient shared that during World War II he stayed in the home of a Catholic Polish woman (whom he credits as having saved his life), and he saw a book on her shelf titled *Jesus the Jew*. He wanted to read it but never did. How incredible that more than 60 years later God is still knocking on the door of this Holocaust survivor’s heart through the delivery of these beautiful food baskets by Messiah’s followers. This man was so blessed to receive the parcel that he showed it to all his neighbors!

## EIGHT COME TO FAITH IN OREGON

Allen and Penny Abrahamson, Chosen People Ministries volunteers in Portland, Oregon, were busy teaching six Jewish evangelism training sessions over the summer. Many of the sessions’ participants joined the



Abrahamsons in a seven-week evangelism effort. Using our book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*, which shows how Jesus fulfills the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah, the team shared the Gospel with many Jewish seekers. In the space of a month, eight people came to faith in Messiah!

## A LIFE REDEDICATED TO MESSIAH

Roy Schwarcz, Chosen People Ministries’ Midwest Regional Director, reports, “I can’t even tell you how many lives are being transformed through our three weekly Bible studies at the Chicago Board of Trade. We are studying how the books of Romans and Daniel speak to our day-to-day lives at work and at home.” Recently, a Jewish believer began attending who had not been in fellowship or faithfully walking with the Lord for many years. He realized that his life was empty, and requested prayer that God would help him return to fellowship and the abundant life that he had known when he first came to faith. Please pray for the discipleship and spiritual growth of this brother who has recently rededicated his life to Yeshua (Jesus).

## A JOYOUS WEDDING WITH A MEANINGFUL MESSAGE

Our Messianic congregation in the Chicago area is growing and becoming a source of joy and light for many people! Last month, the community celebrated the wedding of a couple who both came to faith in the congregation. The young lady had been invited by a friend to visit a Bible study, and initially only wanted to argue—but God touched her heart and opened it to the truth. Her boyfriend then came to the service to find out what had made his girlfriend so different—and a few months later he received Messiah as well. Kirill Swiderski describes, “The wedding was beautiful, and there were many unbelieving guests who heard the Gospel for the first time. Many listened carefully to my message, and after the ceremony a number inquired about visiting the congregation.”

## SEEDS OF FAITH SOWN

Israel-based staff member Maxim K. recently returned from Poland, where he spent two weeks traveling and studying the Scriptures with a group of 35 Holocaust survivors. All the participants—more than half of whom considered themselves atheists—were changed by this experience. Maxim relates: “I was truly happy to see the change in their eyes—they had life in them! I honestly believe that our meetings have sown seeds of faith.” After the trip, some of the people from the group even requested that their grandchildren attend our Messianic summer camp, because they think it would do them a lot of good to learn about our faith. Hallelujah!

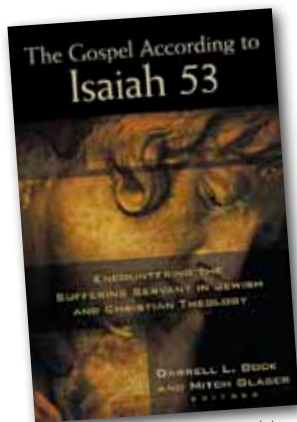
## SHARING WITH A CHILDHOOD FRIEND

Boris Goldin and his wife Shulamit, serving in Florida, took a fruitful missions trip to their native Russia. This was Boris’ first visit back to Moscow and St. Petersburg in the twenty-three years since he left the former Soviet Union. During this trip, he taught and trained leaders from more than twenty Messianic congregations and witnessed to many Jewish people. Boris shares about one particularly meaningful encounter: “I especially thank God for an opportunity to witness to a former classmate who was my closest friend during our school years. We stayed in his home for two days, and God allowed me to answer many of my friend’s questions. Please pray for the salvation of my close friend Andrei\* and his family.”

\*names have been changed

# MESSIANIC RESOURCES

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



## NEW! FROM DARRELL BOCK AND MITCH GLASER

*The Gospel According to Isaiah 53* presents the redemptive work of the

Messiah to the Jewish community, exploring issues of atonement and redemption in light of Isaiah chapter 53. It is clear that Jesus fulfills the specifications of the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. Edited by Darrell Bock and Mitch Glaser

**The Gospel According to Isaiah 53 [3138] • \$27.95<sup>us</sup>**

## NEW CALENDAR FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Order your copy now of our Messianic Jewish Art Calendar for September 2011 through December 2012. Each month will greet you with a breathtaking photo of a different place in Israel, a relevant word of Scripture and an encouraging thought about Messiah's promise to His people. These calendars make great gifts, so don't forget to order extras!



**Messianic Jewish Art Calendar [5005] • \$13.95<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).

# ISRAEL, THE CHURCH AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS



**SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 23-24, 2012  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

## Why I Support Jewish Missions

*Penny Dyer*

When I was nine years old, God began to develop in my heart a special love for my Jewish classmates. I really did not know exactly why, but I was concerned about them spiritually. As an adult I now have several wonderful Messianic Jewish friends who impressed upon me the scriptural mandate for taking the Gospel "to the Jew first." Because of this, I began to support Jewish evangelistic ministries like Chosen People Ministries. In addition, I feel that God has called me to do more than just give financially, so I always wear a Jewish Roots Symbol necklace in hopes that people will be curious about it and will ask me questions. Thankfully, it has created many opportunities for me to share about my faith in Jesus the Messiah.

**For more information on ways you can be involved in giving, please contact us today. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at [giving@chosenpeople.com](mailto:giving@chosenpeople.com).**

**Use the enclosed card and share your own story of why you support Jewish missions!**



## 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)

