

# THE JERUSALEM MESSIANIC CENTER

2005

*For if their being cast  
away is the reconciling of the  
world, what will their  
acceptance be but life  
from the dead?*

— Romans 11:15

The  
Chosen   
People

Volume XI, Issue 1 February 2005

# Chosen People Ministries in Israel – *Great Opportunity...Rapid Growth*

Is there a nation in this world more important to the work of Chosen People Ministries than Israel? Is there a nation more critical to the unfolding of world events than Israel? Israel is key to our future. Yet, the significance of the nation of Israel goes far beyond earthly concerns. In fact, the



Scriptures declare that Israel—and Jerusalem in particular—is the spiritual center of the world. As the prophet Isaiah promised:

*Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations*

*shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

The day is coming when Jesus will return and Jerusalem will become the capital of His kingdom. In that day, all the blessings promised to Abraham will come to pass, especially in verse 3 of Genesis chapter 12: "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." The nations of the world will be blessed in ways that at this moment are far beyond our ability to consider or describe.

At that time, all the earthly blessings of God will be poured out upon the nations, and Jesus will take His rightful place as the King of Israel and Lord of all nations!

That day will come as surely as He is Lord and died and rose for our sins. And there is no question that Israel and Jerusalem will be in the middle of all He has planned for this world.

But, dear friend, the Israel of today is not the Israel of tomorrow! And without Jesus on the throne, the Jewish people in Israel and around the world will suffer the same condition and fate as non-Jews. Without knowing the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior, both Jews and Gentiles are without hope, without forgiveness of sin, and separated from the One true God who called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees.



*Chosen People Ministries  
President,  
Dr. Mitch Glaser has seen  
tremendous growth in ministry  
over the last three years*

We believe, according to the Scriptures, that there is no hope of eternal life for Jews or Gentiles without Jesus.

**This is the heart of the matter. This is why our ministry to the Jewish people in Israel—rapidly becoming the largest Jewish population center in the world—is so important at this time.**

## **The Challenges of Growth**

Chosen People Ministries' work in Israel has been exploding! This is happening for a number of reasons:

- The influx of hundreds of thousands of Russian Jewish immigrants who have proven to be so open to the Gospel.
- Israel will soon be, if it is not already, the country with the greatest number of Jewish people in the world.
- The continuing *Intifada* and everyday tension of living in fear of one's children getting blown up on a bus or walking to school

has opened the hearts of even the most secular Israelis to their need for God.

The Lord is using your Mission to the Jewish people to reach the Jewish people in Israel. Our staff is increasing in order to meet the challenge of the spiritual openness of Israelis—and our ministry facilities need to grow with them.

When I traveled to Israel this past September, I saw firsthand how cramped our staff members were in our present facility. I realized that we could no longer wait to buy a Ministry Center where our staff can work and the ministry can expand.

The need for space goes far beyond “office work.” We need ministry space for our Bible studies, evangelistic lectures, outreach dinners and other special events—all of which directly touch the lives of Jewish seekers.

We especially need classroom space to train the many Jewish Israelis who have come to faith.

And, as you might imagine, it is not easy for us to rent facilities, as so many of the property owners are Jewish people who disagree with what we do!

*Owning our own property has now become a necessity.*

## An Expanded Facility Means New Ministries

Chosen People Ministries’ short-term mission programs to Israel have also grown. This means we need space to house those who will be serving in Israel on a short-term basis. In addition to eXperience Israel, our already existing two-week mission/tour, we have recently unveiled our new Outreach Israel program—a six-week Israel ministry experience for the younger generation.

These short-term ministries are worth our efforts, for who knows how many souls will be reached through the intensive efforts of these young servants of Messiah? And who knows how many will go on to an even greater commitment to Jewish evangelism in the Promised Land? A Messianic Center, with housing capacity, would greatly enhance our ability to provide service opportunities for them and others who want to work with us.

Though I knew of the need for more space, I went to Israel determined to be patient—for we really did not have the funds to buy a Center at this time.

