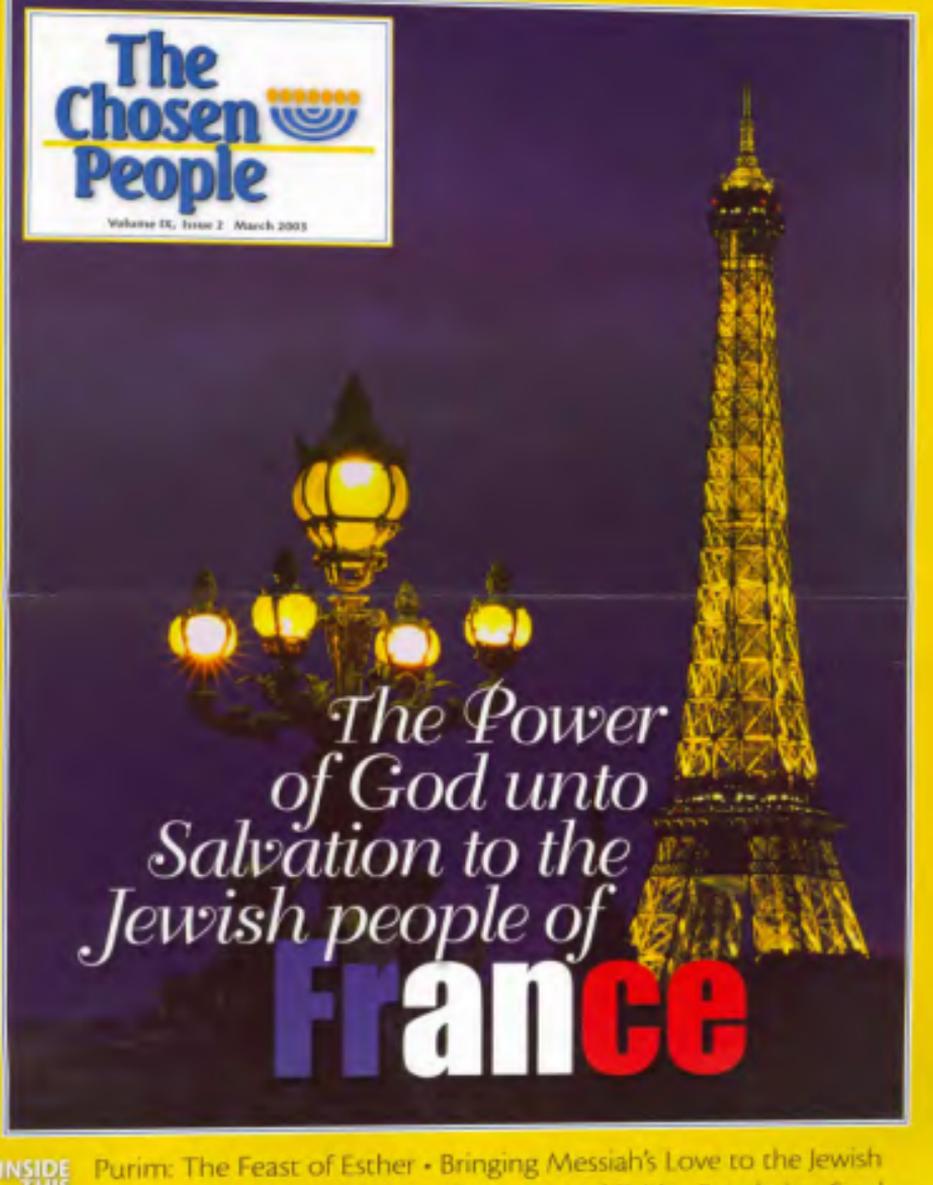


The Chosen People



Volume IX, Issue 2 March 2003



*The Power
of God unto
Salvation to the
Jewish people of*
France

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THIS
ISSUE:

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The Feast of Esther



PURIM



Dear friend,
Shalom in our Messiah! As you can see from the cover of our newsletter, our hearts this month are turned toward the Jewish people of France. Your Mission to the Jewish people has been working within the French Jewish community for more than 50 years! The current leader of our ministry in France, Daniel Solomon, is a dedicated brother

who, along with his wife Sarah, is making an impact among the Jewish people in the greater Paris area.

