

The Chosen People



John
1
Evangelism

How
to
conquer
the
fear.





"I RAISED MY HAND!"

by Sam Nadler

A CPM worker told me that Judy and Burt might come to the Seder I was conducting that night. When they arrived, I could easily tell who they were.

Judy, a believer, looked interested and alert. Burt, her Jewish friend, sat with his arms folded across his chest with, at best, a look of casual interest on his face.

After dinner, I tried to strike up a conversation with Burt. I ignored the fact that an invitation was probably not welcome and invited him to the CPM congregation I was then pastoring.

Imagine my surprise when Judy and Burt actually showed up at the service. I was less surprised when Burt spent the entire time looking at the ceiling, the windows, the floor...he made it clear that he was there because of Judy. Don't get me

wrong. Burt was a very nice person. He was a handsome man who dressed sharply and appeared to be well established in life. I had the impression that he was an interesting, easy-to-like person who was disinterested in the Gospel.

Week after week they both came to our service. And though Burt lost his bored expression, he never seemed to open up inside. Then one week, during an invitation to trust the Lord, Burt raised his hand!

So later I asked him, "Burt, do you believe Jesus is the Messiah?" "I raised my hand." "Do you believe He died for your sins?" "Well, you know, I raised my hand."

The conversation went on like this. We made plans to meet for a personal Bible study, but I had a feeling that what Burt really wanted was not the Messiah but Judy's approval so that he might marry her.

At our second meeting he confirmed my fears by telling me that he and Judy wanted to get married and they wanted me to perform the ceremony. My heart sank.

"Burt," I asked him, "do you really believe in Jesus? That he died for your sins?"

"I raised my hand."

When I proclaimed that God raised Jesus from the dead, Burt acted



Sometimes genuine evangelism requires bold disbelief.

as if I had suggested Santa Claus were real. I had to tell him, "You're a believer, Burt, when you believe. Not when you raise your hand."

I offered to meet every week with Burt, but insisted that I couldn't perform the wedding ceremony.

Burt and I met every week throughout June, July and August. At times, he seemed very curious and open. Other times he seemed immune as if he had done everything he could do that one time he raised his hand.

Then, one night, he confessed, "You know, Sam, I think I really do believe. I understand that He died for my sins and really was raised from the dead."

This time when he prayed to trust the Lord it was real. It was like his hand finally raised — but this time from the inside out. During praise time in the congregational service Burt stood up and said, "It worked! Now I'm a believer."



*Sam Nadler, President
Chosen People Ministries*



Photo: Steve Billis

Overcoming evangelism's biggest obstacle.

CPM missionaries and volunteers hand out thousands of evangelistic tracts each year. But we don't throw them to the wind. We average at least one good contact for every 1,000 tracts distributed.

And with the average tract costing 7 cents, that's an extremely cost-effective outreach. On top of that one immediate contact, only God knows how many lives are touched by the other 999 tracts.

While those numbers are important, evangelism is not all numbers. In reality, it always comes down to a personal contact.

For many, that's a scary thought. Often, the greatest hurdle to evangelism is our own fear. Christians are afraid of hurting people's feelings. They fear rejection. They're concerned about hurting business relationships. They're even afraid of being outdueled with the "Sword of the Spirit!" (Some Christians think their Jewish friends know the Old Testament better than they do, leaving them at a disadvantage in witnessing.)

All these risks are very real possibilities. But there's a much greater risk — being responsible for not sharing Jesus when we have a chance. Jewish people need a Savior, just like everyone else!

Look for opportunities to share the Messiah wherever you find yourself — in your carpool or club, at your doctor's or lawyer's office, with patients or clients, perhaps in a shopping mall or restaurant. Someone you know — or someone you will meet — needs to know the truth about our Messiah.

To give you some help, we're reproducing a condensed version of one of our popular tracts right here in this issue of *The Chosen People*. Cut it out and give it to a Jewish friend or acquaintance. If you don't know a Jewish person, send it in the mail or leave it in a place where it will be noticed by a Jewish person. Only God knows, but this could be the one tract in 1,000 that elicits a personal response.

For more tracts, please call Chosen People Ministries at (704) 357-9000. Or write to 1300 Cross Beam Dr., Charlotte, NC 28217-2834. In Canada: (416) 250-0177; P.O. Box 897 Station B, North York, ONT M2K 2R1



ABOUT

*One-time draft dodger
joins the Lord*

by Larry Rich
Canadian Director
Chosen People Ministries



Russian-born Dima modestly questions if his life is really interesting enough for a feature article. But the one-time Israeli draft dodger, illegal immigrant and geophysicist has a story to tell about how the Messiah can turn a life around 360 degrees!

