

# The Chosen People

SEPTEMBER 1987 ISSN 0164-5323

## From Dead Philosophers To The Living God

By BEN VOLMAN



A Look At The New York City College Scene



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# From the President

## The Chosen People

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But how do you really know that Yeshua is the Messiah? The question was asked by a young college student who was earnestly seeking the truth. I had been speaking at a Bible conference and after one of the evening services a young man came up to me. He had several questions.

He identified himself as being Jewish, and a student at a nearby university. He'd been taking classes in philosophy and religion. To his amazement and chagrin, several students in the class, he said, were "born again." They kept bringing up the subject of Jesus. They always spoke about Him as being the Messiah.

His interest aroused, he had begun reading the Bible and was especially impressed with the New Testament. The more he read, the more real this person, Yeshua, became. Now he was confused, wanting to believe but still hesitant to acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

As we talked, I saw that he was open to the Scriptures so I shared with him a few of the many prophecies that speak of a promised Messiah. First, I showed him how the Bible prophesied that Messiah was to be a person and not just a messianic age as so many of the rabbis teach today. (c.f. Gen. 3:15, Num. 24:17, Deut. 18:18,19, Isa. 7:14).

Second, I told him how the Bible prophesied that the Messiah was to be Diety. He was to be the Son of God (c.f. Ps. 2, Isa. 9:6, Ps. 110, Prov. 30:4, Mic. 5:2).

Third, I showed him how the Bible prophesied that the Messiah was going to die for the sins of His people (c.f. Isa. 53, Dan. 9:24-27, Ps. 22).

Fourth, I showed him how the Bible prophesied the Messiah was to be a king/priest; that He was to combine both of these offices in Himself (c.f. II Sam. 7:12-15, Ps. 110, Zech. 9:9, Isa. 9:6,7, Gen. 49:10). We then went to the New Testament and found that Yeshua indeed had fulfilled each and every one of these prophecies.

The impossibility that one single man could fulfill all of these prophecies is evidence enough that Yeshua is the Messiah. The only way that these prophecies could be fulfilled is by the divine intervention of God.

How do we know, then, that Yeshua is the Messiah? Simply, the Bible tells us. "You have seen this for yourself," I told Larry. "You have answered your own questions from the Word of God." With that, Larry exclaimed, "I do believe that Yeshua is the Messiah." He then prayed to receive Jesus, not only as his Messiah, but as his Savior.

God is doing a wonderful work among college students. Our workers are finding that they are open and receptive to hear and receive the Word of God.

Your prayers and gifts make this work possible. Please continue to uphold these faithful missionaries in your prayers as they labor daily to reach all Jews everywhere with the Gospel.

In Messiah,

*Harold A. Sevener*  
 HAROLD A. SEVENER







# From Dead To

*Ben Volman*



# Philosophers the Living God

*thought he could find the meaning of life by studying philosophy. But all he found was a dead end.*

By **BEN VOLMAN**

The sunlight of early spring poured into the professor's office. As we sat around her desk discussing the meaning of philosophy, I grew more dissatisfied with her every answer.

"How did I make this mistake?" I thought. "What made me think that philosophy would lead to understanding or give my life meaning?"

The face of my teacher was lined with her own troubles. I tried to explain my dilemma.

"I always thought that studying philosophy would lead to truth, to wisdom for life."

"No, Ben," she began. "Those things are not the purpose of our study. We are examining the history of ideas...."

As she spoke I knew I was at a dead end. In my mind's eye I could see all my teachers and the students turning a great wheel in a clockwork machinery, producing ideas without a reason. They circled the truth,

whatever that meant, and never reached it. No one could tell me if life had a real purpose or if there was a larger-than-life reason for living.

The professor had stopped speaking. I agreed politely with her and promised to work harder on my essays.

## **Nagging Questions**

Outside in the reviving March air, I felt the freedom that comes from giving up false illusions. It was mixed with disappointment. What would I do now? As I started walking, trying to sort things out, some nagging questions spoke up. Does God have anything to do with this? Who is Jesus really?

I would leave everything until after lunch, and I began the trek across the city campus of the University of Toronto.

I did not know that I was walking toward something I had long waited for—a confrontation with the living God.

From my route I could see the

emerging skyline of the city center. My parents had come to Toronto from Israel in the early 1950s, and I was born while they still lived in the teeming Kensington Market when it was full of postwar Jewish immigrants. Soon afterwards they moved uptown, but not to one of the usual Jewish areas.

I was always very conscious of my Jewishness. Not that my parents were very religious. We celebrated all the holidays, but our identity did not revolve around Passover or Yom Kippur.

We were stirred instead by my mother's stories of growing up in Israel in the 1930s and 1940s. My mother's family had fled to Israel from Germany in 1933. My father was a Holocaust survivor and had been in the War of Independence. Hebrew was the second language in my home. Then, as now, I called myself a Zionist.

When I was a boy I thought that being Jewish meant being smart, and being bothered by the other kids. In the schoolyard I felt the bit-





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**Pascal's essay in effect said that being faithless gains you nothing. But it may also lose you everything.**

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ter sting of anti-Semitism, but I did well in class. I had goals of excellence.

