

The Chosen People



Volume XVIII, Issue 1 February 2012

PROCLAIMING YESHUA IN WORD & DEED

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JEWISH EVANGELISM YESHUA-STYLE!

Shalom! We have enjoyed a very fruitful season of ministry, and I have just a quick moment to catch my breath before we move on to a new and exciting season of outreach!

Next month, we will begin our evangelistic Isaiah 53 Campaign in Los Angeles and hold a major conference on Israel, the Church, and the Middle East Crisis at Biola University, March 23–24. Speakers will include best-selling author Joel Rosenberg, Old Testament scholar Dr. Walter Kaiser, myself, and a number of experts on the Middle East—including a former Iranian Muslim who is now a follower of Jesus!

I hope you will pray for the Isaiah 53 Campaign and think about attending the Israel, the Church, and the Middle East Crisis Conference. (You can fill out the enclosed response card, or visit chosenpeople.com/conference to learn more and register online.)

The Gospel of Matthew and the Jewish People

I would like to take a moment—before all these new activities kick in—to share some thoughts from Scripture about *why* we do what we do! Sometimes our ministry activities move so fast! I'd like to take some time right now to tell you a little more about the heart of your Mission to the Jewish people.

I have enjoyed our newsletter Bible studies by Dr. Dan Goldberg on the Gospel of Matthew; they have inspired me to delve deeper into the study of this great Gospel. Recently, I have focused on Matthew chapters 9 and 10, where our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) instructs His disciples in the essentials of evangelism.

I like to call this passage “Missions According to Yeshua!” Although these words originally applied to the disciples’ first “missions trip,” the principles in the passage continue to shape the way in which I view our 118-year-old ministry among the Jewish people.

The message we preach is founded on Scripture—as is the way we conduct our ministry! I firmly believe that being true to the Scriptures is the only way we can expect to receive God’s blessings on our efforts. Please take a moment to look at Matthew chapters 9 and 10 with me.

Preach the Good News and Care for Those in Need

After preaching the Sermon on the Mount recorded in chapters 5–7 of Matthew, Jesus performed three miraculous healings and one instance of deliverance in chapter 8. Then in chapter 9, He heals a man after telling him his sins are forgiven and raises a young girl from the dead. On the way to raising the girl from the dead, He heals a woman who had a hemorrhage. We also find Jesus healing two blind men and a Jewish man who was mute, casting out the demons who had taken away his voice. It is no wonder the amazed crowds responded by saying, “*It was never seen like this in Israel!*” (9:33). Jesus was a very busy Messiah!

Over the last century, many mainline Christian denominations began to focus on benevolence, such as helping the poor and feeding the hungry. Unfortunately, this often came at the expense of preaching the pure and true message of the Gospel. This caused other believers to try to counteract this tendency by focusing

almost exclusively on Gospel proclamation—at the expense of extending practical aid. As a result, the balance between word and deed has been elusive for many ministries.

The Bible tells us that we have a responsibility to care for the weak, marginalized and hungry—and the Bible is also clear about the necessity of preaching the Gospel. As followers of the Messiah, we should do both—just as He did!

As Matthew writes,

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (9:35)

The Savior was a *master* of word and deed. He demonstrated the perfect balance between benevolence and Gospel proclamation.

Jesus’ Good Works are Proof of His Messiahship

There was a prophetic element to these aspects of the Messiah’s ministry as well: these miraculous works were proof that He was the Messiah promised to the Jewish people!

Isaiah had prophesied about the blessings of the future Messianic age,

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:5–6).

One person who understood this perfectly was John the Baptist, who heard of the works of Jesus (Matthew 11:2) and sent his disciples to ask if He was the “expected one”—



the Messiah—or *should he wait for another?* Jesus responded by quoting from Isaiah 35!

The physical healings Yeshua performed are signs of the Messianic age and provided a testimony to the Jewish people that the Messiah had come. Today, the Lord continues to provide for the needs of His people—including through the dedicated staff of Chosen People Ministries.

We are proclaiming the Gospel and at the same time providing food for about 3,000 poor and elderly Israelis each month. We are also increasing our ministries to Russian Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn and in poverty-stricken areas of Far East Russia.

We love our people, and I am delighted that the Lord has given us the opportunity to show His love in very practical ways! And we could not do this without your faithful prayers and generous support!

