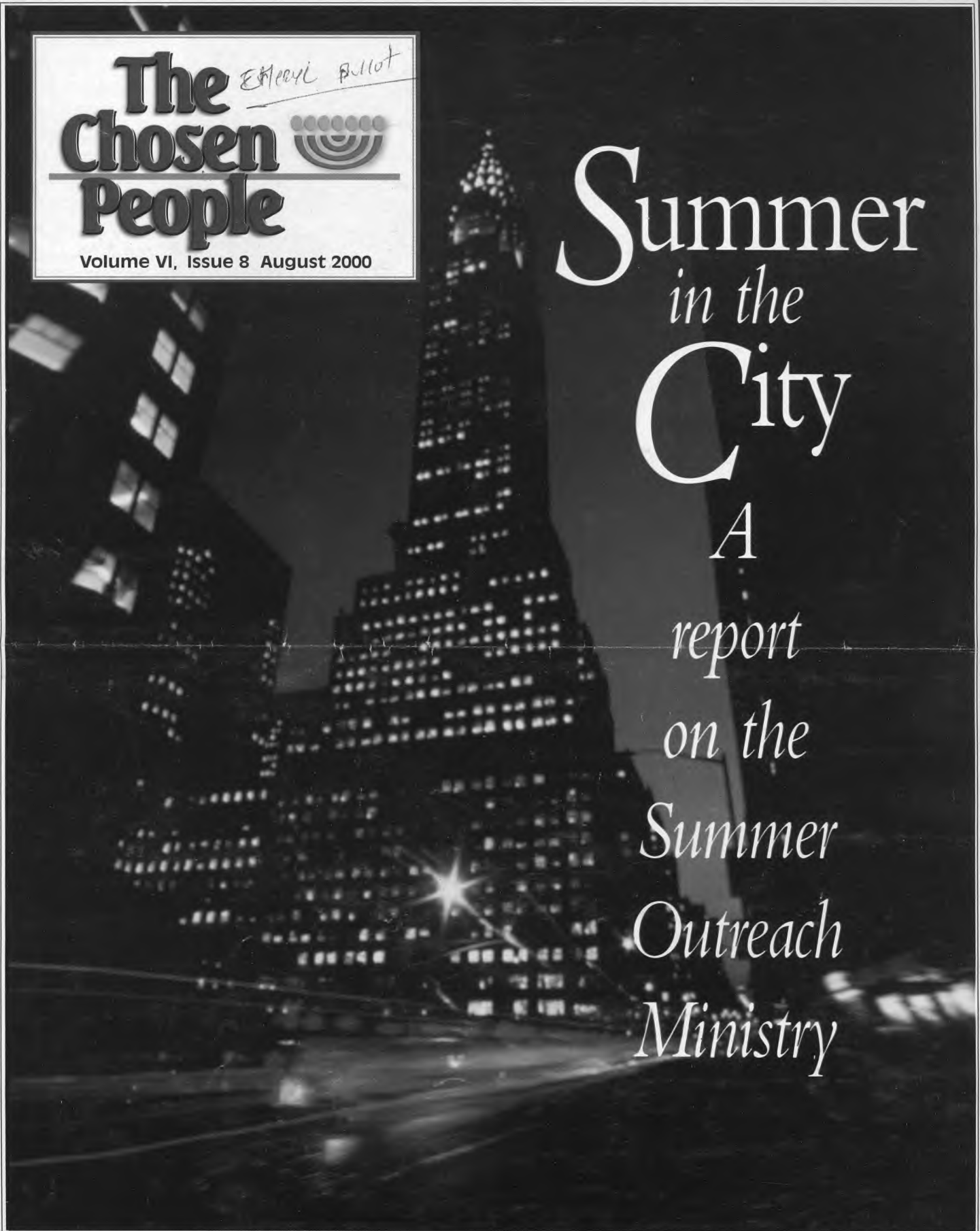


Esther Ballot
**The
Chosen
People**

Volume VI, Issue 8 August 2000



Summer
in the
City
A
report
on the
Summer
Outreach
Ministry

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:** **eXperience Israel Report
STEP Activities in New York City
Study from the Book of Hosea**

Celebrate the High Holy Days



Order now to start the Jewish New Year off right in September with the Chosen People Ministries Calendar. Each month features a beautiful picture of the Holy Land, highlighted by a Messianic prophecy. Order two or three—they make great gifts, especially for Jewish friends who need to hear about the Messiah.

