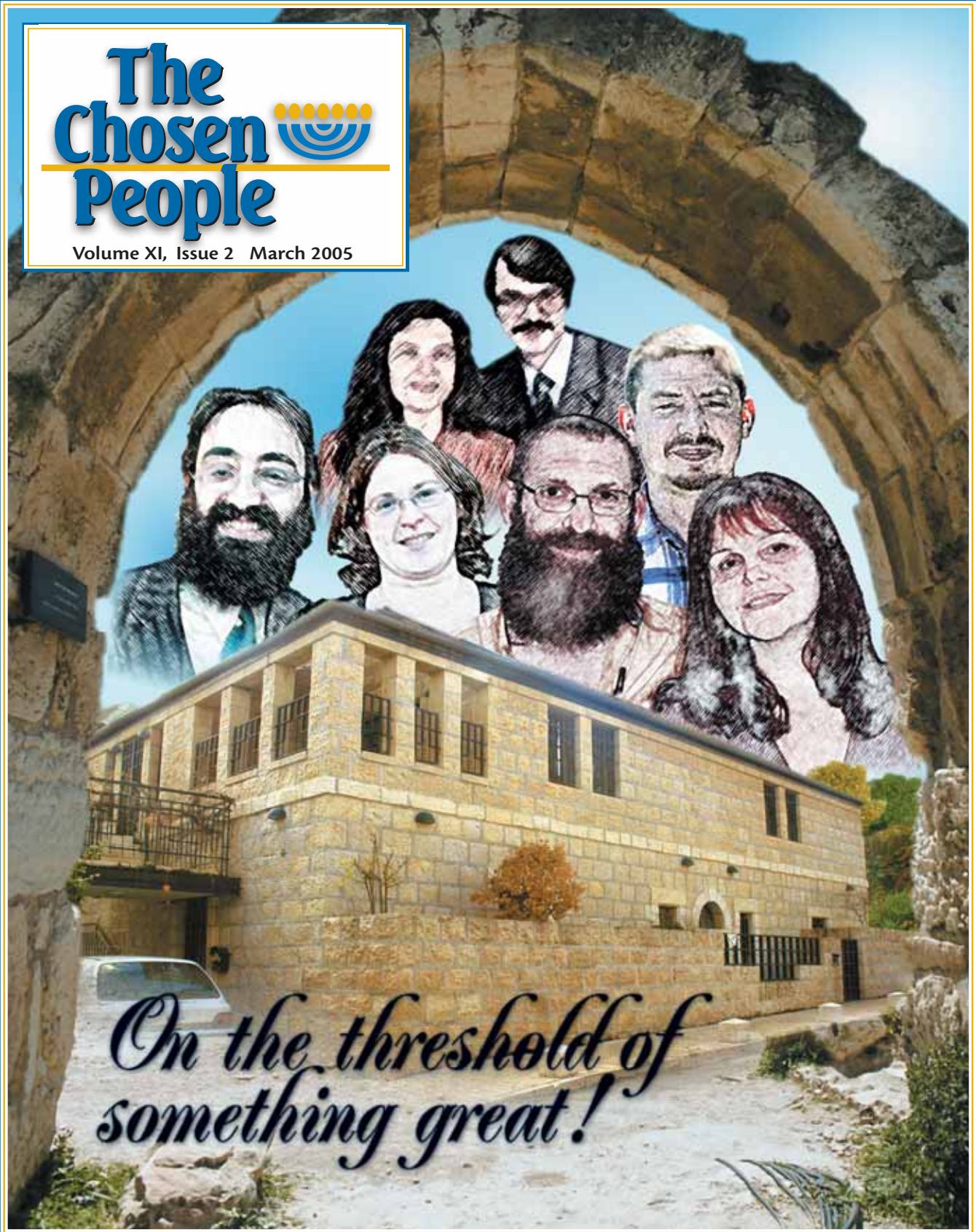


# The Chosen People



Volume XI, Issue 2 March 2005



*On the threshold of something great!*

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

Palm Sunday through Jewish Eyes • Revelation Bible Study •  
Passover and Easter—When and Why • Messianic Center Update

# Why the Palms?

## Palm Sunday – Through Jewish Eyes

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from New York City. We are rapidly approaching one of my favorite seasons of the year—Passover and Resurrection Day (Easter). I love celebrating both of them because they encourage me to focus on the redeeming work of Jesus our Messiah, who died and rose for us.

