

# The Chosen People

SEPTEMBER 1992 ISSN 0164-5323

## MISSIONARIES IN TRAINING

A Report  
From S.T.E.P.





## FROM THE PRESIDENT SAM NADLER



No matter how you were introduced to Chosen People Ministries, you know that we have one purpose: to evangelize the Jewish people. That was the thrust of our efforts during S.T.E.P. (Summer Training and Evangelism Program) (see story beginning on page 4). It is exciting to read about it, but much more exciting to be part of it.

I spent a few days with our S.T.E.P. participants, first addressing them in the classroom, then accompanying them on an evangelistic outreach. It was a thrill for me to be on the streets of New York once again, sharing the Gospel. As a matter of fact, with the Democratic National Convention in New York, the opportunity to witness was too much for me to pass up.

S.T.E.P., obviously, is a program aimed at evangelism. It should not surprise you that all of our ministries are geared toward getting the Gospel to Jewish people.

*Simcha!* (the Hebrew word for "joy") is a conference we hold each year in Schroon Lake, New York. This year, as usual, we packed the place with hundreds of Jewish believers who came to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Yet a number of unsaved people came this year as well. We are still rejoicing with the five people who came to faith at this year's *Simcha!*

On the back page of this month's magazine is a form to order tapes of the messages from *Simcha!* When you hear the messages, you will not only be edified, you will also understand how unbelievers were drawn to the Lord through these words of love.

For those who have attended any of our Messianic congregations, you know these are not "Jewish social clubs," but a regular opportunity to share the Gospel, exalt the Lord and see souls saved. This would be a good month for you to prayerfully consider bringing a friend, neighbor or co-worker to one of our High Holy Days services (see page 3 for times and places).

All these ministries of Chosen People have one purpose: to bring the Gospel message to Jewish people. Shouldn't this be your purpose as well? Are the activities of your life aimed at reaching out to Jews and non-Jews alike with Messiah's love?

We hope the activities of Chosen People Ministries not only encourage you knowing that God is reaching out to the Jewish people, but will also give you opportunity to participate in ministry, whether it be through S.T.E.P., one of our conferences (such as *Simcha!*), or the High Holy Days services. We want you to experience the excitement of bringing the Good News to all people—even to the Jew first.

Love in Messiah,

*Sam*

SAM NADLER  
PRESIDENT, CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

## The Chosen People

*The Chosen People* is published monthly, except for August. A one year subscription is available for a donation of any amount to Chosen People Ministries.

Chosen People Ministries, formerly known as American Board of Missions to the Jews, has been taking the love of Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

For more information or a subscription to *The Chosen People*, please write Chosen People Ministries, 1300 Cross Beam Dr., Charlotte, NC 28217-2833

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SEPTEMBER, 1992 Vol. XCIX, No. 1

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*Bring Your  
Jewish  
Friends and  
Relatives to  
a Holy Day  
Worship  
Service  
Near You.*

# JEWISH HOLY DAY WORSHIP SERVICES



**BROOKLYN, NY** Chosen People Ministries, Lydia Onbreit (718) 646-2544. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. (Russian and English).

**PLAINVIEW, LI, NY** Olive Tree Congregation, Eva Rydelnik (516) 939-2277. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**YONKERS, NY** Light of Israel Congregation, Rich Freeman (914) 962-0527. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m.

**LIVINGSTON, NJ** Beth Messiah Congregation, Larry Feldman (201) 535-3954. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m.; Sukkot: Oct. 16, 8:00 p.m.

**CHERRY HILL, NJ** Hope of Israel Congregation, Heidi Alfrime (609) 667-4673. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m.; Sept. 28, 11:00 a.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m.; Oct. 7, 11:00 a.m.; Sukkot: Oct. 16, 8:00 p.m.

**WEST HAVEN, CT** Joy of Israel Congregation, Tony Eaton (203) 932-9929. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**NORWOOD, MA** Beth El Shaddai Congregation, Blair Chamberlain (617) 255-9931. Rosh Hashanah:

Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**ROCKVILLE, MD** Son of David Congregation, Scott Brown (301) 330-2730. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**CHARLOTTE, NC** Beth Sar Shalom Messianic Fellowship, Bill Caldwell (704) 357-9000. Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.

**CORAL SPRINGS, FL** Son of David Fellowship, Winn Crenshaw (305) 346-8636. Call for dates and times.

**AKRON, OH** Beth Sar Shalom Fellowship, Wayne Kaipainen (216) 836-0540. Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**COLUMBUS, OH** Olive Branch Congregation, Don Marx (614) 486-3421. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 28, 11:15 a.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 3, 11:15 a.m.

**DALLAS, TX** Beth Sar Shalom Fellowship, Steven Cohen (214) 691-7381. Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: Sept. 26, 5:00 p.m.

**SACRAMENTO, CA** Shepherd of Israel Fellowship, Artis Clotfelter (916) 722-6615. Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur: Oct. 1, 7:00 p.m.