We reviewed a number of properties, and then discovered a

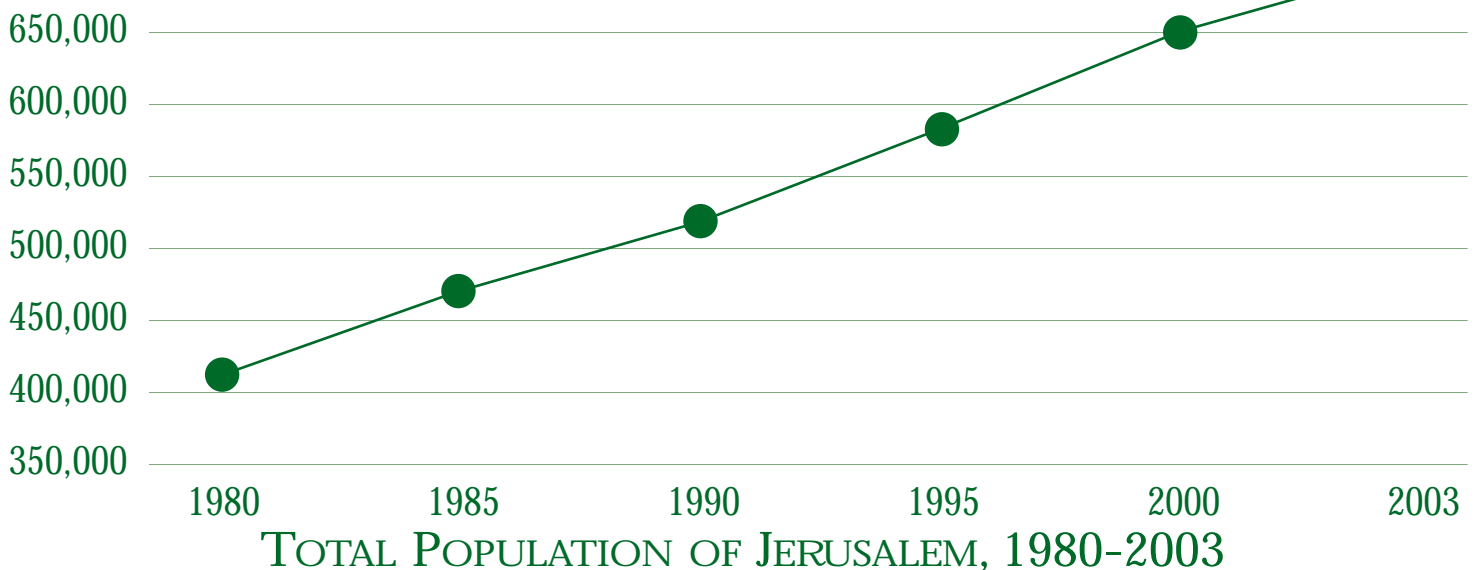


3,500-square-foot building that was not even on our list to see with our real estate agent. We turned a corner in a nice neighborhood in Jerusalem, about 15 minutes from the Old City, and there it was!

The moment we walked in, we knew that this was the place for us! It was perfect for what we needed. It has all the classroom space we require, some rooms for short-term housing, and even a combined living room/dining room area that could seat 100 people for an outreach. It also has a great kitchen to prepare meals for larger groups.

Just think of the possibilities of a Messianic Center that could serve as a magnet for seekers and ministers alike!

I had not seen a space this well proportioned for our needs even for much more money.



# Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad with her, all you who love her. Isaiah 66:10

We began negotiating on the building and settled for a price of \$2,500,000—inclusive of all fees and transfer taxes. It might sound expensive, but considering the real estate market in this location, it is **actually a tremendous bargain**. Jerusalem is much like New York City, and land, especially near the heart of the city, is expensive. But we want to be in the middle of Jerusalem, in order to serve our ministry best and to have a presence within the Jerusalem Jewish community.

