

Special

Announcement

for the High Holy Days

NEW Ministry Center
in New York City

The Chosen People



Volume V, Issue 9 September 1999



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Watch for next
month's special
evangelistic issue that
you can give to your
Jewish Friends.

Reaching Jewish People *on the* High Holy Days



Dear friend,
Shalom and Happy Jewish New Year.

Although we don't necessarily go in for fireworks, the celebration of the Jewish New Year is a time for traditional Jewish homes to make merry in the way we know best—with food! As with many Jewish festivals, the food tells the whole story. Eating apples and honey, for example, reminds us of our hope for a sweet and fruitful year. Why don't you slice a few apples, pour some honey into a bowl, and give it a try? You might want to offer some to Jewish friends, and offer them a prayer for a good and sweet year. This is a great way to begin a friendly witness.

THE DAYS OF AWE

According to Jewish tradition, the Book of Life opens at the New Year (*Rosh Hashanah*, September 11) and closes ten days later on the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*, September 20). These intervening days are the most serious of the Jewish year, and are called the Ten Days of Awe. According to our tradition, we have ten days to repent of our sins and make things right between ourselves and God. Not only that, we are instructed to be

reconciled to our neighbors, and to seek forgiveness if we have offended anyone.

Now, I realize this is only tradition. We know that God does not forgive sin on the basis of repentance or good deeds, but according to the principle stated in Leviticus 17:11, "*For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.*" We who know Jesus as our Messiah know that He died for us, and that His blood shed on the altar of Calvary fulfills this essential principle of blood atonement. We are forgiven by grace, because He paid the penalty for our sins. Through faith, we embrace this magnificent offer of redemption. It is all of Him!

The message of the Gospel is simple. As my daughter told me after a wonderful Christian camping experience this summer, "Dad, I just read 1 John 5:12—it is all in that verse!" And so it is. John writes, "*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" A simple message, yes, but how profound!

Salvation does not come through our own efforts, but through His work on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21).

This is one of the reasons I love the Jewish High Holy Days. They are an annual reminder of how grateful I am to God for His gift of salvation.

REAPING A HARVEST IN THE STREETS OF NYC

As President of our ministry, I have prayed and pondered how to reach our Jewish people during this time of the year when even the most secular Jewish person is thinking about sin, salvation and his relationship with God. This is a critical time to witness to Jewish people.

This is why we've planned an evangelistic effort during the Days of Awe. At this time, Chosen People Ministries staff and volunteers have once again taken to the streets of New York City to hand out Gospel tracts.

Around the globe, your missionaries to the Jews are conducting High Holy Day services and showing Jewish people how these festivals are fulfilled in the Messiah.

It is not too late to send holiday cards to your Jewish loved ones. And don't forget to pray. Pray for your Jewish friends and family, for our Days of Awe outreach on the streets of Manhattan and Brooklyn, and for the Chosen People Ministries High Holy Day services around the globe.



As you know, our "To the Jew First in the New Millennium" conference runs from September 23-25. We will try to make some of the messages available to you through our November newsletter. Please pray for the conference, and

for the evangelistic outreaches that will take place during the next few weeks. Remember the Business and Professional Outreach Breakfast with Jay Sekulow on Friday morning, September 24th; the Women's Luncheon with Edith Schaeffer on Saturday, September 25th; and the Feast of Tabernacles Celebration and Concert that evening with Dr. Paige Patterson preaching and Marty Goetz ministering through music.

A TABERNACLE IN MANHATTAN

Finally, as you may have heard, Chosen People Ministries will be starting the New Year with a new building and ministry center in Manhattan. Some years ago, we moved our administrative headquarters to Charlotte, North Carolina. This was a carefully considered move that has worked out well. But at this time, our board of directors has concluded that the time to reemphasize our ministry efforts in New York City has come. After all, the New York metropolitan area is still the home of more Jews than Jerusalem and Tel Aviv combined!

When I became President, I asked the Board for their blessing to remain in New York City. They agreed, and at that time we also knew that one day we would need to find better, larger space for our ministry in the Metropolitan New York area.

Hallelujah! The day has come! Chosen People Ministries began the century with a powerful presence in New York City, and now we will close the century and begin the new millennium in the same way. We will maintain our administrative offices in Charlotte, but our International Executive Headquarters will now be in New York City.

