

The Chosen People



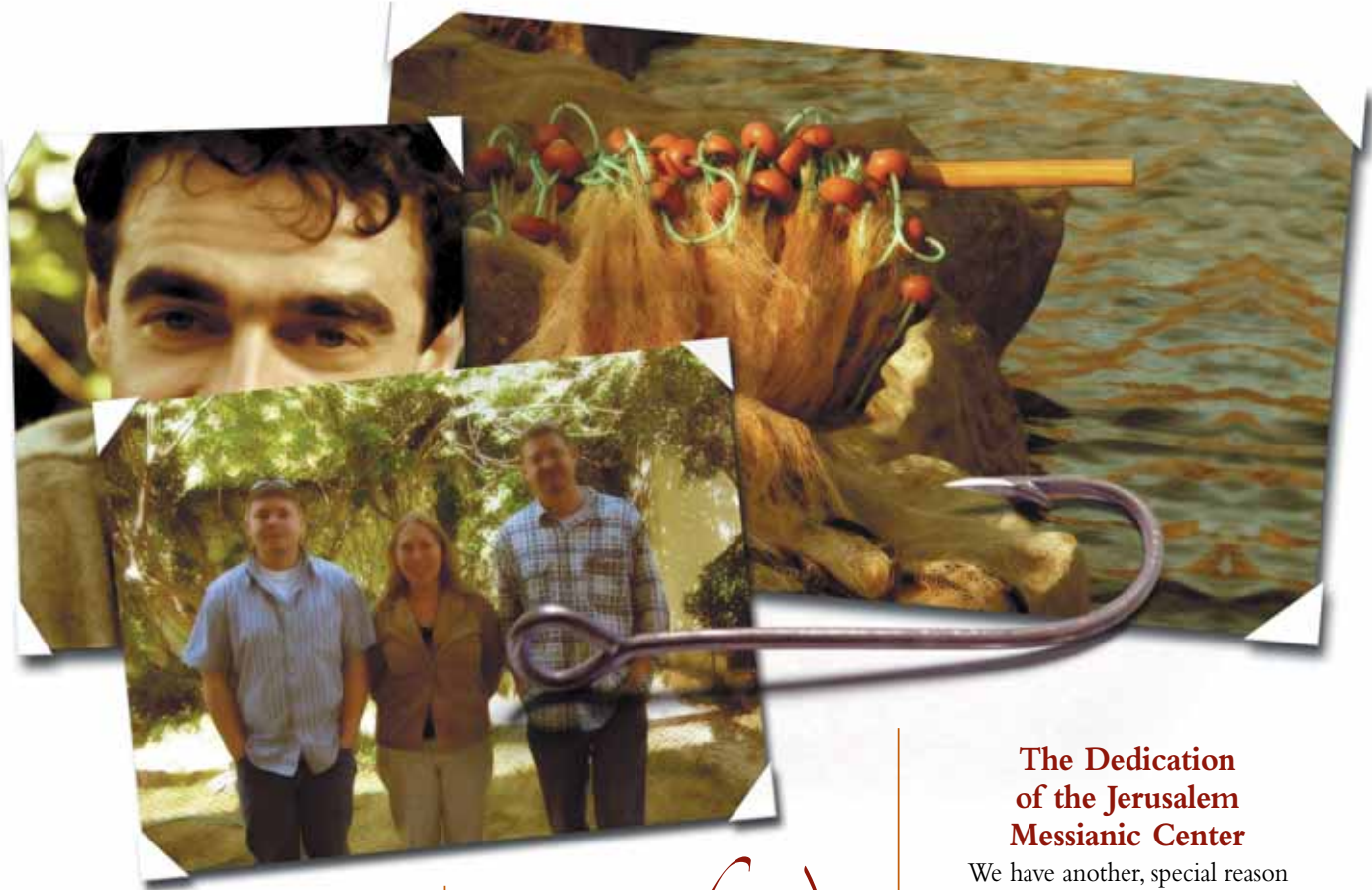
Volume XI, Issue 9 November 2005

The Lord's Harvest Around the World

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!"

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Giving Thanks for the Lord's Harvest Around the World •
Messiah's Seven Final Messages: Revelation Bible Study



*Then Jesus
said to them,
“Follow me
and I will
make you
become fishers
of men.”*

Mark 1:17

Dear friend,

Shalom and Happy Thanksgiving!
It is wonderful to be able to
celebrate a United States holiday
that has such great spiritual
significance! We join with the
Psalmist in worship as he writes,

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good! For His mercy
endures forever. Let Israel now
say, “His mercy endures forever.”*
(Psalm 118:1-2)

And the Lord has been good to
all of us—both Jews and Gentiles.
We are still here, although floods
have ravaged some of our great
cities and communities. **The entire
Chosen People Ministries family
joins me in extending very
special prayers for our friends
and supporters in flooded
communities.** We love you and
pray that the Lord will provide for
all of your needs.

