

The Chosen People



Volume XVIII, Issue 6 July 2012



A MESSIANIC CENTER GROWS IN BROOKLYN

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LET US ARISE AND BUILD

Dear friend,

Shalom in His grace. Your Mission to the Jewish people is growing! We continue to have missionaries joining our staff, and this fall our Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies in New York City will have at least ten new students. These students have a deep burden and passion for reaching God's chosen people. We are also rejoicing in the graduation of four of our Feinberg Center students this past month. I could not be more encouraged! We need your prayers as we continue expanding.

Overseas Expansion

I am happy to say that our global Chosen People Ministries partnership has now grown to seventeen countries around the world. This summer, we added ministries in Poland, Finland and the Baltic States. Let me tell you why these countries are important.

Poland is known as the largest graveyard of the Jewish people in modern times, as more than 3 million

Jewish people were murdered there during the Holocaust.

Today, there are around 10,000 Jewish people living in Poland, with a growing and active Jewish community in Warsaw! There are also many churches thriving in Poland today, and many born-again believers who are trying to heal the wounds from the country's painful past by showing the love of Jesus to Jewish people living in Poland and Israel.

The ministry that is now part of Chosen People Ministries is an initiative of Polish believers who host retreats with elderly Holocaust survivors and young Israeli soldiers. They are also funding children's camps in the beautiful Polish countryside, and a number of Jewish people—especially from Israel—have come to know the Lord through these opportunities.

A second "massive Jewish graveyard" in Europe is found in the Baltic States, especially in Lithuania and Latvia, where the Nazis killed more than 300,000 Jewish

people with the help of locals who actively aided them. Today, there are fewer than 10,000 Jewish people there, most of whom are elderly. Our partners in Finland are



showing the love of Jesus in practical ways to the Jewish people in the Baltics: providing food and other staples for the elderly and poor survivors of a horrible past and sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people who still live in these countries.

I am excited about the potential for these ministries, as their efforts have already borne fruit in the lives of Israelis who have attended the camps, trips and retreats. Please pray for these ministries!

A Nehemiah Witness in Brooklyn

One of my favorite books of the Bible is Nehemiah. More than fifteen years ago, when I became the President of Chosen People Ministries, I decided to do my daily devotions in this wonderful book. I sensed at that time that God had called my wife and me to help build Chosen People Ministries. I found that I had some “rebuilding” to do as well, which should not be surprising as Chosen People Ministries at that time was already 103 years old!

Today, I have a great sense that any necessary rebuilding is done, and we are now developing Chosen People Ministries for a new era of ministry. We are sensing this momentum and growth in almost every aspect of our global outreach to the

Jewish people. I know that believers in every century have felt that they were coming closer to the second coming of Jesus, but I believe that Jewish evangelism becomes more and more important as we get closer to the day when the salvation of the end-time remnant of Jewish people will bring greater blessing to the world—and, as the Apostle Paul describes it, “*life from the dead*” (Romans 11:15).

I am extraordinarily passionate about the building of our Brooklyn Center and the potential this facility provides for work among my Jewish people. Oftentimes when I envision the fulfillment of Romans 11, I pray that our Brooklyn Center, situated in the midst of this religious Jewish community, will be used by God in preparing the hearts of the end-time remnant to receive the Savior.

Once again, the Book of Nehemiah has become an inspiration and source of guidance for me and for Chosen People Ministries—especially during this time of growth. One of the important lessons we learn from this great book is that building the work of God often brings opposition.

We also learn that the God who calls us to build His work and His kingdom in this often-hostile environment is the One who intervenes on our behalf and protects us from those who might want to do us harm. This was true in the case of

Nehemiah, who was called by God to rebuild the Temple after the Babylonian exile of the Jewish people. He challenged his fellow Jewish builders to continue in spite of the opposition they experienced—and they did!

We are already receiving quite a bit of opposition from the religious Jewish community, who view us as a threat. Who can blame them? This is the price we still pay for the terrible testimony of the Holocaust and other tragic events in Jewish history that Jewish people blame on “Christians.” I understand this mindset, as I was raised the same way.

