

# The Chosen People

Volume XV, Issue 5 May 2009



# GOD IS FAITHFUL

CELEBRATING  
GOD'S  
FAITHFULNESS

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:** A Great Heritage, A Bright Future! • Ministry Prayer Points • Across the Globe • The Pledge of God's Faithfulness to Israel



# A GREAT HERITAGE, A BRIGHT FUTURE!

## CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS FOR 116 YEARS

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FAITHFULNESS

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom! Thank you so much for praying for the salvation of the Jewish people.

Did you know that your Mission to the Jewish people is about to enter its 116th year of ministry? Hallelujah! Often I meet believers who think that Jewish ministries like ours all started within the last few decades. A few months ago I was introduced as the *founder* of Chosen People Ministries. I told the group that I was a “well-preserved” founder!

Actually, I am the seventh leader of this great mission to the Jewish people and am privileged to continue our founder Rabbi Leopold Cohn's vision of reaching God's chosen people with the Gospel.

Since the founding of our Mission our theology has not changed, nor have we veered off course from our mission to reach Jewish people with the Gospel. We continue to field new missionaries, plant new congregations, establish centers for outreach, add new countries to our global network of Chosen People Ministries partners and develop new and creative ways to reach Jewish people for Jesus. What a thrill to be part of God's covenant faithfulness to the Jewish people!

Despite the pressures of a weak economy, we expect Chosen People Ministries to continue growing and moving forward, because Jewish people are open to the Gospel! **We cannot retreat—we must advance!**

With this in mind, we are kicking off our **“To the Jew First” Advancement Campaign** in light of entering our 116<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. It



Our Jerusalem Messianic Center

is based upon one of my favorite passages of Scripture, Romans 1:16, written by the Apostle Paul:

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

I am excited and optimistic in the midst of these difficult days, because the Lord uses times like these to open the hearts of Jewish people. We cannot and must not slow down or reduce our ministry because times are hard.

*Dear friend, our Mission has faced tougher times than these in the past: two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Holocaust, the formation of the Soviet Union and more. We have not only survived hard times, but actually thrived. Why? Because God is faithful to His people and always keeps His promises. God Himself wants Jewish people to come to know Him through Jesus!*

I want to tell you more about our new **“To the Jew First” Advancement Campaign**, but first allow me to tell you how your prayers are being answered—and I hope you will be as thankful as I am! May I also encourage you to use the prayer list in

this issue and in the enclosed card to uphold our ministry and missionaries?

### The Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Studies

One of the highlights of the past few years has been the development of the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Studies. It is amazing evidence of God's faithfulness and provision! Just ask Dr. Gregg Hagg, the Center's Program Director, who has served as the project's “point man” from the beginning.

Gregg says, “The most memorable answer to prayer was when those in charge of the accrediting process formed such a favorable impression of our program that they gave us five years before our next evaluation. It is most unusual to receive that much time to continue our development. Now, the greatest challenge we face is to find qualified faculty who share our vision of higher education and Jewish evangelism to serve our growing student body.”

**The Feinberg Center has also been blessed by its partnership with Biola University and the Talbot School of Theology.** This allows us access to Talbot's resources and classes even as we become more firmly rooted in New York City—which is a Jewish mission field unlike any other.

Please pray for the Lord's continued blessing upon the Charles L. Feinberg Center. We have already outgrown our facilities and need to find more space to ADVANCE and expand further.

**Finding new space for the Feinberg Center** will be part of our Romans 1:16 **“To the Jew First” Advancement Campaign**—because



training new missionaries and leaders is critical to ADVANCING Chosen People Ministries in order to reach a greater number of Jewish people for the Messiah!

## A Messianic Center in the Heart of Jerusalem

Scarcely a month goes by without a report from our ministry in Israel that makes me marvel at the irrevocable gifts and calling of our Lord (Romans 11:29). Much of our outreach in the Holy Land is done through our Messianic Center in Jerusalem, which now seems to be such an established reality of our Mission's life that it is hard to remember that five years ago it existed only as a vision in the minds of a few of us. Just finding the property was an answer to prayer!

Although some of our neighbors were at first opposed to our presence and we have had to fend off a number of lawsuits that have been brought against us, the Lord has faithfully enlarged our ministry and honored our commitment to bring the Gospel to His chosen people in Israel.

Today we have more missionaries (20 plus!) in the Holy Land than at any other time in our mission's history, and our staff has never seen as many Jewish people in Israel come to faith as we are seeing today.