The Dedication of the Jerusalem Messianic Center

We have another, special reason
to give thanks this year—the
dedication of our beautiful new
Jerusalem Messianic Center! As you
know, this is the result of many years
of prayer and the fruit of more than
50 years of missionary labor in the
Holy Land!

Because of your generosity and
commitment, we now have a Center
in the heart of Jerusalem, twenty
minutes from the Old City, where
our staff can conduct their outreach
and not have to worry about rent or
the possibility that our lease will not
be renewed! We have space now to
minister to Israelis in ways that we
never had before.

**We are grateful for this new
Center and for your sacrificial
giving!**

We have also had some
difficulties regarding the Center, but
the Lord has been faithful.

Some of our new neighbors,
whom we hope to reach for the
Lord, have sued us for purchasing

Giving Thanks for the Lord's Harvest Around the World

the Center under “false pretenses.” We were accused of being a missionary group! To this we plead guilty, but the fact is that we have been a legal, established non-profit organization in Israel for two decades.

The first judge dismissed the charges immediately, as did the second after an appeal. We might have other challenges, but we are confident that the Lord will prevail. Please remember to pray for the Lord's blessing upon the Jerusalem Messianic Center.

I know you will enjoy the testimonies of His great faithfulness in this newsletter. Again, Happy Thanksgiving and may our Messiah fill you with His joy!

Your brother,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

PS. **We are hoping to raise another \$200,000 within the next month** or so as a special offering for the Center, so that we can complete some of the renovations and completely furnish and equip the facility. **A generous group of supporters will match every dollar—up to \$25,000.**

We will also receive an offering at the Dedication, and I am hoping you will pray about adding your gift to the gifts of those who attend the Dedication.

I am sure you will do whatever is possible, so that Jewish people in Israel will hear about Jesus, come to faith in Him and grow as His disciples.

Last month, the Jewish people celebrated the High Holy Days, which include the autumn harvest festival, *Sukkot* (Feast of Booths). This month, we want to give thanks for another kind of harvest—a harvest of Jewish souls that the Lord has reaped through the prayers of His people and through the evangelistic work of Chosen People Ministries' staff members around the world.

Join us as we take a brief tour across the globe to visit the various corners of the Lord's vineyard where the Gospel is bearing fruit among the Jewish communities that we seek to serve.

Divine Appointment in Southern California

Southern California has one of the largest concentrations of Jewish people in the world, with a population of about 668,000 in Los Angeles alone.* The population grows even larger when you include the expanded region that takes in Orange County, where a number of Chosen People Ministries staff labor in and through Messianic Congregation *Shuvah Yisrael* (Return, O Israel) in the city of Irvine.

Olivier Melnick is one such laborer. A Jewish believer who was born in France, Olivier is a gifted teacher with a heart for his people. As his following note shows, he is also able to make quick decisions under the Lord's guidance, even when doing so requires a fast change of plans:

On a busy Saturday morning, as I was on my way to services, I received a phone call telling me that an elderly Jewish man who was on his deathbed wanted to talk to somebody about God. It immediately appeared that a visit to him was my new priority, so I turned around and drove to his house.

When I arrived, the 84-year-old man was lying in his bed, barely conscious, attached to a breathing machine. He could hardly talk and was very weak. As we began to speak, we determined that we were both Jews from Europe and a small bond was established. He was a German Jew who escaped the Holocaust and was angry at God because both his parents were killed in the camps.

But I started to tell him how much God loved him and how Yeshua died for his sins and that in a few days, he would meet God, who would ask him if he had put his trust in the Messiah's death for him.

Since he could barely talk, I asked him to listen to my prayer and to respond "yes" every time he agreed. The dialogue went something like this:

"Do you believe you are a sinner?" "Yes," he answered.

"Do you believe you cannot save yourself?" "Yes," he continued.

"Do you believe God sent His son Yeshua to pay the price for your sins?" Again, "Yes."

"Do you accept his death for your atonement and invite Him into your life?"

"Yes," he finally said.

I told him that at this very moment the angels rejoiced in Heaven as they were preparing to meet him and welcome him into eternity with God. What a joy it was to see this Jewish man trust his Messiah and secure his place into eternity.

We rejoice with Olivier and give thanks that he was able to discern the Lord's leading in bringing this precious soul to a saving knowledge of Messiah.