**LOS ANGELES, CA** Shepherd of Israel Congregation, Christopher Melisko (818) 716-5941. Rosh

Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO, CA** Beth Sar Shalom Hebrew Christian Fellowship, Irv and Cordelia Rifkin (619) 583-3336. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.

**MONTREAL, CANADA** Kehilat Shear Yashuv, Winnie Marriner (514) 332-9214. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**TORONTO, CANADA** Beth Sar Shalom Congregation, Rob Styler (416) 767-8955. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.

**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA** Beth Sar Shalom Congregation, Roberto Passo (01) 87-3620. Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 28, 8:00 p.m.; Yom Kippur: Oct. 8, 8:00 p.m.



A photograph of a man in a blue and white striped shirt handing a stack of papers to a man in a straw hat on a city street. The man in the striped shirt is seen from the back, wearing glasses and a black bag. The man in the straw hat is wearing a light blue shirt and a striped tie. In the background, there are brick buildings and a sign that says "mch's".

**FINDI**

GRAND CIP



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** MOST OF THE NAMES USED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE FIRST NAMES ONLY. SOME OF THOSE MENTIONED THOUGHT FULL IDENTIFICATION MIGHT HINDER THEIR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY.

**I**t wasn't until the fourth day, a Saturday, that I began to sense the joy—and the sorrow—I was here to experience. Until then, it was just another business trip.

I was on assignment at S.T.E.P.—Chosen People Ministries' Summer Training and Evangelism Program, held this past July in New York City.

spelling and grammar. During my time at S.T.E.P., however, I saw past the scholarly Irving to the tender-hearted Irving.

Canadian by birth, Irving was an Orthodox Jew, studying the Talmud in his hometown of Montreal as well as in Israel. He was introduced to Messiah by a Gentile believer, Andy, who talked with Irving for more than a year.

Korean Christian Scholars' seminar and a ballet skills camp.

Our first full day, Wednesday, took me back fifteen years to when I was an undergraduate in college. Our first day of S.T.E.P. we spent in class from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., studying Jewish evangelism. A game of "Ultimate Frisbee Football" afterward helped ease my writers' cramp.

Thursday was our first "lab day." After more classroom instruction, 18 S.T.E.P. participants, two full-time Chosen People missionaries and one

# ING ANSWERS AT S.T.E.P.

**Learning to love Jewish people starts with being around Jewish people.**

To be honest, I wasn't here solely as a reporter and photographer: I was looking for answers to questions asked often of Chosen People Ministries. "What is a Jewish missionary?" "Why have missionaries to the Jewish people?" "Aren't missionaries supposed to go to other countries, not culturally-distinct groups here in our country?"

And, continuing in a vein of confession, I was not looking forward to going to New York. The nation's largest city has never intrigued me: it's crowded, dirty, loud and hazy. Give me Charlotte, with its lush, green foliage. Or Tulsa, where I spent one third of my life. Or even my hometown of Dayton, Ohio.

Irving Salzman, a Chosen People staff missionary based in New York, met me at LaGuardia Airport. Irving and I had talked on the phone quite often. I knew him to be a very competent Hebrew scholar, someone I could rely on to help when I had questions about Hebrew

Finally, Andy read Matthew chapters 5-7—the Sermon on the Mount—to Irving. "Amazing," said Irving as Andy finished reading. "I have never heard anyone teach with such authority." Not long after that, Irving made the decision to accept Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior.

Irving now spends his days sharing Yeshua as Messiah with other Jewish persons. That is, he does this when he's not picking up writers at airports during rush-hour.

We drove to Hofstra University on Long Island, where I would make my home for the next nine days. The campus is well-suited for seminars such as S.T.E.P.; other seminars and camps that went on while we were there included a



**The S.T.E.P. class of 1992, along with Chosen People Ministries' staff members.**

wary writer piled into two vans and set out for Queens.

We were scheduled to ride the subway from Queens into midtown Manhattan, and there to distribute tracts. As I looked from face to face, the 18 "novice" missionaries showed little, if any, apprehension. Rather, they could hardly be contained. We stood on the sidewalk in



# This Was No Vacation

While New York City may be one of the world's greatest tourist destinations, there were at least 18 visitors this summer who had little time to sight-see.

The participants in this year's S.T.E.P. (Summer Training and Evangelism Program) spent 11 of their 19 days on Phase 1 of the program handing out literature and sharing the Gospel on the streets of New York.

During this time of ministry, the S.T.E.P.ers:

- gave out 136,200 tracts; this averages out to 688 tracts per person, per day of ministry.
- spoke with 821 Jewish seekers (those who do not yet trust Yeshua as their Messiah).
- spoke with 354 Gentile seekers.
- were encouraged through conversations with 272 Jewish and Gentile believers.
- gathered 175 names and phone numbers for follow-up visits; 69 of these are Jewish seekers.

These follow-up visits will be made by the New York area staff of Chosen People Ministries. "Boy, are we going to be busy!" said New York Area Director Stewart Weinisch.

