

If (the sun, moon, stars, and the  
sea) depart from before Me, says  
the Lord, then the seed of Israel  
shall also cease from being a  
nation before Me forever.

Jeremiah 31:35-36



*A  
Promise  
Made,*  
**A  
PROMISE KEPT**

**The  
Chosen  
People**

Volume III, Issue 5, May 1997

**INSIDE:** Forty-nine Years of History  
Roadblocks to Reaching Jewish People  
The Story of a Jewish Friend

# ISRAEL Looks to an



If you did not know it any other way, by simply watching the sun rise over the mountains each morning, and enjoying the twinkling of the stars each night, you could know that the nation of Israel still exists! Has any nation in history ever had an insurance policy that guarantees its existence—forever!? Israel is the only one, and it is because of God's promises to her.

God made it irrevocable through His words to the prophet Jeremiah: *"Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (the Lord of hosts is His name): 'If those ordinances depart from before Me,' says the Lord, 'then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever'"* (31:35-36).

## Heavenly Insurance

A policy written by the famed Lloyd's of London is said to be the premier insurance one can buy. Given a favorable mix of risk and reward, Lloyd's will supposedly

insure almost anything. But would even the esteemed British insurers guarantee the perpetuity of a nation in today's turbulent world? And especially a nation that has a nearly 4,000 year history of being attacked and thrown out of its own land?

Next year, Israel will celebrate her 50th anniversary as a reconstituted nation. Having been formally recognized in 1948, she is back in her homeland with a stature on the world stage that defies both human prediction and national probability. In human terms, Israel's existence as a nation is nothing short of a miracle, and, as usual, what man thinks he has accomplished by his own ingenuity and skill is little more than the playing out of the eternal plan of God.

## The Unbelievable Happened

In 722 b.c. (the ten northern tribes) and again in 586 b.c. (the two southern tribes), Israel's sins finally caught up with her, and God's judgment resulted in the nation's decimation and captivity. The people could hardly believe

what had happened: *"Why do you forget us forever? And forsake us for so long a time?" they cried as the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem* (Lamentations 5:20-22).

God's answer came through Isaiah. A Servant, the Messiah, would come to restore Israel and bring salvation to the Gentiles: *"Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him . . . Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth'"* (49:5-6).

But all this would take time. Amazingly, when Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) came, He Himself warned Israel about a loss of position in God's plan: *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it* (Matthew 21:43). *And the Apostle Paul expounded on that theme by letting Gentile believers in Rome know that*

# Anniversary Made Certain by Promise



they had not taken the place of Israel in God's plan: "... Blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ... For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins. Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:25b-29; emphasis added).

## The Seeds of Restoration

As a result of World War I, a process began on November 2, 1917 (the signing of the Balfour Declaration in England) that supported reestablishing Palestine as a national home for Israel. Though the Declaration was greatly opposed, the support of United States President Woodrow Wilson (the son of a Presbyterian minister) was instrumental in its eventual acknowledgement by world powers.

Its ratification in 1918

marked the beginning of the modern state of Israel, and immigrants began streaming back to the homeland from all over the world. Later, during the term of U.S. President Harry Truman, as the United Nations was deliberating the future of the nation of Israel, a "chance" encounter led to a Bible teacher in Washington, D.C. sketching a map of the land that God promised to Abraham for a member of Truman's Palestinian Commission. Who knows how this brief meeting may have influenced the outworking of God's plan for His people.

The League of Nations approved Israel's existence in 1922, and in 1948 she declared her own national status. War against Israel followed immediately in 1948, and continued in 1956, 1967, and 1973. Though persecuted and terrorized continually over the last 49 years, Israel has persevered—and will persevere, until a day comes when "... *I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will*

*mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a first-born*" (Zechariah 12:10).

## Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Until the day that Israel's Messiah reigns in Israel, what can we do to comfort and protect her people—God's chosen people? First and foremost, pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). Additionally, support Israel's right to exist as a nation in her homeland. Participate in a tour to the nation of Israel. Expose and take a stand against anti-Semitism in your community. Be a witness "above reproach" for the transforming power of Messiah Yeshua. And finally, reach out to your Jewish friends and neighbors with the Gospel of salvation through Him.

Tonight when you retire, or tomorrow morning when you awaken, think of the perpetual testimony of the sun, moon, and stars—a testimony to the unshakable promise of God to protect and preserve His chosen people!