This year, Easter (March 27) is celebrated before Passover (April 24). I hope our article in this issue clears up some of the reasons for this “chronological confusion” and provides some insights into the relationship of the Jewish people to the Church.

On another note, I would like to share some thoughts on the Triumphal Entry, Palm Sunday. In doing so, I hope we will gain an even greater appreciation for the redeeming work of our Lord Jesus.

### The Last Week of Jesus' Life

Jesus' last week is often called the Passion Week. It was certainly the most significant week of His life from our human perspective, for it includes His death and resurrection, without which neither Jew nor Gentile could be saved.

Also, many Old Testament prophecies involving Jesus' atoning death and resurrection are fulfilled

during the final days of the Messiah's life and ministry. These prophecies demonstrate the necessity for Jesus to fulfill all that was written about Him in the Law, the Prophets and the Writings—the entire Old Testament.

There are three Old Testament passages which especially define the agenda of the Messiah's last week on earth: Isaiah 53, Daniel 9:24-26 and Leviticus 23. These passages describe a perfect Messiah who would die and rise again for the sins of the Jewish people and for all mankind. Isaiah 53 tells us how he would die, Daniel 9 tells us when this would happen and Leviticus 23 predicts the Messiah's ministry and Israel's future as described in the Jewish calendar.

### The Triumphal Entry

The Triumphal Entry is the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem and began His slow march toward death.

*So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the*



*name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:6-9)*

Throughout the centuries, there have been hundreds of speculations about the precise date when this event actually occurred.

Since we know that the timing of the Triumphal Entry is directly related to the observance of Passover, I am suggesting that it occurred on the 10th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan—a significant day in the Hebrew calendar. According to the Old Testament (Exodus 12:3-6), this is the day when the Passover lamb is chosen and set aside for sacrifice on the 14th day (Passover).

During this time, the lamb is set aside and watched, tested and tried in order to make certain of its health and purity. This is particularly important, because Jesus publicly presented Himself this day as the Lamb of God at the Triumphal Entry. During the remainder of the week, He endured fierce temptations, tests and questioning, and even struggled with His appointment at the cross! But He was proven pure, healthy and appropriate for sacrifice, just like the little lamb that was a prophetic type of the Messiah.

Jesus was also presented as the King of Israel at the Triumphal Entry, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9:

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

This helps explain the actions of the multitudes as they broke palm branches before Him. This could very well be a premature celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, as the palm leaves became the traditional "roof" covering for the tabernacles, which the Lord commanded the

Jewish people to build at that time.

*You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths... (Leviticus 23:42)*

According to Zechariah 14, Tabernacles is the festival that will be celebrated by all peoples in the Messianic kingdom. Even in Jewish literature, the Feast of Tabernacles is viewed as a symbol of the inclusion of the Gentiles in the Kingdom of God.

Clearly, the people who lined the streets and greeted Jesus with hosannas believed that He was about to bring in the Messianic kingdom. The masses' expectation of a Messiah King prevented them from recognizing Jesus as the Suffering Servant, the Lamb of God, as they could have.

Passover, the 14th of Nisan, was the proper time for the Savior to reveal Himself as the Lamb to be slain. Likewise, the 10th of Nisan, the day when the pure and spotless lamb was to be publicly revealed and readied for the Passover sacrifice, was the appropriate day for Jesus to reveal Himself as the Lamb to be sacrificed.

### He Still Weeps for Jerusalem

How can we possibly fathom the love of the Savior for His people described in the shortest verse in the New Testament, John 11:3: "Jesus wept"?

Another one of the most moving passages of Scripture is found at the end of Matthew chapter 23, where the Savior says:

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! (Matthew 23:37)*

The Messiah weeps for Jerusalem today as well, and He still wants to gather His chosen people to Himself. This is the desire of our hearts too. For this reason, we have decided to purchase a building for a Messianic Center in Jerusalem. We simply must provide our growing team in Jerusalem and all of Israel with the ministry space they need to be His outstretched arms to the Jewish people.

I pray that God will break your heart for Jerusalem and that you will weep with the Savior and with us for those who need to know His love in Jerusalem. We are ready to do more—so please pray for us that the day will come soon when more and more Israelis and Jewish people across the globe will cry out, "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

And what a glorious day that will be!

Thanks for your prayers and continued love and support.

