

# The Chosen People



Volume X, Issue 6 July 2004

# It's Never Too Late



**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

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Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from New York City. This is an especially difficult article for me to write, but I feel I must! My mother died on April 15 of this year and I deeply miss her. Perhaps you have experienced the loss of a parent, child, spouse, mom or dad and know how I feel. Grief is the natural response of a loving heart to loss.

As believers, of course, we have the added concern about the eternal fate of a loved one. If our loved ones were believers we can rejoice—even as we grieve—knowing they have passed into the presence of the Lord.

For those who have no indication that their loved one received Jesus, well, that produces a different kind of pain. This is the usual experience of Messianic Jews, as most of us are the only believers in our families. Indeed, many believers—Jewish or not—are burdened for loved ones who have not yet committed their lives to the Lord.

It is for you that I feel compelled to write! I hope that a few of the lessons and experiences God gave me during the last six months will be helpful to you.

### **How Does God Answer Prayer?**

We know that God answers prayer, but sometimes we do not fully grasp how He does it! My mom was a wonderful woman and, though she was not an especially religious Jew, she was “very Jewish.” We always celebrated the holidays, and she raised me to love my heritage and my people. My mom was not an atheist, but her relationship with God was not very important to her.

Although many believers prayed for her healing from colon cancer and for her salvation, she was not open to hearing about Jesus. Most of my thirty-plus years as a believer were spent trying to share the Gospel with my mom, but she rarely gave



# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE... TO RECEIVE THE LORD





me the opportunity. She did see Zhava's and my lives and knew that we were still Jewish—and that we were believers in Jesus as Messiah. But, although she was not “anti-Christian,” she, along with most of my family and so many other Jewish people, lived *a world apart* from their Christian neighbors and friends.

Prayer was the only route I had to help my mom to come to faith. I could not speak to my mom about her Messiah, so I spent many hours in prayer and asked hundreds of others to speak to the Messiah about my mom.

Our prayers were certainly answered. I am a witness to this, because I know that God gave her every opportunity to accept the Gospel. Wouldn't you agree, as painful as it might be, that in the end, the decision to receive the Messiah is between the individual and God? When a person does not accept the Messiah—does it mean that God failed to answer prayer? I don't think so.

Whatever your theological viewpoint might be, the relationship between the will of man and the will of God is a mystery. We know from Scripture that whatever God decides behind the curtain of time regarding the eternal destiny of an individual is for Him alone to know (Deuteronomy 29:29). We also know from Scripture that every man and woman must make a personal decision of faith to receive what God has done for him or her through the Messiah Jesus.

God also sometimes answers prayers in unusual ways. This is the only explanation I can give for my mom having the company of a born-again home health care worker for the last months of her life. This woman who attended to my mom each day was hired through a regular health care service, but God knew exactly which person to send...in answer to all of our prayers! Dominique loves the Lord and prayed for my mom, and I know that

she told her about the Lord whenever the moment seemed appropriate.

Did my mother come to faith in Messiah? That is something I will not know for certain until heaven. But I know that I serve a good, faithful, all-powerful God.

## The End of the Story

May I share with you a portion of a note I passed along to our staff just after my mom died? It will give you the “rest of the story” and help you see that it is never too late for anyone, Jew or Gentile, to come to the Lord.

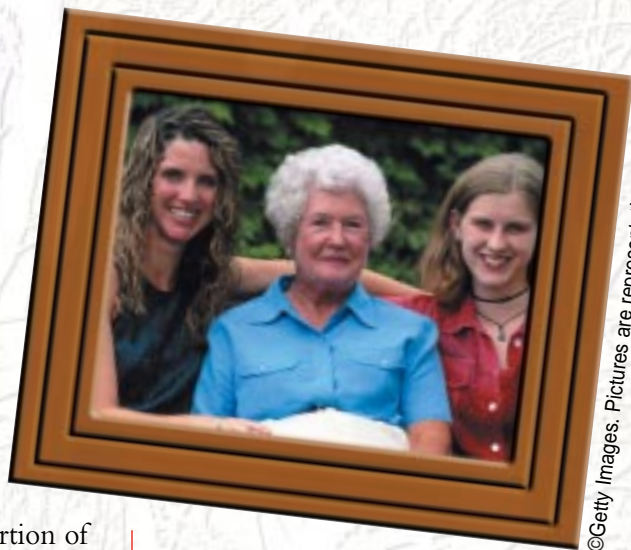
Dear staff family,

*My mom passed away yesterday after a long battle with colon cancer. She was a first-class lady and I loved her very much. I wish you all could have known her!*