The reluctant immigrant.

Like so many other Russian Jews, Dima's family moved to Israel at the first chance they got. But while in Israel, Dima began to feel dissatisfied with life. He wondered why he existed. And as he began to question, God began to reveal Himself.

Once while sitting in a waiting room, Dima found a New Testament and some Gospel tracts — unusual reading materials for a dentist's office in Israel! But he looked at them with great interest.

Trading a lie for Maple Leaf security.

Dima lived in Israel for two years. But because military service is mandatory there, Dima was determined to leave and avoid the draft.

When his plans to move to Switzerland fell through, friends suggested he go to Canada. And still he searched. "When I left Israel, I felt something," he explained. "But I didn't know what it was. I didn't know at that time it was God. I felt that I needed something strong in my life...to help."

Under false pretenses Dima was accepted into Canada as a refugee. But Dima's life changed direction in Toronto when he met a man from Israel who invited him to Chosen People's Beth Sar Shalom Congregation.

Faith brings dreaded consequences.

CPM missionary Rob Styler was pastoring the congregation when Dima first visited. And the more Dima heard Rob speak about the Messiah, the more he wanted to know.

Dima began to read his Bible and brought many of his questions to Rob. Alex, a Russian-speaking member of the congregation, also disciplined Dima. After he made his decision of faith in the Lord, Rob baptized the new believer.

Soon Dima's immigration status came up for review. And as a believer, he couldn't live under false pretenses, so he explained to the courts how he had lied to get into Canada. Dima withdrew his claim as a refugee and was sent back to Israel to what he dreaded the most: service in the Israeli military.



Photo: Steve Burns

***Immigrants are searching for a new life.
They're open to new life in the Messiah.***

T FACE!

*craft dodger
ord's army.*



Despite what seemed like a setback, God gave Dima courage while he was in the military — so he could witness to many people.

God's plan — a happy ending.

But that was only the start of Dima's faith adventure. After several months, he was able to return to Canada to marry Lydia, who also attends Beth Sar Shalom Congregation. Rob Styler presided over their wedding ceremony. Soon Dima and Lydia will be having their first child. As Dima puts it, "There is nothing more important than serving the Lord!"

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

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

FRESHMAN MISSIONARY HEADS FOR SOUTH FLORIDA. Jewish believer Steve Hale's first assignment as a CPM missionary is south Florida — an area with the second largest Jewish population in the United States. Please pray for the Hale family as they begin their new ministry.

CPM MISSIONARY INTERVIEWED ON JEWISH TV. CPM missionary Roberto Passo in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was recently interviewed by a rabbi on a local television program. The show has a predominantly Jewish audience. Pray that the hearts of viewers would be softened and prepared to accept the Messiah.

SEE ISRAEL THROUGH JEWISH EYES. Tour hosts Harold and Grace Sevener are preparing for a unique 12-day CPM-sponsored trip to Israel November 5-16, 1994. On the itinerary: Mt. Carmel, Tiberias, Galilee, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem and much more.

As you plan for next year's vacation, contact us concerning the all new "See Israel Through Jewish Eyes" tour for 1995. CPM National Ministries Representative, Ben Alper, will be guiding a group through Israel March 4-15.

For more information on either tour, contact Chosen People Ministries at 1-800-260-5200.



WHY PRAYER MATTERS.

by Larry Rich
Canadian Director,
Chosen People Ministries

Judah's King Jehoshaphat was in trouble. A coalition of nations with a vast army was invading his country. The king's first response was to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The Bible tells us, "The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him."

(II Chronicles 20:4)

Jehoshaphat led the people in prayer at the temple, admitting to God, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" *(verse 12)*. The king assured the people that the battle was not theirs, but God's *(verse 15)*. He encouraged the people to go out and face the enemy *(verse 17)*. The people then worshipped the Lord *(verse 18)*.

The next morning the people of

Judah followed King Jehoshaphat's instructions and began to sing and praise the Lord *(verses 21-22)*. The Lord fought for Judah and the enemy destroyed each other *(verses 23-24)*. The men of Judah returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for "the Lord had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies" *(verse 27)*.

This great victory for the people of God was possible because their leader "resolved to inquire of the Lord." If their leader had been you or me, would we have placed that much emphasis on prayer?