We have found this “statement of faith” through our very presence to be true in New York City, as our Headquarters building is in the middle of Manhattan, near the offices of

*Jerusalem has approximately  
456,700 Jewish residents.*

many major Jewish organizations. In some ways, it has changed the way we are viewed by the Jewish community, and we are hoping that this will also happen in Israel.

I also view our Jerusalem Messianic Center as a Messianic Embassy—representing the Lord and His people in God’s Holy City.

I am confident that the Jerusalem Messianic Center will have a great

impact on the Messianic movement within the Land of Israel—both today and in the future (Zechariah 12:8-10).

**We are also hoping to have the funds needed to purchase without debt by the end of Passover—April 30th, 2005.**

## We Are Living Stones!

The purchase of this building is a large undertaking for your mission to the Jewish people. Yet, the unity and generosity of our Board of Directors and the manner in which doors have opened have made us confident that this is, indeed, the Lord’s direction.

Above all, we covet your prayers as we undertake this exciting new phase of Messiah’s ministry in the Promised Land.

I will certainly keep you updated on the progress we are making. Your partnership means more than words can possibly express.

The articles in the rest of this issue of *The Chosen People* will help to flesh out the vision of an expanded work of evangelism in Israel—a vision that is now closer than ever to realization.

Once again, I want to thank you for your prayers and regular financial support. Without you, we could not do this work, especially in Israel. The generosity of the Lord’s people in

North America forms the base of support for almost everything we do in Israel. We are so grateful to God for you!

Would you please pray about giving a sacrificial gift to help us purchase the Jerusalem Messianic Center? This is a time when all of us at Chosen People Ministries are united—with one heart—willing to sacrifice for the Lord’s work in Israel. It is simply that important to our staff—and I know to you too. For it is the heart of the Lord to draw the Jewish people in Israel into the fold of the Good Shepherd.

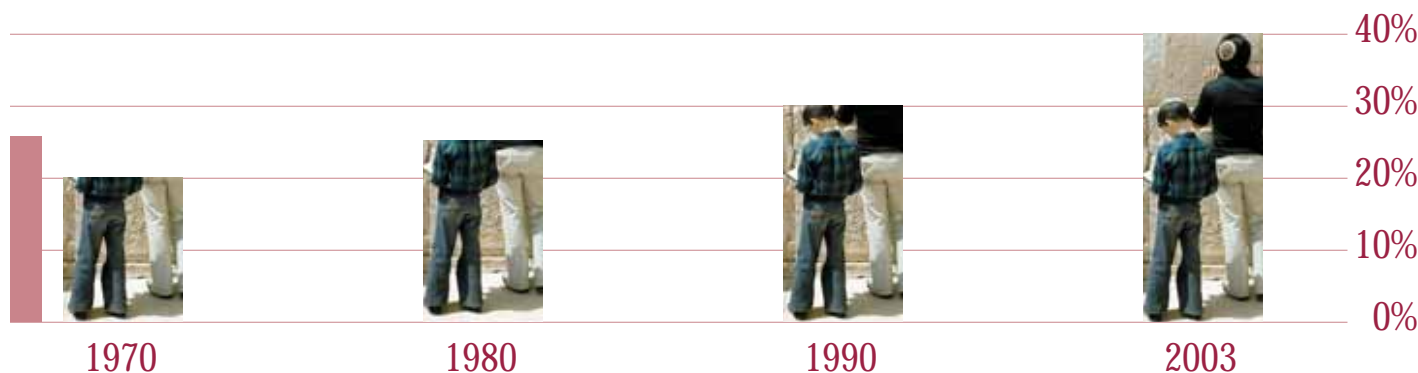
Remember that we will still need your regular support, so please do not allow this incredible opportunity to take away from what you usually give. The only way this Center will be paid for is if we all give sacrificially.

A special card has been placed in the envelope to outline some possible ways for you to give towards the Jerusalem Messianic Center. I hope you enjoy the remainder of the newsletter as we describe the work in Israel and tell you more about the Center.