# To the Jew First

Helping the Non-Jew Reach Out to Their Jewish Neighbor



*If you don't know the most common Jewish objections to the Bible or which "Christian" words offend Jewish people, you're not alone.*

Edith, a grandmother from Minneapolis, didn't know either. But she found out at a Chosen People Ministries Jewish Evangelism Seminar held in her home church. Afterward, she was able to pass along what she learned to her teenage grandson, who in turn had a chance to share the hope of the Messiah with a searching Jewish friend. That's the way God's message of salvation spreads!

Like Edith and her grandson, you and your church can learn how to witness effectively to the Jewish community by sponsoring a Chosen People Ministries Jewish Evangelism Seminar. Chosen People Ministries missionary staff in the U.S. and Canada present this unique program—a clear and comprehensive approach to evangelizing and discipling Jewish people. You will receive the background information and appropriate terminology so that Jewish people will understand as you share the Gospel.

"I didn't realize commonplace words like 'New Testament' and 'cross' could be so offensive," explained Dave, a marketing

representative from North Carolina. But more than that, he found the Chosen People Ministries missionary's approach was down to earth and practical. Dave learned that you don't need to be a Bible scholar or professional church worker to share the Good News with a Jewish person. And the lessons he learned apply to more than just Jewish people.

In fact, Paul, a 37-year-old computer systems professional from Maryland, said he learned how to be a more effective witness both to Jewish people and Gentiles at the seminar. "It was an excellent, well-structured and insightful program," he said.

## Removing the Roadblocks to Reaching Jewish People



**Separate Christianity from Culture.** Don't confuse North American or Western cultural religious traditions with the core truths of Christianity. If traditions are unfamiliar or offend, you might present Messiah more effectively without them.



**Be Careful of the Cross.** For Jewish people, a "cross" conjures up memories of the Crusades (the cross appeared on soldiers' shields and uniforms), when the church in Europe killed many Jews in an effort to retake the Holy Land for Christianity.



**Cooperate with Kosher.** Just to be on the safe side, get involved with Jewish culture, vocabulary, and traditions, just as a missionary to a foreign country would. "New Covenant" works for "New Testament," chicken is healthier than pork anyway, and Jewish humor is contagiously funny! Relax—and enjoy reaching your Jewish friends!

For information on hosting a Jewish Evangelism Seminar in your church, contact:

U.S.: Chosen People Ministries/Church Ministries  
1300 Cross Beam Drive • Charlotte, NC 28217 • 1-800-260-5200

CANADA: Chosen People Ministries/Church Ministries  
P.O. Box 897, Station B • North York, ONT M2K 2R1 • 416-250-0177

# Changed Lives

## Salvation Through Times of Trouble

Eena L, a Russian woman, has come to a saving knowledge of Messiah through Frank Potter's work in the Philadelphia area. She gave her life to Yeshua in February and comes regularly to the weekly Bible study. She is praying for her son and his wife who do not yet know Messiah. In fact, her son was recently in a severe automobile accident, and appears to be recovering greatly due to the congregation's prayers on his behalf. At the time of her son's accident, Eena was coming to the Bible study on a sporadic basis, but gave her life to Yeshua as she witnessed God healing her son and as she felt the love of the believers there for her son in his time of trouble.

## Back in the Bonds of Fellowship Again

Chosen People Ministries missionary, Vlady Pikman, in Germany relates a touching story of new-found fellowship among Russian refugee Messianic believers. In one of his weekly evangelistic trips to a refugee camp, he met a very old Jewish woman who responded affirmatively when asked, "Do you believe in God?" and "Do you believe Jesus is Messiah?" Her understanding seemed limited, but she seemed to understand that Jesus was Messiah—and believed it! She did not come to the evangelistic meeting, but her children did, and explained that they are Messianic Jews from Kishinev (Moldova in the former Soviet Union). They were rejoicing once again to be in the circle of Messianic brothers and sisters from the Beit Shomer congregation. The children were so happy that they asked to sing, after which the group sang the old Jewish song "Oseh Shalom Bimromav" together. Evangelism changes lives in more ways than one!

Chosen People Ministries staff pray for the needs you send in to us.



## Responding to the Radio—in Faith!

In 1995, Susan Litvak contacted Chosen People Ministries after hearing their radio broadcasts in Argentina. The music, testimonies, and teachings were a great motivation for her to reconsider her faith as she had abandoned her Jewish beliefs as a teenager. She wrote requesting literature that she might study, and Chosen People Ministries put her in touch with JAMI (Chosen People Ministries in Argentina) missionaries in a town near where she lived. As a result, she received Messiah as her Savior, was discipled, and immersed. She, along with her children, began to pray for her husband and her parents. Susan has recently sent a letter to us rejoicing that her husband came to faith in December of 1996, and gave his testimony at the church's last meeting of the year. Susan and her husband are now renewing their prayers for both sets of parents, and making plans to enter the Messianic Institute by correspondence for further training!