Your brother in the Messiah,



Mitch



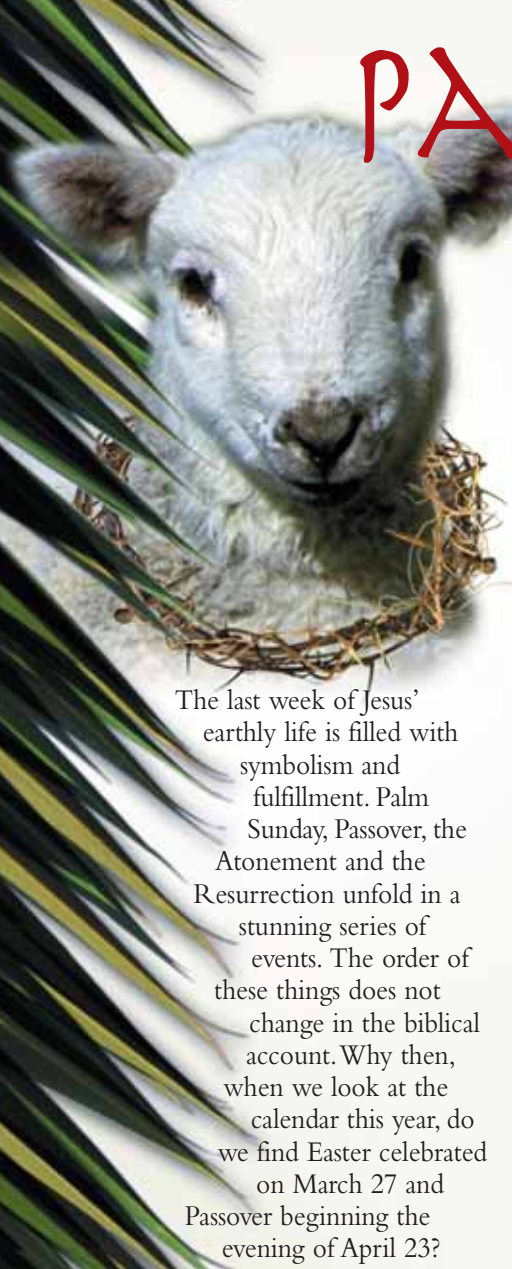
Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

...more about the Jerusalem Messianic Center inside!

# PASSOVER

## and *Easter*

### – WHEN AND WHY?



The last week of Jesus' earthly life is filled with symbolism and fulfillment. Palm Sunday, Passover, the Atonement and the Resurrection unfold in a stunning series of events. The order of these things does not change in the biblical account. Why then, when we look at the calendar this year, do we find Easter celebrated on March 27 and Passover beginning the evening of April 23?

The answer to this question has to do not only with the Jewish and Christian calendars, but also with the uneasy relationship the Church has had with the Jewish people throughout the centuries.

#### Passover and the Calendar

Passover always begins on the same day in the Jewish calendar—the 14th day of the month of Nisan. Why, then, does the date change from year to year on the “regular” calendar? The answer is that the Jewish calendar is lunar, and the Gregorian calendar in common use is solar. Therefore, for Jewish people, each month is measured from new moon to new moon, while a solar year is the amount of time it takes for the earth to complete an orbit around the sun. The lunar and solar years are not the same, so Jewish holidays come on different days and sometimes even different months in the solar calendar.

#### Easter – A “Moveable” Feast

Easter is called a “moveable” feast. This is because, unlike Christmas, for

example, it is celebrated on different dates. Why is this? As we have seen, since the Jewish Passover always begins on the 14th of Nisan, it might come on any day of the month in the solar calendar. However, for centuries it has been decreed that Easter must fall on a Sunday. In 325 AD, the First Council of Nicaea declared that Easter should be celebrated on the next full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. This is because the Jewish month begins with the new moon; therefore the moon is always full at Passover. The vernal equinox this year falls on March 21. Easter, then, is the Sunday following the full moon after March 21.

#### Bridging the Distance

Some early Christians took care to keep Passover and Easter together. To this day, Orthodox Christians always keep Passover ahead of *Pascha*—the Orthodox Christian term for Easter, which is derived from the term for the Passover lamb.

However, for many centuries much of the Church sought to distance itself from its Jewish background. But revived interest in the Jewish roots of the Christian faith has allowed the Church once again to see the Jewishness of the Gospel and the Church's own heritage as the “grafted-in branches” of God's kingdom (Romans 11:17).

What is the next step? It is for the Church to bring Passover and the Resurrection together again—at least in spirit—by continuing to understand her Jewish heritage, and becoming more effective in bringing the Good News to the Jewish people.