The Harvest Is Waiting!

At the conclusion of Matthew 9, Yeshua sent His disciples out on a “missions trip” and instructed them to do exactly what He did!

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease (Matt. 10:1).

The disciples were to heal in His name and power—and to preach the Good News of the Kingdom.

We know that the efforts of these twelve followers of Messiah were just the beginning of all that the Lord would do for our broken world. This is why Jesus also instructed His disciples to pray for more workers. Yeshua knew that the harvest would one day go far beyond the work of these first disciples and extend far beyond the borders of Israel to the entire world.

He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matt. 9:37-38).

We are the laborers in the harvest! Would you pray with me that many new workers—Jews and Gentiles who love the Lord—would join us in the harvest? We have already witnessed a significant increase in our staff,

especially as new workers are now training for Jewish ministry through our Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies!

Thanks for Your Partnership in the Gospel

The example of our Messiah teaches us to balance Gospel preaching with meeting the practical needs of the people we are called to reach.

The Isaiah 53 Campaign is a good example of what we are doing to proclaim the message of the Gospel, and our benevolence efforts in Israel illustrate the way the Lord is using our ministry to demonstrate His love in the most practical way!

Enjoy the reports in this newsletter and please pray that Chosen People Ministries will always DWYD...Do What Yeshua Did!

He is our example!

Your brother,

Mitch
Mitch

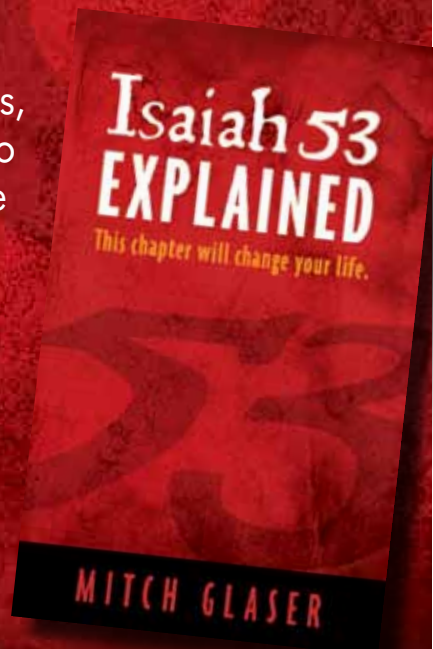


Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

THIS CHAPTER WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

He suffered and endured great pain for us.

The Los Angeles **Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign** is a new effort to reach the almost one million Jewish people of Southern California with the message of the Messiah. This effort is a part of our international **Isaiah 53 Awareness Campaign**. Isaiah 53 is one of the clearest prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures concerning the atoning work of Jesus. The purpose of the Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign is to share this important passage with Jewish people in hope that they may come to know the Lord. Through a public media campaign—including radio, billboards, and television—we will invite people to visit our **Isaiah53.com** website where they can request the free book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*. This book explains in detail how Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah 53, and our staff will then personally follow up with the Jewish people who request the book.



www.Isaiah53.com



Nourishing Body and Spirit through Messiah's Love

Although forging a new life in the Promised Land has been the lifelong dream of countless Jewish people across the centuries, no one ever promised it would be easy. The early Zionist pioneers faced staggering obstacles in simply surviving and establishing a simple life for their families and communities. Today's immigrants to Israel face both physical and psychological difficulties that are, in some ways, even more complex.

Unfortunately, life in Israel is a grim struggle for a significant percentage of its people. But Chosen People Ministries is finding opportunities to be Messiah's hands and feet in ways that are meaningful to those who stand in such need of that redeeming love.

One by one, the Lord has opened doors—literally—for our benevolence work in Israel! First the Tel Aviv distribution center opened,



THE POWER OF LOVE

then the Jerusalem distribution center, and now the doors are wide open in the cities of Netanya, Sderot and Ashdod. Through these distribution centers, Chosen People Ministries is able to feed the needy—in more ways than one!

These “needy” are the poor, marginalized and forgotten. Israel’s poverty line keeps sinking lower and lower, and it is those below the line

who have the greatest need. Our workers are able to offer a hot meal, take-home food parcels (filled with must-have cupboard staples) and donated clothing. Every month, we serve over 3,000 people. Each one has a story—from struggling single mothers to elderly Holocaust survivors to those who are recovering from alcoholism and drug abuse. At times, we minister to whole families who join us for a weekly hot meal. We have even been able to assist members of the migrant worker population from Africa. At times, our distribution centers look like the United Nations!