We are dedicating the building on September 26th, the first day of

the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot* in Hebrew). The first Temple in Jerusalem was also dedicated on the Feast of Tabernacles. King Solomon did this for a reason. He understood that the Tabernacle was not only a place of worship and sacrifice, but a testimony to the day when the whole earth will be filled with the presence of the Lord (Isaiah 66:1-2). In 1 Kings 8, Solomon declared that even the glorious Temple just constructed could not contain the presence of the Lord.

Our "tabernacle" in Manhattan reminds me of the Temple. We are praying that the Lord will fill the Chosen People Manhattan Center with His power and presence; and, like the Temple, that it will become a house of prayer for all the nations (Isaiah 54:7). The fact that we are near the United Nations makes this all the more meaningful.

We want everyone who enters our Center to sense the presence of the Lord. That is the prayer of our hearts: that our new facility will stand as a testimony to a greater day—a day when there will no longer be a need for a Temple, as the Lord will be all in all (Revelation 21:22). But most importantly, we hope our sanctuary on East 51st Street will point many towards the Messiah, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter, especially the reports of how the Lord worked powerfully through our STEP outreach and "eXperience Israel" mission trip. Thank you for caring enough to read, pray and support our efforts to reach Jewish people with the Gospel. We cannot tell you how grateful we are to you! May the Lord fill your year and each day with the sweetness of redemption.

Yours in Him,

Mitch
Mitch





For STEP 2000 we will need two types of people involved: front-line evangelists and those who would prefer serving behind the scenes. The dates are June 19 to July 14, 2000. Begin the application process today by calling Justin Kron at 1-888-2-YESHUA.

The 1999 Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) was a time of great blessing, yet was also challenging physically, challenging spiritually—challenging, in fact, in every sense of the word. And the 24 staff members and volunteers who took to the streets of New York City during the worst heat wave in recent memory acquitted themselves like the troops of Gideon. Only instead of lapping the water at the spring of Herod, they drank bottle after bottle of water. It was hot!

MINISTERING ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK

After two weeks of preparation at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, the group arrived in New York City at the end of June and settled in at

New York University student housing. Then began the schedule of organized outreaches that composed the missionary work.

Tracts, tracts and more tracts. Tracts in parks, tracts in neighborhoods, tracts in subway stations. Each morning, our fearless leader, Noel Rabinowitz, coordinated the outreaches and made sure that our backpacks were full of literature and contact cards. "Ask Me About the Messiah" was Chosen People Ministries' slogan this year, and the T-shirts the STEP team wore proclaiming this message drew lots of comments and questions.

As always, there were those who reviled us by tearing up tracts in our faces, cursing and even spitting at us. But it was worth it, because at the end of the two weeks in New York we had handed out more than 100,000 pieces of literature, made dozens of contacts to follow up on, and led a dozen people to the Lord on the streets.

The high point of our activity came on July 4th. As literally hundreds of thousands of tourists and native New Yorkers lined up to see the fireworks, STEP workers distributed almost 30,000 tracts that day alone!

The ministry continued even after the tracts were gone, as workers in the office continued to make call after call, following up on those who were interested in Jesus. One STEP volunteer, who stayed on for the follow-up phase, led a person to

the Lord on the telephone after an intense, hour-long conversation.

FIRST HAND TESTIMONY

Another encounter that reveals the witnessing possibilities at hand virtually everywhere in this most cosmopolitan of cities is one that missionary Lauren Bockisch reports.

"After a busy outreach, I was returning by subway with my team to our New York University housing. A young woman seated close by asked me about my t-shirt. I explained to her who I was, and also shared the Gospel. She had heard it before, but had never received Jesus as her Lord.

I asked if she



would like to and she said, "Yes!" That day, on a New York City subway, Carol became my sister in the family of God. Praise His Holy Name!"

STEP concluded on July 10th, and the team members returned home—tired, but filled with a sense of accomplishment. If you want to join us next year on this challenging and rewarding short-term missions opportunity, give us a call. There's always room for one more adventurer in New York City!

A Hot Time in New York City



brought tremendous joy and unity among the diverse group of twenty to thirty-something-year-olds. It was a blessing to see how God brought together Jewish and Gentile believers of

in pairs into an environment that on the outside appeared "unsafe," but was one of the most hospitable places we experienced. All of us had the privilege of being invited into the villagers' homes for a taste of authentic Arabic coffee!

The last family my partner, Adam, and I visited spoke very little English. We felt like aliens trying to communicate in an unfamiliar world. The father, who was on his third cigarette in fifteen minutes, asked with genuine interest, "So, who is Jesus?" His tone indicated that he really didn't know, so I asked him to repeat his question. "Who is Jesus?" he asked, with great curiosity.

