

The Chosen People



Volume IX, Issue 10 November 2003

We Are
Thankful!

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We Are Thankful!

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City and Happy Thanksgiving! As the Psalmist cries out,

*I will praise the name of God with a song,
and will magnify Him with thanksgiving
(Psalm 69:30).*

Like King David, I feel like singing for joy as I see all that the Lord is doing through our Chosen People Ministries staff across the globe! Each day, I hear about Jewish people hearing the Gospel from our staff, or coming to faith.

For example, Olivier Melnick and Mark Ellick, both based in Orange County, California, had the privilege of leading a Jewish woman and her Gentile husband to the Lord just a few weeks ago. The husband

has cancer and the wife was eager for spiritual help. Mark and Olivier led the husband to the Lord and then asked the wife if she wanted to accept Jesus as her Savior also. She said, "Yes, I do!"

This reminds me of how important it is for us to believe that God has the power to open hearts and turn men and women, Jews and Gentiles, to His Son. It also reminds me of how important it is to ask them! Sometimes, we do not see people come to faith because we simply do not take the step of asking family and friends to receive the Lord.

A Thanksgiving Evangelistic Strategy

This Thanksgiving, as you gather with family and friends, why don't you try this experiment? Pray and ask the Lord to show you to whom among your family you should speak about Him. Then take a bold—but sensitive and loving—initiative and ask them if they would like to know more about why you believe in Jesus as your Messiah.

By having this "plan" in our hearts, we become more available to the Holy Spirit to lead us. We become more expectant of what the Lord can do—even in the hearts of some of the people we know and love the most, the very ones for whose salvation we pray the most.

Would you write and let me know what happens? I would love to hear your stories and pray for you and your loved ones.

Reaching the Remnant: Thankful for His Power

I am encouraged by what the Lord is doing in New York City. Laura Fels, on loan to Chosen People from Executive Ministries of Campus Crusade for Christ, has been helping us reach Jewish executives and professionals in the New York Metropolitan area.

A short time ago, Laura had a special event for women at a lovely apartment in New York City. A Jewish believer gave her testimony and, of the six Jewish women who attended, two received the Lord that evening and another joined one of our regular Bible studies.



Joy G. and a friend hand out tracts at a recent event in Canada

We are also planning special events next month. Marty Goetz, one of my favorite Messianic musicians, will be coming to New York City for a series of three holiday season concerts. One of these will take place in a beautiful hall and will hopefully appeal to Jewish executives—both men and women. Please pray for this event, which will take place on December 9th.

We are having a similar event in Florida in December, where Joel Rosenberg, a Jewish believer and author, will share his testimony! We already know of one Gentile believer who is bringing nine Jewish friends to this event.

Please call us at 212-223-2252 and let us know if you have a friend whom we should invite to either of these events.

Reaching the Remnant: Thankful for His Faithfulness

There is also quite a bit happening overseas through the Mission staff. Recently, Klaudia Zhelezny, our worker among Russian Jews in Brooklyn, went to Israel for a special door-to-door evangelism campaign in a suburb of Tel Aviv.

First, the team placed an invitation for a free *Jesus Film* video into people's mailboxes. Then they shared with those who responded by telephone and visited their homes. One day, a family of four Jewish people all accepted Messiah!

The next week, during a return visit, they witnessed to a friend whom the family had invited, and after the conversation, their friend also received the Lord. In all, about eight people came to faith—a great blessing to all our staff in Israel.

Is such a joy to be part of this great and historic outreach to God's ancient people!

Three generations of Melnicks at the Bar Mitzvah of Olivier's son.



Rejoicing in all Things: Thankful for Him!

I also want to say a word to some of you who read our newsletter and who might be struggling this Thanksgiving with being thankful. I hear from so many of you who are having a tough time—with children, grandchildren, unbelieving loved ones, jobs, and especially those who have lost jobs. Life can be so very difficult at times.

How can we stay thankful when there is still so much pain and disappointment in this life? Even those of us who love the Lord sometimes struggle to remain grateful. I have also gone through some tough times recently because of the diminishing health of my own parents who are not yet believers.

So how do we find that place of trust and rest in the Lord that enables us to be thankful in all things?

I have recently rediscovered this simple truth. God's peace is not found in one verse or one thought, or some type of spiritual strategy. It is only found in Him.

When our thanksgiving and hope is rooted in the very character of God and not in the circumstances of this life, then we will never be disappointed. He is always good. He is always faithful. He is always victorious. As our beloved Messiah said,

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but he of good cheer, I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

It is through learning to rest in the strong arms of His matchless grace that we can survive the challenges of life, and be **THANKFUL** in the midst of these difficulties, knowing that through Him we are always victorious!

Thankful for You!