I hope you will read the articles carefully and remember to pray for the Solomon family. France, as you will read, has the third largest Jewish population in the world and also has about the highest rate of anti-Semitic incidents in the Western world. This makes Jewish ministry all the more difficult.

But help is on the way for the Solomons. Rebecca Lohnes, who was raised as a *missionary kid* in France, has recently graduated Bible college and is now raising her support to join the Solomons in this important ministry.

After reading through the remainder of the newsletter, I hope you will be a faithful prayer partner, interceding for our France team. We are trusting that the Lord will provide other workers to join these dear folks in reaching the Jewish people of France. Let me know if you are aware of a brother or sister with this calling, and we will get in touch with them!

Let's Dance – It's Purim

We are entering the season of Purim, one of my favorite Jewish holidays. Just to give you an idea of how this holiday is celebrated, let me tell you a little story. A few years ago, I was out late on the first night of Purim and, after riding the subway home to Brooklyn from our offices in Manhattan, I was enjoying the ten-block walk to my home. I heard a ruckus on the streets ahead of me and had a good idea of what it was.

You see, on Purim, it is customary to be happy...very happy! Why? Because the festival of Purim celebrates the events found in the Book of Esther. And as you read through the Book of Esther, you will see what Jewish people are so happy about. We rejoice because the efforts of Haman to destroy the Jews of Persia and the known world were thwarted!

By whom? By a humble Jewish man and his cousin, Esther. It is one of the great stories of the Bible and a holiday that many Jewish people—even those who are not especially religious—enjoy observing.

The people causing the ruckus that evening were actually religious Jews from the Lubavitch Hasidim, an Orthodox sect whose headquarters were walking distance from my home. About fifteen men were singing and dancing in the streets. It is also customary on Purim to drink a little bit! And I have to tell you: these men had had a little bit more than a little bit!

As I walked by, one of the Hasidic men asked me if I was Jewish. "Of course I am," I said, "but I might not be the kind of Jewish person you would like."

He responded with a smile. "I have never met a Jewish person I didn't like." He then chuckled and suggested strongly, "Let's dance...it's Purim!"

Before I could say yes or no, he grabbed my arms and we began dancing the Hora, a vigorous Jewish folk dance. After a moment or two, he stopped and looked at me and said, "OK...so tell me, what kind of Jew are you that makes you think I won't like you?"

I smiled at him and said, "I am a Jew who believes that Yeshua is the Messiah."

He looked around at his fellow Hasids and then stared back at me. Then, he kissed me on the forehead and said, "So what? Let's dance—its Purim!"

This is a funny story and a testimony to the incredible JOY Jewish people experience during this festival.

The Abrahamic Covenant and the Preservation of the Jewish People

The Book of Esther is unique within the canon of Scripture in many ways. One of the most significant differences is the omission of any mention of God. There is no direct



Left: Jewish believers in Kiev celebrate Purim with the traditional reenactment of the story of Esther; *Hamantaschen*, the traditional pastry resembling Haman's hat; below and page two: Street festivals, costumes, and dancing are all part of Purim celebrations in Israel.

mention of the Holy One of Israel in this great Book, but His hand is visible to the eye of faith. He is active behind the scenes, making certain that Mordechai and Esther are in the right place at the right time ("for such a time as this") and that the heart of King Ahasuerus is open to receiving Esther as Queen and discerning the truth about wicked Haman.

The Book of Esther and the festival of Purim may also be viewed as the fulfillment of prophecy. Centuries earlier, the Lord had promised Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 that He would create a nation for His glory and purposes. Ultimately, the Savior of the world would be born in a Jewish home in the Land of Promise, Israel.

He further promises to bless those who bless the Jewish people and curse those who curse His chosen people. Why? Because it is through the Jewish people that the world will be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

In many ways, the history of the Jewish people is the saga of evil and satanic forces working to prevent God from blessing the world through the Jewish people. If Haman had been successful, there would no longer have been a Jewish nation through whom the promises of God could be fulfilled. Where would Jesus have come from if Haman had been victorious?