Your brother in the  
Messianah,



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



POPULATION OF ISRAEL AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE  
WORLD JEWISH POPULATION, 1970-2003

# A Messianic Center in Jerusalem

## *Why Now?*

Chosen People Ministries has always prayed for the Lord's leading in our evangelistic outreach in Israel. Now He has



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answered that prayer as He has blessed our labors with a fruitful harvest. Now we believe that He has opened the doors for a Messianic Center in Jerusalem—the next, bold step in establishing and extending the presence of the Gospel in the Land of Promise.

There are several reasons to indicate that now is the time for such a venture—and taken all together, these “signs of the times” plainly mark our course.

### Israelis Are More Open

Israelis know what it means to live in fear for their very survival. However, for the past four years, during the second *Intifada*, Israel has lived with a pervasive sense of uncertainty because of the violence and unrest there. As a result, great numbers of Israelis are searching for meaning and hope.

In addition to the atmosphere of insecurity, the Russian immigrants are particularly open to the Gospel because of their atheist, Communist upbringing. Having never learned about their Jewish heritage—or about Christianity—they are less indoctrinated against the message of the Gospel. Many Chosen People Ministries staff members in Israel are from the former Soviet Union and relate quite well to the questions that many of these immigrant seekers raise, having traveled down the selfsame road to faith.

### Training New Leaders

Each new decision for Messiah is an occasion for great rejoicing! Yet, this decision is the first of many steps in the discipleship process. This does not happen by itself—it must be carefully nurtured.

New believers need a place to meet for discipleship and fellowship. Potential leaders need classroom space for theological training. Bible studies, English classes and congregations all require space in which to meet. And space is just what we are short of, due to the success of our discipleship program! We need expanded facilities—and we need them now!

The Lord has blessed Chosen People Ministries' evangelistic

*Jerusalem is a mere  
45 minutes from  
Tel Aviv, the second largest  
city in Israel.*

outreach in Israel. He has answered our prayers for committed, gifted workers. We now have ten families serving in Israel, but there are even more who would like to go and minister. More space is essential to the growth of our Mission in Israel.

### The Jewish Population Is Growing Rapidly

Why a Messianic Center in Israel now? For the sake of the future!

Israel is already the spiritual and cultural home for the Jewish people worldwide. Within ten years, it will also be the largest population center, with an expected population of over five million Jews by 2014. Anti-Semitism in Europe is increasing, and emigration

*Over one-third of  
Jerusalem's residents are  
under age 15.*

from other regions also continues to climb. Wise stewardship dictates the purchase of a building now. The price of land in Israel will continue to escalate as the population grows. Now is the time to buy property, in preparation for the future.

### The Coming of the Lord Is Near

The time is growing short. As believers who adhere to the claims of Scripture, we know that the Lord is returning again soon. Every day without adequate facilities is another day in which Jewish people go into eternity without knowing their Messiah.

The need is urgent. The door is open. We must not wait. ☆

*Recently, thirteen people were baptized in the Jordan River.*



# Jerusalem *City of Opportunity*

It is impossible to think of biblical history without thinking of Jerusalem. From its first



reference in Joshua 10, until John's view in Revelation 21 of the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, Jerusalem is mentioned over 750 times in Scripture.

But Jerusalem is not only important to the past and to the future. It is important to the present—and vitally so. Jerusalem is more than just a city. It is the center of the Messianic hunger that has fanned

the flames of Jewish spiritual life for centuries. And what more filling food could there be than the Gospel, the Bread of Life? What more fitting place for a Messianic Center to serve God's chosen people?

Jerusalem is also a modern city, pulsing with life. It has approximately 457,000 Jewish residents—one third of whom are under the age of 15. Moreover, Jerusalem is a mere 45 minutes from Tel Aviv, the second largest city in Israel, where Chosen People Ministries already has a well-established congregation and outreach. The potential for a Messianic Center to encourage and nurture evangelistic ministry throughout Israel is staggering.