Despite all kinds of personal success in school, I was always aware of a deep-rooted bitterness. I could trace that, too, back to my Jewish heritage. It seemed as though we were almost reliving a part of the Holocaust in the daily talk around the kitchen table or at family gatherings. Whenever the stories were told of aunts, uncles, grandparents, or young cousins, they all ended in tragedy. They died in the camps, in the streets, or in a way too horrible for my parents to talk about.

**Unresolved Anger**

The thought of those who died was like a weight, and the memory of those crimes against the innocent burned inside me like unresolved anger. I blamed it for my occasional mean streak and sometimes for my bleak sense of humor.

If there was a God, the Holocaust proved that He didn't matter.

I remember during the last hectic year of high school, while I was yearbook editor, that an acquaintance told me he went to church. I thought it was a joke. "Nobody," I said to myself, "believes in God today."

In the fall of 1974 I entered the University of Toronto. My college, Innis, was the smallest and most "radical" of the undergraduate colleges in Canada. In spite of the time frittered away playing pinball or having a good time, I was planning a career as a writer by taking courses in English and philosophy.

My first philosophy class was particularly disarming. Imagine my surprise when the distinguished lecturer closed his class this way: "Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you will study many philosophers in the years ahead, but I hope that you will also discover that the greatest philosopher who ever lived is Jesus Christ."

**Almost Convincing**

Despite that unexpected beginning, philosophy did attract me. (The Philosophy Department at the university was one of the largest in North America.) Strangely enough for me, the philosophers were always talking about God. In fact, their reasons for believing that there was a God seemed, well, almost convincing. Descartes, Spinoza, Kant, even the modern philosophers continued the discussion. Some of them even believed.

I had always assumed that no one educated after the Dark Ages believed in God.

Later I became fascinated by the book *Pensées*, a collection of thoughts by Blaise Pascal, the seventeenth-century French mathematical and scientific genius. Pascal actually recounted a moment of meeting Jesus personally.

He was the author of a brilliant little essay called "The Wager." He offered two alternatives: "Either God is or God is not... and you must wager." I had never seen it put that way before.



Let us weigh up the gain and the loss involved in calling heads that God exists:...if you win you win everything; if you lose you lose nothing.

Pascal points out that there is an eternity of hope in having this faith, and otherwise there is none. It is foolish not to wager on God, and though being faithless gains you nothing, it may also lose you everything. I had to laugh and concede that he had won his point.

Slowly I was being drawn into a God consciousness of some kind. It weaved through readings in the occult and mysticism. How was I going to put it all together?

One weekend my elder brother brought home a Bible he was reading. My interest was aroused. I went to one of the campus bookstores and rummaged through every Bible in stock. Finally, I found one of the most cumbersome paperback editions I have ever seen. I bought it, and I read it.

The Bible was the most powerful literature I had ever encountered. In a life devoted to great literature, I was overwhelmed by its poetry, beauty, eloquence, and vividness.

The writing was wonderful. I even asked myself if I might ever live by Jesus' teaching. I decided I might want to, but I never would. I'm not saint material.

### Jesus Is God

Then one summer day I stumbled onto a reference to John 14:6. Jesus says there, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." I studied the passage for long minutes. Yes, I concluded, Jesus is actually saying here that He is God.

"I'm Jewish," I thought. "I can't believe this."

I closed the Bible and put it away.

And that, I assumed, closed the book on Jesus.

I entered my second year at the university. As months went by I found that I could not shake the conviction that God exists. This time, though, I was not looking at Him, but at myself. Life seemed rather shallow from this end. Beside

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### I really did want to pray but for the first time I knew how deep the gulf was between God and man.

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the wonderful promise of hope spoken of by Pascal, my life seemed like an empty routine without joy or reason.

One night I lay in bed, painfully aware of the void inside.

"Dear God," I began. I really did want to pray, but then stopped. My heart was not in it. Tears came. My

heart had lapsed into a long and bitter winter. For the first time I knew how deep the gulf was between God and man.

The study of philosophy began to disappoint me as well. The closer I looked at the teachers (with the one exception of that first professor), the less I found to emulate or admire. The ones I knew all seemed to take for granted a life of spoiled ideals.

It was for this very reason — one last attempt at finding truth and meaning — that I had gone to my professor's office, only to have her say, "No, Ben, those things are not the purpose of our study."

As I walked through the wintry streets from the professor's office, I looked forward to lunch with my friends. I was only steps away from





## I began to go through every excuse that could possibly keep me from giving my life over to God.

the college when a yellow poster caught my eye. In bold red letters it announced: Arthur Katz. For some reason I stopped to look. Underneath was a biography. I began to read about his spiritual journey from Marxism to that which led him to "expound on the Person of Jesus Christ."

I looked again at the name. With a name like that, he must be Jewish.

I didn't know at the time, but there was a very active ABMJ missionary at the campus of another local university. His group had invited Reverend Katz to their school, and as a result he had also been booked to speak at the University of Toronto.

### Skipped Lunch

The meeting started at 1 o'clock. It was now 1:15. The auditorium was on the other side of the campus. I would have to skip lunch.

"What the heck," I thought. "I want some spiritual food."