I was a bit taken back. Limited by our language barrier, I knew I was at a crossroads. What to do? For the next several minutes, with the father and mother and several curious children looking on, I began drawing a picture of a canyon that separated us from God, complete with stick figures and a cross with Jesus' name on it. I was able to express to them that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem nearly 2000 years ago, had died, and had come back to life on the third day. The expression on their faces indicated mutual understanding. A picture is indeed worth a thousand words.

There is so much more to tell and to rejoice about. I am eagerly anticipating next year's eXperience Israel Ministry Tour (July 15-29, 2000). God is good and, as our guest worship leader, Jennifer, reminded us throughout our trip in a song, "His mercies are new every morning; His mercies are new every day."

Please keep next year's eXperience Israel trip in your prayers. Let us know if you would like to go or know someone who might, because...not only is it a good thing, it's a "God thing!"



The eXperience Israel trip Chosen People Ministries sponsored from July 14-26 gave 29 young people the opportunity of a lifetime to share the Gospel and experience the wonders of the land of Israel. As one team member put it—"It was the most monumental, life-changing experience ever." The team members shared a growing sense of the Lord's presence. "It's a God thing," someone said, and the saying caught on.

There were many "God-moments" along the way that

different races from different denominational backgrounds and regions of North America.

One scene that comes to mind was when we shared on the beach in Netanya. Our team members were talking with Jewish Russian-speakers, Jewish French-speakers, Jewish Hebrew-speakers and Jewish-English speakers. It was a regular "Second Chapter of Acts!"

Another beautiful scene I want to share with you unfolded in an Israeli Arab village. The eXperience Israel ministry team, in partnership with the ministry outreach, "Operation Mobilization," had the opportunity to "seed" this village with New Testaments. With four newly-learned Arabic words and phrases, we went

This exciting summer adventure is designed for young people between the ages of 18 and 30. Please call me at 1-888-2-YESHUA or e-mail me at JustinKron@chosenpeople.com for more information and an application.

eXperience Israel

"It's a 'God Thing'!"

By Justin Kron



See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



WARNING SIGNALS OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

One of the purposes of the book of Hebrews is to remind believers everywhere that there are pitfalls to be avoided along the road of faith. So, the writer to the Hebrews alerts us with some warning signals.

It should not surprise us that the fellowship being addressed was composed of professing Jewish believers. As in many congregations today, there were genuine and obedient believers, who ultimately followed through in their profession of faith. But, there were also believers who had fallen out of fellowship with God through sin, and unsaved people who were deceived concerning their relationship with God.

Although each warning may be thought of as being directed to one of these particular groups, we do well to take heed of all of them.

THE FIRST WARNING DISREGARDING GOD'S WORD (Hebrews 2:1-4)

It is possible to "drift away" (2:1) from the truth of God's Word. The Greek word (*parameteo*) means, "to float passively past," which is a picture of spiritual indifference.

The writer is quick to point out the dangers of leaving the path of discipleship. He points out that the scripture warns that if the claims of the Law could not be disregarded (2:2) without punishment, then "*how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*" (2:3). The "great salvation" was first announced by the Messiah

(Christ) Himself, and later confirmed by His disciples to the writer to the Hebrews (2:3). Therefore, in light of such dramatic confirmation, to disregard God's Word is an even worse offense than disregarding the Law of Moses.

THE SECOND WARNING DOUBTING GOD'S WORD (Hebrews 3:7-4:13)

This warning is issued to those who were lacking in faith, ". . . *the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it*" (4:2).

This illustration refers to Israel in the wilderness, where they hardened their hearts in times of trial. Their unbelief was astonishing, because they had witnessed the plagues of Egypt, and had experienced first hand their emancipation from slavery by God. Again, the analogy here is meant to indicate that if those earlier Hebrews who had witnessed the power of God were guilty of lacking faith, how much more guilty were those who had the witness of the Holy Spirit Himself.

THE THIRD WARNING DEPARTING FROM GOD'S WORD (Hebrews 5:11-6:20)

"*If they shall fall away . . .*" (6:6); disregarding and doubting God's Word leads to a departure from faith. The fall backward here was to depart from their profession of Christ, and revert to the temple sacrificial system (Hebrews 10:11). This bears a striking similarity to the teaching of the Judaizers who followed the Apostle Paul around, trying to infect the churches with a message of salvation based on legalism, and not on God's grace.