But the most exciting statistic recorded during Phase 1 of S.T.E.P. is the 22 people who prayed then and there to receive Messiah as Lord. For the S.T.E.P.ers, this made the long days worthwhile.

a quiet Queens neighborhood (or, at least, as quiet as any neighborhood can get in New York) receiving instructions from Israel Cohen; Patricia—a "S.T.E.P.er" from Dallas—gave a tract to a woman who passed by.

"Not yet," said Israel. "We'll give out tracts in Manhattan."

But this slight rebuke caught the woman's attention. What was this literature she had taken from Patricia, but apparently wasn't supposed to? As she walked away, she studied the paper carefully, glancing back over her shoulder at our group. Knowing God does nothing by accident, I continue to wonder what has become of the seed planted in this woman's heart.

Israel somehow kept us together through Queens, onto the subway, and positioned on 7th Avenue. All this without a single stroke on any of his numerous computers or electronic gadgets.

Before I ever met Israel, I was

Israel was an inspiration on days when we felt like quitting—or at least staying in bed.

Israel is also a world-champion tract distributor. Anything that moves is a target for a tract from Israel. "Here they are—one to a customer—everyone gets one free today—don't be left out..." He is aggressive, but not pushy or obnoxious. On this first day of street ministry, the S.T.E.P. students, encouraged by Israel, give out 8,000 tracts.

We met back at the home of Stewart and Shoshannah Weinisch in Queens; Stewart is Chosen People's New York area director. As we devoured a tub of Ausie chicken and pita bread, enthusiastic S.T.E.P.ers shared testimonies from that afternoon.

"I was in front of a store," said Marlene, "and one of the employees came out to see what I was giving out. When he read the tract, he went back inside and brought out another employee.

given his description: medium height, medium build, and always within reach of a computer. The part about the computer is an exaggeration—but only slightly.

I believe if Israel were not a missionary to Jewish people, he would be winning souls in video arcade throughout Brooklyn. This 50-year-old dynamo has more energy than a 50-year-old should have. Always the first one up and the last one down,

"Here, talk to this guy," he said. 'He needs to know about God.' So I talked with him!"

Teri told of her conversation with an Orthodox Jewish man on the subway ride back to Queens. The man wanted to know what she and another S.T.E.P.er were reading. Teri gave him the "Wanted" tract and talked with him about Messiah all the way to her stop.

These were just two of the many enthusiastic reports from the tired group. And we had just started.

Friday followed a similar format: classroom in the morning, street ministry in the afternoon. We drove to Staten Island and rode the ferry to Manhattan. By that time the rain that had been forecast began to fall. We divided into teams and scattered to various dry locations: some in subway terminals, some on sidewalks under awnings. It looked to be a washout, but the enthusiasm of the S.T.E.P.ers was greater than the day before.

On the ferry ride back, I wondered just how effective tract distribution and street witnessing really is in leading people to faith in Messiah. Just then, as if he had read my thoughts, Mike—a Jewish believer from the New York area and a S.T.E.P. participant—sat down next to me.

"I received Messiah right here at

**"Amazing," said Irving as Andy finished reading. "I have never heard anyone teach with such authority." Not long after that, Irving made the decision to accept Yeshua as his Messiah and Savior.**

the South Ferry Terminal," he said. "A couple of Christians started sharing the Gospel with me here, and stayed with me for two and a half hours on my way home to Brooklyn. Just before I got on the



last bus, they read to me from Isaiah 53. It blew me away. I prayed to receive the Lord with them right there."

Oh. That's how effective it is.

I was with a group of people from all over the nation who shared a common desire: to see Jewish people trust in their Messiah. Meanwhile, I was still struggling with the whole issue of ministry to Jewish people. That is, until Saturday.

**U**p until then, any Jewish person we met on the street was by chance. Tracts were also given to a lot of French, Italian, African-American and Oriental persons. But on Saturday, I accompanied a small group of S.T.E.P. students to Brighton Beach in Brooklyn, where I, a Gentile, was among the minority. Brighton Beach is the home of many Jewish persons from Poland and Russia, as well as survivors of the Holocaust. They came to America for the freedoms offered, for a better life, and for

somewhere to live out the rest of their lives in peace.

This particular Saturday was anything but peaceful—it was the Fourth of July, and fireworks were exploding constantly, from every direction. The pigeons jumped with every "Bang!", but the residents took it all in stride.

I watched as Irving, Steve and Marlene approached a bench with five elderly people relaxing in the warm sun. They were from Poland, they said. "But Messiah isn't important anymore," responded one of the men when Irving asked if they knew Messiah.

"But what about the 12th Principle?" asked Irving, referring to one of the 13 principles developed in the middle ages by the Jewish leader Rambam to help define Judaism.

Irving began to sing in Hebrew, and was joined by the old Polish man. Asked later what he was singing, Irving interpreted: "Though he (Messiah) tarry, I will wait daily for him." The old man had sung the principle, and then

told Irving he now remembered the importance of waiting for Messiah. Irving left him a "Wanted" tract, explaining that the man foretold in Isaiah has come, and is Yeshua.

