

The Chosen People



As the Floodgates of History Break Open —



SHALOM 2000.



*New believers
are following
Jesus' command
in baptism.*

Six months ago we launched SHALOM 2000 — a bold plan to reach the top 11 countries that contain more than 94 percent of the world's Jewish population.

SHALOM 2000 calls for planting many new congregations, adding new staff and taking advantage of every new opportunity to reach Jewish people for the Messiah.

After 100 years of ministry, it's also a good time to look at how we're doing. Here's a brief progress report to inspire and challenge you.

Shaking the streets of L.A.

This year, we welcomed missionary Don Meecha to the staff of Chosen People Ministries in Los Angeles.

Don's birth parents were Jewish, but he was adopted by a Catholic family. He didn't discover his Jewish heritage until he was 23.

During Bible college Don noticed his ministry to Jewish people seemed especially fruitful. He then attended Chosen People Ministries' STEP (Summer Training and Evangelism Program) in 1992, which cemented his calling to Jewish ministry.

During that STEP, Don and CPM missionary James Fox were sharing the Gospel with a Jewish man who was arguing against the Gospel and angry at God. "In the end," said Don, "he did accept the Messiah. He was crying, and there was a crowd of people standing all around. It was one of the most emotional experiences I have ever seen in my life."

Don is excited about future ministry in Los Angeles, including evangelistic outreaches in Jewish areas of the city. He will also work to motivate local churches to get involved with Jewish evangelism. Los Angeles currently leads the development of a standardized volunteer program for CPM that can be used in any city.

Bringing a blessing to Brazil.

Eduardo Loewenthal, our volunteer and potential missionary to Brazil, is establishing a CPM branch in Sao Paulo. In April, Eduardo and our missionary from Argentina, Roberto Passo, coordinated a large evangelistic outreach there. A Bible study was begun from that outreach. Of Sao Paulo's 18.3 million people, 250,000 are Jewish.

Evangelism times two — worldwide.

Our Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) goes international this year, with training sessions planned for both Chicago and Germany. From those two locations, participants will join outreach teams going to the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Argentina, France, Germany, Latvia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Ukrainian outreach multiplies.

Established in the early 1990s, our congregation of Jewish believers in Kiev, Ukraine has become an avenue to Jewish evangelism. Congregation members and staff in Kiev coordinate evangelistic outreaches to other cities in Ukraine and Russia, an area with close to 750,000 Jewish people.

A progress report from the front lines of evangelism.

What's ahead between now and December.

Israel: Beit Sar Shalom, CPM's congregation in Israel, is growing and maturing dramatically. Services are filled to capacity and it's time to establish another location for ministry.

Our only missionary in Israel, Albert Israeli, cannot keep up with the demanding schedule of witnessing, discipling, leadership training and evangelistic outreaches by himself. We hope to place another missionary in Israel by the end of the year.

The Pacific Rim: CPM President Sam Nadler plans to visit Australia this fall to establish contacts, assess ministry opportunities and begin planning for a new CPM work there. A Jewish believer in Australia writes to us:

"I have been involved in outreach to the Jewish community for the past 27 years. But I am now 64 and not as energetic as I once was. I am looking over my shoulder, so to speak, to the younger ones and finding none to carry on the work."

About 100,000 Jewish people live in Australia. Most have never been touched by a solid and consistent witness for Jesus our Messiah.

Brazil: We want to solidify the work begun this year in Sao Paulo by adding Eduardo Loewenthal as a full-time missionary.

*Please pray as we work to achieve these
four critical SHALOM 2000 goals:*

- 1. Establish a CPM work in every nation with a Jewish population of 100,000 or more.*
- 2. Select and commission 20 new missionaries to key North American cities.*
- 3. Expand our staff in Israel by 20 missionaries.*
- 4. Locate 20 new missionaries to other key countries around the world.*

*You can also help with a special gift now
for this bold evangelistic outreach.*



*Shalom 2000 is
bringing the joy of
fulfilled faith to
Jewish people
worldwide.*

As the Floodgates of History Break Open.



