

INSIDE:

Understanding the Feast of Weeks

Clara Rubin Talks About the Ministry

A Special Father's Day Story

The
Chosen 
People

Volume III, Issue 6, June 1997

*"... we hear them
speaking in our own
tongues the wonderful
works of God."*

(Acts 2:11)



PENTECOST:
WHEN ISRAEL
HEARD GOD
SPEAK

PENTECOST:

A MOUNTAIN-TOP TO MOUNTAIN-TOP EXPERIENCE

by Mitch Glaser

Three times a year, the men of Israel were instructed by God to appear before Him at the place of His choosing: the Feast of Passover/Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 16:16). Though somewhat familiar with the recently celebrated Feast of Passover, many believers are unfamiliar with the spiritual truths associated with the Feast of Weeks (known as Hag Shavuot in Hebrew, and Pentecost in Greek).

In order for believers today to grasp the impact of Pentecost (the Greek form of the Hebrew term for “fifty”), we need to journey back to the first Passover in Egypt, then on to Sinai where God first declared His Word to the newly assembled nation, fresh from bondage in Egypt.

A Little Levitical Language

Following Passover, in the

early spring of the seasonal calendar, the sickle was put to the barley, and the grain harvest began in Israel (Deuteronomy 16:10). The first sheaf of grain was brought to the priest as a “wave” offering—the priest waved it before the Lord as an offering of thanks for the coming harvest. This recognition of the “first fruits” of the harvest was an act of faith, looking toward the full harvest to follow (Leviticus 23:9-14).

The Festival of Firstfruits took place on the day after the Sabbath of the Passover week (Leviticus 23:11). From that day, fifty more days were to be counted up to the day following the seventh Sabbath ($7 \times 7 + 1 = 50$) (Leviticus 23:15-16; Deuteronomy 16:9).

On that day, two loaves, made from the now-harvested grain, were combined with offerings of drink and meat and offered before the Lord (Leviticus 23:17,20). The great Old

Testament lesson of the Feast of Weeks is that God is faithful and can be trusted to provide.

The New Pentecost

By the time of Christ, Pentecost had also become known as the anniversary of the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai, according to Jewish tradition. Imagine the scene: fifty days after the Sabbath following Passover, an immeasurable number of Jewish people are gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the offering of two barley loaves before the Lord. The true Passover Lamb, Messiah Jesus, has spent the last 40 days (after His resurrection) with His disciples, teaching about the Kingdom of God. He instructed them to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel, but not to make a move until they receive the power of the Holy Spirit who would come upon

them very soon.

Before we can understand what happens next in Luke's account of the Feast of Pentecost in Acts 2, we must understand that at the time of Christ, a well-known rabbinic tradition taught that every Jew who ever lived had been at Mt. Sinai "in the loins" of their ancestors and heard the giving of the law in their own language. Did Scripture teach this? No, but Israel believed it! The myriads of Jews jamming the streets of Jerusalem at Pentecost knew the tradition.

And here is how God used that tradition for His purposes.

When a Plan Comes Together!

When the Holy Spirit descended upon the 120 disciples, gathered in obedience to Christ's instruction, a great shaking took place—exactly like what happened at Sinai. Thunder, rushing wind, and fire filled the room! But this time, the fire appeared as "tongues of fire," resting on the 120 disciples, enabling them to declare the mighty acts of God. Their words were heard by the multitudes of Jews gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 2:11) in their particular languages.

Dear friend, do you see what our God did to reach His chosen people? He went where they were (Jerusalem), to one of the Jewish celebrations (Pentecost), isolated a belief that all Jews heard the Word of God in their own tongue at Sinai, and did something that no Jewish person could have missed: He, once again, spoke His Word so that the Jewish people gathered at that moment could hear the Word in their own native

language! Whether or not He really did it at Sinai, we do not know—it was a tradition. But He surely did it at Pentecost!

And was this the right strategy for that moment? Look at the response of those gathered, and you will see: *"Now when they heard this, they [the Jews] were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'"* (Acts 2:37)? I would say the strategy worked!

Peter's answer was what any good missionary evangelist would—and should!—say: *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:38).

Did the Jews believe that day? Only about 3,000 responded at that moment, but as the word spread, *"the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47). "Only" 3,000 responded to the Gospel invitation that day!

What Should Chosen People Ministries' Response Be?

As the new president of Chosen People Ministries, I am using this marvelous example of God reaching His people at Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, to share my heart with you.

Rabbi Leopold Cohn, over a century ago, proclaimed the Gospel to the Jewish people. He went where they were, lived where they lived. He met their spiritual needs with a self-dying passion for the salvation of Israel.

