



**The
Chosen
People**



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SPECIAL UPDATE

BROOKLYN MESSIANIC CENTER

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BROOKLYN CENTER UPDATE



midst of the largest concentration of Jewish people outside of Israel!

Let me summarize where we are and what God is doing. We purchased an 11,000-square-foot former Jewish funeral home in the Midwood section of Brooklyn—one of the larger Orthodox sections of the borough. There are dozens of *yeshivas* (Jewish parochial schools) and synagogues, as well as more kosher restaurants than you could visit in a lifetime. There are also a multitude of Jewish bookstores, institutions and businesses surrounding our new Center.

Our renovation work on this new facility has not gone unnoticed. In fact, we made it into the most well-read English-language Orthodox Jewish magazine in the area! The article, entitled, “A New Missionary Threat—Exposing a Messianic Center in the Heart of Flatbush,” reports that “Chosen People Ministries has announced that it is targeting what would be the biggest prize in evangelism to Jews: the Orthodox Jews of Brooklyn” (*Ami* magazine, June 22, 2011, p. 48).

This article is written by and for Orthodox Jewish people, so it is understandable that they would cast our efforts in these terms. They have correctly understood that one of our goals in establishing the Brooklyn Messianic Center is to reach out to our new Orthodox neighbors! In addition, many non-Orthodox Jewish people live in the area where the new Center is located—including thousands of Russian Jewish immigrants, Israelis and American Jewish people.

Our prayer to God—like that of our Messianic Jewish forefather, the great Rabbi and Apostle Paul—is that the Jewish people might be saved (Romans 10:1)! And we will preach the Good News at all times, praying that

Update on the Brooklyn Center

As you may know from reading *The Chosen People* newsletter, my heart breaks for Jewish people everywhere—but my deepest personal burden is for the more than three-quarters of a million Jewish people living in Brooklyn—the “Jerusalem of the West!”

May I give you a quick update on the progress of our Brooklyn Messianic Center in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn? Once the facility is renovated, I know that it is going to revolutionize our ministries in the

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom and Happy Thanksgiving! I pray that you will have a wonderful time with your family and friends as you celebrate the goodness of the Lord. I know I speak for our staff when I say that without your prayers and support, we could not do the work we love among the people we love. So THANK YOU from the entire Chosen People Ministries staff serving in thirteen countries and in more than a dozen cities across the United States.

many of our beloved Jewish people will hear the Gospel, take it to heart and put their trust in Messiah.

The Design of the Center

The new facility will enable us to expand our current Brooklyn ministries, give us a fully-functional space for the seminary program, and allow us to fulfill our vision for congregational planting as well.

We have already planted a Russian congregation in Brooklyn and plan to start an English-speaking congregation as well. In the new facility, we will expand the outreach ministries that we are already doing in Brooklyn, including evangelistic Bible studies, ministries to individuals and families of those who are struggling with drug and alcohol addictions, and ministries to the elderly and poor—especially among the Russian Jewish community.

The crown jewel of the Center will be the sanctuary that will seat more than 150 people, providing a place where Jewish people can hear the Good News through concerts, lectures and services where those who become followers of the Messiah can worship!

The Brooklyn Messianic Center will also house our Charles Feinberg Messianic Jewish Studies program, where the majority of the courses are taught in New York City by Chosen People Ministries staff. This is a unique program, in conjunction with Talbot School of Theology and Biola University, that is designed to train a new generation of Messianic leaders.

In fact, if you know of someone who would like to study full-time to serve in Jewish ministry—please tell us about him or her so we can be in touch.

It took us quite a bit of time to get all of our building permits—which is typical in New York City—but we now have them and are making progress in the renovation. If you or members of your congregation are



Far Left: anticipated first floor design; above: Bob Seemar (right) & workers at the building

skilled in carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, or have other construction skills, we would love to have you come and help us with the renovation! If you are interested, please return the enclosed card or go to www.chosenpeople.com/building. It would be great if you could bring a group of volunteers from your church!

The Cost of the Renovation

As you may already know, we are praising God that the building is completely paid for and we do not have any debt! We do not have debt on the renovation so far either, and if we can keep from taking on debt it would be wonderful! As often happens with construction, the costs have been a little more than expected: we needed to put in an elevator to comply with building codes, as well as an extra staircase for fire safety. We need only \$750,000 more to reach our goal!

The good news is that we have been offered a matching grant of \$250,000 if we can raise \$500,000! I pray and hope you will be able to give generously as we approach the home stretch. We would love to have these funds in hand by the first of January, so that we can focus on the ministry rather than the fund raising!

Would you pray about giving a gift this month to the Brooklyn Messianic Center—knowing that your gift will

be increased by this generous match? Your gift of \$1,000 can become \$1,500 and your gift of \$100 can become \$150. This is a tremendous opportunity to multiply your gift and especially to think about giving a larger end-of-the-year gift for the Center.