We moved on.

Up and down the boardwalk, Jewish people sat on benches or strolled at a leisurely pace. Irving, Marlene and Steve handed out tracts and shared their testimonies with those willing to hear. I was feeling a nudging in my heart; but from what, I didn't yet know.

Irving and I left Steve and Marlene and headed for the far end of the boardwalk, where Lydia and Mike had gone. We found them in a pavilion, each engaged in conversation. The pavilion was an open-air covering, extending the boardwalk out over the beach. The benches under the pavilion were occupied by mostly Russian Jewish immigrants. They were spending their Sabbath talking, reading or just staring out over the water. Some were dressed in their finest, others in old, worn clothing. The smell of pipe tobacco and cigarette smoke hung

## A "Typical" Day At S.T.E.P.

The first thing to recognize when discussing the "typical day" at S.T.E.P. is that there was no typical day.

Most days began with group prayer at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast at Hofstra University's cafeteria. After that, the pattern was different every day.

Several days were spent entirely in classroom study. The "classroom," a meeting room on the first floor of the two-story dorm complex, was bright and spacious—and there was always a pot of coffee brewing.

The few days when no street evangelism was planned, the "S.T.E.P.ers" ate all their meals at Hofstra. The food and service were both very good.

Most days were a "half-and-half" mixture of classroom and street ministry. On these days, one of the two rented fifteen-passenger vans became "home" to the evangelistic teams. To help pass the time while on the road, one would practice sharing the Gospel while another presented objections that would likely be heard from those encountered on the streets.

Meals on the road were delightful. The New York staff of Chosen People Ministries—Michael Rydelnik, Stewart Weinisch, Israel Cohen, Irving Salzman,

Jimmy Fox and Lydia Onbreit—introduced the S.T.E.P.ers to knishes (small stuffed pastries), New York delis, Israel's favorite Chinese food, Michael's favorite pizza, and some incredible Russian food in Brighton Beach.

During the times of street evangelism, the S.T.E.P. participants were divided into small teams and assigned a specific location for ministry. Israel and Stewart migrated between teams, answering questions and restocking tracts. Time passed quickly on the streets—it was soon time to head back to campus.

The only traits needed for S.T.E.P. are endurance and a willingness to learn. Age and language barriers are not a problem. (One of this year's participants was 61, another spoke little English before coming to New York.)

If you are interested in being a part of next year's S.T.E.P., write to Michael Rydelnik, Chosen People Ministries, 88 Southern Parkway, Plainview, NY 11803.

Future plans include a S.T.E.P. in South America, as well as possible programs in Israel and Europe. Please pray as Chosen People Ministries seeks to expand its training of those who take the Gospel "to the Jew first."



in the air, unmoved by the breeze along the beach.

This pavilion was its own world—a very Jewish world. Those who spoke English did so with heavy Jewish accents. Most spoke Russian. They looked tired, weary, “all done in.” These were the forgotten people.

Forgotten by everyone, that is, except God.

**T**his is when things began to sink into my heart: why there needs to be an outreach to Jewish people. This was the first time in my life I had ever been with so many Jewish persons at once. The “Jewishness” of it all suddenly struck me: these were all of one creed, but not just any creed. They were all of one nation, a special nation chosen 4000 years ago by God to bring Him glory.

I suppose this is how tourists feel when visiting Israel. To walk on the same dusty roads as Jesus and Peter and Paul—it must make a life-changing impression. Being with so many Jewish people at once certainly made an impact on me. These are God’s chosen people, I thought, a special people selected by God and preserved by Him throughout time. A people He still calls His own.

I thought I could feel, ever so slightly, the heartbreak God feels each time one of His children refuses His gift of salvation. I thought I could hear, however quietly, God crying as one person after another refused to hear the message that Messiah has come—and He offers life for all who come to Him.

Now I understood. In order to feel compassion for the Jewish nation, one must be exposed to Jewish people. And once that is done, one cannot help but long for their salvation, for their return to Messiah.

We moved on from the pavilion, “working” the boardwalk from one end to the other. The next day, Sunday, we would be back—the entire S.T.E.P. team—to face a larger

crowd, more vocal in their refusal.

**I** bravely tried to share with someone that day. I spotted a man wearing a Cincinnati Reds hat, and struck up a conversation centered around baseball. But soon he pointed at the S.T.E.P. team, which was singing songs and giving out tracts nearby on the boardwalk. He asked if I was with that group.

“I’m just taking pictures,” I answered.

“Do you know what they are trying to do?”

“What?” I responded.

“They want to convert people from Judaism to being Catholics,” he said. We had been told that many Jewish people see no difference in the Christian denominations. To them, a Catholic and a Baptist are alike.

“Really?” I said. “Are you sure they want them to be Catholics?”

“Well,” he continued, “they want them to read the New Testament.