Thank you, all of our friends and supporters, for making this ministry possible. We love each of you and know that you pray for us as often as you can. We are partners in the Gospel, and every time you read about a Jewish person coming to faith or hearing the Gospel for the first time, you can be sure that in some way you have had a part in this ministry through your prayers and support.

Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. We—the Chosen People Ministries family—really do love you.

Your brother,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Meet the Missionaries

Chosen People Ministries' field evangelists to the Jewish people are the cutting edge of the Mission's calling. We honor their faithfulness, sacrifice and courage in this difficult form of service to Messiah. This month, and in past months and months to follow, we would like you to get to know them. So, it is with great pleasure that we now present: "Meet the Missionaries."

Stewart Jefferson

Stewart Jefferson was born in the United Kingdom, into a home of non-Jewish believers in Messiah. While in his early twenties, Stewart moved to South Africa, where he started to work in the banking industry. While there, Stewart came in contact with ultra-Orthodox Hasidic Jews, some of whom were co-workers. This people group intrigued him, and Stewart began to reexamine the Scriptures closely. Through serious Bible study, Stewart came to see clearly the need for Jewish people to come into a personal relationship with their Messiah Jesus.

With an increased sense of calling, Stewart left the banking world and moved to Chicago, where he studied at Moody Bible Institute. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies and Pastoral Studies. During his stay at Moody, Stewart served as a student missionary with Chosen People Ministries. Upon graduation, Stewart moved to New York City, where he served as assistant to the President before being transferred to direct the Office of Missionary Development.

Stewart now helps equip men and women from around the world to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus the Messiah. He also coordinates short-term missions like our Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) and other service opportunities such as Internships, and our Volunteer Involvement Program



(VIP). In addition, Stewart oversees the recruitment and training of Chosen People Ministries staff members.

Stewart is excited about his work in Manhattan and loves to share his heart for Jewish evangelism. He says, "The daily opportunities to build relationships with the Jewish people are incredibly stimulating, and as a non-Jewish believer, I find Jewish people are frequently open to me. There is no better place than New York City to bring people in order to train and equip them for taking the Gospel to Jewish people around the world. It is a great blessing not only to share the Gospel with Jewish people, but also to empower others to do the same."

Bob and Emily Seemar

Bob and Emily Seemar have been married 29 years. They share many things in common, chief among them a love to tell Jewish people about Jesus.

When Emily (who is Jewish) was a young girl, her mother was invited to a Chosen People Ministries ladies' Bible study in New York. She began attending regularly and received Jesus as her Messiah. Not long after, Emily became a believer at a Chosen People Ministries children's camp.

Bob grew up in a non-Jewish, churchgoing family. His twin sisters, who wanted to be missionaries, found a personal relationship with Jesus at Bible college. They shared the Good News with Bob, and at a local church service, Bob asked the Lord into his life. Bob and Emily met in Bible college, where they served for a while with another Jewish ministry. They have now come to work full-time with Chosen People Ministries.

The Seemars occupy a unique niche within the Mission. Their work is to help build Messianic ministry centers—literally. Bob is a skilled contractor and has already made significant improvements at our international



headquarters in New York City. The Seemars hope to travel to build and improve facilities that will serve as worship and teaching centers, and their dream is to build a Chosen People Ministries Messianic Center in Jerusalem. They also visit churches, where they share their vision for ministry and teach about the Jewish roots of Christian faith.

They recently said, "We are thrilled that after almost 30 years in our own private contracting business God has called us to use those skills to serve Him in full-time ministry. It is exciting to prepare places where Jewish people can find their Messiah, just as Emily did many years ago. If we build them, they will come!"

The Seemars have three grown children: Rachel, Joshua and Isaac.

Israel and Judy Cohen

Israel Cohen is one of Chosen People Ministries' longest serving staff members. He was raised in a conservative Jewish home in Philadelphia. As a boy, he attended Hebrew school and had his Bar Mitzvah.



After high school, Israel joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Morocco. It was there that a Christian sailor introduced him to the Messiah. On May 16, 1961, Israel placed his faith in the Lord.

Two weeks after Israel became a believer, he was introduced to Frank and Mary Lou Barnett, a missionary couple who had seven children and a farm in Morocco a few miles from the Navy base where he was stationed. Israel writes, "My days spent on the Barnett farm were some of the best days of my life."

Frank disciplined Israel and was the first person who challenged him to go to Bible college. In 1975, ten years after being discharged from the Navy, and having had a successful sales position in the electronics field, Israel finally began to attend Bible college full time. While there, he gained extensive experience in Jewish evangelism and graduated from Northeastern Bible College in 1980 with a B.A. in Biblical Literature.