*I know you have been praying, and I wanted to share with you some specific answers to prayer that took place as the end came closer. In the middle of the night—a few days before she passed—my mom cried out, “Oh God!” I asked, “Oh God what, mom?” She said it again: “Oh God!”*

*This was unusual, as it came at a moment when she could barely speak, and had not said more than a word all day. I then told my mom that it was important for her to make sure her heart was right with God.*

*My mom looked intently at me and then asked, “Does it really make a difference how?” I told her that she knew it did make a difference how she came to God and that she needed to remember what I had told her and make*



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*peace with God. I could not say much more in sensitivity to my sister, who was in the hospital room with me.*

*I then prayed with her and read her a series of Psalms. She seemed to be at peace and actually closed her eyes for the first time in days. Even my sister, who watched this happen, said, “That was powerful.”*

## Resting in His Peace

I am willing to live with some degree of uncertainty. I know that God loved my mother and was there to receive her if she did in fact call upon Him. I also believe He gave my mom every opportunity to know Him. I am at peace and know that the Lord is faithful and reveals Himself to those who call upon Him, for as Paul wrote, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Thanks for your prayers for my mom and for the many Jewish people we all love and with whom we share the message of eternal life. I want to encourage you never to stop praying for your loved ones.

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



# My Orthodox Grandpa

by Nikki H.

Because of family circumstances, my grandparents helped raise me and were like second parents. They were Orthodox Jews, so every morning and evening, grandpa went to *shul* (synagogue) to pray, and they sent me to a *Yeshiva* (Jewish religious school) and to Hebrew school. I remember in the second grade telling my grandparents that I made a vow to God that I would never worship an idol (of course in my mind at the time, that meant the “Christian gods”). I grew up hearing stories of how my grandparents’ seven brothers and sisters and parents all died in concentration camps. I was told the Nazis who murdered them wore on their belt buckles the words, “For the Glory of Christ.” After coming to know the Lord, I could barely talk about my grandparents with anyone without breaking down in tears. I loved them so much, and I could not see how they could ever come to know their Messiah.

My grandpa had a vague sense of what I believed, because over the years, we had many discussions about prophecy and the Scriptures; but every time I tried to actually share the Gospel with him, I would be thwarted by my grandmother or another relative (all of whom were certain that “it would be the death of him”). When my grandfather became ill and went into a nursing home, I felt compelled to go to Florida to try again to share the Gospel with him. Everyone in my family had threatened to disown me if I dared to talk to him about God (they meant Jesus). I must admit I, too, secretly feared that in his state now, if

## Ministering Messiah to the Terminally Ill

Jewish believers whose loved ones are near death and do not yet know the Lord are burdened with the overriding concern for their salvation. The following points are offered for those who are ministering to the dying.



✧ **Be prayerful.** Ask your congregation to pray for the right opportunity for you to share the right words, openness of heart and clarity of mind, spiritual protection, and the presence of the Spirit.

✧ **Be wise.** Anxiety may cause family members to lash out at you if you are the lone believer. Try to avoid confrontations. Look for opportunities when you can spend time alone with the sick person.

✧ **Be sensitive.** When the person with whom you wish to share the Gospel is alert and responsive, practice the discipline of “active listening.” Use physical contact when it is appropriate—sometimes, a gentle touch can convey what words cannot.

✧ **Be simple.** Always bring the conversation back to our need to receive the Messiah and the Good News. Ask if the person would like to pray with you—to receive Messiah or even to pray to know the truth.

✧ **Be at peace.** You may or may not know the outcome of your efforts, but you may be certain that God is trustworthy and true.

I shared my faith, I could easily give him a heart attack.

In addition to the family and health concerns, I had another obstacle: Grandpa was hard of hearing. His nursing home was all Jewish, so in the past, when I had attempted to tell him that Jesus was the Messiah, I had to yell very loudly to be heard, and heads would turn in horror as I shouted “GRANDPA, JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!!” Despite all of this, I knew now that he was close to death and I had to make sure that he understood clearly...so off I went. Friends in my home church prayed for me.

Each of the five days I went to visit him, I shared one step of God’s plan. Though my family said he was not always lucid, every day that I showed up, my grandfather remembered with crystal clarity what I had shared with him the day before.

For the first three days, I did not mention Jesus, but explained God’s plan for relationship with us through sacrificial atonement. Finally, on the fourth day, I told Grandpa that this atonement would come through the Messiah. The next day I would tell him who the Messiah was.

The day came and this time I wheeled him into a private room. I asked him if he remembered what I was going to tell him that day.