For the people of Judah, prayer clearly mattered. It ought to matter to Jesus' followers today. God always looms larger and our troubles smaller when we come boldly to Him in fervent prayer.

Prayer matters
for at least four reasons.

First: Prayer matters because God commanded it. We are to devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And we should pray without ceasing *(Colossians 4:2, I Thessalonians 5:17)*.

Second: Prayer matters because it glorifies God. When we pray in the name of Jesus, it brings glory to the Father *(John 14:13)*.

Third: Prayer matters because we need to communicate with our heavenly Father. This is because we have become His children.

Fourth: Prayer matters because we can obtain God's answers and provision.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you." (John 15:7)

Should North Americans pray for Israel, no matter what?

Absolutely! The Tenach (Old Testament) is very clear on the subject, from Genesis 12:3 ("I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse") to Psalm 122:6 ("Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"). The Lord instructs us to support the nation of Israel. God has not abandoned His plan for His people.

On the other hand, we must remember that Israel is not a "Christian" nation. We need not support all the decisions of her rulers to support Israel.

As believers, our interest and commitment to Israel should be a bridge to unbelieving Jewish people. Get to know more about God's Word concerning Israel. Stay in tune with current events. Perhaps a conversation about politics can be a first step to introducing someone to the Messiah of Israel.

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Great heroes of the faith emphasized the importance of prayer. William Carey said, "Prayer — secret, fervent, believing prayer — lies at the root of all personal godliness." Charles Spurgeon attributed his success to the prayers of his church. William Temple notes that coincidences occurred much more often when he prayed.

There is no spiritual battlefield more important today than that of reaching Jewish people for their

**Four reasons to take
Jehoshaphat seriously.**

Messiah. Here especially prayer matters. Are you praying for the salvation of the Jewish people and perhaps individual Jewish people that you know? May each of us, like Jehoshaphat of old, have a resolve to come before the Lord, for "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

This tract can be cut and folded for use with your Jewish friends.



Photo: Steve Hurin

***Jehoshaphat admitted —
"We don't know what to do,
but our eyes are on you!"***

***How Would
You Know the
Messiah?***

**AMONG
COUNTERFEITS
AND CHARLATANS**



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES
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Nearly all rabbis have taught that one day the Messiah would come to this world. But if you ask, "How would you recognize this Messiah?" you would probably get a vague, unsure response.

● The following verses from the Holy Scripture provide clues about who the true Messiah is: ●

The Place of Messiah's Birth

1. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins [going out] are from old, from everlasting." (*Micah 5:2*) The prophet Micah said the Messiah would come from an obscure Judean village — Bethlehem.

The Purpose of Messiah's Life

2. "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities." (*Isaiah 53:4,5,11*)

The prophet Isaiah describes us as sheep who have gone astray, turning each of us to his own way (Isaiah 53:6). That, in a word, is sin. The God of the Bible has made it clear that sin will not go unpunished. Sin requires a sacrifice. It must be atoned for in order that the relationship between the Creator and his creatures might be restored.

Messiah came for one primary purpose.

True, He came to heal, to teach, to be an example of righteous living. But all that would have meant little if He had not also come to die, to give Himself in our place and to pay the debt that sin created.

These are just two of the 31 important reasons why many Jewish people believe Jesus is the promised Messiah. For 29 more reasons, write or call today and we'll send you the whole story, at no obligation.

Please don't litter.

Keep them on the street!

You can help erase the shortfall.

From Tel Aviv to Toronto, CPM missionaries all have one thing in common. They all depend on their support teams for prayer and financial resources.

And right now, these missionaries share something else: red ink. So far this year, our missionaries are behind an average of \$2,800.00 each per month. In other words, they need an extra \$45,000 per month just to meet normal support obligations.



Deficits hurt our outreach.

That doesn't mean that missionaries and their families won't be able to buy groceries. Bills must be paid. However, when the full support fails to come in from outside, we're forced to transfer the deficit out of the general fund.

That hurts. It means other outreach suffers. Without adequate support, missionaries may have to delay special evangelistic efforts. New staff are prevented from joining us.

You can help erase the shortfall this month with a special gift of \$125 to support one missionary for one day of outreach. Or you can share that cost with two or three friends with a gift of \$62.50 or \$41.60. Whatever you're led to give will be greatly appreciated by those on the front line of Jewish evangelism.

Please help now.

Your gift with the enclosed response form will help turn this centennial year into a time of unrestrained outreach for the Messiah! Thank you in advance.

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.

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