

The Chosen People

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Rejection!
What Does it
Mean When They
Don't Believe?



How to Handle Rejection in Evangelism



by Mitch Glaser,
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There is probably no one in this world I would like to see saved more than my Jewish mother. I remember the first time I really shared the Gospel with her. Having just accepted the Lord four or five months earlier in California, I returned home to tell my family the "Good News"—

but was totally unprepared for what happened.

I was so afraid of telling my folks that I had accepted Jesus that I simply showed up on their doorstep from San Francisco. I was welcomed home with open arms until I dropped the bomb: "Mom, Dad . . . I am going to Bible

college." (Maybe I should have told them that I had become a believer first, but I just didn't have the nerve!)

When Mom asked why I would be going to Bible college (strange place for a Jewish boy who had no plans to become a rabbi!), I told her I had accepted Jesus as my Messiah. Mom yelled at Dad. Dad screamed at Mom. And I was stuck in the middle!

Later that evening, I sat down with my mom and asked if she would let me tell her why I believed in Jesus. She said yes, on one condition: "You cannot read from the New Testament." I accepted the condition and brought out my big gun—Isaiah 53.

She sat and listened, even though she kept one eye on her newspaper and the other on late-night TV. In a few minutes, both eyes were closed. She was asleep! And just when I was getting to the best part of Isaiah 53, I really

thought that once she heard the message of Jesus from our own Old Testament, she would believe. But she didn't, and still has not more than 25 years later.

Sometimes, I admit, I want to give up. Perhaps you've had a similar experience with a close friend or family member. We are all tempted to give up and stop witnessing. Why? Because we don't like rejection. Let's face it—rejection in any situation, by people we care about, hurts!

So, what can we do to keep sharing the Gospel with those who don't seem so interested? Let me offer three quick suggestions from the Book of Romans that might help.

1 First, Don't Ever Lose the Burden

First of all, we see that the Apostle Paul never lost his burden for the salvation of his people. He writes in Romans 9:1-3, "I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh." How many of us would really be willing to give up our place in heaven to take another's spot in hell? We might be willing to do it for a family member—a close family member—maybe. It is absolutely awesome to think that the Son of God did this for us, His enemies (Romans 5:10).

The passage demonstrates that we need to keep a continued burden for our loved ones who are unsaved. And how do we keep the burden? Prayer is the only way I know.

2 Second, Don't Ever Stop Praying

Paul writes in Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved." Prayer accomplishes at least two very important things: it lifts our loved ones to the Lord, and dissipates our discouragement and disappointment. When we pray, we remember that God is sovereign, that He is in charge. When we pray, we leave our burdens with the Lord knowing that He loves those we love even more than we do; and when we pray we have His mind and heart for our lost loved ones.

But that's not all. We are not only called to cultivate a continuing

Three Principles to Keep You Pressing On!



that, in every age, many of my fellow Jews will be saved.

So, dear friend, don't give up. Cultivate your burden, pray for your loved ones, and remember that He has prepared a remnant—and that no one, not your mother or mine, is beyond the reach of His hand!

Be Encouraged! God is Doing Great Things!

This is one of the reasons I am so encouraged this month to be the leader of Chosen People Ministries. Our missionaries are having a fruitful summer of outreach. Whether on the beaches, in the downtown areas, or in the suburbs; whether preaching on the streets, witnessing on the Internet, or through the evangelistic outreach of our congregations; whether the language of proclamation be Portuguese, Hebrew, Russian, or English, the Lord Jesus, Yeshua our Messiah, is being proclaimed by our staff around the world. And you are a vital part of our ministry.

Thanks for caring, thanks for praying, and thanks for supporting us. Thanks most of all for your loving and dedicated personal witness to your Jewish friend. I know that together the Lord will use us to reach today's Jewish remnant for His Son!



burden and to pray for those we care about so much, but we are also encouraged to remain hopeful!

3 Third, Don't Ever Lose Hope

In chapter 11 of Romans, Paul asks the question, "Did God reject his people?" He goes on to then answer his own question: "Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin" (Romans 11:1). Sometimes we may become so discouraged in our witness to a Jewish friend or family member that we wonder if perhaps God has rejected that person; and while we cannot know God's eternal purpose for any individual, we take great hope from Paul's words about Israel as a people: there is, and will always be, a Jewish remnant who will believe!

