

# The Chosen People

Volume II, Issue 4, April 1996

## THE SUN NEVER SETS ON RUSSIAN JEWS.

Fleeing the persecution of their homeland, more and more are taking refuge in Israel, the United States, Canada, Germany, and a host of other countries. To reach them for the Messiah, Chosen People Ministries missionaries must reach out to them wherever they go ... so that, whatever nation they adopt here and now, they will all find their eternal home with their Messiah.



Jani Nader, president of Chosen People Ministries, recorded in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Moscow.

# The Crisis In RUSSIA

The situation is becoming more ominous for Jews in the Commonwealth of Independent States as the June elections draw near.

Communists now hold 158 seats in the Russian parliament — the largest bloc of any party — and dissatisfaction with President Boris Yeltsin continues to grow, amid stories of his poor health and the people's impatience with reform.

The success of the Communists (who built their campaigns around ultra-nationalistic rhetoric) in the December elections leads some observers to predict a greater effort to evict foreign religious groups, such as Chosen People Ministries.

Yeltsin has strenuously opposed such measures, but if he loses the June election, the open door for evangelism could easily close — and missionaries will lose the incredible opportunities they have been so blessed with in recent years.

In anticipation of that possibility, Chosen People Ministries missionaries are working with even greater urgency to share the truth of Messiah with as many Jewish people as possible ... to disciple new believers ... to print crucial texts in Russian ... and to teach and to train Russian Messianic Jews who can lead fledgling congregations — with or without outside assistance.

And — as persecution increases and Russian Jews leave in ever greater numbers for new homes in new lands — Chosen People Ministries is striving to broaden our witness in countries all over the world. That means our foreign missionaries have their work cut out for them ... but it's a work these men and women and courageous predecessors having been doing effectively for 102 years.

The return of many Communists to positions of power is increasing the persecution of Russian Jews, and the migration of many to new homelands.



Chosen People Ministries missionary Dimitri Reznik (holding sign) leads other workers in one-on-one evangelism in the streets of Kiev.

Bible studies bring a standing room only crowd.



The most enthusiastic response to the gospel in Russia has been in the city of Kiev, where 120 accepted the Messiah during Sam Nadler's first visit in 1990.

# A History Of Courage

Russia was only the second foreign branch of Chosen People Ministries (Lithuania was first in 1926), and like many others, began in response to letters received from Jewish people within that country who had acquired copies of the ministry's *The Shepherd of Israel* newsletter.

In the late 1920s, as government restrictions and persecution of Jews increased throughout Russia and Eastern Europe, former Messianic missionaries who'd been forced out of Russia contacted Chosen People Ministries, urging support for Russian Jewish believers and the brave workers still sharing their faith boldly in the face of increasingly violent opposition.

Chosen People Ministries responded in 1929 by establishing a work in Latvia and by sending funds to support Messianic Jewish workers in the Ukraine. Within a year, Soviet authorities had seized all the ministry's Russian properties, and its missionaries vanished without a trace, never to be heard from again. Other than the handful of Bibles, tracts, and relief funds Chosen People Ministries was able to smuggle into the country, the ministry's mission work in Russia was effectively stalled for the next 60 years.

In the spring of 1990, newly-appointed President Sam Nadler flew to Moscow to explore the possibilities of reopening the ministry's work. He was overwhelmed at the enthusiastic response of Russian Jews throughout the capital,

and even more so by the overflow crowds that greeted his presentation in Kiev, Ukraine, where on one day some 120 Jewish people accepted Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah.

Soon, Chosen People Ministries was distributing Bibles by the thousands, and had received government permission to establish a mission organization in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In 1991, the ministry established a branch in the Ukraine, and has since rejoiced as missions efforts have resulted in dynamic evangelism, the growth of a strong congregation, the discipleship of dedicated new leaders among Russian Jews ... and the introductions of thousands of Jewish people to their Messiah.



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# “Let The Redeemed of The Lord Say So”

*As individuals, and as a ministry, we must feel a passion for evangelism.*

by Sam Nadler

**Y**ou know, in heaven we won't have the chance to share our faith. We will be among the faithful. We will gather with those who have already given their hearts to God.

And the lost ... the lost will be lost forever.

In heaven, all will have heard, and decided — once and for all — what to do with the Messiah.

The opportunity to share ... to give a witness ... to speak boldly the truth we believe ... will have passed.

That's why it's so very urgent that *“the redeemed of the Lord say so”* (Psalm 107:2) — today, immediately, to as many as possible, as soon as possible.

Truly, as the Scripture says, *“now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Corinthians 6:2).

The anticipated closing door to Russia is only one reminder of how short the days are ... of how little time we have to tell those all around us — and those in the far corners of every nation — the truth of God's great salvation plan.

“Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so,” wrote the Psalmist, and the mandate is clear. The mark of those who truly believe is their willingness, even eagerness, to share the gospel with others.

That is why so many Messianic Jews have risked everything to give witness of Yeshua (Jesus) to their fellow Jews in the former Soviet Union ... and why some Russian Jews, after becoming believers, have gone to Israel to tell Jewish people there the good news.

Does Yeshua live in your heart? Does the One who wept over Jerusalem pierce your soul with the yearning to see Jewish people come to Him? Can you say, like Peter and John, that you *“cannot but speak the things which [you] have seen and heard”* (Acts 4:20)?

If so, then you understand why our missionaries are serving so tirelessly all over the world ... why I have to *command* many of our staff members to take a day off ... why we are so conscious of the need to plant Messianic congregations that will disciple new Jewish believers and train them for evangelism ...