Please pray for continued strength and protection for our staff workers who labor for Messiah in the Holy Land.

## Our Missionaries and Staff: The Lord's Greatest Blessing in Ministry

As grateful as I am for the Lord's answer to our prayers and for our growing ministries across the globe, I never want to lose sight of the real heroes of Jewish evangelism—our dedicated staff, supported by faithful ministry partners like you.

*We still believe the Gospel is best preached person-to-person and heart-to-heart. We cannot do our ministry without our*

missionaries! This is why another critical element of our **"To the Jew First" Advancement Campaign** is to develop funding for new workers—both for missionaries and for key staff in critical areas such as web development, public relations, Messianic Center management and more.

In the twelve years that I have had the privilege of serving as the leader of Chosen People Ministries, one of the greatest signs of God's blessing on your Mission to the Jewish people has been **the growth of our missionary staff.**

*We have added more than 70 missionaries in the last decade.* It is humbling to consider how the Lord is bringing servants from all over the world—from Hong Kong to Australia, from South America to Canada and so many places in between—to carry the Gospel to our beloved Jewish people who are scattered throughout the world.

*Would you prayerfully consider giving generously to help launch this new "To the Jew First" Advancement Campaign?*

We will use part of the funds to help support some of our under-supported workers in other countries and in difficult mission fields like Brooklyn. We will also use some of the funds to help build the team that supports these missionaries on the field. We are growing numerically and need your help to grow strong as well!

**Your help funding current and future staff will be a critical part of our "To the Jew First" Advancement Campaign.**

## The Future Is Bright

Thank you so much for being part of Chosen People Ministries through your prayers and financial support. As the Lord promised, He has been faithful to His chosen people. Just think—we are still only one

Your shofar will be similar to this one though each one is unique.



generation past the horrific decimation of the Jewish people in the Holocaust. But as God promised in the Scriptures, the Jewish people survived, and over the last few decades, tens of thousands have come to know Jesus as their Messiah. Praise God—Chosen People Ministries staff members are praying with hundreds of Jewish people each year to receive the Lord!

I believe the future is bright because the promises of God are true! So rejoice with me as you see your



Since ancient times, God has been faithful to His people

prayers answered, and please continue to pray for and partner with your Mission to the Jewish people as we look to advance towards the future of evangelism to God's chosen people.

Would you pray about giving a generous gift this month to help us kick off our new **"To the Jew First" Advancement Campaign** in honor of entering our 116<sup>th</sup> year of missionary service among the Jewish people?

Thank you so much for your love and faithfulness!

Your brother,

  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

P.S. For your gift of \$116 or more I will send you a *shofar* (ram's horn) from Israel—I will be in Israel soon and will actually pick them out myself!



# CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS ACROSS THE GLOBE

THE LORD HAS MADE KNOWN HIS SALVATION; HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS HE HAS REVEALED IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS. HE HAS REMEMBERED HIS MERCY AND HIS FAITHFULNESS TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL; ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD (PSALM 98:2-3).

As we carry out our daily duties, particularly in ministry, we sometimes forget in the midst of our busy activity that our work is really His work. Without His Spirit, we are in fact "powerless" in life and ministry. This is why I want to emphasize the close connection between fruitful ministry and faithful prayer. Allow me to highlight the work at our worldwide ministry centers and include some timely prayer requests for you to take before the throne of grace during your time with the Lord.

## Israel: Multifaceted Ministry in the Promised Land

Michael Z., our Israel Director, has witnessed and participated in the significant growth of the Messianic movement in Israel. Chosen People Ministries' multifaceted outreach in the Promised Land includes ministry to the homeless, to single mothers and to Holocaust survivors. We are also starting a new Messianic congregation at our Jerusalem Messianic Center, as well as in Tel Aviv!

Another upcoming event will reach out in Messiah's name to a new group of Israelis. Chosen People Ministries in Israel will soon convene a conference for Messianic soldiers who served in the recent military action against Hamas in Gaza. Together with their families, a group of about 100 soldiers will receive Bible teaching,

encouragement and much-needed relaxation. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who seek to serve the Lord in defense of their homeland.

Michael's prayer request is this: "In addition to praying for the children's camps we will be having in Germany this summer, please pray for a positive conclusion to the case that was brought against two Messianic sisters who are facing deportation for their beliefs. The court ruled in our favor, but the Ministry of the Interior is still trying to get them out of the country. Please pray that the court's decision will be enforced!"