#### JEWISH FESTIVALS IN 2005

<i>Purim</i> (Feast of Lots)	Book of Esther	March 25	Purim is a joyful celebration of thanksgiving for Esther's courageous acts and God's faithfulness.
<i>Pesach</i> (Passover)	Leviticus 23:4-8	April 24	Remembers the Exodus from Egypt. A great time to have one of our “Messiah in the Passover” programs.
<i>Shavuot</i> (Feast of Weeks/ Pentecost)	Leviticus 23:9-22	June 13	It celebrates the time of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. From Acts 2:1-41, this holiday is a celebration of the birthday of the Church.
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i> (Feast of Trumpets)	Leviticus 23:23-25	October 4	Celebrates the beginning of the Jewish Civil year. It is both a time of rejoicing as well as a holy occasion (see Nehemiah 8:2, 9-12).
<i>Yom Kippur</i> (Day of Atonement)	Leviticus 23:26-32	October 13	Is the holiest day of the Jewish year. A time to consider Jesus as our atonement.
<i>Sukkot</i> (Feast of Tabernacles /Booths)	Leviticus 23:33-34	October 18-24	Sukkot recalls 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, living in tents (booths) and worshipping in a portable tabernacle; a wonderful harvest holiday.
<i>Hanukkah</i> (Feast of Dedication)	Daniel 8:13-14, John 10:22-23	December 26- January 2	Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in 165 BC, and is mentioned in New Testament (John 10:22).

# Jerusalem Messianic Center Update

If you've ever moved into a new home, then you know what an intense and exciting undertaking it is. You have to arrange meetings, attend to a thousand details, and anticipate the unforeseen. And all the

**BY GOD'S GRACE AND THE  
GENEROSITY OF HIS PEOPLE,  
WE HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED  
50% OF THE FUNDS FOR THIS  
WONDERFUL NEW BUILDING.  
WHAT A TOUCHING AND  
ENCOURAGING CONFIRMATION  
OF THIS BOLD STEP IN OUR  
EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH!  
WE STILL NEED TO RAISE  
ANOTHER \$1.25 MILLION.**

time, you feel the heart-pounding thrill that comes with turning a new page of life.

Chosen People Ministries' staff and supporters are experiencing all of this and more. We can't wait to begin to explore the marvelous opportunities the Lord is presenting through the Jerusalem Messianic Center that we are in the process of acquiring.

We want to fill you in on how things are progressing!

## Preparing a Place for Messiah's Servants

As you may already have heard, the Lord has led Chosen People Ministries to a 3,500-square-foot building right in the center of Jerusalem! It has classroom space, rooms for short-term housing, a great kitchen and a multi-purpose

room for outreach events, lectures and any number of other uses. In short—it's perfect!

At this point, we are moving forward in a number of directions. Staff member Bob Seemar, a marvelous servant of the Lord who has supervised a number of the Mission's construction projects, will be traveling to Jerusalem to do some renovation work.

Also, our Israel Board of Directors will carry out an additional inspection of the facility. In the weeks that follow, we will continue to prepare the building to accommodate the Israel staff and prepare it for the many ministry uses we envision for it.

## Meeting the Need

When we began early this year, our goal was to be able to purchase and prepare this building without debt by April 30—the end of Passover. The amount we need to do this is \$2.5 million.

By God's grace and the generosity of His people, we have so far received 50% of the funds for this wonderful new building. What a touching and encouraging confirmation of this bold step in our evangelistic outreach! But we're not there yet. We still need to raise another \$1.25 million.

We believe we owe it to our friends to be as transparent

as we can be in communicating the need, and we want to take the liberty to suggest some ways you can participate in this awesome project. Would you please pray about giving a sacrificial, "extra" gift above your regular giving to Chosen People Ministries to help us make the purchase of this marvelous facility debt free?

You can use the enclosed card to give a gift today or pledge an amount to the Center to be sent over the next few months.

Another worthwhile way of offering long-term support is to transfer stocks, bonds or real estate to Chosen People Ministries to help fund the Jerusalem Messianic Center. Would you consider it? Perhaps you might ask your church or small group if they would make a special one-time gift or offering.

We would be happy to help you coordinate any gift the Lord leads you to give. Together, we can do this!



# See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



## THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY ANNOUNCED

God knows all things, past, present and future. He therefore must know all future events. We limited humans, trapped in time, can only marvel at His wisdom and His all-knowing greatness.

Over 2,000 years ago, the Apostle John listened to a declaration from God's throne that said, *"It is done!"* (Revelation 16:17). Moreover, Isaiah quotes the Lord saying, *"And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming shall come..."* (Isaiah 44:7).