However the Lord leads, please consider doing what my wife and I are doing—we are giving to the building in addition to our regular missionary support, so as not to take anything away from the missionaries and programs we regularly support.

You can get a look at the design of all three floors of the Center by going to www.chosenpeople.com/building—and you can even give your gift online!

I hope you enjoy the article on Hasidic Jewry written by one of our graduating Feinberg students. Hasidic Jews are dedicated members of the Jewish community who are unreached with the Gospel, and it is our hope and prayer that we might touch their lives through the new Messianic Center in Brooklyn.

Once again, I hope you have a joy-filled Thanksgiving with your family and friends—and remember, we will be giving thanks for you and for the partnership the Lord has given us to reach His chosen people for our Messiah Jesus together.

With gratitude in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn

Since 1894, Chosen People Ministries has been bringing the Good News of Jesus the Messiah to Jewish people. Over the past 117 years, we have seen Judaism continue to evolve in its many forms. Jewish groups today can range from being liberal and even atheistic to Conservative and Orthodox. This complex Jewish landscape means that we must develop a unique ministry approach for each different group, contextualizing the Gospel in a way that can be understood by each one.



One of the most unique and challenging groups to reach is the *Hasidic* Jewish community. The word “*Hasid*” means pious. This ultra-Orthodox group is most frequently recognized by their traditional style of dress, as men typically sport black hats, dark suits, and white shirts.

In New York City, about 300,000 Hasidic Jews live in Brooklyn alone. As you know, our new Brooklyn Messianic Center, which is currently under renovation, is located in the very heart of the Orthodox Jewish community of Brooklyn.

We are now entering the final phase of the

Brooklyn Center renovation, so we want to tell you a little more about the two largest Hasidic groups in Brooklyn. As you read through these descriptions, we hope that you will envision the opportunities the future will bring to reach each of these communities with the Good News of Jesus.

Read on and see how the Lord is already working in the two largest Hasidic communities in Brooklyn: the Chabad-Lubavitch and the Satmar communities.

Chabad-Lubavitch

Perhaps no Hasidic group is better known than *Chabad-Lubavitch* (or simply Chabad). Their movement spans 70 countries across the globe and has over 200,000 adherents.

Founded in the late 18th century and formerly based in Lyubavichi, Russia, this group is currently headquartered in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York.

So what is unique about Chabad? Let us start with the name itself. “Chabad” is actually an acronym for the Hebrew words *Chochmah* (wisdom), *Binah* (understanding), and *Da’at* (knowledge). These three words represent the heart of Chabad’s religious philosophy, as they

seek to gain a higher understanding of God by combining Jewish mysticism with strict adherence to the *Torah* and *Talmud* (rabbinical commentary). Members of the Chabad community believe that they are spiritually healing the world by doing *mitzvot* (good deeds).

Another facet that makes this group unique is the perception that some Chabad devotees have of their late spiritual leader, Menachem Mendel Schneerson. He was deeply revered and his followers would wait for hours just



for a moment with him, which is normal in Hasidism. However, towards the end of Schneerson's life, a large group within Chabad strongly declared that he was actually the Messiah—a radical departure from traditional Hasidism!

After he passed away, his adherents split between those who believed he was the Messiah and those who did not. Even today, there is a strong Messianic expectation among many in the Chabad movement, and some even expect that Rabbi Schneerson will return from the grave.

Interestingly, to back up this idea, *Chabad turns to Isaiah 53*, which speaks of the Messiah dying to atone for the sins of the people, yet coming back to life (Is. 53:10). Their willingness to understand Isaiah 53 as referring to an individual Messiah opens the door to speak about how Jesus is the fulfillment of that prophecy. Indeed, Jesus already rose from the dead two thousand years ago, while Schneerson remains in his grave to this day. Over the last several years, many of our staff members have shared Isaiah 53 with Chabad Jewish people, and have had some very fruitful discussions.

Satmar

The next-largest Hasidic group in Brooklyn is the community of *Satmar* Jews. Originally from Satu-Mare, Romania, this group is currently headquartered in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn. It is estimated that there are 130,000 adherents to the Satmar Jewish tradition worldwide.

The Satmar Jews have a similar religious fervor to Chabad and other Hasidic groups, yet there are some key beliefs that distinguish them from the others. One of these is that they are very opposed to the current State of Israel. In fact, they go so far as to say that the nation should not even exist and should be given back to the Palestinians.

Why would this Orthodox Jewish group be opposed to the State of Israel? The Satmar oppose the modern State of Israel because it is a “secular state” and not one endorsed or established by God. They believe that *only the Messiah can restore the nation to the Jewish people*, and that in this nation all Jews will practice Torah and follow the Lord. Some even believe that the Holocaust took place because the Jewish “Zionists” were trying to reclaim the Jewish land for themselves without the intervention of the Messiah.