I arrived quietly and slipped into a back seat of the hall. As I sat there, I heard the speaker's dramatic and intelligent voice repeat things that had been going through my mind for over a year.

I began to go through every excuse that could possibly keep me from giving my life over to God. I had been waiting for a confrontation, and now I had to make a decision.

Katz spoke of living moment by moment with the Lord, and I knew that this was how I wanted to live.

After the stirring address, I went forward to talk to him in person. So did some others from the audience.

I hadn't noticed before that a little group of my Jewish friends from Innis had been sitting near the front. We stood around talking, waiting to meet Arthur Katz.

I asked the one question that held me back. "What about the Holocaust?" To be honest, I don't remember his answer. All I remember thinking was that here was another Jew ready to speak about his faith in Jesus.

I realize now that the only answer to the Holocaust, to evil in any and every form, is to end the will to do evil that lives in our own hearts. To receive inner healing we must receive the Prince of Peace. We can't change history, but *we can change*, with God's help.

Art looked at me closely. "You're ready to come, aren't you?"

"Yes," I said.

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### He took me aside and there in front of my Jewish friends I let God have His way in my life. I felt like a brick had fallen off my chest.

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He took me aside, and there in front of my Jewish friends I let God have His way in my life. I felt like a brick had fallen off my chest. A few minutes later I felt flooded with the joy of peace beyond understanding.

I had received the God of Israel as my God, and Jesus as my personal Messiah. And I felt inside that They had received me.

For the next six months I woke up every day amazed at that decision, and I needed to let God prove it again and again. Finally it was no longer a matter of proof, but daily faith.

My life has long since become absorbed with other pursuits than philosophy, but I am still aware that believers are called in faith to love God with all their minds.

In my well-thumbed copy of Pascal's *Pensées*, I discovered these words underlined: "It is good to be tired and weary from fruitlessly seeking true good, so that one can stretch out one's arms to the Redeemer."

Jesus had promised that peace: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt. 11:28, 29).☺

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*Ben Volman's spirited violin playing added tasty seasoning to the recent Simcha conference. He and his wife, Sue, pastor our Olive Tree Congregation in Toronto.*





# The Professor Who Knew Too Much

*After years of study, a list of degrees and several doctorates, she claimed to be an atheist—and a professor of religion.*

STEWART WEINISCH  
Chosen People Ministries  
New York City

She looked like a worldly-wise Jewish grandmother, ready to dispense chicken soup and advice, but from the bit of conversation I overheard when I sat next to her in the cafeteria of a large well-known New York university, it was obvious that she was alert and well read.

Looking more closely at her face, I noted she had an air of distinction about her, like a person accustomed to authority. She was probably a professor.

After a minute or so, her companion left, and I turned around and asked if she'd mind talking to me for a few minutes.

"What about?" she asked, more curious than abrupt.

"I've got a religious questionnaire, and I'd like to hear your thoughts and comments," I explained, pointing to the questionnaire I often take with me to campuses.

"I'm an atheist."

"That's OK, I'd still like to hear your opinions," I answered.

## Fair Play

"Well, I answer everyone else's questions. I guess in fair play I can answer yours too."

As we went through the questionnaire, it was obvious she was trying to be honest and open, even when she said she had been "born Jewish, but really had no religion now."

It wasn't until I asked the question, "Are you sure you're going to

heaven?" that she looked exasperated.

"Let me ask you something," she interrupted, clearly of a mind to take charge of this conversation. "How much schooling do you have?"

"I'm a Bible college graduate, and since then I've taken some classes and special training."

"Well, let me tell you something," she announced. She then went on to list an incredibly impressive list of degrees and schooling to her credit,

**"You don't need to be an intellectual to know God," I answered. "He wants us all to know Him."**

including several doctorates in languages and comparative religions from noted universities around the world. She was, in fact, a professor of religion.

"Now," she concluded, "do you think you can tell me anything about religion?"

The conversation had taken a personal turn. It was obvious she felt that she had to prove just who was the expert at this table.

Instead of feeling defensive, though, I felt a tenderness for this woman.

"No matter who you are," I answered, "there are things to learn. You don't need to be an intellectual to know God. He wants us all to know Him."

Something in her expression and pose told me that we were deadlocked: She had studied religion so long that she couldn't imagine that there was some truth that she hadn't already learned.

## Basis for Truth

"Let me ask you," I finally said, "with all the books you've read and all your studies, what is your final basis for truth?"

For just a moment she was silent, her eyes reflective. Then in a semi-shrug, her face again looking like a pleasant grandmother, she said, "You can believe what you want ... we all can."

As I left, I felt sad for this woman who knew too much. Perhaps through our prayers, her heart will someday turn to God. ☺

*Both native New Yorkers, Stewart and Shoshana Weinisch met at the "capitol" of New York City, Bloomingdales, handing out tracts on opposite street corners. They have a new baby girl, Melissa Ruth.*





# From Sports To School To Steve's Salvation!

Every conversation should flow the way this one did!

**CHRISTOPHER MELISKO**  
Chosen People Ministries  
San Fernando Valley, CA

Stan Bernstein and I walked off the campus in kind of a daze. We kept wanting to shout, "Praise the Lord," but in fact neither of us could quite believe what had happened.