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by Mitch and Zhava Glaser

The Fall Feasts of Israel will help you understand three of Israel's most significant festivals: *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot*. A complete examination of each feast looks at its biblical institution, its celebration in the time of Christ, and its observance by Jewish people today.

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Spend an incredible end-of-summer evening with your family or home group, enjoying the Marty Goetz video, *Psalm Enchanted Evening*. Even better . . . share this video with a Jewish friend.

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will.

"I will bless those who bless you."
(Genesis 12:3)

Visit us on the Web at

www.chosenpeople.com

S ummer

in the City



But as I look closely at their faces, I can see that they look lonely. They are sitting, drinking and talking at tables in the outdoor cafes that line the opposite side of our street. They are laughing and smiling, but you know deep down that they are scared—scared that they will not find the love and acceptance they are seeking.

I can see it in their faces.

I know where they can find the love that they are looking for. I know where they can find the abundance that would satisfy their deep, inner hunger for a meaningful life. Dear brother and sister—these young people need the Savior.

Now, we have been doing a lot more than staring and praying. We have just completed one of the most successful STEPs (Summer Training and Evangelism Programs) we have ever had. For the last two weeks, we have had thirty staff and volunteers sharing the Gospel on the streets of Manhattan, among both Jews and Gentiles. We have had countless conversations all over this busy city of more than eleven million people—more than two million of whom are Jewish!

As I am sure you can guess, many of the young people I see and pray for from my office window are Jewish. During the last few weeks, our folks have been sharing the love of the Messiah with these people every day. I praise the Lord for those doing the sharing, and those with whom they have shared. We have invited hundreds to our Bible studies, and have received the names and phone numbers of many to

Dear Friend,

Shalom! As I write this, I am looking out of my office window, which overlooks East 51st Street, a busy street in Manhattan. It's an inspiring sight, one that fills me with a great love for the people of my city. It also fills me with a powerful sense of burden. I wish you could sit with me...and pray with me...and have your heart broken with me. It is about 5:30 p.m. The evening crowd is beginning to gather after work. There must be hundreds of people—Jews and Gentiles—milling about. Most of these young people look a little older than college age. They are well dressed, and probably doing fairly well financially.

They are our future! Among the crowd, there may well be some who will become future leaders of our society.



follow up during the next few weeks. Please pray that we will be able to witness to them more personally.

I am so grateful to God for allowing us to be centered in the midst of Manhattan! It might not be Jerusalem—but it is close! The opportunities to share the Good News with Jewish people and Gentiles are endless.

New York – New York

Our STEP workers got a taste of New York City—both figuratively and literally! One of the places I love to have the STEP team visit is Katz's Delicatessen, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Maybe it's the atmosphere. The décor of the place has not changed since the first time my parents brought me there, almost forty years ago. You almost believe that the same long, wrinkled, dried salamis have been suspended from the ceilings for all that time. Or, maybe it's just the food. Nowhere on the face of the earth does the first bite of a frankfurter reward you with quite the same snap—with hot deli mustard, of course!

It's more than the restaurant. The neighborhood, with its ancient, decaying tenement buildings, is a living museum of the Jewish experience: it contains the struggles, the victories, and the spark of hope that has kept us a people throughout the centuries. When I am there, I sense the unseen presence of my own ancestors. I ask the Lord, "When will they say, 'Blessed is He who comes in Your Name'—Israel's promised Messiah, Jesus?"

How Can They Hear Without a Preacher?

Let me share with you an encounter some of our STEP folks had just a few days ago with

some of these precious young people for whom I am praying. It's an encounter that could only happen in a city teeming with people from all over the world.

A group of four of our STEP volunteers—Neriyah, Alba, Serene, and Rachel—went out to witness in the neighborhood of Hunter College, in midtown Manhattan. Talk about multi-culturalism! Neriyah is a Russian who has lived in Israel; Alba is from Colombia, South America; Serene is from the Philippines, and Rachel is from Colorado.