In Revelation, chapters 15 and 16, two great future events are viewed as fulfilled.

### THE WRATH OF GOD POURED UPON THE EARTH

Seven angels are pouring out the seven last plagues at the end of the great Tribulation period in which *"the wrath of God is complete"*

(Revelation 15:1). These seven last plagues are the fulfillment of Messiah's words in Matthew 24:21, indicating that the world has never witnessed such an outpouring of God's anger. Horrible, malignant sores appear on unbelievers. Waters become as blood, killing all life. The sun scorches all people. The waters of the great Euphrates River dry up to permit Eastern armies to march westward for the battle of Armageddon. History's greatest earthquakes occur and hailstones weighing at least 75 pounds fall from heaven (Revelation 16:1-21).

Isaiah predicted all these plagues when he said: *"In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made, each for himself to worship, to the moles and bats, to go*

*into the clefts of the rocks, and into the crags of the rugged rocks, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily"* (Isaiah 2:20, 21).

### THE JOY OF THE MARTYRS SINGING IN HEAVEN

In Revelation 15:2-4, John views the martyrs of the tribulation who *"...did not love their lives to the death"* (Revelation 12:11). They are singing two special songs. The first one is the song of Moses (Revelation 15:3) recorded in Exodus 15:2, *"The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation..."* Only the 144,000 Jewish martyrs of the tribulation may sing this song. The other song is *"... the song of the Lamb"* (Revelation 15:3b). All the nations can join the singing of this song (Revelation 15:4). The martyrs had previously asked how long it would take to avenge their blood (Revelation 6:10). Now they are singing!

### MESSIAH'S WORDS ON CALVARY

Jesus the Messiah announced, *"It is finished"* (John 19:30) as He commended His earthly life to His Father's care after suffering for humanity's sins. The grace of God decreed that Messiah would be *"...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"* (Revelation 13:8).

In Isaiah 53, our all-knowing God announced the death of Messiah 700 years before Jesus was born. It should therefore come as no surprise that the Lord is able to announce the fulfillment of prophecy even before the events that are spoken of take place!

*"Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him"* (Psalm 2:12). Have you done so yet? ☆

I N M E M O R I A M

**LEAH GOREN, PIONEER FOR MESSIAH**

Leah Goren, who along with her late husband, Jacob, was one of the pioneers of Jewish evangelism in the State of Israel, passed away in late November. Leah came to faith as a young girl in Poland. World War II forced the Gorens to flee Poland, and in 1948, they moved to Israel. The Gorens joined the staff of Chosen People Ministries in 1969. After Jacob died suddenly in 1981, Leah continued to serve on the staff until her retirement in 1988. She remained active after that for a number of years in the Messianic Assembly in Jerusalem and through personal evangelism and visitation.

I N M E M O R I A M

**SID STERN, THE LORD'S FAITHFUL SERVANT**

Former staff member Sid Stern passed away at the age of 83 on November 11, 2004 in Tucson, Arizona. Sid was born in Detroit, Michigan on June 13, 1921. He came to faith after his daughter, Sheryl, announced to him that she had found the Messiah, Jesus. Seeking to dissuade her, Sid immersed himself in the study of Scripture and became a believer himself. Sid served with Chosen People Ministries in Phoenix and in Southern California. He was fond of doing magic tricks and he used this skill to illustrate memorably many Bible lessons.



**PSALM ENCHANTED EVENING**

A few weeks ago, Chosen People Ministries sponsored an event at the Harriet Himmel Theater in West Palm Beach. Messianic musician Marty Goetz ministered to almost 100 people in attendance, one third of them seekers. Two Jewish people—a man and a woman—received the Lord. The woman said, "Some enchanted evening, you may meet a stranger. I met him tonight—Jesus." The man testified, "Marty made me realize that Jesus is the Savior... and cleanses me and accepts me as a perfect child of God. I've experienced a transformation tonight and dedicate my life to Jesus."