**“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”**

*(James 5:16)*

“Yes,” he said. “You’re going to tell me who Messiah is. So, who is he?”

I explained that it was Yeshua (Jesus) and began to go through Isaiah 53. As I spoke, my Grandpa’s head began to nod off as though he was having a heart attack. I thought now I had really “done it.” I had killed my grandpa by telling him about Jesus. I prayed quietly and suddenly he looked up and began to argue with me (a good sign as to his lucidity, since I would have been a



bit suspicious if he had just complied with what I said). He wanted to know why, if Yeshua was the Messiah, he was sick. Why was there war? Why did the Prince of Peace not bring peace? I explained that the Messiah came first to bring peace in our hearts and was coming again to bring peace on earth.

We had a great discussion that culminated with my asking Grandpa if I could say a prayer for him and ask God to reveal to him if indeed Yeshua (Jesus) was the Messiah.

Instead of my saying a prayer, my grandpa suddenly began to pray out loud all by himself. "God," he said, "If this is true then I want to know. I want to know this Messiah Yeshua, as *Bruchah* (my Hebrew name) described."

Tears began to flow down his eyes. He looked up at me and said. "Bruchah, you're beautiful. Thank you."

Grandpa died three weeks later. Before his passing my mother had asked Grandpa if he remembered my visit that day. "Of course," he said. When she asked him what we discussed, he replied, "We discussed 'heavenly things.'"

I believe I will see my Grandpa in heaven. ✨

## Yielding to Messiah

Rich Freeman, a Jewish believer in Messiah, came to faith in 1983 through the witness of his wife, Julia. When he told his father, Wally, about his faith decision, Wally was aghast. Born and raised in a secular Jewish home, Wally nonetheless had strong cultural connections with his Jewish heritage and culture. Serving in the Navy in World War II, Wally had also experienced anti-Semitism first hand. He could well remember sailors who called him "Christ-killer" and said, "The Germans are doing us a favor."

Although not a religious man himself, he was nonetheless dead set against Rich's decision to align himself with what he considered to be the enemies of the Jewish people. Still, father and son remained close. He and Rich's wife, Julia, had an excellent relationship, and Wally took pleasure in his grandchildren. Throughout the years, Rich witnessed to his father many times.

In 1986, Wally was diagnosed with terminal cancer and fought the ravages of his disease bravely. Rich continued to share the Gospel with him, and throughout his illness, staff members from Chosen People Ministries assisted him in a number of meaningful ways and also shared their faith with him.

Wally confounded his doctors by outliving their original prognosis. Rich recalls that at one point when the doctors were puzzled by an unexpected remission of the disease, they told him, "You must be praying people."

In 1989, Wally's condition deteriorated and those close to him



knew he was dying. Toward the end of his life, Wally called Rich with an urgent request for a visit. When Rich arrived at the hospital, Wally said, "I had a dream. I dreamed you were right." While in Beth Israel hospital in Manhattan, Wally saw a vision of

**"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable."**

*(Psalm 143:3)*

Rich. He told Rich, "I knew it wasn't you, but you told me that your way 'wins.'"

"Do you believe it?" Rich asked. Wally smiled and said, "Yes." Soon after, he fell into a coma.

As the end drew near, Wally began to struggle. As Rich leaned over him, he whispered, "Dad, Yeshua the Messiah is waiting for you. Rest now." Wally stopped struggling and died a short time later.

The weekend before Wally died, Rich's mother, Rita, also came to faith. While visiting at a service where Rich was preaching at Light of Israel Messianic Congregation in Yonkers, New York, Rita received the Lord. Shortly before he passed away, Wally was told of Rita's decision and died peacefully in the Lord. ✨





# See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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

## THREE MID-TRIBULATION TESTIMONIES (Revelation 10 & 11)



Chapters 10 and 11 of the Book of Revelation represent the middle of the Book as well as the mid-point of the Tribulation (Revelation 11:2,3). We note that the second half of the time period is represented as 42 months (11:2) or 1,260 days (11:3). These two chapters contain three testimonies. We invite you to read them carefully.

### **The Testimony of Two Angels**

Two angels testify in Revelation 10:1-11:3. The first is the Mighty Angel. The message of the angel to John is that he must first “eat” (assimilate) God’s Word before he can propagate it (10:8-11). God’s Word is both bitter and sweet. It contains sweet promises and assurances, but there are also warnings and judgments.

The Seventh Angel (10:4,7) testifies, “...the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets”

(Revelation 10:7). When the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, the end of the seven-year tribulation ushers in the kingdom of God upon the earth (Daniel 2:44,45; Revelation 11:15).