*Sam Nadler, President
Chosen People Ministries*

A year ago, I was convinced that the Spirit of God was moving in a special way among Jewish people all over the world. Today, I'm more convinced than ever.

Just look around. Our ministry in Israel is bursting at the seams. The congregation in Kiev is sending out missionaries in their own country and abroad. STEP summer outreaches are training twice as many evangelists as last year!

These are exciting, historic days.

But halfway through our centennial year, it's a good time to examine ourselves and our ministry. David's request as recorded in the Psalms is our own:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." (Psalm 139:23)

It's my prayer this month as we pause to see where we are — and seek divine guidance for how we should proceed — that we will know God's presence in a fresh way. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer as we face the second half of this incredible centennial year.



On a sultry afternoon last July, 60-year-old Simon Epstein joined other Russian Jewish immigrants resting on benches along the Brighton Beach Boardwalk in New York City.

Nearby, a Chosen People Ministries STEP (Summer Training and Evangelism Program) team had also convened on the boardwalk. Despite unbearable heat, they danced and sang to the Jewish folk music they played on their guitars. STEP volunteer Vladimir Pikman chose Mr. Epstein out of the crowd.

Not that Simon stood out. In fact, he was very much like thousands of other Russian Jews who had converged on that part of New York. He had come to America two years before from

Leningrad with his wife and two daughters. His English was still quite limited. And though he had attended synagogue back home in Leningrad, he didn't consider himself exceptionally devout.

Outreach team speaks the language.

Vladimir was quite different. Like several of his friends on the STEP team, he was from Kiev, Ukraine and had come to know the Messiah through the Chosen People outreach there. Now they

were in the U.S. for training in Jewish evangelism.

Vladimir and the others had no trouble communicating with the Russian immigrants. Many were open to hearing about the Gospel.

The Bible — just another pretty book.

Simon was interested, too. As he and Vladimir chatted on the street, Simon explained that he had heard a lot about the Bible but had never read through it. "Once," he said later, "I read a children's Bible. To me, it was just a pretty book. But Vladimir

Simon. That evening, he responded to missionary Stewart Weinisch's simple salvation message.

"At the moment of salvation," said Simon, "I wasn't thinking about what my family would say. When I came home that night and told my wife, she wasn't against it. She was actually happy for me!"

Simon has faithfully attended the Bible study since his first night.

Acting out his faith — on stage.

Simon has also made his acting debut since he started attending the study. Our Russian-speaking missionary, Lydia Wechsler, translated a Purim play into Russian to celebrate the Feast of Esther. She convinced Simon to take the part of King Ahasuerus,

Queen Esther's husband.

The play was presented at the Bible study during their Purim celebration. Simon later confessed to a bad case of stage fright. But that night, attendance almost doubled. Twenty-five unsaved Russian Jewish people came and the play received rave reviews.

Simon explains that faith in Jesus has changed his life. "I have more peace than before," he said. "I had situations that made me anxious, but now I have the strength to overcome them."

FINDING JESUS IN A STRANGE LAND.

The Messiah's love needed no interpretation.

was very persuasive. Everything he told me about the Scriptures I really believed — and I liked it!"

Simple salvation message transforms a life.

Vladimir invited Simon to the Russian-language evening Bible study in Brooklyn. He knew that Simon could face stiff opposition just for coming, especially from New York's Orthodox Jewish community. But that didn't stop

Summer is an excellent season for evangelism since people emerge from behind closed doors to enjoy the warmth and sunshine.



*Using
Schindler's List
as a platform
to witness.*

It wasn't meant to be an evangelistic film and we don't endorse the movie. But believers can use the Academy-award-winning film *Schindler's List* as an evangelistic door-opener — whether they've seen it or not.

Try using the film as a conversation-starter. Ask questions like, "Can you imagine the strength of character and faith it took to survive the Holocaust?" That's a natural starting point to explain how believers live through tough experiences, or how they can shed their bitterness through the Messiah.