But Haman could not possibly have succeeded! His efforts were doomed from the start—as are the efforts of every group, nation or organization that attempts to hurt or destroy the Jewish people.

The story of Purim is the unfolding of the Abrahamic Covenant, as we clearly see the hand of God protecting His people from destruction, so that



they may fulfill His purposes and be a source of blessing to the world.

The Spirit of Purim Continues

Unfortunately, the efforts of many nations to destroy the Jewish people continue. Anti-Semitism in France, in Middle Eastern countries and even in the United States persists. Why? Because God's plan for the Jewish people did not end at Calvary, and He is not finished with His people yet (Romans 11:25-26)! Nations will still try to harm God's chosen people. But He is always faithful to His word.

Our role today is to bless the Jewish people. And there is no greater blessing than bringing the message of the Jewish Messiah to His chosen people.

Thank you for your love and partnership in the Gospel. I know that you will find God's promise of blessing to be true in your life, as you bless the Jewish people by bringing the Good News of the Gospel to His chosen ones. He is always faithful to His promises.

On behalf of the Solomons and the entire worldwide staff of Chosen People Ministries, thank you for your prayers and support.

Your brother in the Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



France: A Brief Profile of Religion

The French government does not keep statistics on religious affiliation. The vast majority of the population is nominally Roman Catholic. According to one

member of the Catholic hierarchy, only 8 percent of the population are practicing Catholics. Islam, the second largest religious group, has approximately 4 to 5 million adherents—or approximately 7 to 8 percent of the population.

Protestants make up 2 percent of the population, and the Jewish and Buddhist faiths each represent 1 percent. According to various estimates, approximately 6 percent of the country's citizens are unaffiliated with any religion.

The Jewish community numbers between 600,000 and 700,000 persons. Synagogue attendance is not high. According to press reports, up to 60 percent of the Jewish community celebrates at most only the High Holy Days.

REBECCA LOHNES

Bringing Messiah's Love to the Jewish People of France

When you think of France, what image comes to mind? Some imagine France to be the romance capital of the world, where lovestruck couples stroll along the banks of the Seine. Others think of France as the home of the most wonderful food on earth. However, few people realize that, with 600,000 Jewish people, France is also home to the third largest Jewish population in the world.

Growing up in the Paris area, I had the privilege of working alongside my parents as they shared the Good News of Yeshua with the French people. At an early age, the Lord gave me a love for His chosen people and an acute desire to share Messiah with them. Later, I studied at Moody Bible Institute, where I obtained a degree in Jewish Studies and Bible Theology. I praise God for His sovereign hand in preparing me to serve effectively among the Jewish community in France.



A Heart for Jewish Evangelism

As I go about raising the financial support necessary to begin ministering full time, people often ask why I have decided to serve with Chosen People Ministries in France. My reply is two-fold. First, God's word clearly demonstrates the importance of Jewish evangelism. Paul, the Jewish apostle to the Gentiles, says in Romans 11: *"I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them."* As a Gentile believer in Yeshua, I am to "make Israel envious" of my relationship with the Messiah for whom they are waiting.

Secondly, people are more open to the Gospel when going through a time of crisis. In the past months, Jewish people in France have suffered from a resurgence of anti-Semitism, which has caused them to feel particularly insecure; but this has also increased their sense of Jewish identity and perhaps their receptivity to the message of the Jewish Messiah.

I am privileged to serve with Chosen People Ministries, as we together seek to demonstrate Yeshua's love to the Jewish people of France. My prayer is that the Lord would use this partnership to bring many to Himself.

Daniel Solomon's early years were shaped by the forces of history. After Daniel's birth in 1938 in Africa to a secular Jewish family, his family moved to Provence in the south of France before the Second World War. Trapped in Europe by the awful events of the war, the Solomons were later able to return to Africa. After the war, they returned to France, where Daniel grew up.