Paul, the Apostle, was part of that remnant. I am part of that remnant. If you are a Jew who has accepted Jesus as Savior and Messiah, then you are part of that remnant. And it may be that the person you are witnessing to is part of that remnant as well—so do not give up hope! The Scriptures plainly teach

To the Jew First



Helping the Non-Jew Reach Out to Their Jewish Neighbor



ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN

Part 2: How to Be a Friend in Deed

Last month, in Part 1 of this two-part series, we talked about "How to Meet a Friend in Need." When your Jewish friend is in need, meet him or her on common ground by doing two things: First, be a genuine, caring friend; and second, share your own story of how Jesus has met your needs in life.

This month, we'll conclude our series by suggesting some ways to "be a friend in deed." What can we actually do that will make our witness practical, sensitive, and effective?

Before your friend believes.

There are many things you can do to create spiritual interest by demonstrating your understanding of a Jewish person's background and heritage.

Use or wear Jewish symbols. Items such as a Mogen David (Star of David), a "Shalom" pin or pendant, an Israeli flag pin, or a Menorah (seven-branched candelabrum) are traditional Jewish symbols which let your friend know that you care about and understand his or her cultural and religious background.

Be aware of Jewish holidays. Participating in a Passover seder or a Hanukkah celebration with a Jewish friend can be meaningful. Your awareness of the historical and Biblical backgrounds of the celebrations will be especially meaningful, since many Jewish people, especially the younger generations, observe these holidays on a cultural basis only.

Stay current on geo-political developments in Israel. Most Jewish people maintain a level of interest in the turbulent events which occur in Israel. Your willingness to stay informed and your ability to converse intelligently about current events in Israel will give you many open doors for conversation.

After your friend believes.

Encourage your friend to fellowship with other believers. New Jewish believers are often misunderstood and even rejected by their families. This is all the more reason to make sure that the new believer is welcomed by the family of God. Whether in a conventional church or a Messianic congregation, fellowship and the regular study of God's Word is so very important. Remember, though, Jewish believers, when possible, really do need to meet other Jewish people who know the Lord as well. Helping your friend meet other Jewish believers can reduce the transitional tension.

Meet for Bible study and prayer. The central issue that a new Jewish believer needs to have reinforced is the reality that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. Spend time helping your friend discover the myriad of Old Testament prophecies which Jesus fulfilled. Most new Jewish believers are amazed when they discover how thoroughly Jewish the New Testament is in context, in fulfillment, and in culture. Patient study of the Scriptures will accomplish this goal.

Teach your friend to pray and rest in the Lord. Most new Jewish believers are surprised by the concept of a "personal relationship" with God. Their former religious training presented God as distant, and now He says "come unto me." Help your friend learn to approach God confidently and expectantly in prayer, casting his or her cares upon God because He cares for us (see 1 Peter 5:7).

SUMMER INTERNS

Sharpening Evangelism Skills in New York City

Four students from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago are spending five weeks in a Jewish evangelism internship with Chosen People Ministries in New York City. Please pray for each of these students that the Lord will use the internship to deepen their dependence upon Him, to teach them to be effective witnesses to the Jewish people, and to bear fruit among Jewish people in New York City.

"Zipporah, a girl that we talked to, mentioned David Koresh [deceased leader of a Waco, Texas cult—ed.] when we mentioned Yeshua. She kind of compared us to a cult. She wanted to know how we are as a community. Our testimony as Messianic Jews is really important. She could tell that Joy and I really cared for one another and for her. She appeared very fearful of the Orthodox community she lived in. Every time a religious person walked by, she asked us to stop the conversation—and then asked us another question as soon as they left!"

"I've shared with Jewish people before, but not in a totally Hasidic community like we were in today. I think one thing I learned is the importance of trying to develop relationships with

people, before sharing with them. One interesting thing I saw was a sign for a seminar on Jewish law. Some of the topics were: Can you make ice cubes on Shabbat (the Sabbath)? Can you freeze chicken soup and kugels and bread on Shabbat? Can you apply ice to an injury on Shabbat? Another guy I shared with got real angry and threatened us!"