## Australia: Celebrate Messiah Celebrates God's Faithfulness

As the Director of *Celebrate Messiah* in Australia, Lawrence Hirsch has much to be thankful for as he reflects on God's faithfulness over the years. Celebrate Messiah was established in 1995 and joined in partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries in 2000. Lawrence says, "This has been an incredible blessing to us, as we have not only seen the work grow in Australia, but we have also recently established Celebrate Messiah New Zealand as an outreach to the thousands of Israelis who travel to this beautiful land each year."

Celebrate Messiah's work in Australia has flourished through their Messianic congregation in Melbourne.



The Australian staff is working on planting another congregation in Sydney and on what the Aussies call "the Sunshine Coast." They have also seen amazing fruit through their ministry to Russian Jews in Melbourne. Over the years, over 300 people have made confessions of faith!

Lawrence says, "As the result of this, God led us to start an outreach in Russia—specifically in the Far East region. Last month, we led a team of missionaries to the Far East of Russia and visited four cities there. Birobidzhan, which is known as the Jewish Autonomous Region, is the focus of our outreach and we have two resident missionaries in this area."

Lawrence's prayer request is simply this: "Please pray for our outreach in the Far East of Russia as well as in Australia, New Zealand and Israel."

## France: Sowing Seeds in Stony Soil

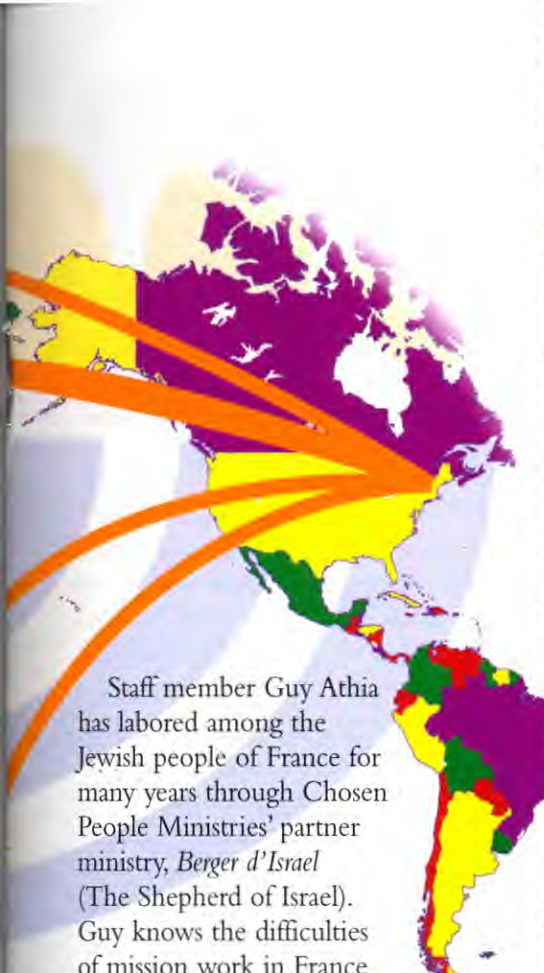
Israel and the United States are the two largest centers of Jewish population, but France still represents the third-largest Jewish population center in the world, with more than 700,000 Jewish people.



# MISSION PRAYER POINTS

Here are some highlights from Chosen People Ministries' global outreach.  
Please pray that the Lord will build upon what He has already established!

- Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign** – We have launched an evangelistic campaign that emphasizes the power of Isaiah 53 as a witnessing tool. **Please pray** that the new evangelistic booklet we have produced will help bring many to faith in Messiah.
- Ministering to the Needy in Israel** – Our staff members in Tel Aviv work closely with single mothers, substance abusers and the poor; and our workers in Jerusalem are reaching out to Holocaust survivors and others who have been scarred by war. **Please pray** that those to whom we minister will recognize the compassion of Messiah and welcome Him into their lives.
- Evangelizing through Messianic Congregations and Ministry Centers** – Please pray that the Lord will bring Jewish seekers to our Messianic congregations around the world, and that the special programs offered through our Ministry Centers will bring a rich harvest of souls.
- Partnering with Churches Worldwide** – Your Mission to the Jewish people knows the blessing of fellowship in Messiah and fruitful partnership with churches. **Please pray** that our cooperation may deepen, so that more Jewish people have the opportunity to hear and respond to Messiah's message.
- Reaching Out through Campus Ministries** – Our staff has active ministries on college and university campuses. **Please pray** that we will effectively reach many university students with the message of Messiah.
- Summer Outreach Programs** – Summer is coming, and our Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP), eXperience Israel and Outreach Israel programs are gearing up. **Please pray** for protection for our staff and volunteers, and also for open minds and hearts of the hearers as we bring the Good News to the streets of New York City and the Promised Land.