## Many Uses – One Unified Vision

The Jerusalem Messianic Center will serve as a hub for the activities of Chosen People Ministries in Israel, including evangelism, discipleship, church planting and leadership training. The facility will fulfill this vision in three ways.

First of all, it will serve as a center for evangelism. The building's large main hall offers ample space for outreach events, including worship services, banquets, lectures, and film screenings. It also has classrooms for Bible teaching, evangelistic English

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classes and classes on various theological topics. Its community room will offer visitors Christian hospitality in a non-threatening atmosphere as they sip coffee, enjoy snacks, access the Internet, read the newspaper, and chat with a staff member in a comfortable, public space. The Center will house a free lending library stocked with Messianic books, magazines, tapes and videos.

The Messianic Center will also be an evangelistic training center for Chosen People Ministries' staff and other Christian workers. This will be a boon not only to local missionary work, but also other indigenous evangelists who will be able to study and stay at the Center, receiving ministry training from Israeli leaders and foreign professors. Prayer, study and fellowship with

*continued on back page*



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# Our Israel Ministry

Since the mission was founded in 1894 by Rabbi Leopold Cohn, Chosen People Ministries has expanded to other countries around the world including



Argentina, Australia, Canada, France Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Mexico, the Ukraine, Moldova, and Russia.

We have maintained a strong presence in the United States. Our staff of over 100 people work in regions that together are home to over 14 million Jewish people, a full 96% of the world's Jewish population.

Our ministry is committed to finding and nurturing indigenous leaders in the nations it serves. Neriayah is one such leader. A Russian Jewish immigrant to Israel, Neriayah found the Messiah through our congregation in Tel Aviv. Neriayah has a unique ministry to his people, the Bukharan Jews, as well as to young Israelis. Neriayah is an invaluable part of our work in Israel.

We have founded two thriving Russian-speaking congregations in Israel: one in Ariel, the other in Tel Aviv.

We are also planting a Hebrew-speaking congregation in Jerusalem, a key component in increasing our visibility and validity among the native Israeli population.

We also recently started an inter-congregational youth program, allowing teens from the Messianic community to fellowship in greater numbers. Native Israeli youth are more open to the Gospel than ever because of the very secular, pluralist mentality that pervades Israeli society. A thriving youth group will prove to be crucial to future Israeli evangelism. ✧



Michael and his wife, Natalie, are Russian Jewish Believers in Jesus. Michael has a Masters degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

*My vision is for a Messianic Center in Jerusalem. I believe God has shown me clearly what He wants us to accomplish under the umbrella of such a place. It would be an evangelism and church planting center to meet the spiritual needs of Israelis, with training programs for local believers and volunteers from overseas. It could also host distinguished speakers for conferences that will help the Church in Israel grow to maturity. We would publish Christian literature in Hebrew and Russian, and a prayer center would also be an integral part of this ministry.*

*I firmly believe that all of this can come to pass with the dimension of faith. Our forefathers left everything behind. By trusting the Lord, they entered their once and forever promised future. Proclaiming the Gospel in Jerusalem is the same kind of journey for our ministry in Israel.*

— Michael Z., Director of our Israel Branch



*I am running two home groups, one is for believers and another for seekers. Each time, more and more people are coming to study the Bible, and my home is getting smaller.*

*Please pray, for I want to move the group to a bigger place.*

— Maxim,  
Missionary in Jerusalem  
and Russian Jewish  
Believer in Jesus

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Jerusalem, City of Opportunity  
*continued from page 6*

co-workers will create strong and fruitful bonds in the Lord's vineyard.