**The “Jewishness” of it all suddenly struck me: these were all of one creed, but not just any creed. They were all of one nation, a special nation chosen 4000 years ago by God to bring Him glory.**

I’m an Orthodox Jew. The Old Testament is the only real Bible.”

Lord, help me with my words, I prayed. “I thought the prophets in the Old Testament wrote about a Messiah.”

A smile came over his kind face. “That’s right—the Messiah will come someday.”

“How will we know when he comes?”

He paused for a minute, then answered, “That’s a very good

question. When he comes, all of the dead will rise up out of the ground.”

I thought of Matthew’s description of the events after Messiah’s death: “And the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many” (Matt. 27: 52, 53). Then I said, “Wow, the Messiah must be powerful.”

“Yes,” my friend said, “he’ll be powerful.”

“But I’ve heard some say Jesus is the Messiah,” I ventured.

“Oh, Jesus, He’s not the Messiah.”

“But,” I said in closing, “didn’t He fulfill the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah?”

My friend in the Reds hat just stood silently for a moment, looking away at the S.T.E.P. team. When he looked back, I could tell he did not want to discuss Jesus the Messiah any further. I thanked him for his time, asked if I could take his picture, and moved on.

That one conversation, about three minutes in length, was one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life.

The next week was equally busy. Classroom studies followed by street evangelism. The hectic pace began to take its toll, so we were given an afternoon off.

I took a walk—without my camera and pens—and thanked God for Chosen People Ministries. I had seen for myself what “front-line” Jewish evangelism is about. I now can pray in earnest for those who are called to take the Gospel to the Jew first.

Some of those I met on S.T.E.P. may become full-time ministers of the Gospel to Jewish people. Others will go back to their hometowns, looking for opportunities to share with Jewish persons there as time permits. But none of us will be the same. For me, I am glad for the change. ☺





## OUTREACH

# Evangelism at Democratic National Convention

*Sam Nadler, president of Chosen People Ministries, recently returned to his hometown of New York City. Sam was there as a speaker for this year's S.T.E.P. (Summer Training and Evangelism Program), but took time to accompany the S.T.E.P. team on a day of street evangelism outside of the Democratic National Convention headquarters. This is his report.*

COMING OUT OF THE subway, Manhattan greeted me with all the hustle and bustle, noise and joys I remembered.

I started handing out Gospel tracts in front of Madison Square Garden as the Democratic National Convention was going on inside. Turning to Stewart Weinisch, our street-wise New York City area director, I shouted over the din of the crowd, "A beautiful day, a handful of Gospel tracts and New York to reach—this side of heaven, it doesn't get any better."

As we came closer to the Madison Square Garden, I saw empty corners right by the doorways to the convention. "Hey Stew," I said, "Let's see how close we can get." Immediately he

moved the teams closer in. We had "sewn up" the Garden, so delegates could not go in or out at these major entrances without having an opportunity to receive the Gospel.

"Remember," I told our S.T.E.P. teams evangelizing that day, "television and news people from around the world will be coming to the streets around the Garden hungry for news. If they come up to you, make it short and to the point."

"They'll ask you, 'Why are you here?' You respond simply, 'To raise the right question which the Democrats aren't raising—Is Jesus the Messiah? Because, until that question is answered, there

are no answers to the moral and social problems facing America!'"

Sure enough, by the end of the day, there were two television opportunities for the Gospel.

As I shared the Gospel, I saw the "competition" in action as well. The porno shops had their salesmen on the streets inducing the delegates to try their "product." I would exhort these purveyors of sin to repent, for not only are they defiling their own hearts but the hearts of many others.

One of these was struck by what he heard, and defensively said in broken English with a Russian accent, "I do this only because I need the

work." I asked him if he was Jewish. "Da," ("yes" in Russian) he said.

I told him, "I'm Jewish as well. God has not only cleansed my heart through Messiah, but helped me to work in a way that wouldn't dishonor Him or defile others." He wanted to hear more, and said he wanted to come to our Russian meeting (held every Friday night in Brooklyn) to learn about the Messiah. Please pray with me for this man that he may soon know the Messiah personally.

It's exciting to share Yeshua, but there's something special when it is at the Democratic National Convention in New York City.

## ISRAEL

# "Most Successful Campaign" in Israel

THIS PAST JUNE, CHOSEN PEOPLE Ministries staff missionary Albert Israeli participated in an outreach that stretched from Tel Aviv to Haifa in Israel. The outreach was organized by various congregations and ministries in Israel, including Chosen People Ministries.

Albert helped to lead the campaign, which included street witnessing and tract distribution. In the one day outreach, more than 200 people requested more information

about Messiah, including 20 Arabs.

Albert now reports that through follow-up visits with these "seekers," many are now in congregations and Bible studies throughout Israel.

"It was the most successful campaign we have ever had here in Israel," reports Albert.

Please continue to pray for these who are now learning about their Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus). And pray for more workers for the nation of Israel.