Of course, that doesn't mean Jewish believers can forget the Holocaust any more than non-believers. The difference is in the forgiveness. We need to model that distinct difference.

The Holocaust of *Schindler's List* is like many painful situations in life. It is the horrible result and the ongoing human dilemma of sin in the world. But how do we witness to people who have lived through such sorrow? You cry with them. You mourn with them. And out of that relationship you can also share the eternal hope believers have in Yeshua (Jesus) our Messiah.



photo: Steve Burns

Vladimir Pikman is a young, energetic and dedicated witness to the Good News of our Messiah.



GOD'S POWER FOR GOD'S PURPOSE.

by Sam Nadler
President, Chosen People Ministries



Sharing Jesus, our Messiah, is a privilege for all believers.

Thus, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:15, 16 NASB)

When Paul thought of Rome, his mouth watered. Oh, not for the sensual delights of that pagan city, nor for the scientific interests of its engineering accomplishments, but for the great opportunity to further the Gospel. There, at the center of worldly power, the True Power of God would be seen in contradiction to what the world had to offer. Thus, Paul declares he is "eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome." (Romans 1:15)

Paul never felt that he was less adequate to proclaim the Messiah, Jesus, even in Rome. For Paul, the Good News was the

very power of God. Thus he was an "adequate servant of the new covenant." (2 Cor. 3:6) Our adequacy isn't from our Jewishness, education or family pedigree, but because the Gospel is God's power to all who believe.

Power with purpose and priority.

Leopold Cohn and his son, Joseph, saw thousands saved during their lifetimes. The establishment of a Jewish work was a living demonstration of God's power. Very few wanted such a work — certainly none in the Jewish community — but God desired Jewish people to hear the Gospel.

Even today, God is still performing His miracles, for the Gospel is still God's power. Yes, and still "to the Jew first." God's power has not diminished, nor His burden for "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Lest someone think God has "rejected His people whom He foreknew" (Romans 11:2), He still wants His faithfulness and righteousness proclaimed by giving the Gospel "to the Jew first."

If the Gospel is still "God's power of salvation to everyone who believes," why is it that so many believers do not enjoy His power? Because they are not using it for His purpose or with His priority.

Why is "to the Jew first" so important?

"To the Jew first" is so important simply because it's the Scriptural pattern set in Romans 1:16. It's God's plan for evangelism.

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&
A**

That doesn't mean Christians shouldn't witness at all until they've first witnessed to every Jewish person. The "Great Commission" in Matthew 28:19 applies to all believers, both Jewish and Gentile. And of course there is no distinction between the two. (Romans 3:22,23)

Giving the Gospel "to the Jew first" simply means that God has established an order. He chose Israel in love. And God still has not cast off His people. (Romans 11:2)



The foundation for our adequacy as bearers of the "Good News."

God's perspective on power.

The purpose of His power is simple: "for salvation." (*Romans 1:16*) God would have us desiring and diligently sharing Jesus with the lost world, so that we might experience His power. His power is for His purpose, not ours.

Is salvation still "to the Jew first?"

Also, the priority of His power is simple and still the same: "to the Jew first." Those who avoid or neglect sharing the Gospel with Jewish people are not experiencing all the power that God wants to express through them.

Chosen People Ministries is even now experiencing a great blessing of His power for His purpose and with His priority. As we work towards SHALOM 2000, we do so with confidence. No matter what country, we know that the Gospel is still "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes," and yes, still "to the Jew first."

Scripture is a great place to begin sharing your faith with a Jewish friend.



photo: Doug Easton

GOOD NEWS...BAD NEWS... PRAYER NEWS

Please use these news briefs as a basis for prayer and thanksgiving.

ORTHODOX ASK CPM TO STOP "DOORBELLING."
Orthodox rabbis representing the Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal have asked Chosen People Ministries to discontinue door-to-door evangelism. Missionary Percy Johnson contacted the Canadian Jewish Congress citing inaccurate information in an article in the *Canadian Jewish News* about CPM congregation She'ar Yashuv. CPM will maintain a sensitive approach to the Jewish community of Montreal, without repressing evangelistic outreaches.

