



PRESIDENT'S prayer letter

AUGUST 2023

Dear Friend,

Shalom in the name of our Messiah, Jesus! I recently returned from an exciting, long-awaited conference in Jerusalem. More than 300 of our staff, board members, and families from around the world converged on God's holy city, Jerusalem, to encourage and inspire one another in our crucial evangelistic work among Jewish people. Our conference theme was **"Building for the Future," based upon Nehemiah 2:17–18**. After hearing the testimonies of our workers around the globe, I am happy to tell you the future of the Lord's work among the Jewish people is bright!

After all, proclaiming the gospel among Jewish people is the only form of evangelism with a guarantee. As Paul wrote, there is *"a remnant according to God's gracious choice"* (Romans 11:5). We see this remnant growing today—especially in Israel!

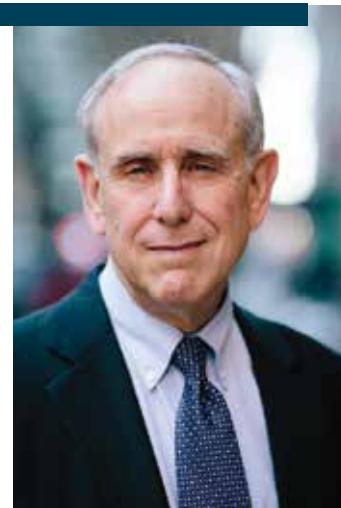
Our conference was a wonderful occasion to strengthen our global relationships. We heard updates on our work in fourteen of the twenty countries comprising our Chosen People Global Ministries network. The Chosen People Ministries attendees came from various nations, cultures, and languages. We confirmed our commitments to one another and our sacred task echoed in Paul's words, *"Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation"* (Romans 10:1).

Our theme of building for the future came from the book of Nehemiah. The Bible often compares the building of the church with the construction of a building! Many ancient cities—Jerusalem included—had walls built around them for protection. As God used Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, we see the Lord working through our global family of ministries building the modern Messianic Jewish community. Paul also mentioned the movement of Jewish people coming to the Lord in Romans 11:25–29 as a sign of the last days!

Though Nehemiah faced opposition, his little ragtag team succeeded in rebuilding the wall in a staggering fifty-two days (Neh 6:15). In Jewish ministry, we also endure opposition, both from individuals and the spiritual forces Paul described in Ephesians chapter 6.

To build successfully, we must build according to His plans detailed in Scripture and with trust in the One who has called us to this ministry!

After hearing the many **incredible testimonies from our partners across the globe**, I can confidently confirm God is at work. We see people coming to faith and growing in discipleship.



Mitch Glaser
PRESIDENT



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WE NEED BELIEVERS WHO WILL HOST THESE YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR HOMES AND SHOW THEM THE LOVE OF THE MESSIAH IN BOTH WORD AND DEED.

Again, I cannot tell you how encouraged I am by what I see God doing today!

BUILDING GLOBALLY FOR THE FUTURE

May I tell you a few stories?

Last November, in partnership with a young couple in Japan and one of our Israeli staff who has a great heart for reaching traveling Israelis in Japan, we began a guesthouse in Tokyo. In less than a year, they welcomed 120 Israeli guests.

This couple stays in contact—sometimes daily—with several of their guests. While in Israel for the conference, they even hosted a reunion event in Tel Aviv, where they continued to build upon the relationships formed with Israelis they met in Japan.

Another outreach we recently launched is our **Host Israelis Global Network**. We are asking believers to open their homes to traveling Israelis. We already host thousands of Israelis backpacking after their two or three years in the Israeli army at our youth hostels around the globe, which are great tools for this ministry. But the bread and butter (bagel and cream cheese?) of this ministry is Jesus-loving believers hosting these young adults in their homes and showing them the love of the Messiah in both word and deed.

If you are interested in hosting Israeli travelers in your home, go to www.hostisraelis.com. You can find out more by watching an introductory video and reading reports of how God is using everyday believers to bring the good news to Israeli travelers.

UKRAINE UPDATE

We also heard updates from our staff leading the outreach and relief efforts for suffering Ukrainians, both within Ukraine and within Israel. Since the start of the crisis, our partners in Poland have helped distribute hundreds of tons of food in addition to hygiene products, medicine, and other necessities. Some of our partners and volunteers have traveled very close to the eastern front war zones, and we praise God for keeping them safe.

WE HAVE BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF BIBLES INTO UKRAINE SINCE THE START OF THE CONFLICT.