The afternoon started like a lot of others: Stan, a Jewish believer, and I went to Valley College to talk to students about Messiah.

It was interesting right from the start. Stan was telling me how he had come to faith right here on this very campus and how his younger brother, Steve, for whom he'd been praying for years, was a student here.

## Out of the Blue

Then, out of the blue, we hear someone call "Stan!" It was Stan's brother, Steve. The three of us decided to go over to the cafeteria and take a break together.

The conversation went from sports to school to Steve's grades. As it was winding down, almost as an aside, Stan asked his brother, "Would you like to answer the questions on the questionnaire we're using today?"

"Sure, why not?" Steve said.

One by one I asked him questions about man and God and eternal life. His answers were unemotional and almost given by rote: "No, I don't think I'm a sinner. Yes, I believe in God. Yes, I am destined for heaven, I hope."

"You can know for sure that you're going to heaven if you'd like," I said.

When he nodded OK, I went on to explain that we were all sinners separated from God, but by putting our faith in the Messiah we can be right with God and know for sure that we have eternal life.

"I believe that," Steve agreed matter of factly.

Stan and I looked at each other, stunned.

"What did you say?"

"I said I believe that."

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**I went on to explain that we were all sinners separated from God. But by putting our faith in the Messiah we can be right with God.**

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Steve seemed totally unaware that Stan and I thought this was momentous.

Stan opened his Bible and went verse by verse through points I had explained. "Yes," Steve would say, or "I see," or "Uh huh." When we asked Steve if he'd like to receive the Lord, he simply said, "Yes, I would."

There, in the same cafeteria where Stan had heard the Gospel fifteen years before, his younger brother came to faith.

Leaving the campus, we were thrilled but cautious.

"Did he really mean it? Did he really come to faith?" we wondered.

## So Unemotional

It wasn't that we had so little faith, but that Steve had just seemed so unemotional. Our questions were answered slowly over the next several weeks. Steve got involved in our discipleship Bible study, and he even brought his friends along.

He never did seem to bubble over, but as he said when we were discussing a point of Scripture one day, "Well, it's written in the Bible that way, and it's preached that way, and I believe it that way." ☺

*Editor's note: At the Bible study Steve attends, two non-Jews have accepted the Lord in recent weeks.*

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*Christopher and Marsha Melisko first met at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Our latest workers in the San Fernando Valley, they assist Howard Silverman in the Shepherd of Israel Congregation.*





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# THE PRODIGAL STUDENT

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**THE SAD FACT IS THAT, UNLIKE BEN VOLMAN (see page 4), who found the Lord in college, most people wander far from God in their college years.**

Belief in God is laughed at and even ridiculed. There is more than a little truth in the recent chiding of author William F. Buckley by TV personality Andy Rooney: "I refuse to take anybody seriously as an intellectual who's discovered God."

Nowhere are Jewish students more susceptible to cults and ideologies that would take them away from a true knowledge of God than in college.

That's why we hope you'll pray about our ministry on college campuses in America, Canada and specifically in New York City.

As the largest city in America, this thriving metropolis is the center of America's business, entertainment and financial worlds. It is also considered the greatest center of higher education in the country with as many as a half a million students attending its colleges and universities each school year.

And while the spiritual opposition for the control of young men's and women's minds is at an all time high on campus there is also an unprecedented opportunity for sharing the Word of God. At booktables, at Bible studies at our Manhattan branch, young minds trying on the world for size are hearing about Jesus the Messiah.

To help you get a better picture of the New York college scene and the potential for influence their graduates have had and continue to have we've drawn a brief character sketch of five of the most famous schools. Please read this and continue to remember the ministry there in prayer.





CITY COLLEGE  
OF NEW YORK—  
enrollment, 12,000



**T**he bastion of Jewish intellectualism in the 1930s and 1940s, this college has always sought to reach out to the community and create educational opportunities for minorities, inner-city and underprivileged students. Its students represent 50 countries, and its graduates include seven Nobel laureates. Henry Kissinger attended CCNY. Among its graduates are Bernard Baruch, novelist Bernard Malamud, actor Edward G. Robinson and New York mayor Edward Koch.

# A LOOK AT 5 NEW YORK COLLEGES

NEW YORK  
UNIVERSITY—  
enrollment, 46,670



**T**he largest private university in the country, NYU has 14 schools and colleges, including its prestigious graduate business school and the Tisch School of the Arts. Notables including actor-director Woody Allen, director Martin Scorsese, Dr. Robert Jarvik (developer of the artificial heart)

and novelist Joseph Heller have attended NYU.

QUEENS  
COLLEGE—  
enrollment, 16,135



**T**his is a prominent liberal arts college with a student body that represents 56 different countries. It has produced graduates as diverse as Warren Phillips (chairman of the

board of Dow Jones), songwriter Paul Simon, Dr. Robert Moog (inventor of the electronic music synthesizer) and songwriter-singer Carole King.

COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY—  
enrollment, 26,000



**T**he fifth oldest university in the country, Columbia University, an Ivy League institution,





has students from all 50 states and over 100 countries. Its School of Journalism was founded by Joseph Pulitzer, and the School of Library Services by Melvil Dewey, who developed the Dewey Decimal System. Dwight D. Eisenhower was once president of Columbia. The university claims more than 40 Nobel prize winners as graduates. Pat Boone also graduated from Columbia with honors.