## Dad Finally Believes!

A family at Beth Messiah Messianic Congregation in Livingston, NJ, is now complete in Messiah! Alan Hirstreet prayed to receive the Lord during Rosh Hashannah last year (September, 1996). Alan's wife and two children were already believers and had been fervently sharing Jesus with Alan, but he had not yet believed in Messiah. So fervently was the family encouraging his faith that one day, Lauren, his eight-year-old exclaimed, "Come on Dad, BELIEVE!!!" And he did indeed believe. The changes in his life have been evident to all as he has begun a new life in Messiah Yeshua.

# Reasoning with the Rabbi

Most kids ask questions, and some ask so many and such deep ones that they are always in trouble. They are generally the ones who refuse to be put off with the simplistic answers offered by busy adults—even if that adult is their rabbi. Artis Clotfelter's determined search for truth as a child has led to a role of Jewish evangelism and ministry as a Chosen People Ministries volunteer in Northern California.



Raised by her mother and grandparents in the traditions of Reformed Judaism, Artis' religious education as a child was thorough. In Temple and Sunday School from the age of five, she was confirmed (*bat mitzvah*) at 14 following a year of intense study in the *Tenakh* (Jewish Scriptures) with the Rabbi.

Deep questions arose when she read Isaiah 1:18-20:

*"Come now, and let us reason together,  
Saieth the Lord:  
Though your sins be as scarlet,  
They shall be as white as snow;  
Though they be red like crimson,  
They shall be as wool.  
If ye be willing and obedient,  
Ye shall eat the good of the land;  
But if ye refuse and rebel,  
Ye shall be devoured with the sword;  
For the mouth of the LORD hath spoken"*

She wanted to reason with God over that passage knowing that some of her family had not survived the Holocaust. What disobedience was causing the Jewish people to die by the edge of the sword rather than enjoying God's blessing? And if her sins were forgiven, why did she still feel so guilty after Yom Kippur, fasting and praying, and having confessed her transgressions?

Figuring that the rabbi would understand her desire to know what God wanted from her, she went to reason with him. The answer was, "Stop asking so many questions!" That day, the search for truth seemed to begin deep in her hungry heart.

Years later, while living with the Orthodox Jewish family of her best friend, Artis met Leonard Clotfelter, a born-again believer who was serving in the Air Force. Through him, and his friends and family, Artis learned that the forgiveness she sought, that the access to God she longed for, was indeed available. Messiah had come, just as *Tenakh* had prophesied! The promises were true, the prophecies had been fulfilled, and best of all, her sins could indeed be changed from scarlet to snow-white.

Artis and Leonard married and raised a family. In 1983, during her first extended visit to Israel, Artis felt God call her to reach her own Jewish people. In 1985 they were introduced to Chosen People Ministries and Artis began serving as a volunteer with Len filling the important role of committed prayer support. Bible College and STEP (Summer Training and Evangelism Program) followed.

God has given, and is giving, much spiritual fruit. He gave Artis the wonderful opportunity of reasoning with a rabbi and his students in actual confirmation classes. God is showing new generations of Jewish people that even though their rabbis may not be ready to reason with them, the Messiah is!



If you have a special story to share with us, we'd love to speak with you. Contact us at CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES • 1300 Cross Beam Drive • Charlotte, NC 28217 • 704-357-9000 ext. 113.

# Ministry Updates from Around the World

## MissionsFest '97

Canadian staff members, Carole Bahm and Janice Beurling represented Chosen People Ministries at MissionsFest '97 in Vancouver in February. They were able to speak with six unsaved Jewish people who stopped by the exhibit. About 240 mission agencies had exhibits and about 30,000 people attended the conference during the weekend. Forty-five attended the Jewish Evangelism Seminar that Carole and Janice taught. This is the largest annual missions conference in North America, and certainly one of the largest in the world.

## Son of David Congregation

Many exciting reports have come from Son of David Congregation, led by Scott Brown in the Washington, D.C. area. Prayer is getting priority! A women's "urgent prayer" chain, a bi-monthly corporate prayer convocation, a weekly Shabbat morning intercessory prayer group, and havurah (home group) prayer circles have all been established. In addition, a men's prayer chain is in the planning stages. Also, numerous fellowship and growth activities are on the calendar for 1997; a Women's Retreat is scheduled for May; the first annual Family Retreat is being planned for this year; four mid-week havurot (home groups) are meeting; semi-annual congregational meetings aid communication, cooperation, and vision building. Exciting days to be a member of Son of David Congregation!