Israel and his wife, Judy, joined the staff of Chosen People Ministries in 1978. They began their active ministry in the Metropolitan New York and New Jersey areas. Israel and Judy are now serving in Florida,

one of the fastest growing Jewish population centers in the world.

At a missions conference in Florida recently, Israel met Frank and Mary Lou Barnett's daughter, Becky. Although over forty years had passed and Becky was only ten years old when she had last seen Israel, she recognized him and told Israel of her parents' faithful prayers for him over the years.

Justin and Judy Kron

Justin Kron is a Jewish believer with a focused vision. During a difficult time, Justin's mother, who grew up in a Conservative Jewish home, heard of and embraced the Messiah. A few years later, on Mother's Day, the same Christian man who had befriended and led Justin's mother to faith also led Justin to receive the Lord. Justin's gratitude has helped fuel a determination to inspire Christians to reach out to Jewish people with the same Good News that transformed his own life.



Justin began serving with Chosen People Ministries in 1998 and has developed the Mission's network of relationships with Christian organizations, campus ministries and churches. Justin's particular passion is to reconnect Christians with the Jewish roots and heritage of their faith, so that they will become better equipped and involved in sharing the Messiah with the Jewish people—particularly the young people in this post-modern generation.

One of Justin's most inspiring projects is to lead Chosen People Ministries' "eXperience Israel." This short-term ministry trip to Israel is geared specifically for young adults. It combines evangelistic outreach opportunities in partnership with already existing ministries in the Land, with an insider's look at "Israel Through Jewish Eyes."

Justin, his wife Judy and their daughter Mackenzie, live in Chicago, where he is working on his Master of Divinity degree at the Moody Graduate School. Judy was until recently the Director of Marketing for WMBI Radio (Moody Broadcasting Network). They are members at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois, and are involved in leading married couples in the church's next generation ministry.

"It is the cry of my heart," says Justin, "for Jewish and Gentile believers to love, support, and understand one another as well as partner and work together for the sake of advancing God's Kingdom throughout the world."

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

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



The “Beginning of Sorrows” – The Six Seals of Judgment in Revelation 6:1-17

The Book of Revelation has a clearly discernable structure. In chapter 6 through chapter 19 verse 6, we note three cycles: seven seals (6:1-8:5), seven trumpets (8:6-11:19) and seven bowls (15:1-19:6). Between the sixth and seventh seals and the trumpet judgments, there is a prophetic insert or parenthesis.

A remarkable similarity exists between the progress of the seal judgments in Revelation 6 and our Lord’s description of the end of the age in Matthew 24:4-31. The order of events in both Scripture passages is: a) War, b) Famine, c) Death, d) Martyrdom, and e) Sun and Moon darkened. Obviously, Matthew 24 presents a miniature outline of Revelation 6-19.

The divine judgments of Revelation 6 begin a seven-year period synonymous with Daniel’s 70th Week (Dan. 9:24-27). It is also known as “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7) as well as “the time of the Gentiles” (Eze. 30:3) and the “Great Tribulation” (Matt. 24:21).

The First Seal – a White Horse of Conquest (Rev. 6:1,2)

The horsemen presented in Revelation 6 are not persons, but rather

personifications. The first rider carries a bow, but no arrow is mentioned, suggesting conquest without warfare. If he is “conquest personified,” the white color hints at the peaceful promises of a powerful military presence. Here is great delusion—no doubt generated by Satanic forces (2 Thess. 2:9,10; Jn. 5:43).

The Second Seal – a Fiery Red Horse of War (Rev. 6:3,4)

The time of peace is brief and illusionary. Now the “blood red horse” is sent by the Lamb to remove peace from the earth. The intensity of Tribulation judgments suggests worldwide involvement.

The Third Seal – a Black Horse of Famine (Rev. 6:5,6)

This rider symbolizes the extreme poverty of the last days. In New

Testament times, the denarius was a sufficient day’s pay to support a family. But with severe inflation in Tribulation times, the same pay will scarcely provide for one individual.

The Fourth Seal – a Pale Horse of Death and Hades (Rev. 6:7,8)

Death is linked with the body and Hades with the soul of man. By means of warfare and famine, more than one quarter of the earth perishes. This would represent the greatest destruction of human life ever recorded in history.

The Fifth Seal – Religious Persecution and Martyrdom (Rev. 6:9-11)

This first group of Jewish martyrs (witnesses) is also referred to in Matthew 24:9. They are slain because of their faithful testimony and fearless preaching. These martyrs will experience a glorious bodily resurrection after the Tribulation (Rev. 20:4-6).

The Sixth Seal – The Greatest Earthquake (Rev. 6:12-17)

Every island and every mountain is moved, so that the surface of the earth will need to be remapped. In addition, the greatest cosmic disturbances up to that time take place (Rev. 6:13,14).