**BROOKLYN  
COLLEGE** —  
enrollment, 14,628



**I**n 1986 *Time* magazine called Brooklyn College "one of the nine fast rising and ambitious institutions" challenging the established elite of American education. The school has 4 student newspapers, 130 academic and social clubs and a faculty that includes Itzhak Perlman and Allen Ginsberg. Brooklyn College's Television Center is considered one of the finest facilities of its kind in the world. Among this school's graduates are the 1986 Nobel prize winner Stanley Cohen, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and novelist Irwin Shaw.





# The Same Mission with

**DANIEL FUCHS**

**Chairman of the Board  
Chosen People Ministries**

It has not been easy, but at last I am really enjoying my retirement. At first, shifting gears was hard. After half a century of fast lane driving, I have had to learn the joys of walking again. I don't cover as much territory, but I see much more.

It is wonderful to have time to enjoy the birds and flowers once more. I don't miss the pandemonium in the airports at all. Life is now like taking care of the grandchildren. I just enjoy them fully, and when problems arise, they are not my problems. Somebody else is in charge.

I am very thankful for strength to continue to serve our Lord—some teaching, some preaching, some writing. I thoroughly enjoy these privileges, but the pressure is off. There are others who are younger, stronger, well-trained and competent who are now leading the mission to higher ground.

## **Fifty Years Ago**

It's hard to believe that it was more than fifty years ago that Joseph Hoffman Cohn asked me to join the staff of the American Board of Missions to the Jews. In those days they had a splendid congregation . . . and an even better mothers' class and girls' class led by two Gentile women, Augusta Sussdorf and Dorothy Rose. Before I was born, Miss Sussdorf led my mother to the Lord.

Most mission leaders would have been very satisfied—but Joseph Hoffman Cohn was never satisfied. He looked into the future and wisely saw that young people were needed for future growth. I was appointed boys' worker for the mission, and if I could start a good boys' club we would then grow into a youth work.

It was not easy to start the boys' club. As I look back over those days, it at first seemed as if the boys' club was the greatest failure in Jewish mission history. It seemed as if the only positive results were the lessons I



learned. But five of the boys from that boys' club (actually a camera club where I taught them how to develop and print pictures) became either missionaries or pastors.

One of them is Reverend Albert Runge, pastor of Beulah Alliance Church, who is now on our Board of Directors. I did not lead any of these boys to the Lord. I just planted the seed; others watered, and the Lord granted the increase. This is one of the joys of Jewish missionary work!

## **Devoted to Study**

Leopold Cohn, the founder of ABMJ, was still in charge of the congregation. I had the privilege of being trained by both Leopold Cohn and Joseph Hoffman Cohn, two of the greatest missionaries to the Jews in the twentieth century.

As I look back at my teachers, they were both like each other, yet at the same time, they differed strongly.



# a New Mailing Address

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They were both Hebrew Christians. They were both biblical scholars. They were scholars whose lives were devoted to the study, teaching and proclaiming of the Scriptures as God's inspired, inerrant Word. This was not just an intellectual orthodoxy. To them, the Scriptures were "Thus saith the Lord." The American Board of Missions to the Jews was founded on the truths of the Scriptures. They were both logicians (and excellent chess players), but their basic logic was "It is written!"

## **Prolific Authors**

Leopold Cohn and Joseph Hoffman Cohn were both prolific authors, and their writings are still masterpieces of biblical exposition. They were both great teachers. They both loved the Lord and faithfully served Him.

But they also differed. Leopold Cohn was the rabbi who earnestly, patiently and lovingly shepherded the flock. Joseph Cohn was a "voice crying in the wilderness." Leopold Cohn saw the congregation; Joseph Cohn saw the world. Leopold Cohn started the mission; under the Lord, Joseph Cohn established it.

Leopold Cohn's message was "Come!" "Come to the Mission," "Come to the Lord!" It was under his direction that Augusta Sussdorf pleaded to Ida Salinsky to "come," and she came to the Lord and brought me up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Thank God for Leopold Cohn.

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**I am very thankful for strength to continue to serve our Lord — some teaching, some preaching, some writing. I thoroughly enjoy these privileges, but the pressure is off. There are others who are younger, stronger, well-trained and competent who are now leading the Mission to higher ground.**

Joseph Cohn's commission was "Go!" He saw not only the local congregation, but all Jews everywhere. It was under his leadership that the mission grew until we had stations on four continents. But as the mission grew, always there was the basic truth of the Scriptures, "the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

Shortly after Joseph Cohn died, I was appointed Director of Missionary Activities with instructions from the Board of Directors to expand the work. I look back on those years with gratitude to the Lord for the continued vision of our Board of Directors as we, by God's grace, continued to proclaim all the Scriptures.