As these people visit our distribution centers located throughout the country, we get to know them and their stories. They in turn hear our story of why we care and share such nutritional food—as well as spiritual food. Our hope and prayer is for people to encounter the Messiah Jesus, who cares for their every need and is their comforter and provider, even when it seems like there is no one else to help them.

God’s Transforming Love Changes Lives

Recently, two people came for a meal and it was obvious that they were seeking more than just physical food as they shared their problems, asked for help and were offered prayer. As these dear new friends responded to the



We get to know them
and their stories.
They in turn hear our
story of why we care.

love of the Lord, both of them opened their hearts to receive Jesus as their Messiah. In so doing, they were filled with the hope and joy of eternal life! Now that’s something to say “*l’chaim*” (to life) about! Please keep praying for more faith decisions as well as God’s provision in every way to continue and expand this work.

Our distribution ministries in Sderot and Ashdod are particularly special, as most of the people we serve in these cities are elderly Holocaust survivors. Many receive only a meager pension from the government, which is barely enough to pay their bills. We are able to offer practical aid (food parcels and supplies such as warm blankets for the winter) as well as home visits. Not long ago, one of our workers had a great conversation with Boris* and Tanya* over traditional Russian tea. They spoke about the difficulties of living in Israel and our worker shared the Gospel with them through Old Testament prophecies. At the conclusion of their time together, Boris and Tanya accepted the Bible they were offered and asked us to stay in touch with them.

From the very beginning of its outreach to Jewish people, Chosen People Ministries has found there is no substitute for a warm hand and a warm heart. This is true in Brooklyn, in Berlin, in Jerusalem, in Tel Aviv and everywhere there are human lives to be reached. Our staff in Israel is responding to the practical and spiritual needs of God’s chosen people—and we are seeing the results! What greater blessing could there be?

*not their real names



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 GREAT KING RETURNS TO THE EARTH

Matthew 24:27-51

When will Messiah return? Although the precise time of this momentous occasion is still hidden from us, Matthew 24 describes the various events that will characterize the impending return of the Great King to this earth.

SIGNS OF MESSIAH'S SECOND COMING

Whereas the first coming of Jesus was marked by an announcement beforehand (Mt. 1:20, 21) and an anticipated birth, the Second Coming will be as fast as a lightning flash (Mt. 24:27). Matthew 24:30 tells of a heavenly sign, preceded by an eclipse of both the sun and the moon. This will be followed by a trumpet sound and the gathering of the elect “from the four winds” (Mt. 24:31)—consisting of Gentile believers who have not been martyred (Rev. 7:9), as well as Jewish believers in the Messiah Jesus who have been supernaturally protected by God from the anger of the Devil (Rev. 12:13-17).

In the days leading up to Messiah's Second Coming, there will be accelerating apostasy (departure from truth and righteousness), which is likened to the age of Noah before the flood

(Mt. 24:37-39). This end-time devolution is characterized by “eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day...” (Mt. 24:38). The Second Coming of Messiah will end the degeneration of society and usher in an age of righteous rule (Rev. 20:1-4; Isa. 2:1-4).

SIGNS OF MESSIAH'S VICTORIOUS RETURN

The return of Messiah is the culmination of the triumph over wickedness set into motion by His death on the cross. While the righteous assembly of believers (the true Church) is raptured or caught up to heaven preceding the seven-year tribulation time, the wicked are swept off the earth into *Sheol* (Hell) just before the 1,000-year rule of Jesus (compare Mt. 24:39-41 with Mt. 25:41, 46).

There will also be an end to the persecution of the Jewish people. For centuries, Satan has sought to exterminate God's chosen people and prevent the appearance of Christ. His last attempt will be to gather all nations against Jerusalem at Armageddon (Rev. 16:14-16). However, at that time, Satan will be defeated finally and forever in

his attempts to annihilate the Jewish people (Rev. 20:1-3).

CONCLUSION

Another key element in this earthshaking scenario is Israel's recognition of the Messiah of Israel, which will take place at His return (Rom. 11:25-27). At that time, “*they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*” (Zech. 12:10). Then, “*all Israel will be saved*” (Rom. 11:26) because of God's covenant with them (Jer. 31:31-34; Zech. 13:1). Therefore, followers of Messiah can look ahead in confident hope for God's ultimate victory at the return of the Great King.