We also support hundreds of displaced brothers and sisters who fled from eastern Ukraine to western cities, like Lviv. We provide food, rent money, medicines, and

more for these dear people, many of whom were part of Messianic congregations Chosen People Ministries planted or supported in Ukraine over the last four decades.

As one of our staff said, “We do not bring food only; we are bringing hope.” We long for people to see the love of Jesus through us. **Even in these dark, heartbreaking situations, God is at work.** Ukrainian Messianic congregations in our network are growing, and dozens of people have come to faith. We have brought thousands of Bibles into the country, even in the midst of war.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE IN ISRAEL

Our ministry in Israel has grown tremendously over the past thirty years. At first, we had only a few Israeli staff members, but now our team includes about thirty workers, and all of them are Israelis! I believe the Messianic community in Israel has a bright and vibrant future. We witnessed it for ourselves as we interacted with these dear Israeli brothers and sisters.

One of the highlights of our Israel conference was a visit to our Tel Aviv Messianic centers—both our current rented center and the commercial space we recently purchased. Our outreach there includes three or four events (concerts, dinners, lectures on practical and biblical topics) per month, along with Bible studies, small groups, and one-on-one ministry.

After visiting our current center, we visited our future one. The new center is two-and-a-half times the size

of the present, rented center. We will have room for our children’s programs, Bible studies, and training classes. The first floor will house a conference room, a coffee bar, and ample space for Israelis to sit, relax, and chat. The second floor will be our main auditorium, where we will host larger events like worship nights, concerts, and cultural programs.

A PERSONAL INVITATION FOR YOU!

I would like to invite you to **become a partner in supporting our new Tel Aviv Messianic Center.** Please pray the renovation process goes quickly and smoothly so we can open the new center for ministry as soon as possible.

To donate to this project, please return the enclosed response card or go to www.chosenpeople.com/telavivcenter. We are almost 70 percent of the way there!

This month, we are also blessed to offer a matching grant of up to \$100,000! If you give \$100, we receive another \$100, and if you give \$1,000, we receive another \$1,000. This grant doubles your donation! I am so grateful to those who are offering this generous additional gift.

So, you can help us have twice the impact by giving to our Tel Aviv Messianic Center fund this month. The US staff of Chosen People Ministries and our global partners deeply appreciate your gift of any amount. It is one of our other Chosen People Ministries countries who is offering this grant!



**TO SEE THE NEW CENTER FOR
YOURSELF, WE INVITE YOU TO
JOIN OUR DEDICATION TOUR
THIS DECEMBER.**

If you want to see the new center for yourself, we invite you to join **our dedication tour** this December 6–15, during the week Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication! We will light a menorah in the sanctuary of our new facility, tour this beautiful country, worship together, pray, and hear about what God is doing through our staff. I know you will love this once-in-a-lifetime trip!

We will explore Israel during the beautiful season of Hanukkah, when the country is lit with menorahs from north to south and east to west. It will be really spectacular, so join us! We might not be completely done with the build-out of the new center, but we

should be well on our way. To learn more and register, go to www.chosenpeople.com/dedicationtour.

As always, thank you so much for your prayers and support. We are so glad **we are joining what God is doing in Israel to build the future of Jewish evangelism together!**

Your grateful brother in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch

P.S. Along with our deepest thanks, we will send you two new books by Thomas Fretwell, one of our partners in the United Kingdom—*Why Israel?: Understanding God's Plan for Israel & the Nations* and *Why the Jewish People?: Understanding Replacement Theology and Antisemitism*—for your gift of \$100 or more. Remember, your gift will also be doubled!



TRAVELING ISRAELIS



The United States is the most popular long-distance destination for all Israeli travelers (not just those mentioned above). Approximately 450,000 Israelis a year travel to the United States, and this number increases each year.¹

¹ "Israel Travel and Tourism Industry," International Trade Administration: US Department of Commerce, August 4, 2022, <https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/israel-travel-and-tourism-industry>.

• After completing their two or three years of military service, Israelis often spend six months to a year traveling abroad. Each year, about 30,000 Israelis² make this major trip to explore the world and try new adventures.

• In addition to the United States, Chosen People Ministries has hostels and hosts in Japan, Brazil, Bolivia, India, and New Zealand.

² The Ista System, "The Ten Commandments of Parents for Backpackers," Ista Magazine (blog), June 17, 2019, <https://blog.issta.co.il/backpackers-2/>.



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