"As a Gentile, I'm learning that the Lord can use me to evangelize Jewish people. I want to be a pastor, and I feel the Lord really spoke to me about getting involved in Jewish evangelism. I was actually very scared to share the Gospel when we went out. But then two Jewish guys came up and asked us to leave, and I realized they weren't afraid to say what they believed, and I shouldn't be either. Once I started to speak, the answers to their questions started coming."

"We talked with one girl for a long time. She had a lot of questions, and has herself moved away from Jewish practices. She kept saying, 'I'm curious. I want to know how you live, what you believe, what kind of people come to your congregation.' She was also interested in going out with us during the day, and meeting with us more. She was even interested in visiting a congregation! Our time with her was very special; I felt the Lord was with us."



Brandy Hawbaker-Tavary, age 20
Helena, Montana



Stewart Jefferson, age 24
Johannesburg, South Africa



Jason Sobel, age 23
Springfield, New Jersey



Joy Garmaise, age 21
Toronto, Canada



If you have a special story to share with us, we'd love to speak with you. Contact us at
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Changed Lives

A Big Man and a Big God Bring Big Changes

If you board a certain city bus during the Christmas season in Toronto, Canada, don't be surprised if Santa Claus appears to be your driver. And don't be surprised if this pseudo-Santa looks a bit Jewish, either!

Alan Mussard, a Jewish believer in Jesus, and a bus driver for the Toronto Transit Commission, uses the holiday season as just one more opportunity to witness for Messiah. He combines Santa attire with his long flowing beard to pass out candy canes to his riders during Christmas. But not just plain candy canes—these come wrapped with a small note explaining how the idea and design for the traditional candy cane was actually conceived by a Christian pastor as a way to witness for Christ at Christmas.

But life wasn't always this jovial for Alan Mussard. It took a big man and a big God to break through his traditional Jewish thinking about the One named Jesus.

Born and raised 45 miles from London, England, Alan grew up in a traditional, but nominal, Jewish home. His grandparents' synagogue was the site of his Bar Mitzvah at age 13, a ritual he endured with little understanding. In

fact, a standout memory from his youth is how hard it was to get clear answers to his religious questions from synagogue leaders.

A "miracle child" from the start, Alan was born with a heart defect which caused his doctors to offer little hope for his long-term survival. But survive he did, and moved from England to Toronto with his family as a teenager. An unsettledness about his purpose in life dogged Alan throughout his adult years. When he and his wife, Trudy, were married in 1980,

they agreed to visit a friend's church in Toronto. Unclear directions led them by mistake to a church where a bear of a man—"Uncle Al"—met them declaring, "You're one of the chosen people!" A 15-year relationship began that day with a big man whose big faith profoundly influenced Alan.



Through Uncle Al's loving friendship and mentoring, and the influence of a former Chosen People Ministries missionary in Toronto named Ben Volman, Alan came to faith in Jesus as his Messiah.

But it was not until a powerful act by a powerful God that Alan was shocked into committing his life fully to following Jesus as a committed disciple.

A heavy smoker most of his adult life, Alan knew he needed to stop an unhealthy habit. He had tried before, but the withdrawal had always been too severe. In 1990, while on his bus route one day, Alan sensed God telling him to quit, and to trust Him for the strength to do it. He taped up his tobacco items in a sealed box that day, and hasn't touched them since. Driving a bus in Toronto, he learned that God was big enough to meet every need he could ever have.

A big man helped Alan to find Jesus, and a big God is making him whole: no more tobacco, no more heart defect (physically or spiritually!), and lots of answers for those heart-felt questions. Alan Mussard has found his purpose in life—to serve Messiah Jesus and witness to His life-changing power.

Search for Faith Leads Tour Guide to Jesus

Ben Alpert, leader of Chosen People Ministries' tours to the Holy Land, reports that a respected tour guide in Israel has confessed faith in Messiah. Years of familiarity with Scripture led this tour guide to an understanding of Jesus' fulfillment of Messianic prophecy. Ben requests prayer that God will provide spiritual growth and protection for this new believer.

The Old and Young Come to Faith in Ukraine

An older Jewish gentleman named Igor, the husband of a member of the Beit El Gibor congregation in Ukraine, has come to faith in Jesus. He attended the congregation's Passover Seder and began attending the regular services after that. Within a matter of weeks, he confessed his belief that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. Another new believer is a young sailor named Alexander whose grandfather was Jewish. Alexander was brought to the congregation by a friend who is a believer, and accepted Jesus as his Savior. He has left for six months of sea duty on a ship with no other believers, so Dimitry Reznick requests prayer for his growth in the Lord.