Longing For Connection

The cultural form of Jewishness in which Daniel had been raised was unsatisfying to him. In 1954, he went on a "Jewish awareness trip" to Israel. Also on the trip was a young woman named Sara who caught his interest. He discovered that she was from Roanne, France, and that the two of them had quite a bit in common.

Sara was also born in 1938, into a traditional, Conservative Jewish home. She too had memories of moving with her family from place to place during the War, hiding from the Nazis.

Daniel became a convinced Zionist and "made *aliyah*" (immigrated) to Israel the following year. He settled in a kibbutz (a communal settlement) and became immersed in the pioneering life of a young Zionist.

Changing Circumstances and Spiritual Upheaval

One day in 1956, Daniel spied a familiar face on the kibbutz. It was Sara, who had come to Israel to live! Their friendship was reestablished—that and more. They fell in love, were married, and in short order had the first of their four children.

Life on the kibbutz proved disillusioning for the Solomons. After six years, they moved to a

small village near Tel-Aviv, where Daniel started to work for IBM. They stayed in Israel for another four years, but life there now seemed empty. They saw no other choice but to return to France, where Daniel continued to work for IBM in Paris.

Life in France proved a more difficult adjustment than they had anticipated. Lack of social contacts and frequent night shifts for Daniel at work added to their difficulties. For a time, things seemed no better. Then, Daniel met Hugh Wessel, a young American worker at IBM. Hugh was a believer and challenged Daniel to read the entire Bible. Daniel accepted the challenge. Through Bible study and further discussion, Daniel received Jesus as his Messiah in September of 1973. Impressed with the changes in Daniel's life, Sara took the same step of faith in 1974.

Ministry in Messiah

The Solomons' relationship with Chosen People Ministries began through their daughter, Jenny-Karen, who lives in Germany. Jenny-Karen had met Vladimir Pikman, who directs Chosen People Ministries' work there. Vladimir encouraged the Solomons to pray about starting a branch of Chosen People Ministries in France. Now this vision is beginning to come to pass.

Daniel is now engaged in theological studies, and Sara is eagerly looking forward to retiring from her job, at which time she hopes to become more active in ministry as well.

Looking back over their shared life, Daniel rejoices at how wonderfully God has led them over the years. As he says, "Who else but our heavenly Father can arrange things in such a marvelous way?"

DANIEL & SARA SOLOMON United By Heritage and Faith



Seeds Planted in French Soil

Harvesting souls for the Kingdom in France most often requires careful cultivation. We pray that when watered by prayer, much fruit will come, according to God's will. Here are some of the seeds Sara and Daniel Solomon have planted in recent weeks:

We are sharing our faith with our neighbors, the N. family and their three grown children, by way of friendship. The topics of Israel, politics or other issues are always welcome. They are not yet receptive to the Gospel, but we are praying that they will be one day.

Mrs. E. is a lonely elderly woman. We often talk to her and are attempting to get to know her better. She has accepted us and our faith in Yeshua, but is still wrestling with the idea of Israel's Messiah.

Mr. B. is a pâtissier (French for Master Baker) in Paris. He is spiritually very sensitive and has a vague awareness of what Messianic Jews are. He is preparing to "make aliyah" (immigrate to Israel). He is quite open to us and has a genuine desire to discover more of our message.

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.

The Voice and Vision of Messiah (Revelation 1:9-20)

The first chapter of Revelation begins with the voice and vision of the Messiah Himself. The Apostle is commanded to write the entire prophecy in a book to be sent to the seven churches of Asia Minor (Rev. 1:11).

These words constitute the first of the seven great "I Ams" contained in the Revelation. They declare that all things (from first to last) are contained in Him (Col. 2:3). The voice John heard was "as the sound of many waters" (Rev. 1:15), indicating His universal authority (Ps. 2:4-6).

The Appearance of Messiah's Person (1:12-14)

Messiah, as the risen head of the Church (1:13), stands in the midst of the seven lampstands that represent the seven churches (1:20). He holds the seven stars (messengers or pastors) of the seven churches in His hand (1:16). He is clothed with a garment similar to Aaron's priestly robe, designed for its beauty and glory (Ex. 28:2), for He is the great High Priest (Heb. 9:24,25).