**SALVATION DECISION IN TEL AVIV**

S., a young Israeli wife and mother of two children, recently visited the Chosen People Ministries congregation in Tel Aviv and then returned a second time. She listened very carefully, but did not respond to the invitation to receive the Lord. Then, after the closing prayer, she approached congregational leader, Michael Z. She told him that God had touched her heart and she



**PLANTED SEED TAKES ROOT FOR MESSIAH**

While staffing his Messianic book table in Florida, Boris Goldin recently noticed a man who was staring at him intently. Then the man approached and asked if Boris had worked in Brooklyn. When Boris answered yes, the man began to smile. He said that he was in North Miami on vacation, but about four years ago, he had met Boris in Brooklyn at a similar book table. Boris had shown him Isaiah 53 and explained that Yeshua had suffered and died for him. This had challenged him to read the Scriptures. Today, this man is a believer and attends a congregation in New Jersey!

was ready to entrust her life to the hands of the Lord. Immediately, she prayed to receive Yeshua and the whole gathering celebrated a wonderful victory in Messiah. Even her husband, who was standing nearby, was touched—although he has not yet taken the step of faith. Please keep him in your prayers.

**THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED AT KABBALAH LECTURE**

Dr. Michael Brown, internationally acclaimed author, spoke at Chosen People Ministries' regular outreach service in Manhattan in January. Two people came to faith that morning! That evening, Dr. Brown gave a lecture, "The Hidden Secrets of the Kabbalah: A Messianic Perspective." This well-publicized event drew an audience of about 140 people, which consisted of Jewish and non-Jewish believers and seekers. Dr. Brown countered the "hidden knowledge" that appeals to human pride with the message of the Gospel that is available to "whosoever believes" (John 3:16). People stayed and talked far into the night. Staff members are now busy visiting with numerous interested seekers.

**ETHIOPIAN JEW MEETS MESSIAH IN JERUSALEM**

Staff member Henry M., who is presently ministering in Israel, invited T., an Ethiopian Jewish student, to his Jerusalem apartment to watch an evangelistic video. Afterward, conversation flowed based on Messianic prophecy. The next day, as they walked together in a city park, Henry asked T. if he wanted to know Jesus the Messiah. T. said, "Yes, I do" and they prayed a prayer of repentance. Henry has continued to reach out to T. and has put him in touch with a local Ethiopian congregation.

# 2005 SUMMER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



## Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Dr. Michael Rydelnik, professor of Jewish Studies at Moody Bible Institute, goes beyond media images for an in-depth look at the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. This book places the "crisis that never ends" in its scriptural, historical, and prophetic contexts, and challenges the reader to think biblically as we stand with Israel in "praying for the peace of Jerusalem."

book #3109 • \$17.95<sup>us</sup>



## July 10-17, 2005 STEP-IN-A-WEEK

**STEP** is a whirlwind week of in-depth training, engaging evangelism and Jewish cultural excursions. Why not use a few days of your vacation to learn about the Jewish people, experience the culture and share the message of salvation? It's a wonderful opportunity to bring your home group or Sunday school class for a week-long ministry adventure!

## EXPERIENCE ISRAEL July 10-24, 2005

During July come on a unique two-week adventure to the homeland of Jesus designed especially for young adults (ages 18 to 35). **eXperience Israel** is a marvelous mix of hands-on ministry activities and travels to the memorable sites of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. As you walk through the pages of biblical and prophetic history, you will have numerous opportunities to partner with experienced ministry workers who will teach you how to share the love of the Messiah with the people of Israel.



## SEE ISRAEL THROUGH JEWISH EYES

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 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.

For more information about the tour  
November 8-18, 2005  
call **1-800-459-9402** or visit  
[www.chosenpeople.com/tour](http://www.chosenpeople.com/tour).



## OUTREACH ISRAEL

During June and July, you will share in people's lives, learn to express your faith to the surprisingly secular Israelis and the "unreachable" Orthodox, and help disciple new believers. Bring your love and enthusiasm for the people of Israel and use your gifts and talents to help awaken the presence of Messiah in the Land where He lived!

**CONTACT RACHEL AT 1-888-2-YESHUA**  
[opportunities@chosenpeople.com](mailto:opportunities@chosenpeople.com)



## The Chosen People Newsletter

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

*Chosen People Ministries U.S. Board of Directors:* Mr. Gary W. Smith, Chairman • Mr. Roy Adams • Dr. Darrell Bock • Mr. Jeffrey Branman • Dr. Mitch Claser • Dr. Gregory Hagg • Mr. John Holbrook • Mr. Eugene Johnson • Mr. Tom McHugh • Dr. John L. Pretlove • Dunewood Truglia, Esq. • Mr. David C. Weland

*Serving in:* Argentina • Australia • Belarus • Canada • Great Britain • France • Germany • Israel • Mexico • Russia • Ukraine • United States

*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.



Visit us on the web at [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com) Our Spanish website is [www.pueblolegido.com](http://www.pueblolegido.com). ©2005 Chosen People Ministries.

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