# Time To DECIDE



illustration by Jeff Jansen

BY SCOTT BROWN AS TOLD TO MARLENE FLOYD

**I**FELT FRUSTRATED AND helpless. As I gazed into his eyes, only a glazed stare looked back—eyes open, but not seeing; a voice talking, but making no sense. Soon he grew agitated, twisting and turning in the confinement of his stark hospital bed.

I pressed the button for the nurse, while trying to comfort him myself. Laughter echoed from across the

room as his roommate mocked my futile efforts to comfort him. I sensed a weighty oppression in the room that was very intimidating. "Spiritual warfare," I thought to myself. The nurse arrived and asked me to leave.

#### Compelled from Within

Mr. Gruber (not his real name), a Jewish man, was the father of a

friend of mine. When his father became hospitalized, my friend asked if I would visit him. Although this first visit had been discouraging, several days later I decided to try again. I drove with my hands tightly gripping the steering wheel, asking the Lord for an opportunity to speak with Mr. Gruber alone, with no interference from relatives or roommates.



After my prayer, I switched on the radio. Dr. Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, was in the midst of a message on the urgency of sharing the Gospel. His words focused on the obligation we have to reach a lost world and how easily discouraged we become by adverse circumstances. He said we should be burning to tell others, compelled from within. "He's talking to me," I realized. I took this message to heart and entered the hospital with a renewed resolve to share with Mr. Gruber.

I found him alone in a private room, laboriously taking each breath, eyes open but vacant. "This is a dying man," I said to myself as I went to him, taking his hand in mine. I began telling him of God's love for him, and how He has rendered atonement, the forgiveness of sin, by transferring our guilt upon the One who was guiltless.

His breathing became more erratic and he was agitated. I called for the nurse; Mr. Gruber said he wanted some water, but insisted he drink it sitting up in a chair. With some difficulty, we got him situated in an easy chair. The nurse placed the straw between his lips before leaving.

And then we were alone together once again. He seemed so weak, barely able to lift a limb, when suddenly a surge of energy came over him. He began to speak clearly about several topics: his medical history, his family, his religious background—all without so much as a pause or a stammer.

This sudden "enlivening" taking place before my very eyes was dramatic: one moment he was gasping for air, and a few minutes later he was so lucid, it was as if we were conversing at a dinner party. I took it as God's preparation, getting him ready to fully receive what I had come to tell.

#### **God Provided a Sin-Bearer**

"Mr. Gruber," I began, "I'm here for one reason only: to tell you the

best news you could hear at a time such as this." I proceeded to cover all the points of the Gospel slowly, carefully, as he listened, still alert. I explained the fact of separation from God due to sin and that we are all born into this world with this dilemma.

When I challenged him, he agreed that yes, he recognized his own sin problem and would not deny it. I explained the penalty sin brings, but that God in His lovingkindness had provided a sin-bearer for those who would accept Him. This was the promised Hope of Israel, the Messiah, Jesus. By dying, He bore the weight of sin, and by resurrecting He conquered death. He destroyed the power of sin. This is God's gift of love to us. All we need to do is receive it.

I paused and looked directly at Mr. Gruber. He was still attentive and understanding. The Lord seemed to be directing my every sentence as I went on to tell him that I knew how foreign all of this is to the traditional education we receive as Jews, yet the Torah and the Prophets proclaim it without shame.

Feeling an urgency, I said, "This is not a time to speak trivialities, but a time to decide whether this atonement is real—and a time to decide whether to accept or reject it. I don't know that I have another day to live, Mr. Gruber—nor do you. What are you going to do?"

#### **"Do You Remember Abraham?"**

His response caused my heart to leap for joy. "But what must I give in return?" he asked. I knew he was fully aware what I was offering was valuable, precious, and not something that came cheaply.

"Do you remember Abraham?" I asked eagerly.

"Ah, I know him well," he replied. Now I knew I was on familiar territory.

"The only thing that rendered God's total acceptance of Abraham," I continued, "was his

faith in a promise that kicked against all reason or logic. It was nothing Abraham did or accomplished on his own. And that is what God requires of us: our trust, our faith to believe that Jesus is the One whose death and resurrection secured eternal life for all who would receive it. That is the faith of Abraham, because it does not appeal to our reason, our logic, nor our pride. It is faith based on the integrity of the One who promised and not on our own ability."

#### **The Final Act**

I took a deep breath, knowing now we had reached a crucial place—that climax at the final act of a play—the culmination of all the words that had gone before. "Do you want this gift, Mr. Gruber? You can receive it right now by faith, but don't do this to please me. This is not a matter between you and me, but between you and God."

Very calmly, he responded, "Yes, I'd like to receive it." I led him in a prayer of confession, acceptance and thanksgiving for Messiah's atonement. At the close of the prayer, Mr. Gruber said "Amen." I had only one more question. "Did you truly believe those words in your heart and personalize them?"