John goes on to describe Messiah: "His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow" (1:14). This is the same as Daniel's vision of the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:9) and indicates eternal purity. John writes, "His eyes like a flame of fire" (1:14), depicting the Lord's perfect knowledge and infallible insight. Nothing can escape His gaze.

Other Attributes of Messiah's Person (1:15-20)

John's vision of Messiah continues: "His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace" (1:15). Brass or bronze, a copper alloy, symbolizes divine judgment. Burning brass, highly refined, represents the Messiah standing in the midst of the churches to approve of what is good and to condemn what is evil.

"Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword" (1:16); the sword symbolizes His Word that judges man (Rev. 19:19-21). "His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength" (1:16). His shining face speaks of His glory, for He is the Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16).

The Living Lord of Lords

The stunning portrayal of the sight and sound of Messiah Jesus described in John's vision shows us that Jesus is indeed more wonderful than mere words can describe. He is alive forevermore and has the keys to heaven and hell (Rev. 1:18). Only the Jewish Messiah has opened the door of salvation by His sacrifice for our sins. The only valid choice for us is to receive Him as Lord and Savior. ✨

John had heard the voice of Jesus while on earth and had caught a glimpse of His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. But now, some 50 years later, the aged disciple again hears the voice and views the risen Messiah in heaven.

The Sound of Messiah's Voice (1:9-11)

John heard Messiah's voice like the sound of a loud trumpet (1:10). In Old Testament times, the trumpet was sounded on Holy Days (Num. 10). In the book of Revelation, the trumpet sounds to signal the outpouring of God's wrath upon the earth (Rev. 8:2 ff.). John heard Messiah declare, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End" (Rev. 1:8,11) two separate times.

GOD'S PROMISE CARVED IN STONE

Another exciting archeological find has recently been brought to light in the Promised Land. It is a stone tablet describing plans for the repair of the First Temple. Shimon Ilani of Israel's Geological Institute declared, "Our findings show that it is authentic." The tablet contains microscopic flecks of gold, which could indicate that they were burned into the stone when a building housing both the tablet and gold objects was destroyed. If so, it may actually have been a part of Solomon's Temple. The sandstone tablet has a 15-line inscription in ancient Hebrew that appears to parallel 2 Kings 12:1-6 and 11-17, which refer to the reign of King Joash. The last words of the inscription are, "the Lord will protect his people with blessing."

CAN I HAVE A VIDEO, TOO?

Recently, while seated on an airplane, National Ministries Representative Israel Cohen sat next to a Jewish woman named Joan* and her husband. After Israel shared a bit about the Lord, Joan confided to him that she has been thinking about Jesus and wondered why most Jewish people don't believe in Him. When Israel found out that Joan was married to a Gentile, he offered to send them a Chosen People Ministries "Joined Together?" interfaith marriage video. She was very pleased and accepted the offer. While they continued their discussion, a gentleman two rows ahead interrupted them and said, "My wife and I are also an interfaith married couple. Can I have a video, too?"

You can order copies of *Joined Together?* for a suggested donation of \$20+ plus shipping. Just call 1-800-333-4936.



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE SON

After a recent Messianic worship service, a young Jewish man approached Chosen People Ministries congregational leader Larry Feldman and asked if they could meet. The next week, after a lengthy discussion and Bible study, the young man prayed to receive Jesus as his Messiah. In his joy, he asked if Larry could send his Jewish mom, who lives in New Zealand, a taped Gospel message. Upon hearing her name, Larry remembered her from the first month the Feldmans had moved to Southern California in 1997. After a service one day, she spoke with Larry for several hours and prayed to receive Jesus as her Messiah! Larry and the young man wept tears of joy together.

FRUIT FROM SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Chosen People Ministries' Bruce Elman is elated to report a faith decision from Lonny,* an 83-year-old man. Lonny has been attending a regular Bible study with his wife, where Bruce had had an opportunity to teach. He had been reading the Gospel literature that Bruce had given him. On a recent evening when the study group was in a time of prayer, the pastor's wife asked Lonny if he'd like to pray to receive the Lord, and he said, "Yes, I would!" Lonny was baptized shortly thereafter, and has already told his longtime Jewish friend, Larry,* all about it!