Due to this strong Messianic belief, the Satmar have staged multiple protests and have vocalized strong opposition to the Israeli government. They claim that their opposition is due to a love for the Land and a desire to see conflicts and secularism end there. Ironically, many Satmar still continue to visit Israel, and some even live there.

As we strive to reach those in the Satmar community with the Good News, the discussion on Israel and the Messiah becomes an important entry point. As believers, we know that Jesus the Messiah will return to cleanse Israel of her sin and

restore the kingdom (Zechariah 12:10). He will rule in righteousness and there will be perfect peace. Like the Satmar, we too long for this day, and can use our shared enthusiasm for the coming Messiah to open a door to share about Jesus.

Thus, even though we support the current State of Israel, we also believe that only the Messiah Jesus will be able to establish a nation full of peace and righteousness, and to that end we pray. We also pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for us among the Satmar Jews, as our staff members continue to share the Good News with them. With great thanks to God, we can report that there are indeed some believers in Jesus among the Satmar community, although most of them continue to live in the community as “underground” believers.



Our Hope for the Hasidic Jews of Brooklyn

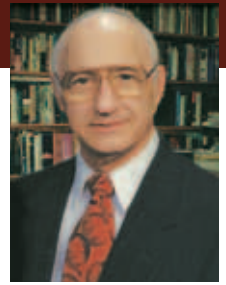
Our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, began our ministry in Brooklyn, not far from where our new Brooklyn Messianic Center is located. Through his ministry, he made sure to reach the Hasidic groups in Brooklyn. We are grateful that the Lord is giving us the opportunity to continue this rich tradition and have an even stronger ministry presence in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn.

Imagine with us that one day we could fill the sanctuary of the new Brooklyn Messianic Center with new and growing believers in Yeshua from the Hasidic community! We believe that our Lord is mighty and can do all things, and we know that He has sovereign plans for our presence in that neighborhood.

We truly cherish your prayers and support as we move forward to complete the renovation of our Brooklyn Messianic Center. The sooner we finish, the sooner we can use the facility for ministry to reach even the “unreachable” of the Hasidic Jewish community.

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 PREDICTS GREAT TRIBULATION PRIOR TO HIS GLORIOUS RETURN TO EARTH MATTHEW 24:15-31

With all eyes focused once more on the Middle East, we turn to God's Word for guidance as we try to understand the events that are unfolding in our present time. This month, we will examine and interpret Messiah's teaching as well as other New Testament Scriptures about the Great Tribulation.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

This period will begin with the Anti-Christ breaking his seven-year covenant with Israel, desecrating a newly-built Temple and demanding the worship of the entire earth (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thess. 2:3-10; Rev. 13:8). The first three-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation are less severe than the second three-and-a-half years, which are termed "The time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7). The severity of the Great Tribulation period will be unparalleled. Jesus indicated: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Mt. 24:21). The following events will take place during this three-and-a-half-year period.

DESECRATION OF THE TEMPLE AND PERSECUTION

Energized by Satan, the Anti-Christ will seek to organize a

"world church" that will worship him. Jesus called this event "the abomination of desolation" (Mt. 24:15; Dan. 9:27). Jesus told Israel that when the armies of the Anti-Christ invade Jerusalem, the Israelites should flee immediately to the mountains (over Jordan) into the biblical lands of Edom, Moab and Ammon. There, in the wilderness, God would nourish Israel supernaturally during the time of the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:15-19; Rev. 12:13-17).

MIRACLES OF DECEPTION ON A GRAND SCALE

Jesus indicated that "...false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders..." (Mt. 24:24). Every one of them will show some great wonder and some great deceiving sign. While Jesus predicted a series of earthquakes (Mt. 24:7), John the Revelator indicated that an earthquake of unparalleled proportion would move "every mountain and island...out of its place" (Rev. 6:14). The entire surface of the earth will need to be remapped at that time!

THE GREATEST STOCK MARKET CRASH IN ONE HOUR

In the Great Tribulation period, Babylon will become the

economic center of the earth. But this horrific stock-market crash will be such that, "...in one hour such great riches [will come] to nothing..." (Rev. 18:17). When the city of Babylon is destroyed by God, all the merchants of the entire earth will weep over their great loss (Rev. 18:15, 21).

UNPRECEDENTED WORLDWIDE DRUG USE

The Book of Revelation tells us that "...by your sorcery all the nations were deceived" (Rev. 18:23). The word for "sorcery" in the Greek language is *pharmakia*, from which we derive "pharmacy." This refers to the worldwide usage of drugs to dull the conscience. As a result, the majority of individuals during the Great Tribulation will refuse to repent of their transgressions (Rev. 9:21).