Staff member Guy Athia has labored among the Jewish people of France for many years through Chosen People Ministries' partner ministry, *Berger d'Israel* (The Shepherd of Israel). Guy knows the difficulties of mission work in France first-hand. French society is currently much more secular than in previous decades. Add to this a growing and active Muslim subculture, and it is not hard to see that there are unique obstacles to Jewish evangelism.

Even so, Guy informs me that inroads are continually being made and victories celebrated. He reports many new contacts and even the possibility of some spiritual support from the Christians there, where support for Jewish evangelism is often hard to come by.

Guy writes, "The ministry continues in several directions. Our Messianic journal *Berger d'Israel* is always well read and used as a witnessing tool, and people are visiting our website more and more. I am also working on recording teachings focused on Jewish topics, and manuscripts for Gospel literature."

A challenging obstacle to God's work in France has arisen in recent months. Since the last war in Gaza, antisemitism in France is increasing greatly. Guy notes, "Recently, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* published a survey

taken in seven European countries. Forty percent of European people believed that the Jews are responsible for the current economic crisis. Forty-four percent thought that we speak too much about the Holocaust. Please pray that the Lord will bless and protect the Jewish people in Europe, and that He will strengthen us as we sow His Word among the Jewish people in the particularly hard soil of French society."

## A Concluding Exhortation

If we read the Scriptures with an eye towards prayer, we would be

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astonished at how often we find prayers in the mouths of the great men and women of faith who have preceded us—including Jesus the Messiah Himself. Let us take renewed heart from the exhortation of James as we bring the concerns of Israel, Australia, France and the rest of the nations before the Lord in supplication: "*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much*" (James 5:16). 🙏



# SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

## THE PLEDGE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO ISRAEL

**For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

(Romans 11:29)

Romans 11:29 is the "closing argument" in Paul's discussion of the Lord's sovereign election of Israel outlined in Romans 9-11. Despite Israel's present disbelief in the Messiah, the Lord's promises hold true, as this triumphant culmination of Paul's message proclaims.

### GOD'S SOVEREIGN SELECTION OF ISRAEL IN PAST TIMES (Rom. 9)

God's sovereignty is His total freedom to act in accord with His will. "For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure... Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places" (Ps. 135:4, 6).

It pleased God to separate Israel from all the nations and to give her special privileges and gifts, as described in Romans 9:4-5. God's sovereign selection of Israel is a display of unmerited grace, as illustrated in the case of Isaac and Ishmael (Rom. 9:6-9) and Esau and Jacob (Rom. 9:10-13).

### GOD'S OFFER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO ISRAEL AT THIS PRESENT TIME (Rom. 10)

The source and availability of God's righteousness is Messiah Jesus. The Torah was given to Israel to lead them to belief in Messiah (Rom. 10:4-10; Jn. 5:39-40; Gal. 3:24). Today, God's gracious invitation to trust in His righteousness is illustrated by Chosen People Ministries missionaries who "preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:15). These messengers to Israel are obeying the Great Commission, given in the final words of Jesus before His ascension (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8).

### RESTORATION OF ISRAEL'S GLORY IN THE NEAR FUTURE (Rom. 11)

Romans 11:1 answers the question, "Has God cast away His people (Israel)?" Referencing Ezekiel 37, Jesus stated that when He returns with power and great glory, "He will send His angels... and they will gather together His elect from... one end of heaven to the other" (Mt. 24:31).

In Romans 11, Paul states that on the basis of God's covenant

promises, the nation of Israel will be fully restored to divine favor. "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion... For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'" (Rom. 11:26, 27; Jer. 31:31-34).

### GOD'S UNFAILING FAITHFULNESS

Romans 11 amplifies the pledge of God's faithfulness to Israel. It is as though Paul has composed his own psalm of praise to add to the praises of those before him who have known the Lord's unfailing faithfulness: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33).