## Growth in Israel

Michael Zinn writes that the congregation near Tel Aviv continues to grow—50-60 people at every Shabbat meeting (three-fold growth since summer



1994)! Specific praise is offered for the beginnings of a youth ministry: 13 young people attended the first meeting led by Neria, a Bible-college student.

Attendees were from age 15 up to two young Israeli soldiers. Plans were made for studies, worship, and feasts celebrations (Purim and Pesach!). Praise also for the scheduling of the congregation's first Messianic wedding. Also, four days prior to Passover, on April 19, the congregation is planning a large evangelistic concert. Approximately 200 unbelieving Jews are expected to attend. Concerts are presented several times a year. Each is a program of 30-40 minutes of sharing the Good News combined with classical music professionally presented by the members of the congregation. Messianic songs and a salvation invitation conclude each concert.

## Outreach Team Focuses on Community

A seven-person "Outreach Team" from the Beth Sar Shalom congregation in Cherry Hill has been blessed by successful training for, and experience in, personal evangelism. Witnessing trips to the local shopping mall as well as door-to-door have been significant in building up the team's confidence in reaching out with the Gospel of Messiah. The team is learning different forms of outreach and developing a Biblical basis for Spirit-led outreach (depend on the Spirit, not on methods). One member of the team is Jean-Luc, who, with his family, has joined the congregation. Jean-Luc was born to a family of renowned rabbis in Egypt, then fled with his family to France where he became a physician and met Messiah Yeshua. He has come

to the United States to pursue Biblical training and ministry.

## Messiah in the Feast of Dedication Wins Coveted Award

One of the top awards at the 20th Anniversary ceremony of the International Angel Awards went to Chosen People Ministries. The 103 year-old mission organization's *Messiah in the Feast of Dedication* won the Silver Angel Award for national television documentary and home video, and was judged one of the best in its categories. The prestigious awards ceremony, which honors the year's best media productions which have "moral or social impact," was held at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on February 19, with Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows as emcees.



## Chosen People Ministries/Argentina Gets New Office "Assistant"

The Chosen People Ministries office in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has welcomed their newest "staff"—an office computer system! Long a matter of prayer, God provided the resources for the Argentina office to move into the high-tech world in a dynamic way. They are now on the Internet and able to communicate via email with the Charlotte headquarters staff and other Chosen People Ministries offices around the world. The Argentina staff is praising and thanking God for this long-needed resource. The Argentina email address is jag@logos.com.ar. Drop them a line with a hearty "Shalom!"

# Biblical Treasures Are Stored in Heaven—and on Earth!

As you lay up treasure in heaven by investing in the work of Chosen People Ministries, you'll learn about some yet-to-be discovered treasures right here on earth.

Your gifts to Chosen People Ministries are truly investments in eternity. Every dollar spent to reach one of God's chosen people with the Good News of Messiah is multiplied again and again. New believers reach others with the same love and forgiveness that they have found (see the story of Susan Lituak on page 5). A gift to Chosen People Ministries is indeed an investment for eternity, a way to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20).

As a way of saying "Thank You" for your investment of \$50 or more in Jewish evangelism, we will send you *In Search of Temple Treasures*. This two-part presentation (book and video) by Temple researcher Randall Price brings to light his conviction that ancient Temple treasures may yet lie undiscovered under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Your gift of \$50 or more will bring you both the book and the video—Chosen People Ministries' gift to you!

*Thank you for supporting Chosen People Ministries with your gifts.*

The suggested donation includes the fair market value. Please note that the Internal Revenue Code permits you to deduct the amount you give to Chosen People Ministries that goes beyond the value of the materials we send you. To help you determine the tax-deductible portion of your gift, we'll show on your receipt the fair market value, along with your total gift amount. All proceeds will be allocated to our Jewish Evangelism Outreach Fund to expand our evangelistic and discipleship efforts among Jewish people around the world.

# ISRAEL

*No one belongs here more than you*

## June 4-13, 1997

Chosen People Ministries would like to invite you to see Israel through Jewish eyes.

- 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

*Come see a country that has seen it all . . . and open your eyes to a whole new world.*

Cost is only \$2,195.00 (double occupancy)  
\$100 deposit per person

Call for complete details

**1-800-459-9402**



## 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 Drive • Charlotte, NC 28217**

In Canada: Box 897 Station B North York, Ontario M2K 2R1 • [www.chosen-people.com](http://www.chosen-people.com)