... and why we cannot let any opportunity pass to tell as many Russian Jewish people as possible, inside and beyond the borders of that struggling nation, that their Redeemer lives — and that they are “more than conquerors” through Him!



# FROM RUSSIA:

## With Love



**Shmuel Lichtman**

beat the odds. Born into a non-traditional Jewish family in the Ukraine, the son of a Soviet

military officer, he was raised an atheist. But his college education, his work as a construction engineer, his experiences as a husband and father — none of these nourished the deepest thirst of his soul.

In 1989, a friend invited Shmuel to a church service in Kiev — on the very day Sam Nadler, on his first visit to the newly-open Soviet Union, preached on the Messianic message of Isaiah 53. Shmuel accepted Yeshua (Jesus) as his Messiah, and was soon volunteering long hours for Kiev's Beit El Gibor congregation in Kiev.

That led to a part-time position as a Chosen People Ministries missionary to the Ukraine, and then, just six months ago, to a position in Israel, where he teaches Bible studies and oversees the children's ministry of Beit Sar Shalom congregation near Tel-Aviv — and has already led several Russian Jews to Messiah.

**Henri Neubouse** grew up in Moscow, with a talent for music and a desperate addiction to drugs and alcohol. The addiction led to drug-induced epilepsy, but psychiatrists and even hypnotists were unable to help him break the habit. Henri attempted suicide, not once but several times, to no avail.

In 1991, he moved with his wife, Irene, to Israel, where she worked two jobs to support them while he drank and contemplated suicide again. Believing their only hope lay in religion, Irene urged Henri to attend a meeting of Jewish believers at Chosen People Ministries' Beit Sar Shalom congregation. For two months, they never missed a meeting ... and when Henri accepted Yeshua as his Messiah, he was cured — immediately and completely — of his epilepsy, alcoholism, and drug addiction.

Irene, too, believed, and now the two are leading worship music at Beit Sar Shalom. Henri also leads home Bible studies, and joins in evangelistic outreaches. He became a Chosen People Ministries missionary two months ago ... and has already been used of God to lead four Russian Jews to Himself.

**Three former Russians are now carrying the gospel to the people of Israel.**

**Leonid Banchik**

came of age in Lvov, in the Ukraine, in a Jewish home that endorsed the atheism of the Communist



regime. As a young man, he served a tour of duty with the Soviet military, then joined the mass migration of Jews to Israel. An inadvertent visit to a Messianic congregation introduced Leonid to Yeshua, and standing later in the Garden of Gethsemane, he gave his life to the Messiah.

Baptized by the Beit Sar Shalom congregation, he began writing worship songs, translating them into Russian for the immigrants visiting the congregation. Since joining Chosen People Ministries six months ago, he has been developing evangelistic and discipleship materials, leading Bible studies, and has led five Russian Jews to accept the Messiah.

# NEWS BRIEFS

**KFAR SABA, Israel** — A recent comment by PLO leader Yassar Arafat, calling Jesus "The Palestinian!", has become a joke among Israelis. "When Jesus returns," they say, "He will have a problem. He will not be permitted into Jerusalem without a Palestinian passport." The joke, however, doesn't cover the veiled insult of Arafat's reference. "Palestine" was a term of derision used by the ancient Roman conquerors for the land of Israel; it derives from the word "Philistine" — a reference to one of the Jewish people's most ancient enemies. It only further underscores the constant tension in the society.

**KIEV, Ukraine** — Chosen People Ministries missionaries are preparing to launch their own newsletter, "Bat-Kol" ("the voice of God"), which they hope to distribute to 2,000 people across the Ukraine. The newsletter will include teaching from the Messianic Jewish

perspective and advertise the Kiev congregation, Beit El Gibor.

**MOSCOW, Russia** — The Russian Jewish Congress held its first meeting here recently, drawing leaders from every Jewish organization in the country and influential Jewish leaders from more than 30 countries, including the United States. The Congress is designed to serve as an umbrella organization for the Russian Jewish community, which has endured over 700 years of persecution. Please be in prayer as Chosen People Ministries proceeds with a monthly Moscow outreach. Pray for God to provide the funds so that we may place a permanent team of workers there this year.

**BERLIN, Germany** — Chosen People Ministries missionary Vladimir Pikman received an invitation from a visitor to his congregation to address and answer questions from members of a Russian Jewish intellectual fellowship and club. Reaction was mixed, but each of those attending received a ministry tract and book, and two Russian Jewish journalists invited Pikman to submit an article to their publication. Since then, several Jewish people have visited the Chosen People Ministries' fellowship in Berlin and two of these have come to faith in the Messiah.

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**March 3-12, 1997**

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**Chosen People Ministries  
would like to invite you to  
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- ❖ to study the land of the Bible with the people of the Bible.
- ❖ to learn about Jerusalem in Jerusalem.
- ❖ to understand the Messiah in the context of His homeland.

*More than that, it's your chance to see firsthand the difference your gifts and support are making in the lives of Jewish people, and to meet and fellowship with our Chosen People Ministries' staff in Israel.*

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has seen it all ...  
And open your eyes to a  
whole new world.**



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Eliezer Urbach

*This is the dramatic story of a Jewish man who endured the worst life could hurl at him — the loss of his home and family in the Holocaust, hunger, persecution, despair.*

### The Chosen People Newsletter

*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 or more, write to Chosen People Ministries 1300 Cross Beam Charlotte, NC 28217  
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