God's promises to Israel are certain to be fulfilled. Now, through the work of Messiah, those promises have been offered to the whole world. If you have not yet received the Good News of God's forgiveness through Jesus the Messiah, wouldn't it be wise to do so while there is yet time? And if you have, we must share this Good News with others—to the Jew first and also to the Gentile! 🇺🇸



# NEWS BRIEFS

## The Gospel According To **ISAIAH**

A Bible Conference Exploring Isaiah 53

## ISAIAH 53 CONFERENCE HELPS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

The Lord gathered almost 200 people together for our “Gospel According to Isaiah” Bible conference held in Irving, Texas in March. It was a wonderful time of teaching and training in Jewish evangelism. This conference is part of the Isaiah 53 Campaign, a larger initiative that aims to introduce thousands of Jewish people to this prophetic passage of Hebrew Scripture that points to Jesus. Many have already responded to our evangelistic ads and received a booklet that contains testimonies of Jewish believers and presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. Join us in praying for God to open the hearts of Jewish people across the globe to the Messiah as revealed in Isaiah chapter 53.

## IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

While visiting a nursing home in Los Angeles, staff member Michael Cohen and his Hebrew-speaking friend Janice\* met an Orthodox Israeli man, Franz,\* who’d had a stroke. Janice struck up a conversation in Hebrew and read Isaiah chapter 53 to him, asking who the prophet was talking about. Amazingly, Franz replied, “Jesus!” Michael says, “I was overcome with joy at the grace and mercy of our God. Yeshua had illuminated his heart with the truth!” Franz, who prayed that day to receive Jesus into his heart, is living proof that it is never too late to share the Gospel with a Jewish person. Please pray that Franz grows in his new faith.

## MESSIAH’S LIGHT SHINES IN BROOKLYN

The Brooklyn Messianic Center is buzzing with ministry activities, among them English classes based on the Bible, art classes, and a new support group for people struggling with drugs and alcohol. Recently, the center held an outreach concert featuring the songs of a well-known Russian singer and composer. Chosen People Ministries staff witnessed to the Jewish people who attended, many of whom gave their contact information for follow-up. Please pray with us that the Lord will prepare them for salvation.

## REJOICING OVER A NEW SISTER IN MESSIAH

After a recent service at Chosen People Ministries’ Messianic congregation in Manhattan, Sharon,\* an elderly Jewish woman, talked with staff member Deborah Kramer. Sharon asked Deborah if she needed to believe that Jesus was God, or if she could just focus on His good teaching and compassion towards people. They talked about the authenticity and authority of Scriptures, and Deborah explained that because Jesus is God, He was free from sin and could be the perfect sacrifice that covers over and forgives our sins. Deborah then asked Sharon if she was ready to believe in Jesus. She said yes; they prayed together, and the angels in heaven rejoiced!



Scott and Margie Brown have started a new outreach in New Zealand

## REACHING SEEKING BACKPACKERS IN NEW ZEALAND

Chosen People Ministries staff members Scott and Margie Brown are hosting weekly “sausage sizzlers” in New Zealand, a place where many Israelis travel after their army service. The first sizzler drew backpackers from at least seven nations, many of whom attended a “backpacker worship service” across the street, where they heard excellent music and compelling testimonies. One of the backpackers, a young professional from Holland, was riveted. “These things are important,” she said. “I must write them down.” She and many others gladly received a Backpacker Bible, peppered with accounts from other international travelers whose journeys led them to an encounter with the Holy One of Israel.

\* name has been changed





**There are many creative ways to support Jewish evangelism**

We want to help you utilize all of the options and tax advantages available to support Jewish ministry. The donation of vehicles and artwork as well as property and stocks can be used to further the work of Jewish evangelism.

We would be happy to help you find the stewardship opportunities that are right for you and your family—and enable you to maximize the impact you can have in reaching Jewish people for the Lord.

There is no cost or obligation, and we would like to help. For confidential assistance, contact us at 888-293-7482, or [plannedgiving@chosenpeople.com](mailto:plannedgiving@chosenpeople.com); or in Canada call 888-442-5535.



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*To the Jew First: The Case for Jewish Evangelism in Scripture and History* is a comprehensive resource that looks at the historical, theological and biblical context for Jewish evangelism and provides encouragement for Christians and Messianic Jews engaged in taking the Gospel "to the Jew first." Contributions by Richard Averbeck, Craig Blaising, Walter Kaiser, Richard Pratt, Jr. and ten other evangelical scholars.



*To the Jew First* • [3131] • Price: \$21.95<sup>us</sup>

In his book, *Epicenter*, Joel Rosenberg shows why the current rumblings in the Middle East will affect your future. The politics of the Middle East can be murky and confusing. But one thing is increasingly certain: the eyes of the nations are riveted upon Israel and her neighbors, the epicenter of the momentous events shaking our world and shaping our future.

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For phone orders in the US call 800-333-4936 OR visit online at [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com) for more resources. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.



**The Chosen People Newsletter**

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)