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**As I look back at my teachers, they were both like each other yet at the same time, they differed strongly. They were both Hebrew Christians. They were both biblical scholars. They were scholars whose lives were devoted to the study, teaching and proclaiming of the Scriptures as God's inspired, inerrant Word.**

---

As we built on the foundation laid by our founders, we were suddenly confronted with a problem. Under both Joseph and Leopold Cohn, the mission operated from a headquarters which housed both the administration offices and missionary center. Our headquarters and our chapel and classrooms were at 236 West 72nd Street in New York City. The City of New York was hungry for taxes, and to our dismay, we were billed \$75,000 a year for taxes in a building that originally cost less than \$50,000. This would mean that we would be spending more money for admin-

*continued on next page*



istration than we spent on our ministry and that was absolutely unacceptable to the Board of Directors.

The administrative offices were thus separated from the missionary work. We moved our administrative offices to Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, and because of that move, we were to increase our ministries not only in the New York area, but throughout our "far flung battle line."

From that time until now, our administration offices and missionary outreaches have been separate. This has resulted in greater efficiency and economy for our entire organization. There is no reason why the mission should pay New York taxes on its administration.

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**I wonder what Leopold and Joseph Cohn would have done with such a dedicated, talented, enthusiastic staff that we now have. The remarkable thing is that all of them are just as Leopold and Joseph Cohn, faithful to the Scriptures.**

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In his recent Midyear Report, our President, Reverend Harold Sevens, reported to you about an even greater problem we are now facing. The cost of real estate in the New York Metropolitan Area is skyrocketing. Rentals for small apartments now demand up to 60 percent of what we can pay our office staff.

This means that our administrative offices must be moved to an area where we can employ competent help who will be able to live at reasonable salaries. That, in just a few words, is our reason for changing our mailing address to Charlotte, North Carolina, next year. This move, by God's grace, will free funds that are now frozen so that we can put the money where our job is—bringing the Gospel to the Jews.

I feel very comfortable and happy about this move. We rejoice in the Lord's faithfulness to our ministry. Our ministry is growing. We continue to see an expansion of the ministry. But the greatest cause of my happiness is the magnificent group of workers who are now on our staff.

Last June the Board of Directors met with the entire missionary staff at Word of Life in Schroon Lake, New York. There the workers were challenged with a five-year program that will, by God's grace, more than double our ministry.

I wish that I could adequately begin to describe their enthusiastic acceptance of the challenge. I wonder what Leopold and Joseph Cohn would have done with such a dedicated, talented, enthusiastic staff that we now have. The remarkable thing is that all of them are just as Leopold and Joseph Cohn, faithful to the Scriptures. Their entire lives are devoted to proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all Jews everywhere.

Please continue to pray for the administration as they move to Charlotte next year. Remember, it's the same mission with a new mailing address. ☺

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## **The Gift Annuity: Earning and Sharing**

Most long-time readers of these stewardship messages in the *Chosen People* know that the charitable gift annuity available from ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries is a unique and satisfying way to share in the ongoing work of Jewish evangelism.

They have read that the annuity is an investment by which a donor can not only receive a generous lifetime income—payable as frequently as monthly if above a certain minimum—but also have the assurance that the investment capital remaining at the end of life will help provide a continuing witness to God's chosen people.

Such a benefit is most appealing to those in their retirement years because annuity income for seniors is substantially greater than for persons of younger ages. That's because the payments are based on the annuitant's age as well as the amount invested. And for these dear souls—many physically unable to engage personally in front-line evangelism—a gift annuity is a satisfying way to help bring the Gospel "to the Jew first."

We offer a brochure which describes how a gift annuity works and tells how YOU can order a personalized illustration of the terms and benefits designed for your own situation.

Ask for it! There is no obligation or cost, of course. Just write THE PRESIDENT, ABMJ/Chosen People Ministries, P.O. Box 2000, Orangeburg, NY 10962, or phone 914-359-8535.





# Meet the 1987 S.T.E.P. TEAM



How can I better share my faith with the Jewish people? For the last four years Chosen People Ministries' Summer Training and Evangelism Program (S.T.E.P.) has answered this question for believers from all over the U.S. and Canada.

In session this summer for the first time in Chicago, S.T.E.P. members studied subjects like Messianic Prophecy, Witnessing Like Yeshua Did, Handling Hostility and Opposition and Jewish Religion and Judaica.

In the following pages you'll meet the S.T.E.P. '87 team and review some of their exploits. If after reading about their adventures you too long for an experience on the front lines of Jewish Evangelism, perhaps S.T.E.P. is your cup of tea. For an application and further information on S.T.E.P. please write

John Bell, S.T.E.P., Box 2000, Orangeburg, NY 10962



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES  
BOX 2000, ORANGEBURG, NY 10962

Please send me more information on next year's STEP Program. I'm interested.