No Hope Except in Messiah

The result of the six seals of judgment is that men pray to the mountains and rocks: “...Fall on us and hide us from the...wrath of the Lamb!” (Rev. 6:16).

However, Jesus promised that “...he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment...” (Jn. 5:24).

Isn’t it wonderful to know we have a Messiah who cares for us and will bring us through whatever trials we may face? ✨

L'CHAIM (TO LIFE) – WITH MESSIAH

Madeline Goldberg, the wife of Chosen People Ministries' Dr. Dan Goldberg, is a dedicated evangelist for Messiah. While meeting with an Orthodox Israeli woman, Madeline introduced her to the "L'Chaim" ("To Life") tract. Nora* soon began making comments like, "This makes sense!" When they reached the last page, which contains a prayer to trust Messiah Jesus, Nora prayed that prayer. She immediately experienced the inner joy and peace that come from knowing Messiah. Now, Nora needs continued prayer, for she is encountering opposition from two Orthodox rabbis in her immediate family with whom she has already begun to share the Lord.

JEWISH LAWYER COMES TO FAITH

Chosen People Ministries' Henry Matarrita, who ministers in Hawaii, was recently asked by a local church to meet Micah,* a Jewish man who was searching for life's meaning. Micah is a lawyer who has been through much during his 65 years. Now a widower, he had come to the end of his rope. As Henry spoke with him, he could see that Micah was convinced of the reality of Jesus the Messiah. After more discussion, Micah made the final decision to surrender his heart to the Lord. He and Henry have been meeting weekly for discipleship, and Henry reports that Micah is quickly growing in faith.

JEWISH WOMAN MAKES FAITH DECISION IN MANHATTAN

Some weeks ago, at the Chosen People Ministries Messianic fellowship at our headquarters in Manhattan, staff member Michael Cohen spoke on repentance and healing for Israel (Numbers 21:4-9). Afterwards, a Jewish woman approached Michael to talk about receiving Jesus as her Messiah. She was reluctant to make the decision because of the changes that she would need to make in her life. She also feared the religious and cultural difficulties that most Jewish people face when making a decision for Jesus. However, after hearing from the Scriptures and several testimonies from those in attendance, she prayed to receive the Lord! Please pray for her as she begins her life as a follower of Messiah.

HERE FOR A PURPOSE!

Although hundreds of thousands of Jewish people have migrated from Ukraine in the past decade or so, there are about 550,000 Jewish people still there who need to be reached. Chosen People Ministries' Alex Dukhno recently helped organize a youth camp, called "Here for a Purpose," that turned out to be a great blessing for the teenagers with whom he was working. Alex reports that they came away with memorable experiences, new friends and a strong motivation to organize the youth ministry in the congregation that he helps lead. While at camp, one of the girls opened her heart to the Lord. Tasha,* who was invited at the very last moment, is the daughter of a contact made through Alex's wife, Anna. Tasha made her decision at camp, and now we pray that the whole family would follow her in the faith.

IF ONLY THAT CURTAIN COULD TALK

Lawrence and Louise Hirsch, who head Chosen People Ministries' Australia affiliate, "Celebrate Messiah," recently



returned from Helsinki, Finland where they attended the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism's Seventh International Conference. On a day off, they took a ferry to Estonia, where they walked the old city of Tallin. While browsing an antique shop, Louise discovered an old curtain from an ark (the cabinet that houses the Torah scroll in synagogues). This curtain was probably rescued (or perhaps stolen) from a synagogue in Eastern Europe before World War II. Who knows how long it had languished, a forgotten relic of the past? Now it is in use again at the Messianic congregation Lawrence helps to lead. As Lawrence says, "If only that curtain could talk!"

* Names changed

You, Too, Can See Israel Through Jewish Eyes

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Tours of Israel are scheduled for March 8-18, 2004 and again in October 2004. You will visit a variety of destinations all over Israel. You'll sail with us on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus taught the disciples and quieted the storm. And of course, you'll visit Jerusalem and retrace the steps of Jesus, the Messiah. Call **1-800-459-9402** for a full-color brochure or go to www.chosenpeople.com/tour for a full itinerary.

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Hanukkah Menorah

Hanukkah is a time of celebration! The flickering lights of the nine-branched Hanukkah menorah remind us that God is mighty to save and that Jesus the Messiah is truly the "Light of the World." Now you can own this beautifully crafted Hanukkah menorah, made in Israel, to light in your home as a statement of your faith and hope in Messiah.

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Festivals of Light by Marty Goetz

Though Messianic musician Marty Goetz grew up with the music of Hanukkah, he always enjoyed hearing the songs of Christmas. Now, as a Jewish believer in Yeshua, he loves singing them both. We invite you to celebrate with us these Festivals of Light!

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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)

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