These warning signals are signs of God's love. They are given to keep us on the path of righteousness—the righteousness of the Messiah who came not to condemn, but to save us from our sins. ✨

NEWS BRIEFS

Ministry to Dying Man Brings Salvation

Israel Cohen met Henry* at a "Messiah in the Passover" presentation in Florida. Learning that Henry had cancer, Israel visited with him and his family at home. Soon afterwards, Henry prayed to receive the Lord. Before he died only two weeks later, Henry spent the remainder of his life in bed, on the telephone, telling all his friends and everyone else that they need to believe in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.



Chosen People Ministries President Awarded Doctorate

Heartfelt congratulations to Chosen People Ministries President, Dr. Mitch Glaser! Mitch recently completed his Ph.D., writing on the topic, "The History of Missions to the Jews in Continental Europe 1900-1950." Dr. Glaser is pictured here with his mentor, Dr. Arthur Glasser.

Senior Center Evangelism



Stewart & Shoshanna Weinisch

Stewart Weinisch, Chosen People Ministries missionary in Florida, recently led a Bible study for a group of seniors, most of whom were Jewish. At the end of the Bible study, Stewart asked who wanted their sins forgiven, and three of those elderly Jewish people made genuine professions of faith.

Another Decision for the Lord

Eva Rydelnik reports from Chicago of another recently answered prayer for salvation. Recently, a Jewish man named Wayne* placed his trust in Messiah after much time and prayer on the part of those working with him, and on Eva's part.

One Friday night, Wayne and his wife, Susan,* came to the Friday evening Bible study. As he left, Wayne said to Eva, "This seems true."

The following week, Wayne walked into the Bible study smiling from ear to ear. Very quietly, he said, "I've decided it's true about Jesus. I believe He is the Messiah."

Ministry to Russian Jews Continues

Chosen People Ministries offers a video of five Russian Jewish believers' testimonies. Recently, a woman called from Australia and asked to talk to one of the people in the video. When our missionary, Klaudia Zhelezny, spoke with her, the woman shared that she and several people had watched the video together and were saved! This woman, who is a doctor, was very excited and said that now her life has hope and meaning. This group continues to meet. Please pray for them.

Happy Campers at Simchat Yeladim



Photo by Heidi Afrime

About fifty young campers spent a week in early August in the heart of scenic Pennsylvania at Camp Simchat Yeladim ("The Joy of the Children"). The program included Bible study, messianic worship and a full array of fun activities. Chosen People Ministries missionaries Bruce and Suzi Elman were our Camp leaders. To get a head start on signing up for next year, call 1-800-342-3870.

To the Jew First 
NEW MILLENNIUM
A Conference on Jewish Evangelism
New York City, September 23-25

* names have been changed

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Pick Up These Messianic Resources Today!



The Jewish Art Calendar

The Chosen People Ministries Jewish Art Calendar is filled with Messianic prophecies and fascinating insights into the Jewish holidays. This is the perfect gift to give your Jewish friend. Order one for your own home, too, and experience the beauty of the Jewish holidays throughout the year.

\$10.95**



God's Appointed Times

The biblical holy days are not just for Jewish people. All believers can receive the blessing of those glorious days, the greatest object lessons in the Bible. Author Barney Kasdan offers historical background, traditional Jewish observance, relevance to the New Testament, prophetic significance, and a practical guide for believers, including recipes, songs and crafts.

\$9.95**

Ask Me About the Messiah Sweatshirt

Proclaim Yeshua as your Messiah in the warmth of this high-quality sweatshirt with the same eye-catching phrase as the T-shirts worn by our summer outreach teams.

\$19.95**



The Fall Feasts of Israel

The Fall Feasts of Israel will help you understand three of Israel's most significant festivals: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. A complete examination of each feast looks at its biblical institution, its celebration in the time of Christ, and its observance by Jewish people today.



\$11.95**

Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Fund Transfers

Chosen People Ministries is able to receive gifts of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. This is a wonderful way to give a larger than usual gift to the Lord's work. By giving in this way, you are drawing upon "the jewels of Egypt" rather than "the manna" of His daily provision.

Giving in this way is easy. You do not need to sell the asset—all you have to do is call us and we will work

with your broker or brokerage house in arranging a transfer. **When you transfer shares of stock or a mutual fund that has risen in value, you are receipted for the amount to which it has appreciated, but taxed at what it cost you.** This is potentially a great tax savings and maximizes your gift to the Lord's work.



The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

The Chosen People Newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries
Editor: Zhava Glaser
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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will.
"I will bless those who bless you."
(Genesis 12:3)

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Printed in the USA