### **The Testimony of God’s Written Word**

As a devout student, John always had his pen in hand. In addition to the Revelation, we have his Gospel and three letters. Like Daniel, John was told to seal (close) his revelation until the end times (Daniel 12:9). We are not told why God prohibited John to write the seven thunders, the only sealed portion of Revelation (10:4).

All the prophets of God realized the importance of leaving for us a true written record (Joshua 1:8). The message of God’s written Word has penetrated the hearts of individuals and nations, sometimes apart from a spoken

voice. The Temple ark in heaven contains the written New Covenant of Yeshua (Revelation 11:19).

### **The Testimony of Two Special Witnesses**

Two special witnesses begin their ministry while the tribulation Temple is still standing (Revelation 11:2). John measures the temple apart from the outer court of the Gentiles for “...they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months” (Revelation 11:2; Luke 21:24).

Similar to the Temple defilement (168 BC) of Antiochus Epiphanes, Antichrist will invade the Temple and commit the great abomination that will bring about the desolation of Jerusalem (II Thessalonians 2:3,4; Daniel 9:27).

The only light of testimony remaining will be reflected by the “two lampstands” or special witnesses of the great Tribulation time (Zechariah 4:2,3; Revelation 11:4). Revelation 12:6 suggests that their identity is that of Moses and Elijah. Their ministry is to prophesy for three and one-half years (Revelation 11:3), and it will take a supernatural resurrection to continue their witness after their martyrdom (Revelation 11:7-11). Immediately after their ascension to heaven, the seventh angel sounds the trumpet (Revelation 11:15), and the kingdoms of this world are turned over to Jesus the Messiah.

### **Trustworthy Testimony**

Unfortunately, the majority of men refuse to believe, even though two special witnesses return from the dead. This is a truth to which our Lord testified: “But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead’” (Luke 16:31).

The Gospel calls forth belief; and refusal to believe carries consequences, even as true faith in Messiah brings the gift of eternal life. ✨

**MINISTRY IN MONTREAL –  
THE GOSPEL IN ACTION**

Jackie and Deborah, two ladies from Chosen People Ministries' outreach in Montreal, took Sabbath dinner to a sick friend at a Jewish hospital. In the next bed was an Israeli man, Isaac,\* whose wife, Rivka,\* and son watched as they lit the candles, said the prayers and sang Hebrew songs. They were overwhelmed at seeing a Jew and Gentile worshipping the God of Israel together. Jackie then helped take care of Isaac, and he asked her to tell him about the Messiah. Later, Deborah went to Rivka's birthday party and played guitar and sang songs about Yeshua (Jesus). Later that evening, Jackie shared that Isaac had received the Lord that afternoon.

**“WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK?”**

Neriyah A., one of our gifted staff members in Israel, reports that seven people from Chosen People Ministries' congregation recently followed the Lord in baptism at a combined service at the Sea of Galilee. More than ten other Messianic congregations in Israel participated, totaling about 2,000 people. Neriyah also writes that the mother of a deacon in the congregation, who was visiting Israel at the time, joined them so that she could “see the lake.” However, she was so touched by the worship service that she fell on her knees to receive Jesus. As she prayed with them, Neriyah asked her, “What holds you back from being baptized now?” She said, “Nothing,” and they baptized her with great joy.

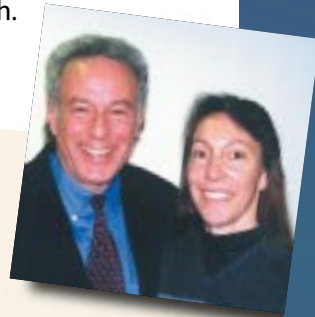
**PRAYER ALERT – CHOSEN PEOPLE  
MINISTRIES' OFFICE IN TEL AVIV  
ROBBED**

Israel director Michael Z. reports that the Mission's office in Tel Aviv was recently broken into and robbed. Among the items stolen were a laser projector, a computer, printer and other office equipment. The overall loss is more than \$3,500. Upon receiving this bad news, the members of the congregation immediately began to pray for the thieves. Michael said, “There was a lot of Messianic

material in the computer. Who knows, maybe those people will learn about the Messiah while using the stolen computer? I know it sounds idealistic, but everything is possible for God.”