I am encouraging our staff members who are building the center in Brooklyn to remember that the Lord is with them, despite the opposition, and that those opposing them are really opposed to a form of Christianity that is far from the true Gospel of love and grace revealed in Scripture. We need to be patient, loving, and strong in the Lord so that the day will come when we can show our beloved Jewish people the difference!

I know that Bob, my dear friend and co-worker for many years and the one responsible for building this facility, understands this—and so does his wife, Emily, who became a believer as a young child through Chosen People Ministries. Our entire staff and Board share this same sense of destiny, and we can see the hand of God upon this new Center in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn. We all take great comfort and joy in the words of Nehemiah, who wrote,

“Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses” (Nehemiah 4:14).

Thanks for your prayers and faithful support. The future is as bright as the promises of God!


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



MINISTRY IN BROOKLYN

Bob Seemar — Latter-Day Nehemiah



As Nehemiah looked at the crumbling walls of Jerusalem, he may have thought, “Oy vey! I must be *mashugah* (crazy)!” Building in Brooklyn for Jewish ministry sometimes seems just as daunting.

Nehemiah answered those who mocked him with these words: “*The God of heaven will give us success, therefore we His servants will arise and build.*” As we build, I can see the hand of God even in the midst of hardship and frustration. Working on the Brooklyn Center gives me great satisfaction in knowing that I have a hand in bringing the Good News of Messiah to His people. As I work in each room, I think to myself that one day, Jewish people will be seated here, listening to the Gospel and learning about Messiah. What a privilege it is to be involved in Jewish ministry!

Ministry is happening in the building even before it is officially opened. I have had multiple occasions to speak with one of the masons, who is Jewish. I gave him the book *Isaiah 53 Explained*, which he read, and now he and his wife want to get together with my wife, Emily, and me to discuss it. A Spanish-speaking laborer has been put in contact with a local church, and one of the mechanics, who is going through some difficulty in his life, has asked about God and His love for us. Finally, one of the mason laborers wants to go to the Chosen People Messianic congregation in Manhattan.

God’s hand is definitely in this project. Forty years ago, I never would have imagined that I would be doing what I am doing today. Thank God for His faithfulness and promises to His people and to us. Nehemiah finished the task with praise on his lips for God. May we do the same!



Emily Seemar — A Child of the Mission

I was raised in a Jewish home, and during my childhood, my mother began her search for God. When a Christian neighbor invited her to hear a rabbi who had come to faith in Messiah, she was attracted to the message. Shortly after, she began attending a Chosen People Ministries women’s Bible study in Levittown, New York. After being shown many Messianic prophecies in her Jewish Bible and meeting other Jewish women who believed in Messiah, my mom came to faith in Him as well.

My mom used to bring my brother, sister and me to the Bible study classes. I fell in love with Ruth Wardell, who was the children’s teacher. But the more we learned, the more fervent my father’s objections became—after all, Jewish tradition says that if you’re Jewish, you don’t believe in Jesus!

When I was eleven years old, a miracle happened in our home: my father allowed us to attend Camp Sar Shalom, the Messianic Jewish summer camp sponsored by Chosen People Ministries. God impressed two things upon my heart at camp.

First, my struggles to be “good” and my failure to measure up only emphasized my unworthiness—but little did I know that God had provided a remedy. When I read Isaiah chapter 53, I could not believe how well it described Jesus the Messiah.

Second, the loving kindness of the counselors made me jealous for what they had. So when an invitation was given at the end of one of the camp meetings, I chose Messiah! When I took that step, I felt even more Jewish because I had found the completion of my faith and a refuge of love and acceptance that I had never felt before.



Klaudia Zhelezny – Messiah’s Faithful Servant in Brooklyn

Both our services and our Saturday Bible classes are running very well. I’m also happy about the Bible studies on Wednesdays, as most of the attendees are young believers or seekers. We read the Torah and the Gospel of John in parallel, discovering again and again that the Word of God is alive and helpful in our lives today. Most of the people come from programs for the drug-dependant. Last month, we sent 17 men to different Christian rehabilitation centers for help—and we prayerfully wait for them to come back and rejoin our spiritual family here in Brooklyn!