## A Beacon of Light for Messiah's Ministry

The Jerusalem Messianic Center will serve as Chosen People Ministries' Israel headquarters, coordinating and encouraging our workers as they continue to spread the light of the Gospel. The Center will also provide a home for the

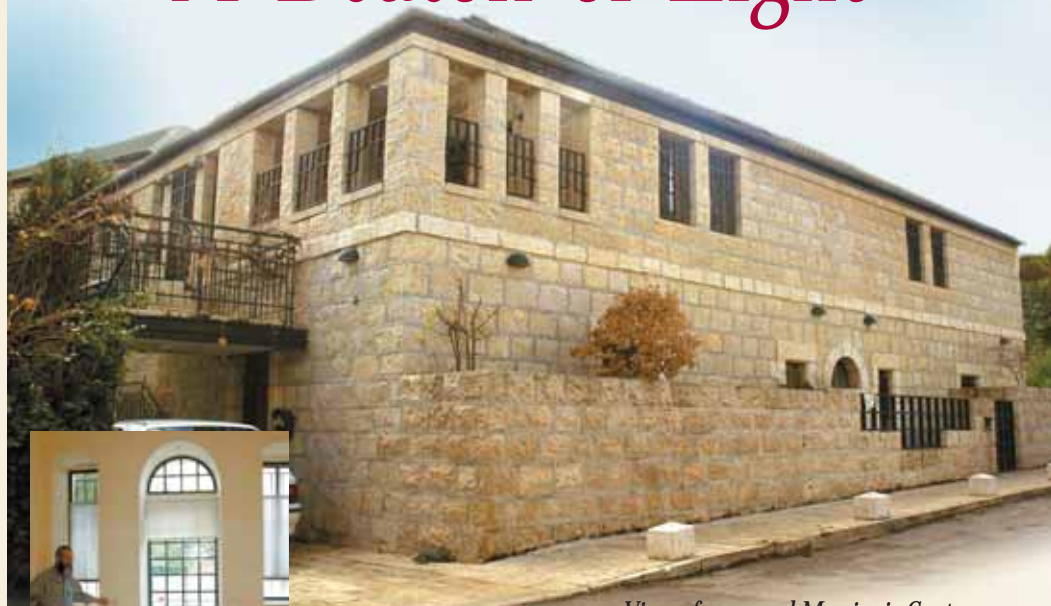


*Outdoor ministry space*

growing ministry of our Israel publications. Demand for Chosen People Ministries' evangelistic Russian magazine, *My Jerusalem*, is growing rapidly, and more adequate offices are needed to continue to produce this significant evangelistic tool. Also, as our Israel national headquarters, this building will be a working "home away from home" for our permanent and short-term missionaries in Israel, providing them with the administrative support they need.

All together, the impact that the Jerusalem Messianic Center will have on Chosen People Ministries' Israel outreach will be vast. Like a beacon, it will shed light both near and far, for Messiah's glory. ✨

# The Jerusalem Messianic Center *A Beacon of Light*



*View of proposed Messianic Center*



*Ample reception space*

The Jerusalem Messianic Center will serve as a hub for the activities of Chosen People Ministries in Israel, including evangelism, discipleship, church planting and leadership training.

- 3,500 square feet
- Reasonably priced
- Two floors
- A basement
- Outdoor ministry space
- Rooms for offices, housing for 14 people, and public spaces
- Little renovation needed
- Made out of Jerusalem stone
- Located in Central Jerusalem
- Within walking distance of the Wailing Wall
- Free-standing house, shares a lot with two other houses, allowing the future possibility of expansion
- Within the capital city not only of Israel and Judaism, but also of Christianity and Islam; a truly significant location



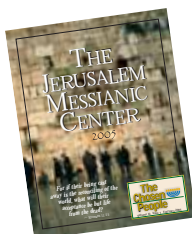
## The Chosen People Newsletter

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

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*The Chosen People* newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. For more information, or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to: Chosen People Ministries, International Headquarters, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. In Canada, write to: Box 897 Station B, North York, ON, M2K 2R1. In Great Britain, write to: PO Box 350, Market Drayton, TF9 3ZP, United Kingdom. In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah, PO Box 5006, Glenferrie, South VIC 3122 ([www.celebratemesiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemesiah.com.au)). Editor: Zhava Glaser; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Design: Lois Gable. ©2005 Chosen People Ministries.



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