Ministry Updates from Around the World

Church Excited About "Messiah in the Passover"

Dennis Karp (our missionary in Washington, D.C.) has seen a friendship with a local pastor blossom into a church excited about the Jewish roots of its faith. The pastor, who had a desire to grow in his own knowledge of the Jewish backgrounds of Christianity, invited Dennis to conduct a "Messiah in the Passover" demonstration in his church. Here are some of the comments of the members: "The Lord's Supper will never be the same to me again." "I never saw the ties between the Old and New Testaments so clearly before." "There is so much in the Old Testament that we need to learn." "The Psalms say, 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you.' We need to start praying for and supporting Israel and Jewish evangelism." Dennis praises God for the church's excitement about getting involved with Chosen People Ministries!

From Germany With Love

An American missionary couple returning to the United States from Germany proved to be an answer to prayer for Vladimir Pikman, Chosen People Ministries' missionary in Berlin. The Pikmans had long been in need of an automobile for ministry purposes, when the couple left their car as a gift for the ministry! Vladimir reports that they are now able to pick up people who would otherwise be unable to get to their meetings, plus travel regularly to

Jewish refugee camps in Potsdam and Ahrensfelde. "It is true, that God knows our needs much better than we," Vladimir said. (Another Berlin blessing: in addition to the car, God has provided much more suitable office space for the ministry. Praise the Lord—in German, of course!)

Opposition to the Gospel Raises Interest of Jewish Students!

Jewish faculty members at Drew University vigorously opposed a meeting being held by a well-known campus evangelistic ministry—because the speaker was Chosen People Ministries' missionary Irving Salzman, and he was going to be speaking on Jewish evangelism. Apparently academic freedom goes only so far, since the school administration sided with the Jewish faculty in their opposition to Irving's presentation. The meeting has been postponed to let the rhetoric die down a bit. In the meantime, many Jewish students on campus have expressed their disappointment with the attitude of the faculty members and administration. They have shown keen interest in the speaker and what he was going to say! Please pray that the meeting will eventually be held, and that the Gospel will go forth with power. (The Jewish faculty ought to take a lesson from one of their forefathers, Gamaliel—see Acts 5:35-39.)



Beth El Shaddai Named as "Good Citizens"

Fulfilling the Apostle Peter's admonition to keep "your conduct honorable among the Gentiles" (1 Peter 2:12), Beth El Shaddai congregation in Lomita, California, was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the city government for honesty and good citizenship. When the congregation purchased used filing cabinets at an estate sale, congregation leader Don Meecha was shocked to learn of the discovery of municipal bonds valued at over \$2.5 million in the bottom of one of the cabinets. The bonds were payable to "the bearer," meaning whoever had possession of them. When Meecha and congregation leaders returned the bonds to the elderly widow from whom the cabinets were purchased, she wept for joy. The bonds had been placed in the cabinet by her husband who had died without telling her where he had placed them.



Experience the Art of Celebration!

Rejoice in Israel's Year of Jubilee with the Messianic Jewish Art Calendar

Almost 50 years ago, a modern miracle occurred—the rebirth of the State of Israel! In 1948, after having been a pawn on the world's geo-political stage for centuries, Israel came home to the Promised Land.

Under the Old Covenant, every 50 years was designated a Year of Jubilee, when land was returned to its original owners. Modern Israel's first "Year of Jubilee" will celebrate their repossession of the land God gave to the descendants of Abraham forever.

And you can join in the celebration with Chosen People Ministries' Messianic Jewish Art Calendar. This full-color calendar covers September, 1997 through August, 1998, and comes with all Jewish Holy Days marked, plus complete Sabbath references. Original Israeli art will help you stay in a "Jubilee" mood all year long!

This beautiful Jewish Art Calendar will be sent to you this month in appreciation for your gift to Chosen People Ministries of \$15 or more.

Amidst the celebration, don't forget that, though Israel has had an earthly home for half a century, as a nation she still lacks a heavenly home. Your gift to Chosen People Ministries helps us continue extending the Gospel of Messiah Jesus to the chosen people, both in their homeland and around the world.

So, for the next year—experience the art of celebration!

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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