As a group of interested onlookers gathered, Alba engaged two Hispanic young people in their native language, and presented the Gospel to them. After an intense, hour-long discussion, she led both of them in the sinner's prayer, and they received the Lord.

Meanwhile, Neriyah found himself in an animated discussion with a young Arab student, who was from the Palestinian-controlled territory in Israel. After Neriyah steered the discussion from politics to faith, the young Arab accepted the offer of a New Testament. Watching all of this from the background was the Arab student's friend, a young Jewish man from Iran. He, too, joined the discussion.

Speaking in the Iranian's own native tongue, Neriyah shared, "The only real peace that will come is when all of us, whether we are Jewish, Arab or whatever, accept the promised Messiah."

The student replied, "There is something different about you and your faith. While others are trying to



Neriyah witnessing on the street

divide, you are trying to unite." He, too, accepted a New Testament.

The Harvest is Plentiful

For most of us Manhattan is an urban jungle, but for me, it is a beautiful field of grain, ready and waiting for harvest. This is why I am asking you to join me in praying for the follow-up of STEP. I urge you to pray the prayer Jesus Himself suggested,

"Then 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'" (Matthew 9:37-38).

These young people, and so many others in this great and very Jewish city, are in desperate need of the love only Jesus the Messiah can give. He is the One who provides entrance into the presence of the Father. What greater acceptance and love could anyone possibly desire or enjoy?

Thanks for caring and for praying.

Your brother in
the Messiah,

Mitch

Mitch Glaser
President



Generation X

Brings the Gospel to the Promised Land

ministered on the sparkling, sandy beaches of Haifa, Tel Aviv, Netanya and Tiberias.

Many Places—Many Opportunities

The team came with a purpose—to bring the Gospel to the people of Israel. They distributed Russian and Hebrew copies of Stan Telchin's compelling book, *Betrayed*. They gave away New Testaments in an Arab-Israeli village on the outskirts of Haifa. They were introduced to the wide variety of Messianic ministries already established in Israel, from Operation Mobilization, which distributes Bibles, to Dugit Ministries, which operates a coffee house and ministry center in Tel Aviv.


Israel—Close Up and Personal

From Galilee to the north, to Masada and the Dead Sea to the south, the team members were offered the array of beauty and Biblical history that only Israel can give. And, of course, they visited Jerusalem. They saw the Temple Mount and the Western Wall. They prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane and received the Lord's Supper in the Garden Tomb.

Was the trip memorable? As one member put it, "It was an amazing experience. It's made me consider mission work in a whole new light—that perhaps the Lord is calling me to share the Gospel with people who live completely different lives from what I grew up with. I'll never forget this trip."

What about next year? Leader Justin Kron enthused, "We'll be there, God willing, with a whole new group who will be ready to have their lives changed by their encounter with God's Chosen People in the Promised Land."

Justin and Judy Kron
Justin Kron led the
experience Israel tour



The pre-dawn trek that brought them to the summit of Masada, the ancient site of Israel's brave and defiant stand against the Roman army in AD 70, seemed to set the tone for the awesome experience that was to follow. "We stood together. We worshiped. We prayed. Each of us seemed lost in our own thoughts. Yet we were bound together by something that nothing on earth could touch. It was then that we truly sensed the power of God's presence, in the land of God's Chosen People."

These words, written by eXperience Israel leader Justin Kron, describe an experience that could be called "mountain top" in more ways than one. It set the tone of the entire Holy Land time and ministry.

eXperience Israel

Chosen People Ministries' eXperience Israel ministry tour of the Holy Land is geared specifically for the generation labeled "X"—a group defined more by age than anything else. And so it was that a group of thirty-five men and women from their early twenties to thirties departed to Israel on July 15 for two weeks of ministry and sightseeing in the Promised Land. They brought the brand of evangelism most natural to them, and most likely to attract the young Israelis they sought to encounter. They witnessed through music and through street drama.

Where do you find young people in Israel in the summertime? On the beaches, of course. The group



Jason and Stephanie Sobel
Jason led this summer's
STEP outreach in New York City

What do Gospel tracts, frisbees and water bottles have in common? Plenty, when they are used as witnessing tools for Gospel outreach! And that's exactly what the thirty-three members of the Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) did during the month of July in New York City.