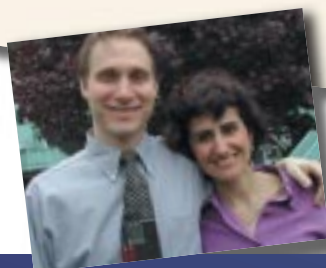
**DOCTOR'S VISIT LEADS TO  
APPOINTMENT WITH MESSIAH**

Staff member Cathy Wilson, who ministers in Scottsdale, Arizona, knows the value of Messianic outreach ministry. It helped bring a secular Jewish doctor from New Jersey to faith in Messiah. Donna, a non-Jewish believer who attends Scottsdale Bible Church, met the doctor in his Phoenix office to schedule a tonsillectomy. When Donna invited Steve to attend a service, his response was, “But I'm Jewish.” Since Scottsdale Bible Church sponsors a Messianic fellowship that Cathy helps lead, Donna was able to persuade Steve to attend. After continued discussion, Steve received the Lord. Since then, Steve has introduced Jesus to his two daughters. Cathy recently met with Steve and Donna, who are most interested in sharing Jesus with Jewish professionals through the Mission's Executive Ministries Outreach.



**NEW YORK CITY WORK IS GROWING!**

Steve Fenchel, who leads Chosen People Ministries' Messianic congregation in New York City, is excited about the growth the congregation is experiencing. He reports, “We are overwhelmed by the people the Lord is bringing to us, and we cannot seem to do enough. We offer two Hebrew classes, a seeker-sensitive study on The Search for Messiah, and a men's discipleship group during the week. Once a month, we hold a Friday evening service to complement our regular, weekly worship service.” Elsewhere in New York, Randall and Luda Ford report that their home Bible study is poised to become a regular congregation. They write, “This is a groundbreaking effort! Although other meetings are available for Russians in our area, there is very little specifically for Bukharan Jews.”



\* Names changed



# See Israel through Jewish Eyes

**October 18-28, 2004**

Hosted by Dr. Ben Alpert & Joel C. Rosenberg

*When is a good time to visit Israel?*

*The answer is "Now!" There is no*

*better time to see the land of the*

*patriarchs and the Messiah! Make your*

*plans now to join veteran Israel guide and gifted Bible*

*teacher Dr. Ben Alpert, and renowned author Joel*

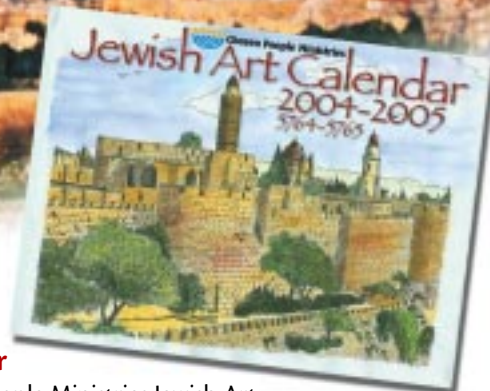
*Rosenberg, October 18-28. Make this the year that you*

*walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles.*

Dr. Ben Alpert, who has escorted over 40 tours to Israel, will teach on our common Judeo-Christian heritage and the Messianic traditions of the day among Jewish believers in the time of Jesus.

*New York Times* best-selling writer, Joel C. Rosenberg, the author of *The Last Jihad* and *The Last Days*, will be your tour co-host. Mr. Rosenberg has written extensively on Israel and the Middle East and has served as a senior aide to former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Deputy Prime Minister Natan Sharansky. His in-depth knowledge of modern Israel is a richly rewarding complement to the Biblical history that the tour guides cover and the ancient archeological sites that are explored. His field of expertise lends perspective to the special insider briefings on political and military matters by senior Israeli government officials that the "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour offers.

**For more information about our bi-annual "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" tours and a free, full-color brochure, call 1-800-459-9402 or visit [www.chosenpeople.com/tour](http://www.chosenpeople.com/tour).**



## **NEW!! The Jewish Art Calendar**

The Chosen People Ministries Jewish Art Calendar is filled with Messianic prophecies and breathtaking Messianic art. 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. The calendar goes from September 2004 through December 2005.  
calendar 5005 • \$12.95<sup>us</sup> (pre-order; available August 1, 2004)

## **Shofar**

The piercing notes of the Shofar (Ram's Horn) have echoed throughout centuries of Jewish High Holy Day observances. The shofar calls us to prayer and reminds us of the blessed hope of Messiah's arrival. Now you can treasure one of your own. They also make wonderful gifts. Because each Shofar is unique, yours may vary slightly in size and shape from the one shown here. Made in Israel.

shofar 5020 • \$35.95<sup>us</sup>



## **The Jewish New Year Is Coming!**

For orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



### **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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Our Spanish website is [www.pueblolegido.com](http://www.pueblolegido.com). ©2004 Chosen People Ministries.

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