CONCLUSION

We can thank the Lord that you and I can escape the Great Tribulation period by trusting in Messiah Jesus for complete forgiveness of our sin (1 Thess. 5:9; Rev. 3:10).

In the next issue, we will discuss God's promise regarding "The Return of the Great King to the Earth."

NEWS BRIEFS



URGENT PRAYER NEEDED FOR ISRAEL STAFF MEMBER

Chosen People Ministries Israel staff member Neriya A. is very sick at this time. Neriya, originally from the former Soviet Union, immigrated to Israel as a child and became a believer as a young man. The life of this servant of Messiah is threatened by a rare chronic kidney disease. Seven years ago, he received a donated kidney from a friend of Chosen People Ministries. The story was a great witness to hundreds of people throughout the whole process. Recently, Neriya's transplant stopped functioning and he was hospitalized in serious condition with a high fever and very high blood pressure. Please pray for Neriya, his wife Anna and their six children.

TAKING THE FINAL STEP OF FAITH

After speaking at a church recently, Chosen People Ministries staff member Jeff Kran wondered what the Lord had done in the hearts of those who had attended. While there was deep appreciation for the message, he did not know whether there would be lasting fruit. When Jeff contacted the pastor about a week later, he discovered that a young woman had come to know the Lord after the message. She had been attending the church for a while, but had been delaying a decision—and Jeff's sermon caused her to take a step of faith and trust in Messiah as her Lord and Savior.

ACCIDENTAL INVITATION LEADS TO FAITH DECISION

Mark Surey, who ministers in New York City, gave a series of Jewish evangelism training seminars designed to assist Christian professionals in reaching their Jewish friends. Sidney,* a Jewish seeker, was mistakenly invited to one of the seminars—but instead of being alienated, Sidney seemed to connect to the apologetics presentation that Mark gave. The following week,

Mark found out that Sidney had received Messiah! It turned out that Sidney has had close relationships with believing colleagues who have witnessed to him over the years, and Mark's talk helped Sidney finally to make a faith decision. Please pray for Mark to have the wisdom to disciple this precious new brother effectively as he becomes established in his faith.

VIDEO DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITY GROWING

Back in January, Peter Shirokov was approached by a group of Russian Jewish believers in need of discipleship. Their congregation had lost their main teacher and leader, and they were desperate for guidance and leadership. This group was located in California, and Peter lives in Atlanta—so for several months Peter has been teaching them once a week through live video feed over the Internet. Now more people from other locations are joining from week to week to discuss the Scriptures and learn together. Peter shares, "Last week, for example, the Russian Jewish believers from California were joined by couples from Boston, New Jersey and Florida. I was also told that not-yet-believing family members are occasionally joining this live event as well."



A TRANSFORMING ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

Scott and Dana N., based in the Los Angeles area, are astounded at the miraculous ways in which God continues to work in the hearts of people in their community. Three months ago, a young man walked into a service while Scott was preaching about the need to cultivate a grateful heart. At the time, the man was not a believer and was not even looking for a relationship with Jesus—but on that morning he experienced the power and existence of God in a dramatic way. His life has significantly changed, and when Scott baptized him last week, the man publicly declared Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Scott and Dana rejoice: "We are really amazed by the transformation in our friend's life! Pray that God will continue to guide him in his spiritual growth."

*name has been changed

ISRAEL, THE CHURCH AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

MARCH 23-24, 2012
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

with Joel Rosenberg at Biola University

Jean W.

Why I Support Jewish Missions

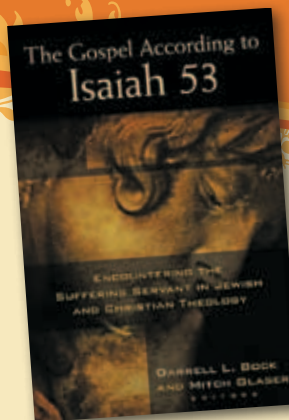
From the time my son married a Jewish woman, I was concerned about her salvation. As the years went by, I continued to have a burden for her. One day I saw Jay Sekulow on television and in the course of his speaking, he mentioned Chosen People Ministries and shared a bit about them. Ever since then, I have been giving to Jewish Evangelism in hopes that not only my daughter-in-law, but other Jewish people as well would come to know the Lord. I even gave the *Isaiah 53 Explained* book to my daughter-in-law—and she still hugs me when she sees me! My life has been so blessed by giving to the Jewish people—I believe that every day should be Thanksgiving.

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.

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

MESSIANIC RESOURCES

THANKING GOD FOR ALL HE IS



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^{us}

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 from 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] • ~~\$12.95^{us}~~ NOW ONLY \$7.95^{us}

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



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)