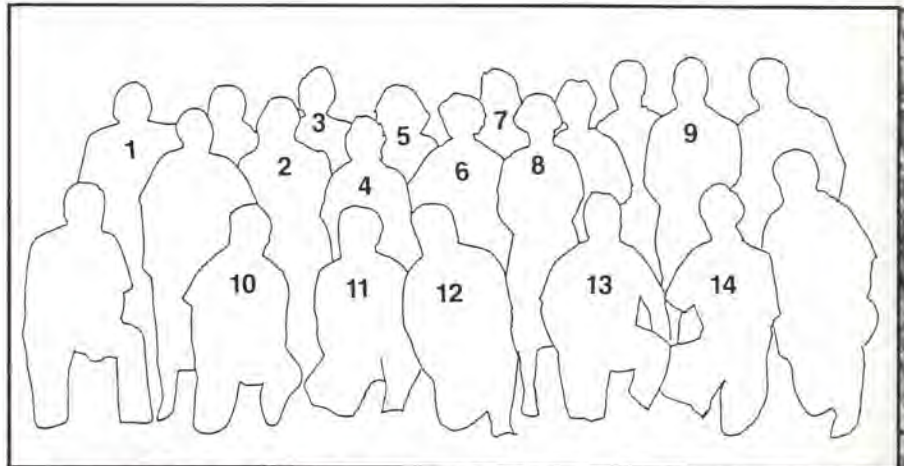
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- 1 **Irving Salzman**, who once served as a cantor in a synagogue, came to faith after talking to a sixteen-year-old Gentile believer over the telephone. Irving is attending North-eastern Bible College this fall.
- 2 **Sherry Gotbaum** is Brooklyn born and bred. She came to the Lord through the witness of her older sister and has been an active and vital part of our Brooklyn fellowship. Sherry is attending Moody Bible Institute this fall.
- 3 **Artis Clotfelter** is a wife, mother, Bible study teacher and volunteer worker with Chosen People Ministries in Sacramento, California. Artis shared her testimony in the November 1986 *Chosen People* magazine.
- 4 **Mary Seal** came to Christ through Campus Crusade for Christ at Phoenix College. Later, while attending Arizona College of the Bible, God gave her a special love for the Jewish people.
- 5 **Rebecca Ahonen**, from Lake Worth, Florida, works with Jewish people and wants to be more effective in her witness.
- 6 **Sandy Edwards** is a mother of two. Sandy is burdened to reach Jewish people in her area for the Lord. With the help of a loving husband, she made time to join us for STEP and learned how to be a more effective witness for the Lord.
- 7 **Janice Beurling's** uncle is a designated Righteous Gentile in Israel, and Janice has long had a deep burden to share God's love with Jewish people. A Talbot Theological Seminary graduate, she took her vacation to join this year's STEP team.







**Laura Martin** has attended Moody Bible Institute's Jewish Studies Program and has shared her faith in Israel as part of an Operation Mobilization team. **8**

**David Dafoe** is a computer programmer. He works for an aerospace firm and was told he'd have to finish his part of an important defense program before he could leave on vacation for STEP. It took long hours, but he made it. **9**

**Joseph Dorais** disciplined under the intense Bible study of the Navigators. Joseph saw that Israel is pivotal in God's plan. He decided to apply to STEP after reading about it in the *Chosen People* magazine. **10**

**Albert Israeli's** testimony has been in our *Chosen People* magazine, but you might not recognize his name. When his family came to Canada (from Russia and Israel), they changed their name to Davis. As a witness to his people, Albert has gone back to the original family name, Israeli. **11**

**John Kantor** was always fascinated by Jesus, even though he was told it wasn't very Jewish. He came to the Lord by responding to an altar call of a TV evangelist. **12**

**Anthony Invergo** came to the Lord while in the U.S. Air Force. Currently he is attending Moody Bible Institute and studying missions. **13**

**Masatomo Morita**, originally from Kobe, Japan, shares that "God has a sense of humor. How else could a Japanese Buddhist come to the Lord and feel led to witness to the Jewish people?" **14**



# Stories From S.T.E.P

*Fourteen believers from all walks of life came to Chicago with one thing in common—a burden to reach the Jewish people!*

## Prepared But Not Planned

Blue skies. Soft breeze. It was a great day for door-to-door evangelism, which is just what one STEP team was doing one day in a predominantly religious Jewish neighborhood.

Passing a park, the team spotted a water fountain and headed over for a drink. At the same time, four teenage boys came up to the fountain to quench their thirst.

"See this water, fellows?" Israel Cohen asked. "You'll drink it and get thirsty again, but I'd like to tell you how to have living water."

The timing may have seemed coincidental. But God had gone ahead of the team and prepared the hearts of these youths. They listened to Israel share the message of Jesus, and at the end each one prayed to receive the Lord, the Living Water!



## We're Not Prophets, But...

The STEP team was handing out tracts entitled, "It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over." Where? At Wrigley Field, just before a home game of the Chicago Cubs, naturally.

And it just so happened that on that very day the Cubs won their game with a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning!



## Wonderful Words

Thank you! To the many Christians who saw us and took time to say "Praise the Lord" and "Keep up the good work" as we handed out tracts and shared our faith, we want to say "thank you" for your words of encouragement.



# STEP

SUMMER TRAINING AND EVANGELISM PROGRAM



## Keep in Prayer

Over the weeks, STEP members had hundreds of conversations with people who felt they could not respond to the Gospel. One man, eyes aglow as he listened to the Gospel, just couldn't seem to respond when asked if he'd like to know God personally. All the fears of all the years showed in his face as he declined. Pray for him and for the many people like him whose hearts God is watering.

## Sometimes It Takes Faith, Not Experience...

"I really don't feel like going out today," a STEP member admitted as his team was leaving to go out sharing the Gospel. "So I'm expecting the Lord to really do something special."