This year's catchphrase was "Got Messiah?" The frisbees and water bottles had Chosen People Ministries Gospel tracts attached to them, and they all featured the web site, *gotmessiah.com*, that Chosen People Ministries designed especially for this evangelistic campaign.

Once the team arrived in New York City, things started happening quickly. Staff member Jason Sobel, leader of the New York STEP outreach, seemed to be in a hundred places at once, organizing events and overseeing the myriad of details involved in street evangelism. Were the backpacks filled with tracts? Ask Jason. Did people have enough water? Ask Jason. Somehow, it all worked out.

On one outreach, one of the team members, Neriya (a Russian Israeli student missionary with Chosen People), engaged a Jewish couple in conversation at the South Sea Seaport. They said that they had never heard about Jesus from a Jewish believer before. After explaining the Gospel to them,

Neriya asked them if they would like to accept Yeshua into their hearts. They said, "Of course!" So two more Jewish people came to know the Messiah that day.

Special Events Highlight Gospel Outreach

Two of the most important events were the July 4th outreach in Manhattan and an evangelistic concert held on July 9th in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, an area with a large population of Russian Jewish people.

July 4th in Manhattan would make the streets of Tokyo seem underpopulated. An estimated four million people were on hand for the festivities, and out of the 200,000 pieces of literature that were distributed during the New York phase of STEP, 40,000 were given out on that day alone.

The concert at Brighton Beach was called *B'Simcha* ("With Joy").

During the week before the event, over 10,000 invitations went out, and there were newspaper and radio ads, focused mainly on the Russian Jewish community.

On the day of the event, about fifty protesters from a number of Jewish organizations gathered as well. Still,



Our staff members witnessing (right) while protester hands out literature (left)

nothing can stand in the way of the Gospel. While setting up for the musicians, two of our STEP team members led a supervisor from the Parks Department to the Lord!

Altogether, over thirty people were led to the Lord, many of them Jewish, with dozens of contacts established. The concert accomplished our goals of proclaiming the Gospel and establishing our presence in the community. It will not soon be forgotten.

Nor will this year's STEP be soon forgotten by the faithful team members who made it happen. As Jason Sobel said, "We not only want to keep on reaching the Jewish people, we want to fulfill Israel's calling to be a "Light to the Nations."

STEP 2000 has taken major strides in that direction.

Want to be part of STEP 2001? Call 1-773-338-5959 or visit www.chosen-people.com for more information.

STEP Teams Take New York By Storm

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



MEET HOSEA AND HIS FAMILY

The first of the minor prophets, Hosea, was sent to the ten northern tribes, called "Israel." He prophesied in the 8th century B.C. (800-700) and was contemporary with Micah and Amos of Israel and Isaiah of Judah, ministering over a period of 41 years.

I. HOSEA AND HIS WIFE GOMER

It was a strange command indeed that God should direct Hosea to "...take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry..." (Hos. 1:2). If we consider God's word to Hosea as prophetic, then the prophet had honorably taken to himself the woman of his choice and entered into what he thought would be a union of lifelong happiness. After the birth of the first child, Jezreel, who was definitely said to be born of Hosea (1:3), painful suspicion was aroused in his mind as to Gomer's loyalty. In short, Hosea married a woman who later proved to be an adulteress for her crimes committed after the marriage.

It becomes clear that chapters 1-3 belong together and present the

narrative of the prophet's marriage, children and family tragedy. The remainder of the book (Chapters 4-14) contain the sermons or addresses based on the narrative.

In the Old Testament, God frequently uses marriage to symbolize His relationship to Israel — "*Return O backsliding children, says the LORD; for I am married to you ...*" (Jer. 3:14), while in the New Testament the Church is viewed as the bride of the Lamb (Rev. 21:9).

II. HOSEA AND HIS THREE CHILDREN

(1) JEZREEL, the first son's name, means "God sows," or "God scatters (seed)." The prophecy states: "... *For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, and bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel*"

(Hos. 1:4). God announced that He would avenge the innocent blood shed by Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, a city of the tribe of Issachar. This was fulfilled in 752 B.C. when Zechariah, the great-great grandson of Jehu, was assassinated, thus ending the Jehu dynasty (II Ki. 9:27-10:14).