"HOUSE OF REFUGE" APPROVED IN ISRAEL.
For the first time ever, Israel's government has granted non-profit status for Messianic Jews to build a "house of refuge." This kind of halfway house will take in Jewish believers during times of trouble, since Messianic Jewish people in Israel are often persecuted and sometimes even evicted from their homes for their faith in Jesus. This is an effort of the Messianic community of the Sharon area which includes CPM's congregation Beit Sar Shalom. Pray that the architectural plans will be approved and building permits will be authorized.

MESSIANIC "WELCOME WAGON" COMES TO FLORIDA.
Chosen People Ministries in south Florida is developing new approaches to generate unsaved Jewish contacts. Beginning in April, missionary Winn Crenshaw placed ads in the "personal" sections of local newspapers offering a free New Testament to any Jewish person who answered the ad. About half of the papers' readers are Jewish in an area with the second highest Jewish population in the United States.

Winn has also obtained the names of new Jewish residents in the area. He plans to personally visit those homes with a "welcome wagon" type of gift that includes Gospel tracts and information concerning our Messianic fellowship. Pray that he will be successful in bringing unsaved Jewish people to the fellowship.

**50 years of faithfulness —
Olga has never forgotten
a month. . .**

We are thankful for all the prayer and financial support that God provides through people like you. But often we are absolutely amazed at how God provides.

In Genesis 12:3 God says of the Jewish people, "And I will bless those who bless you... ." You don't need to say that twice to Olga. Over 50 years ago as a poor immigrant, she decided to give \$10 each month to Chosen People Ministries. From that day on she began to prosper both spiritually and financially.

"I believe that all that I now have can be credited to the day I started supporting Chosen People Ministries," she said. Olga not only believes those words, she also lives by them. Because of God's blessing in her life, she is able to give several hundred thousand dollars each year to various Christian organizations. . . to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile. Besides her many larger gifts to us, for over 50 years she has never missed sending her \$10 each month. Olga says, "I believe everyone should do what they can to reach the Jewish people."

One way to do that is through a Withdrawable Gift Agreement (WGA) with Chosen People Ministries. When you take out a safe, high-interest WGA, you are ultimately giving to the evangelistic work of Chosen People. It's a wise investment that provides benefits in this life and in the life to come.

For more information on planned giving opportunities, simply complete and return the form.

**WE'VE
ONLY JUST
BEGUN!**

**SHALOM 2000
Our open door
to evangelism.**

Taken alone, the numbers seem staggering. We count 5.5 million Jewish people living in the U.S. and 3.7 million in Israel. Russia and Ukraine have nearly 750,000 Jewish people who are incredibly open to the Gospel. France's 530,000 Jewish people go virtually unnoticed. Argentina has 218,000.

Fortunately, God is more than big enough to deal with His people — wherever they are dispersed.

That's the basis for SHALOM 2000, Chosen People's aggressive new strategy to reach Jewish people around the world by the end of this century.

Under SHALOM 2000, we're preparing to send 20 new missionaries to key cities in North America — 20 new missionaries to Israel — and 20 new missionaries to other

countries around the world.

But to move ahead with training and commissioning these new missionaries, we need \$650,000 by June 30. Like the population figures, this budget challenge is not so overwhelming when it's shared among believers. So please pray about your part in this outreach.



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on Planned Giving opportunities.**

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North York, Ontario M2K 2R1

NTRG/NEWS

Your gift of \$25, \$50 or even \$100 to help support a CPM missionary is a wonderful way to celebrate CPM's centennial year and God's blessing over the past 100 years. We're even trusting God for gifts of \$500, \$1,000 and more. Through His people, we believe God will provide.

The Chosen People Newsletter

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CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

For more information or to receive The Chosen People newsletter by including your gift of \$25, write: CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES
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