Perhaps the generation to which Jesus referred in Matthew 24:34 is the generation of Israel during the future tribulation time. Our Lord was speaking prophetically and guaranteed that heaven and earth would disappear sooner than would His words concerning Israel (Mt. 24:35). Wisdom would dictate that the best response is to believe in and heed the words of Jesus, the King of Kings.

NEWS BRIEFS

LOVING THE LONELY WITH MESSIAH'S COMPASSION

Chosen People Ministries workers regularly follow up with Jewish people who have requested materials from the Mission. During one follow-up phone call, New York City-based staff member Liz Crawford met Molly,* a 94-year-old Jewish lady. Molly's husband died years ago, and she has no children or family. Liz later visited Molly, who was very lonely and was overjoyed at the company and conversation. Although Molly is still unsure about Jesus, she happily agreed to come to a Messianic service and had a great time. Please pray for her salvation!

A "DANGEROUS" BOOK OF THE BIBLE

Staff member Jennifer Rodgers loves it when the Lord gives her special encounters with Jewish people who need to know Jesus. Recently, she met two Israelis, Noam* and Ayal,* in downtown Boston. The conversation soon turned to spiritual matters, and Noam mentioned that he had a devout Christian roommate with whom he enjoyed talking about the Bible. Jennifer encouraged Noam to investigate the New Testament, perhaps starting with the book of John. "I've heard of this book," Noam said hesitantly. "I've heard that it's dangerous."

Jennifer answered, "Well, I suppose it is a little dangerous. It's about Yeshua (Jesus) and how He claimed to be the Jewish Messiah. But you were in the Israeli army—I'm sure you can handle it!" Noam laughed and said that he would read the book of John and the New Testament. Please pray that as he reads the Scriptures, the Lord will call Noam to Himself!

JEWISH PROFESSOR RECEIVES MESSIAH

Several months ago, Juan Carlos* came to our Spanish-speaking Messianic congregation in South Florida after a long search. He shared with congregation leader Manuel Goffman and his wife Rosa that he has been spiritually confused since childhood, because he had a Catholic education, but his grandfather taught him Torah and encouraged him to identify as a Jew. Juan Carlos' spiritual search led him to focus his academic career on Israel, antisemitism, the Holocaust, and Jewish studies, and he has been teaching on these subjects as a university professor. Recently, during a personal conversation with Manuel and Rosa, he received Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior! Pray for him to continue growing.

BARBECUE AND BIBLE STUDY IN NEW ZEALAND

Over 50 young adults from a dozen different countries attended the kickoff of our fourth year of outreach to backpackers in New Zealand. Scott B., who leads this outreach, rejoices over the spiritual openness of these young people: "It continually amazes me how attentive our guests are as we share the Gospel and a bit of personal testimony about its transforming power." Scott especially enjoys seeing the backpackers peruse the literature table, replete with Bibles, testimonials and other Gospel literature. "My heart leapt as I watched Tal,* an Israeli musician and chef, pick up a Hebrew New Testament and other Hebrew literature while sincerely thanking us for the multiple blessings. I privately gloried in the promise, 'My word... shall not return to me void...'"

**names have been changed*

SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH BASEBALL

Chosen People Ministries proclaims the message of Messiah in many different ways—including through baseball! We held a special outreach breakfast in New York City with guest speaker Bobby Richardson, the 1960 World Series MVP of the New York Yankees. He shared stories from his baseball career, as well as his testimony of how Yeshua transformed his life. Staff member Jeff Siegel, who also gave his testimony, reports, "Several Jewish businessmen came up to me afterward and expressed how much they enjoyed my story as well as Bobby's. The Lord's presence was evident, and I will definitely be following up with these men."