One woman is now free from alcohol and drug addiction, and she lives in God’s love and His power. She found not only freedom in Him, but also a new husband, who is presently in Israel! We are praying for him to come to New York soon and be our helper and co-worker.

We are also planning to continue to offer different outreach events through our musically and artistically gifted people. At the end of May, we had a concert that was not only a musical event, but also an art exhibition, as all the musicians are also very gifted artists. We are having a drama performance in July; some very talented actors from our community will perform. It’s so nice that new people from the community come not only to visit, but also to work with us in reaching others with the Good News.

By God’s grace, we are looking to increase the work that the Lord is already doing. We are especially awaiting the opening of the Messianic Center, which is in a very busy Jewish area of Brooklyn. Please also pray for “Shalom Brooklyn,” our summer evangelistic outreach.



Ryan K. – Reaching Young Adults for Messiah

Brooklyn has more Jewish people than almost any other city in the world—so there is no better place to minister to Jewish young adults than the colleges in Brooklyn! Brooklyn College, located right behind our house, is an incredible 25% Jewish. From secular to Orthodox, from Russian immigrants to Israeli exchange students, the Jewish life among the students here could not be more diverse. One thing that quickly becomes apparent about most of these Jewish students is that they are seeking answers to life—and they have been taught incorrect things about Jesus.

As my wife is enrolled at Brooklyn College, we have been able to reach into the lives of many Jewish students. In one class, she is partnered with two relatively religious Jewish women. Because my wife wears a Star of David necklace, has a Jewish last name and speaks with passion about Jewish things, they assumed she was Jewish. When she revealed that she was not Jewish, the two students could not believe it, and they asked how she knew so much about Judaism. My wife then explained that she is a Christian married to a Jewish man who believes in Jesus. She continued to describe how I came to believe that Jesus is the Messiah through the demonstration of Passover and then through Isaiah 53. When she mentioned Isaiah 53, the girls

stopped her and asked, “What is Isaiah 53?” They pulled up the passage on the internet and read it. One girl exclaimed, “I’m not saying I believe this, but it sounds an awful lot like Jesus.”

Conversations like these are part of our constant, day-to-day encounters with Jewish people. These young people desperately need to hear about Jesus in a culturally relevant way—and we love having the privilege of being able to share with them!

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.

BETRAYAL OF THE KING (AN OVERVIEW OF JUDAS ISCARIOT) MATTHEW 26:19-27:10

Benedict Arnold was a traitor in United States history whose name became a byword of reproach—but Judas Iscariot was the traitor of the centuries who sold the Savior of mankind, the Lord Jesus Christ, for thirty pieces of silver. Who was Judas, and what does the New Testament have to say about him?

JUDAS WAS CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE

As one of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus, Judas was sent forth to preach (Mt. 10:5-8) and no doubt baptized believers, since Jesus did not baptize. In the days of Jesus, apostles were given power to perform miracles and healing of the sick—and this would also have included Judas (Mt. 10:5-8).

For three and a half years, Judas witnessed Jesus healing, preaching and feeding the multitudes. He saw the Master calm the Sea of Galilee and turn water into wine at a wedding (Jn. 2). Above all, Judas witnessed Jesus' compassion, observing Him as He wept and

prayed on behalf of sinners. After all of that time, Judas dipped into the same bowl and lodged in the same room as the King and Savior Himself.

JUDAS BETRAYS THE KING OF KINGS (Mt. 12:45; 26:47-50)

The devil himself, covenanting with the chief priests in the betrayal of Jesus, put it into Judas' heart to betray the King of kings, who was the best friend Judas had ever had. This act of treason must have broken the heart of our Savior. Judas thought the betrayal, which was preceded by a kiss and resulted in Jesus' arrest, worth thirty pieces of silver. (Mt. 26:14-15, 45-50).

After Judas committed his shameful act, the Scripture records his remorse as he attempted to return the money he had been paid (Mt. 27:3-5). None of Judas' wicked friends could pray for him or convey any peace or pardon. His soul in torment, Judas took his own life, and after hanging himself, his body fell and burst asunder (Acts 1:18).