This is our heritage and this is what Chosen People Ministries will continue to do. By God's

grace, I want to lead this ministry into the neighborhoods, the homes, and the hearts of Jews everywhere—especially in the greater metropolitan New York area—beginning with Brooklyn, where my family and I live, and where we will maintain an office.

What Should Your Response Be to Pentecost?

We must do this exactly the way the 120 disciples did in Jerusalem at Pentecost: united together in "one heart" (Acts 1:12), in prayer (Acts 1:14), and in dependence upon the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:1). There is no other way to reach the lost, be they Jew or Gentile.

The staff and missionaries of Chosen People Ministries are united in heart and spirit—but we need you to join us. More than ever before, we need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministry as the disciples did on that first New Testament Pentecost. Most of all, we need you to pray for us, as spiritual work can only be successful by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You will be hearing more and more in the weeks ahead about our plans for Brooklyn, New York City, and the rest of Chosen People Ministries' worldwide outreach. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy and a great sense of the presence of the Lord.



Mitch Glaser
Chosen People
Ministries,
President

To the Jew First



Helping the Non-Jew Reach Out to Their Jewish Neighbor

What Is a Father To Me?

by Israel Cohen,

CPM Missionary



Israel Cohen and Jack Laster

What does the word "father" mean to you?

If you had asked me while I was growing up, "Does your father love you?" I would have said, "No." I tried very hard to please my father, but no matter how hard I tried, I was never good enough for him. To this day I can still hear the words of my father, "You dumb kid." I came to the point in my life that I thought I was really a "dumb kid."

On May 16, 1961, I was introduced to my "Heavenly Father." I heard the Good News that Jesus is the promised Messiah. I received Him as my Savior, but I still got depressed and anxious every time I read "Father" in the Bible, or heard someone call God, "Our Father." The word "father" was a bad word for me. When I went to Bible college my father stopped talking to me because of my faith in Jesus. He hung up the phone on me, and never talked to me again—a silence that lasted

until his death 18 years later.

On February 9, 1982, I was asked to go to Goshen, New York, to share the Messiah Yeshua with a 60 year-old Jewish couple. Jack and Ardell Laster were actively religious, and they knew one thing—Jesus was not for the Jews.

But then Jack lost his job and had been unemployed for over eight years when I met them. Due to their situation, they were in debt and in poor health. Jack was on the verge of ending it all.

When I first laid eyes on Jack it was very hard to look at him. He was a bag of skin and bones, very frail and nervous. Jack needed a miracle from God if he was to live another day. We spent a few hours studying what Messiah

Yeshua says in the Bible: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). I watched a major change in Jack's countenance as I spoke, and that night Jack and Ardell Laster came to faith in the Lord Jesus.

Fifteen years later, there are only two people closer to me than Jack: our Lord, Yeshua, and my wonderful wife, Judy. Spiritually speaking, Jack adopted me as his son, and I adopted him as my father. Where my earthly father left off, Jack took over. He taught me what it is to be a real father. Best of all, he taught me that my Heavenly Father loves me and I can love Him.

Jack is now retired in Florida, and I am living in California, but we are spiritual "father and son," and also best friends. My Heavenly Father has given me a new earthly father, and He has given Jack a real son.

Let Father's Day this year remind all of us who are fathers to be an example of the Heavenly Father to your sons.

And sons, be an example of the Son of God, who loved us so much that he

died for us, that we might become sons of God ourselves (Galatians 3:26).



Changed Lives

MORE CHANGED LIVES AT BETH MESSIAH MESSIANIC CONGREGATION

Stewart Weinisch, in Livingston, NJ, follows up on the family whose father, Al, became a believer in Yeshua recently. The rest of Al's family, who were already believers, had a profound influence on Al, especially his 12 year-old son, *Michael*. After hesitating at first, *Michael* has now decided to follow through with his own Bar Mitzvah. He made this decision because he wants to be a testimony for the rest of his unsaved Jewish (and Gentile) family members.

Also at Beth Messiah, *Mike*, a newly-saved Jewish man who came to the congregation in September, 1996, has been meeting with Stewart for discipleship training.

SEARCH FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION LEADS TO FREEDOM IN YESHUA

Sixty year-old *Alexandra* came to the United States from Kiev, Russia, in August of 1993. After experiencing much anti-Semitic persecution in Russia (her son was not hired because she was a Jew; she was persecuted in her job) *Alexandra* was fired when her brother left Russia and came to the States. She was branded a traitor and a "Judas" for being the brother of an emigrant. She left the former Soviet Union herself to find freedom of religion and the God she wanted to worship. The love of the leader of her English class led her to a Bible study where she devoured Messianic literature, books, and the Bible. She began to believe that God had brought her to America to believe in Messiah Yeshua. Having accepted Him as her personal Savior, *Alexandra* now meets with several women at our Philadelphia Bible Study for discipleship and personal witnessing.