ISRAEL, THE CHURCH AND THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

March 23-24, 2012

Biola University, La Mirada, CA

There are many economic and geopolitical challenges facing the U.S., the world, and the Middle East today. The conference speakers will help you understand the current Middle East conflict from a biblical perspective and grow in your understanding of the critical role Israel and her neighbors play in the unfolding of prophetic events.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

7:00 – 9:30 PM

The Gathering Storm: Inside The Showdown
Between the U.S., Israel and A Nuclear Iran

Joel C. Rosenberg

Personal Testimony - Michael Zinn

Music by Steve Wiggins and Marty Goetz

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

9:00 – 9:45 AM

The Future of the Middle East
According to Isaiah

Dr. Walter Kaiser

10:00 – 10:45 AM

Miracle In The Middle East: Why More Jews
and Muslims Are Coming to Faith in Jesus
than Ever Before

Joel C. Rosenberg

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Future of Israel and the
Second Coming of Jesus

Dr. Mitch Glaser

Personal Testimony - Hormoz Shariat

12:00 – 1:45 PM

Lunch Break (Metzger Lawn)

WORKSHOP #1: 1:45 – 2:45 PM

Reaching Jewish People for Jesus

Larry Feldman, Rich Freeman

MAYERS AUDITORIUM

Reaching Muslims for Jesus

Hormoz Shariat, Tom & JoAnn Doyle

CALVARY CHAPEL

A Dialogue: Israel, Her Neighbors and Prophecy

Joel C. Rosenberg, Dr. Mark Saucy,

Dr. Walter Kaiser

CHASE GYMNASIUM

Serving God in the Holy Land:

Opportunities for You

Chosen People Ministries staff

SUTHERLAND AUDITORIUM

WORKSHOP #2: 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Modern Antisemitism and Other

Obstacles to Jewish Evangelism

Olivier Melnick, Dr. Mitch Glaser,

and Chosen People Ministries staff

MAYERS AUDITORIUM

The Future of Israel and the Church:

A Discussion Between Scholars

Dr. Robert Saucy, Dr. Walter Kaiser

CHASE GYMNASIUM

The Impact of the Middle East Crisis on

Ministry Among Jews and Arabs

Tom Doyle, Judith Rood,

Hormoz Shariat, Michael Zinn

SUTHERLAND AUDITORIUM

The Jewish People and Jesus (in Spanish)

David Sedaca, Guillermo Katz

TALBOT EAST PII

4:15 – 5:00 PM

Question & Answer Period

Glaser, Kaiser, Rosenberg, Shariat, Zinn

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Dinner Break (on your own)

SATURDAY EVENING CELEBRATION

(FREE ADMISSION)

7:00 – 9:30 PM

• Concert by Marty Goetz

• Israel Ministry Report and Video

Michael Zinn

• A Glimpse into the Future: Israel,

The United States and the Muslim World

Joel C. Rosenberg



JOEL C. ROSENBERG

New York Times best-selling author of *Epicenter: Why the Current Rumbles in the Middle East Will Change Your Future*, *Inside the Revolution* and his most recent novel *The Tehran Initiative*.



DR. WALTER KAISER

President Emeritus and Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The author of numerous books on the Old Testament, including *The Messiah in the Old Testament*.



DR. MITCH GLASER

President of Chosen People Ministries and co-editor of the award-winning book, *To The Jew First: The Case for Jewish Evangelism in Scripture and History*.



HORMOZ SHARIAT

Hormoz Shariat is the President of Iran Alive Ministries, which is dedicated to transforming Iran with the power of the Gospel. His daily satellite TV broadcast into Iran is watched by more than seven million viewers.



MICHAEL ZINN

A Russian Jewish believer who has been living in Israel for more than two decades, Michael Zinn leads Chosen People Ministries in Israel and oversees Messianic Centers in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.



STEVE WIGGINS

A five-time Grammy Award nominee, Wiggins leads worship at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, the Harvest Crusades with Greg Laurie and Shuvah Yisrael Messianic Congregation in Irvine.



MARTY GOETZ

Worship leader, singer, songwriter, and Messianic Jewish artist, Marty Goetz has been recording music and performing for over 30 years. He is often called a modern day psalmist.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:
www.chosenpeople.com/conference • 888.405.5874



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 (www.chosenpeople.ca). In Great Britain, write to: P.O. Box 47871, Golders Green, London, NW11 1AL (www.chosenpeople.org.uk). In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah Australia, P.O. Box 304, Caulfield, South Vic 3162, Australia (www.celebratemesiah.com.au). Contributing Editors: Z. Glaser, R. Goldstein, S. McHugh, A. Shore; Cover photo: M. Vaknin; Designer: Lois Gable.



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Printed in the USA

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