But the prophecy was a double-edged sword. Not only was the strength of Israel's kingdom broken on the battlefield of Jezreel, but the fall of Samaria and the captivity of the ten northern tribes occurred in 722 B.C.

(2) LO-RUHAMA (Not beloved). Composed of two Hebrew words, *Lo* meaning "no" and *Ruhamah* meaning "pitied" or "loved," the second child, a daughter, was named Lo-Ruhamah. God said "... *I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel*" (Hos. 1:6).

The kings of Israel from Jeroboam I to Hoshea had provoked the LORD with idol worship. Even so, God had shown mercy by sending Elijah, Elisha, Joel and now Hosea. The day of mercy for Israel would be temporarily withdrawn.

(3) LO-AMMI (not my people). The third child, a son, is named in Hosea 1:9, "... *Call his name Lo-ammi, for you are not My people, and I will not be your God.*" Knowing that Gomer was no better than a harlot, Hosea bluntly denied having any relationship at all to this third child. In the same way, God announced His determination to deny any connection with apostate Israel.

After pronouncing judgment and doom upon Israel, Hosea speaks joyfully of a coming future day when Israel will be forgiven, cleansed and restored (Hos. 1:10,11). No biblical prophet pronounces only doom upon Israel apart from a message of hope and restoration (Hos. 3:5)! ✨

NEWS BRIEFS

"I Did Not Believe Before Now"

Chosen People Ministries' work in the Philadelphia area continues to reap a harvest among the Russian people, and it is a special joy when a married couple enters the Kingdom together. *Yegor and Evgenia started coming to our English classes in March of this year. They attended several outreach events and a few worship services. After this, they came to a Bible study led by Marion, an active volunteer who works with Chosen People Ministries missionary Frank Potter, and also agreed to have Marion visit them in their home.

Using a special tract, *L'Chaim* (To Life), prepared for Jewish people, Marion led them both to the Lord. Afterward, Evgenia declared, "I think my greatest sin was that I did not believe before this." Now, their faith has brought them God's forgiveness.

Reunited With His Son

One of our STEP volunteers from Boston was handing out tracts in New York City's garment district. There, on a street corner, he struck up a conversation with *Manny, an elderly Jewish man. Nine months ago, Manny had lost his son to cancer—but his son had been a believer in Jesus. Our volunteer shared the comfort of the Gospel with Manny, who eagerly received it. Right there on the street corner, Manny prayed to receive the Lord. Praise God, Manny will see his son in heaven!

Jewish Couple from Latin America Receives the Lord

Another STEP volunteer struck up a conversation with a Jewish family visiting from the Dominican Republic. As they heard the Gospel, they responded with surprise and enthusiasm. They had never before been told that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel. Amazed by the truth of the Gospel, they received Jesus as their Messiah. Won't you pray with us for all the new believers who found the Lord this summer in New York City?

Ready To Meet God

California-based Dr. Daniel and Madeline Goldberg have a special ministry to older people and those suffering from poor health. When the invitation was given at the conclusion of a Sunday evening service where Dr. Goldberg was teaching, a young Jewish woman with severe diabetes came forward to receive the Lord.

She later shared that she realized she could die suddenly from her diabetes, and said that she knew she wasn't ready to meet God. Praise God, she took this important step of faith. Now she is ready, whatever else may come. She is meeting with Madeline for Bible study and growing in her faith.



Daniel and Madeline Goldberg, missionaries in the Los Angeles area

EuroSTEP 2000 - A Ministry of Reconciliation

Led by Vladimir Pikman, EuroSTEP, Chosen People Ministries' STEP outreach in Europe, was blessed with the participation of 25 people—a group that included both Jewish people and Gentiles. Overseas Director Percy Johnson reflected, "It was such a testimony of unity and healing to see the German people and Russian Jewish believers joining together to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people in Europe."

In Berlin, two young Russian Jewish believers witnessed to a young Filipino boy, who received the Lord. Also, a man who has been attending Chosen People's Messianic congregation for some time finally gave his life to the Lord.

*names have been changed

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