ANTI-SEMITISM LEADS NEW BELIEVER TO JEWISH ROOTS AND MESSIAH

Raisa, another member of Frank Potter's fellowship, immigrated from Moldavia (a republic of the former Soviet Union) in 1991. Because of anti-Semitism, *Raisa's* family came to America. Not only was she persecuted in the university in Moldavia, but when her father had a heart attack in 1989, the emergency personnel delayed two hours in coming to their house because they were Jewish, during which time her father died. Invited to a Bible study in Philadelphia by her friend *Alexandra* (see above), *Raisa* discovered that Jesus was Jewish, and that He perfectly fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah. She believed in Him, and now meets each Wednesday for discipleship, Scripture memory, and Bible study.

CHANGED LIVES IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Scott Brown at Son of David Congregation reports on new believers and growing believers in his fellowship: *Ariel** is a new believer in Yeshua who began coming to services last fall. After meeting with Scott Brown for Torah studies, she made a decision to trust in Messiah at the first of this year. She is now meeting with a woman in the congregation for discipleship studies, and will be immersed soon.

A group of 12 men in the congregation have committed to a one-year program designed to strengthen their leadership in their marriages, their market places, and their ministries. The men will read a dozen books during the year, meet monthly for a half-day of discussion, Bible study, and prayer, and participate in two weekend leadership retreats. Scott believes these efforts will result in future leaders arising in the congregation.

*Not her real name.

LIVING PROOF THAT

Witnessing to Jewish People Bears Fruit

I was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1916. At 27 Throop Avenue, there was a dispensary run by Beth Sar Shalom, also called American Board of Missions to the Jews, founded by a former rabbi, Leopold Cohn. After a visit there, Miss Sussdorf came to inquire about our health and invited our family to come to the Friday night meetings to hear Leopold Cohn preach in Yiddish about the Jewish Messiah, Jesus.

As I grew, I attended meetings on Friday and Sunday nights, as well as meetings for children, teenagers, young adults, and mothers. At 14, I realized that I had to come to terms with God and His truth, and I invited Yeshua, Jesus, into my heart and life. I then began speaking at street meetings with Dr. Daniel Fuchs.

In 1937, Joseph Rubin came into my life. He had been witnessed to by our California missionary, Dr. Elias Zimmerman, in 1935. I brought him to our mission and he, too, invited Jesus to be His personal Messiah. Soon after, we were married (October 10, 1937).

In 1940, Joe and I volunteered to help in our first camp for Jewish children. He worked with the boys, and I, being five months pregnant, assisted with cooking and with the older girls. Our daughter was born on February 2, 1941. When she was 11, she would play the accordion in our street meetings.

In 1956, we moved to Huntington Station, Long Island, and started a work in our home. We began by mailing more than 500 Shepherd of Israel tracts each month. This was virgin territory for Jewish



Clara and Joe Rubin
A "retired" Chosen
People Ministries worker
tells her story.

evangelism. A rabbi called and said Hitler killed the Jews, and we were killing the souls of Jews. I reminded him of Rabbi Gamaliel who said, if Yeshua was only a man, he has nothing to worry about, but, if He is from God, he cannot prevail against us (Acts 5:34-39). God blessed us with an abundance of fruit for the next 32 years.

We had children's and women's classes all over the Island, and Friday night Bible study and Saturday night fellowship meetings monthly in our home. In the beginning, I had to borrow chairs from the local undertaker! Joe volunteered and started campus ministries in Long Island colleges and spoke in three universities in Arizona.

In 1967, our first Seder banquet to show Messiah in the Passover was held in Huntington Station with 425 people attending. To this day, such Seders are held all over by Chosen People Ministries and also by many churches. In 1973, we broadened our outreach to the Eastern part of Long Island. Our work brought salvation to many Jewish and Gentile families and brought forth ministers that are still serving the Lord today.

Now in our twilight years in Florida (being married 59 years), we continue to share our faith and write our testimonies to the overwhelming glory of God. I thank God for leading me to ABMJ, now known as Chosen People Ministries, a ministry where I spent my happiest years. Jesus was a Jew, who died for the Jews, and is coming back for the Jews. One day we will be privileged to see Him face to face. Praise and thanks to His Holy Name!



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

Joint Mikvah Service Held

Stewart Weinisch reports that Beth Messiah Congregation (Livingston, NJ) held a joint immersion service with Essex Baptist Church on April 6. Essex Baptist is the church where Beth Messiah used to meet. A total of six believers (three from each congregation) were immersed. The pastors of the two congregations shared the leadership of the service, teaching about the origin, significance, and outward testimony of immersion, with each candidate for immersion delivering a brief testimony on their relationship with Messiah.