WEDDING BELLS BRING SALVATION IN BERLIN

Weddings are a cause for rejoicing—and so much more—when God uses these blessed unions to bring the blessing of salvation. Vladimir Pikman, Director of Chosen People Ministries' work in Germany, reports that this very thing took place at the wedding of two Jewish believers at our Berlin congregation. As is sometimes the case among the Russian Jewish people there, invited guests invited other friends and relatives, and on the day of the event hundreds crowded the facility. A Gospel message was a prominent part of the service, and a number of Jewish people made salvation decisions that day!

*names have been changed

IN MEMORIAM – REV. KENNETH REEVES

Rev. Kenneth Reeves, who served with the Mission from 1954 until his retirement in 1972, passed away on January 11, 2003. Rev. Reeves was born in Greenfield, Iowa, on August 16, 1919. He married his beloved Marguerite in 1943. While they were attending Biola College in the 1950s, they developed a love for the Jewish people. Ken and Marguerite began serving with the Mission in Los Angeles and also ministered in San Diego, San Mateo and North Hollywood.

IN MEMORIAM – JOHN J. KUBACH

Former board member John J. Kubach passed away on January 9, 2003, one day after his 97th birthday. John had a great love for Israel. Much of his livelihood was in the area of international banking, and he was instrumental in helping Israel to finance the cost of the Six Day War. He was hosted by Moshe Dayan and had tea with then Prime Minister Golda Meir. John joined the Mission's Board in 1964 and served until the early 1990s.

Passover Will Soon Be Here



Our own **Messiah in the Passover Kit** has all the tools to help churches, classes, or families have a Passover celebration of their own. It includes a video, an instruction booklet with recipes, two tracts, a Messianic Passover Haggadah, and a poster.

Passover Kit (#5001) \$19.95^{us}

The **Matza tash** (unity) is a pouch with three compartments—each one holds a piece of unleavened bread and is a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature. This white Matza tash is beautifully embroidered and made in Israel.

Matza tash (#5026) \$17.95^{us}

The **Seder plate** helps to tell the story of the Exodus and points to our Messiah. This plate will look great on your Passover table. Silver plated and made in Israel.

Seder plate (#5024) \$24.95^{us}

The **Kiddush cup** and its contents symbolize the blood of the Lamb of God. Each of the four times it is filled during the Passover meal, the story of God's redeeming work among His people is unfolded. This silver cup is about three inches tall. Made in Israel.

Kiddush cup (#5025) \$18.95^{us}

Complete Passover Set (includes plate, cup and Matza tash; #5027) \$55.95^{us}

Deluxe Passover Set (includes plate, cup, Matza tash and Passover kit; #5028) \$70.95^{us}

Messiah in the Passover Video

A dramatic Gospel presentation of the birth of Christianity, showing how one rabbi (Nick Mancuso) becomes a follower of Yeshua of Nazareth. This video clearly presents the prophetic nature of the Feast of Passover and its fulfillment in Jesus. Powerful and challenging!



Passover Video (#8026) \$24.95^{us}

WISE STEWARDSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The coming of spring is a good time of year to review wills and trusts. For example, have you changed your state of residence? If so, you must have all wills and trusts reviewed to ensure they are in compliance with state law. As stewards of God's resources, we are called to plan for the efficient management of all our material gifts, particularly as we pass them to the next generation.

As Chosen People Ministries' new Director of Stewardship, I would be happy to speak with you to help you with financial planning that will enable you to use your resources to make a greater impact for the Lord. Just give me a call at 1-888-2YESHUA, extension 223.



Doug & Sally McEvoy

STEP IN-A-WEEK!

July 13-19

STEP-in-a-WEEK is geared for active adults aged 18 and over who would like to participate in a STEP-like training program but because of time, job, or family considerations are not able to commit to the full four weeks the traditional STEP program requires.

Call 212-223-2252

for more information
or visit us online at

www.chosenpeople.com



The Chosen People Newsletter

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

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you."
(Genesis 12:3)