"Yes," Mr. Gruber answered. There was no trace of the previous pain and agitation. He sat still in his chair, where he peacefully fell asleep. I left feeling lighthearted, and once again in awe of God's provision of mercy, knowing that Mr. Gruber's salvation had been assured.

When God claimed this new "child" of His only a few days later, I understood deep in my heart why the spirit of urgency had been so strong and why the hospital visit had been so divinely appointed.

*Scott Brown has served as a missionary with Chosen People Ministries since 1988. Scott and his wife, Marjorie, live with their four children in Silver Spring, Maryland. ☸*



# NEW LABORERS FOR THE HARVEST

Clockwise from left: the Johnson family, the Engman family, the Gliebe family, the Cohen family.



**B**orn in Lima, Peru, Percy Johnson grew up in a home with a Jewish father and Catholic mother; both instilled high moral standards in their children. Yet there was no effort to develop a personal relationship with God. Percy, as a child, considered himself an atheist.

He excelled in academics, and began college at age 15 at the Catholic University in Lima, studying civil engineering. Returning home one day from school he saw people crying outside of his home. His oldest brother, Jimmy, had been killed in an automobile accident. Two missionary couples helped support his family during this difficult time.

Percy began to spend time with one of the couples, the Lyons, and their family. Their son, Nathan, became like a brother to him. But on a return trip home, Nathan's plane crashed—there were no survivors. As a result of the Lyons' loss and their subsequent example of faith, Percy saw God's love and peace as never before.

The Lord changed Percy's heart through the reading of His Word—

given him by the Lyons—and through the silent, yet clear example of Christian hope and love in the lives of these missionaries. As a result, Percy dedicated and surrendered his life to the Lord.

Percy left his job as professor of thermodynamics in Peru to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He faced culture shock as he learned to adapt to a new environment and new language.

Percy served for many years as the pastor of the First Hispanic Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Yet with an evangelist's heart, Percy felt the call to missions. From Lima, Peru, to Fort Worth, to Louisiana, this international missionary is now taking on the challenge of reaching out to Jewish people with the love of Yeshua (Jesus) in Montreal, Canada.

**G**od simply chased me until I was too tired to run," says Leon Engman, a new Chosen People Ministries missionary in Chicago. "I slowly began to reconcile those

things that troubled me with the realization that God was truly greater than all circumstances, and He really loved me."

The circumstances troubling Leon were weighty. As a child, he began to learn of death when he toured a concentration camp in Germany and heard tales of the Holocaust from a Jewish survivor. The lesson of death was then brought home when Leon's father was killed during the Vietnam War.

Leon confessed Jesus as his Lord shortly after his father's death; after high school, he chose Moody Bible Institute for further education. This is when his life began to unravel.

The lessons of death learned at an early age came back to challenge his faith. Who is the real God: the One who allowed the Holocaust to occur, his father to be killed, and churches to act hypocritically, or the One who was outlined in his textbooks?

At the age of 20, Leon simply walked away, disillusioned.

Ten years and many struggles later, God "chased" Leon down. "There was no single event that changed everything all at once," says Leon, "but God took me back





through my difficulties one by one. As I opened up to Him He brought me back. He has changed me."

Leon's first steps back into the community of faith took him to a Messianic congregation, where he felt less threatened. He and his wife, Anna, decided they would enter full time ministry. Leon returned to school and earned a Masters in Divinity degree.

The first challenge Leon met when he recently entered full-time work with Chosen People Ministries was personal; he has been diagnosed with Hodgkins' disease. Yet that has not stopped Leon from reaching out in love to the Jewish people in Chicago. Please pray for Leon and his family that God may give him a complete healing.



**Kirk Gliebe**

**R**eaching Jewish people with the Gospel of Yeshua (Jesus) is the

longstanding goal of Kirk Gliebe's life.

Kirk was born in Santa Rosa, California in 1966 to a family of Jewish believers. Yet it wasn't until Kirk was 15 that he accepted the Lord as his personal Savior. Soon afterward, Kirk committed his life to sharing the Gospel with both Jews and Gentiles.

Kirk attended Moody Bible Institute and graduated with a bachelor's degree in both Jewish studies and evangelism. While at Moody, Kirk met another Jewish believer, Carla; they were married shortly after graduation.

For a year after graduation, the Gliebes served with a Jewish ministry in New York City. This gave them the experience needed to

return to Chicago and minister among the thousands of unsaved Jewish people there.

Kirk has been serving in various capacities for the last four years with a Messianic congregation in Glenview, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

He is now serving with Chosen People Ministries' Midwest team, leading Bible studies and doing other evangelistic work in and around Chicago.

Kirk and Carla live north of Chicago with their two children, Rachel and Matthew.

## Steven Cohen

**S**teven Cohen was raised in a loving Jewish home, celebrating the feasts of Israel, attending a Hebrew school, and having a Bar Mitzvah. But his spiritual "search for significance" left him empty until he met his Messiah.

Steven received a degree in aerospace engineering. He worked with defense contractors on high-tech aircraft such as the B-2 Stealth Bomber.