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Why would the King of kings, who knew better than anyone “what was in man” (Jn. 2:24-25) have chosen Judas? Was it simply the love of money that motivated Judas to betray the One whom he had called his Master? Was Judas like those in John 6:64 who found Jesus too hard to follow and fell away? Or was he a poisonous presence from the very beginning?

CONCLUSION:

Although the Son of Man gave His life willingly, we know that the betrayal carried frightful consequences for Judas: “*The Son of Man indeed goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed*” (Mt. 26:24). Judas' life is an object lesson from which we can draw the sobering conclusion that there are eternal consequences for the choices we make while we are alive. To choose eternal life, we begin by believing the Gospel. We trust you have made certain that your name is in the “Lamb's book of life” (Rev. 21:27).



GETTING MUCHAN (READY) FOR MESSIANIC YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

Over 100 Messianic young adults from twelve countries attended the last Muchan Conference, held in Berlin at the end of 2009. It was so successful in fostering new friendships and motivating the next generation of leaders to serve the Lord that staff member Rachel G. is ready to make it happen again. She writes, "We are organizing another Muchan Conference in Paris at the end of 2012 with a planning team from Melbourne, Berlin, Moscow, Israel and New York City! Once again, we will gather Messianic young adults for a week of study, worship, prayer and learning together about our collective past and where we are going as this generation of Messianic leaders."

SEVEN WALK DOWN THE "ROAD TO EMMAUS"

While speaking on the topic of "The Road to Emmaus" at two special services at a church in Northern Virginia, staff member Dennis Karp drew upon his familiarity with the setting, which he acquired during the four years he lived in Israel. At each service, he asked if there was anyone who wanted to take their own personal walk down the "Emmaus Road" and into a relationship with the Lord. In all, seven people responded to his invitation and were added to Messiah's kingdom.

PATIENT FRIENDSHIP LEADS TO GOSPEL DECISION

Scott, who serves in Southern California, has been meeting with a young Jewish man who was longing for spiritual meaning and had been impressed by the warmth of people he met at a local church. However, he was not sure how to reconcile his interest in the claims of Jesus with his Jewish heritage. Over several months, Scott shared with him how it is possible to follow Jesus while maintaining his Jewish identity. Now Scott writes, "We are so excited to share that our friend has decided to receive the Lord. He is still young in his faith, but he now believes Jesus is his Messiah." Please continue to pray for this young Jewish man as he follows Jesus and seeks to grow spiritually.

CONFERENCE ON ANTISEMITISM IN FRANCE

Chosen People Ministries in France hosted a two-day conference for local pastors in the Strasbourg area, which has a large Jewish community. Staff member Olivier Melnick gave an address entitled, "The New Face of Antisemitism in Europe," which was followed by a round table discussion. This is a pertinent topic, especially in the wake of the Toulouse massacre in March in which three schoolchildren and a rabbi were killed by a Muslim extremist, and rising concern about the safety of French Jewish citizens.

FAITH DECISIONS FOR MESSIAH IN GERMANY

Boris Goldin, who leads a Messianic congregation in Florida, had the opportunity to preach messages and teach Bible studies during a speaking tour of Russian-speaking Messianic congregations in Germany. While there, he also visited a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug abusers that one of the local Messianic groups supports. As he listened to a number of stories of their broken lives, Boris prayed for the people there and encouraged them with the Gospel. Before he left that day, two men prayed to receive the Lord.

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**Help us bring
 Shalom to the Jewish
 people of Brooklyn
 and New York City**

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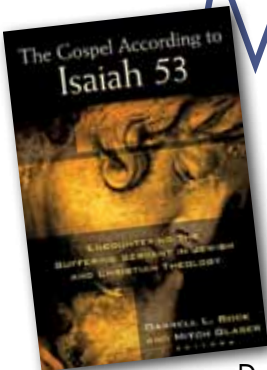
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**MESSIANIC
 RESOURCES**



Equip yourself to present the redemptive work of the Messiah to Jewish people. Exploring issues of atonement and redemption, respected scholars show how Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's "suffering servant"—and offer suggestions on how to share the Good News with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Edited by Darrell Bock and Mitch Glaser.

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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)



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