Veteran missionary John Bell, knowing that many times witnessing is seed sowing and often seemingly uneventful, just said, "Well, we'll see."

Going door to door, the team met one young woman who had never heard the Gospel. Like parched land, she responded with joy and received the Lord. Next door, a friend of hers was mowing the lawn. When the team members shared with him, he also came to faith!

## Meanwhile Back at "Home"

Headquartered on the campus of Concordia College, STEP members had a chance to meet many people who were attending summer classes or visiting the campus for special workshops.

As the team put into practice what they were learning, two people they met on campus received the Messiah.

## Seeds Sown

Some of the STEPers had an opportunity to share the Gospel with a rabbi. The conversation centered around what Scripture said regarding Messiah. Perhaps, just perhaps, this brief encounter will one day bear the sweet fruit of salvation.



## Open Hearts

One night the entire STEP group went to a synagogue (to listen and learn, not to evangelize).

During the evening, one of the synagogue members struck up a conversation, asking question after question until he learned who these people were and why they were in Chicago. Once he understood that they were learning how to share Messiah with the Jewish people, he invited them over to his house so he could hear a first-hand account of what they were saying!



**ALASKA**

**MIDWESTERN USA**  
Mr. Roy Schwarcz  
6057 N. Kedzie Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60639  
712/331-5959

**NORTHEASTERN USA**  
Mr. Sam Nadler  
250 West 67th St.  
4230 New York NY 10017  
212/757-6716

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## Holy Day Worship Services

For the dates and times of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and other Holy Day Services this month and next, please call the numbers below.

### NORTHEASTERN USA

**Brooklyn, NY**  
Beth Sar Shalom  
Israel Cohen  
(718) 332-4269

**Yonkers, NY**  
Light of Israel  
Sam Nadler  
(212) 757-6716

**Plainview, NY**  
Olive Tree Cong.  
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(516) 939-2277

**West Hanover, NJ**  
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**Stratford, CT**  
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(212) 828-7405

**Philadelphia, PA**  
Beth Sar Shalom  
Tom Huckel  
(215) 379-2352

**Sharon, MA**  
Beth Sar Shalom  
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Marilou Derechinsky  
(617) 784-3111

### SOUTHERN USA

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**Dallas, TX**  
Sam Miller  
(713) 550-2265

**Houston, TX**  
Sam Miller  
(713) 550-2265

**Miami, FL**  
Jim Bates  
(305) 395-7417

### MIDWESTERN USA

**Long Grove, IL**  
The Vineyard Cong.  
(312) 520-0616 or  
(312) 338-5959

**Akron, OH**  
Wayne Kaipenen  
(216) 836-0540

### WESTERN USA

**Los Angeles, CA**  
Shepherd of Israel  
Howard Silverman  
(818) 884-8245

**Palm Springs, CA**  
Howard Silverman  
(818) 884-8245

### CANADA

**Toronto**  
Bethany Church  
Ben Volman  
(416) 665-4695

**Montreal**  
Winnie Marriner  
(514) 277-1859





# If You Can't Fly To Israel These Video Programs Will Bring The Land To You



**Jesus, His Life and His Land**  
 Expertly filmed, this one-hour video explores Jesus' ministry via biblical sites and cities like Bethlehem, Capernaum, Nazareth and more.  
**VJES \$29.95**  
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**New!**



**Apples of Gold**  
 Struggles of the Jewish people from the earliest Zionist movement to the present. Includes eye witness accounts of Allenby's 1917 capture of Jerusalem, the 1848 Arab-Israeli War and the Six Day War.  
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 VAOG 80 mins. \$39.95 CAD

**New!**



**The Secrets of the Pyramids**  
 Who planned these superb structures? Who cut their mammoth stones? What secrets do these ancient skyscrapers hold? Explore Egypt's most spectacular treasures in this fascinating documentary filmed on location. **VHSP \$24.95**  
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**Basic Hebrew 1 & 2** A comfortable, entertaining way to learn Hebrew. Just watch, listen and enjoy. Utilizes latest educational technology to teach you 1,000 words and phrases. Filmed on location in Israel.  
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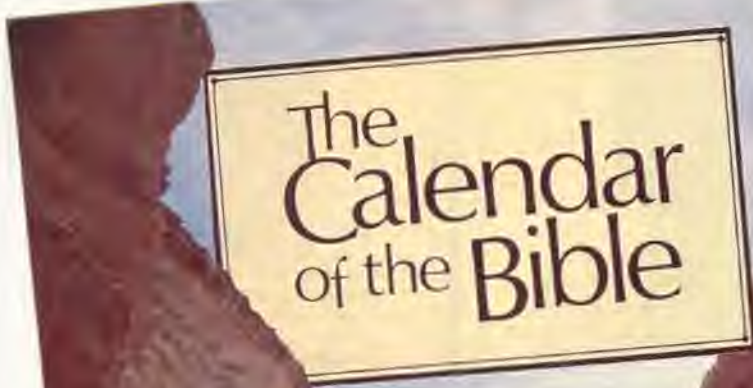


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## 4. CHOSEN PEOPLE CALENDAR OF GODS' HOLY DAYS.

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**Bonus FREE wall chart**

### 6 year chart of God's Holy Days

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