"At that time," he recalls, "I took a moment to reflect on my life, my accomplishments, my income and my relationships, and found they were empty. I had followed a life similar to that of Solomon's expressed in Ecclesiastes, and I asked, 'Where is the meaning?'"

Soon thereafter, a friend of Steven's shared how the prophets of the Old Testament foretold of a Messiah, and how Yeshua (Jesus) fulfilled those predictions. Steven opened his heart to Yeshua.

Steven felt a great need to share Jesus with the Jewish community. He attended Dallas Theological Seminary, preparing to take the Gospel to Jewish people.

Steven, his wife, Stephanie, and their son, Seth, will be serving with Chosen People Ministries in Dallas. ☺



# The Prophet Daniel



By HAROLD A. SEVENER, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

**D**aniel was then told to seal up the vision (cf. Dan. 8:26), because this particular vision relating to the fierce king, the Beast of Satan incarnate, concerned the distant future. This vision has remained sealed until this day. Although God has revealed more concerning the "future days," the identity of the Beast still remains a mystery.

Gabriel then told Daniel that the vision concerning the 2,300 evenings and mornings was true; that is, that it belonged to the near future and would certainly happen just as God had revealed it (cf. Dan. 8:14, 26).

At this point the visions and prophecies of Daniel pause, and we are given insight into the character and feelings of Daniel, the man. How easy it is to forget the humanity of the prophets of God and the heroes of faith in the Scriptures who were so in touch with God. I believe the Holy Spirit directed the writers of Scripture to include some of these glimpses into the character of the prophets because He knew we would have difficulty identifying with them without such insights.

Daniel wrote that he "was exhausted and lay ill for several days." He "was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding." Yet, despite all of that, he "got up and went about the king's business" (cf. Dan. 8:27).

## Can You Imagine?

Try to put yourself in Daniel's place. Imagine that you have just been told the worst news you have ever heard concerning your family and your loved ones: many of them would be killed, and those who would survive the massacre would suffer death and persecution, their fate being far worse than that of their ancestors. Imagine that you know what has been said is true because the one telling you represents the highest governmental authority in the universe. He tells you that laws have been set in place to accomplish what he has said and that because of the laws, the outcome cannot be changed.

What would our reaction be to such news? I believe most of us, like Daniel, would be "appalled." We often think we want to know the future, but it is the grace of God that keeps the future sealed. Daniel was given a glimpse of the future, as it concerned his people, Israel, and the few broad strokes which God revealed to him were enough to make him literally sick. God, in His mercy, does not want us to know the future. Instead, He wants us to know Him and to trust Him. He is omniscient. He knows the end from the beginning. God entrusted this vision of the future to Daniel because he knew Daniel had learned the truth of knowing and trusting God. Daniel knew that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). For the believer, all things do work together for good and for God's glory.

## Trusting God in the Bad Times

Daniel was ill but he did not languish long. Chapter 8, verse 27, records, "Then I got up and went about the king's business." Daniel went back to work!

What a lesson in trust! And how unlike so many of us! We are quite willing to trust God for the good things. These are easy to handle. But when bad news comes and problems arise, we often fret and worry. Our worry and lack of trust affect our behavior, our attitudes and relationships toward friends and family members, our effectiveness on the job, and even our fellowship with God.

Daniel had learned to trust God, to turn over everything in life—the good and the bad—to God. He had learned that "When you worry, you can't pray."

As we will see in chapter 9, Daniel is a good example of a person who has learned to pray and to trust fully in his God. We will see that rather than worry over the visions of the future which God gave him, Daniel prayed and searched the Scriptures. He knew God in a very real and personal way. He knew that God hears and answers prayer. And he knew that in the revealed Word of God he would find the answers to his questions about God's program and plan for his life and for the lives of his people, Israel. ☺



# STEWARDSHIP DAVID HENSCHEN

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The articles of the king's own will stipulated these guilty beneficiaries were to be absolved of all crimes, including his own murder. The king apparently knew the manner in

which His own death would take place, including the guilty parties. Yet in His will, He provided not only forgiveness but also enrichment for those responsible for His death.

Of course, those of us who know Messiah are continually amazed by His great and marvelous love. How joyous we are to have been named a beneficiary. We are grateful He made His will known.

Perhaps you are not king over a vast domain, but you do have a loved one or a special ministry you wish to remember. A good, practical way of honoring them is in your last will and testament.

Chosen People Ministries' stewardship department is available to assist you in your estate planning needs. We can also, if you wish, meet with you personally to show

you how easy it can be to remember the ones you love. We can also explain how you can give now to the ministry, and receive a life-long income from us. We will work with your professional advisers to find sure and innovative ways to accomplish what you desire.

To find out more about how we can help you in your financial planning, write to us using the envelope enclosed with this magazine. Feel free to include a note explaining your situation and what you would like to see accomplished.

As always, we cherish your prayers and look forward to hearing from you soon.

*If you have included Chosen People Ministries in your will, please let us know so we can say thank you!*

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