Stewart also reports 25 visitors at Purim services, including at least nine non-believing Jews. Also, five Gentile conversions were recorded during the last week in March, with five non-believing Jews in attendance during the same time period.

Son of David Continues a Variety of Ministry Activities

Scott Brown, leader of Son of David Congregation in Rockville, Maryland, offers the following updates on ministry activities:

- Praises for: the testimony of a critically ill woman who is maintaining an unmovable faith through her trial; several couples who are working through, and gaining victory in, trials in their marriage; a woman who had become stagnant in spiritual growth is now discipling other women.
- Son of David Players presented two showings of their Purimspiel (Purim Play), sharing the message of Messiah with many who attended.
- Adult Education Program is

training men and women in servant evangelism strategies.

- Son of David has gained credibility with a local seminary who is giving academic credit to a student serving as a ministry aid.
- Congregation planting team is being formed for a future offshoot of Son of David Congregation.
- The Worship Team conducted a concert for outreach to Jewish people in the Annapolis, Maryland area.

Chosen People Ministries Leader Encourages Buenos Aires Congregation

Beth Sar Shalom in Buenos Aires, Argentina, enjoyed a visit from Percy Johnson, Chosen People Ministries Overseas Director. Percy led a weekend prophetic conference attended by 60 people. He focused on the responsibility of all congregation members to be active and involved in the life and health of the congregation. In addition, Percy and Roberto Passo, South American Director for Chosen People Ministries, recorded 16 radio programs for future broadcast, and conducted an interview with an evangelical newspaper on the advancement of the ministry in Argentina.

Two young members of Beth Sar Shalom have entered the Baptist Seminary for further training. Margalit has taught at the Congregation's sabbatical school and at the Bible Messianic Institute. Ricardo studied at the rabbinical seminary for four years. Both have entered the Baptist Seminary in order to become better prepared to reach God's chosen people.

Evangelism and Growth Continues in Philadelphia Area

Frank Potter, Chosen People Ministries missionary in the greater Philadelphia area, estimates that 30-35 Russians have come to faith in Yeshua since 1994. Two are Gentile, with the rest being Jewish. A strong Bible study group of a 18-20 meets weekly, with seven meeting for personal discipleship, and three involved in evangelistic outreach. Recently, the daughter of a member of the group, who was visiting from out of town, accepted Yeshua as her Messiah! She has been put in touch with a group of Russian believers in Brooklyn, New York, where she is from.

Ukraine Congregation Has Strategic New Meeting Place

Until recently, our congregation meeting in Charkov, one of the largest cities in Ukraine, has had to meet in the offices of Chosen People Ministries, a "small and inconvenient" three-room apartment. But they have been blessed with new facilities, strategically located in the middle of the city. It is large and comfortable enough for many visitors, which they anticipate having soon. In Kiev, Ukraine, the Beit El Gibbor congregation is planning a special weekly Shabbat fellowship on Fridays. They plan to link traditional Jewish elements with a family-style fellowship setting to tangibly demonstrate the love which Messiah brings to the chosen people.

The dramatic events in some believers' lives can leave us feeling small by comparison

But a young rabbi
great acts of faith
simple "Yes"

Abraham, Moses, Esther, Paul, Rabbi Cohn—and you—all pronounce, "Yes, Lord," the same way.

Believers great and believers small each have an important part to play. For the vast majority of us, our part will consist of faithfully telling a friend about Yeshua (Jesus), serving in our congregation, showing love through acts of kindness, interceding in prayer, and giving of our resources. All of those are ways to say, "Yes, Lord."

Chosen People Ministries wants to help you say "Yes" to Yeshua. Most of us can not travel around the world to win Jewish people to Messiah. But we can support those whom God has called to go—we can help them do their part.

For your gift to Chosen People Ministries this month, we are pleased to send you *To an Ancient People*, the autobiography of Rabbi Leopold Cohn, founder of Chosen People Ministries. You'll follow the passionate "Yes" of this young rabbi in his native Hungary as he sets out to find Messiah. Ending up in the United States, he and his family begin the mission which becomes Chosen People Ministries.

*To an
Ancient People*

III
*The Autobiography
of Rabbi Leopold Cohn*



showed that
begin with a

When you wonder if your part in the Kingdom is really making a difference, you'll be encouraged by Rabbi Cohn's lifetime of saying "Yes" to Messiah. And, having read his story, your financial support of the ministry he founded will become all the more precious to you.

How many people does God call to start missionary movements? Very few. But he calls thousands to support them. Your "Yes" this month will allow us to continue saying "Yes" as well.

For your gift to Chosen People Ministries of \$25.00 or more, a copy of *To an Ancient People* will be sent by return mail. Thank you for doing your part to win the Jewish people to Messiah Yeshua.

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.



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:

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