Moscow : A New Beginning in an Old City

Moscow has always been a city of pivotal importance for Russia. Today, this is especially true for the remaining Russian Jewish population, which has dwindled to about half a million. Moscow, with about 250,000 Jewish people, is now the Jewish population center of the nation. Moreover, Moscow has become a magnet for Jews in Russia's former satellite countries who are on the move.

Chosen People Ministries staff member Avi Y., a Jewish believer from Lvov, Ukraine, is pioneering a renewed work in this newly stirring center of post-Soviet Jewish life. His report is both hopeful and inspiring.

We are strengthening our group of congregations in Moscow. I'm grateful to say that our Moscow congregation is growing. Last summer, six new members joined us, including a family of five – the parents, their two sons and their daughter.

Another of our fellowships has become an established congregation, with potential for development. They have a steady attendance of almost 20 people, which by Moscow standards is quite respectable. One very good sign is that almost every month, they have one or two new people joining them. We recently held a discipleship training conference in Moscow which was attended by a few dozen Russian Jewish believers. It was a great success, and will lead to even greater fruit throughout the former Soviet Union.

Chosen People Ministries' work in Russia stands poised to do great things. For this we give thanks to the Lord and for all His servants there who are devoting their lives and gifts to the Russian Jewish people for the sake of the Gospel.



**Olivier
Melnick**



**Avi
Y.**



**Klaudia
Zhelezny**



**Ricardo
Chemi**

Klaudia Zhelezny – Putting the Word on the Street in Israel

Klaudia Zhelezny is one of Chosen People Ministries' most gifted evangelists. Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Klaudia came to faith in a refugee camp *en route* to Brooklyn, New York, after the Lord opened a way for her to leave the former Soviet Union. From that time, her life's work has been to share the Gospel with the Jewish people everywhere the Lord leads. In September, she visited Israel for almost four weeks with a team of two other believers in Messiah.

She gives an example of how the Lord blessed her efforts:

Here is a little more about what is going on with us and our mission trip. Every day is different. We've been distributing invitations on the streets to an evangelistic outreach and putting envelopes in mailboxes. I feel a special love for all those whom we invite "through the mailboxes" in Israel! Also we made some visits, such as the one we had with Ilya in Jerusalem.

Ilya's background was as a Communist and he was a well-known scientist back in Russia. But he realized that "the system" had told him nothing but lies about God. He wanted to know about Him. When we talked, Ilya asked what seemed like a million questions. We read the Bible with him. He was very excited to find out that the Passover in Egypt was about salvation and that the death of the lamb was a foreshadowing of Jesus, the Lamb of God. We prayed together, asking Jesus to come into Ilya's heart. He was in tears when he said "Amen." He definitely needs more help and needs someone to meet with him "one-to-one" to teach him the Bible.

Please remember all these people, and us, in prayer.

"HOLA" in Messiah's Name from South America

The Jewish community in South America numbers about 360,000, the vast majority of whom live in Argentina (195,000) and Brazil (97,000). The largest center of Jewish population in South America is Buenos Aires (175,000).*

Today, the work there is being ably carried on by Ricardo Chemi, a Jewish believer who received training at a Latin American Rabbinical Seminary and the

International Baptist Theological Seminary. His desire to reach the Jewish people of South America is evident from this report:

I am thrilled to tell you about some new fruit for the Kingdom. A woman in her 30s was walking by our neighborhood when she saw the sign on our building. She said to herself, "I want to know who these Messianic Jews are." She came to our Friday night service and afterwards asked to talk with me. She had a lot of questions about Yeshua (Jesus)—lots of questions that needed Biblical answers. After our short conversation, where she found comfort for her sad heart, we prayed together and she accepted the Messiah of Israel. That day, she began her spiritual life. Now she needs help to keep growing. Her father is well known within the Orthodox Jewish community in Argentina. This shows us the Lord is revealing himself to Israel through the Messiah. Also, it shows us that our work is being blessed by these fruits.

Giving Thanks – Now and Always

The Psalmist exhorts us, "Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!" (Psalm 105:1). Although sharing the Gospel with Jewish people is by no means an easy task, those who are faithfully carrying out their calling to do so will tell you that there is no more rewarding work to be found.

We rejoice and give thanks for those who are on the "front lines" of Jewish evangelism—and for all who pray and give in order to bring the harvest home.

* Sergio DellaPergola, "World Jewish Population 2002," *American Jewish Year Book*, New York, 2002.



See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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

MESSIAH'S SEVEN FINAL MESSAGES

Many are familiar with the seven last words of Messiah when He was dying at Calvary, but have you ever reflected upon the seven last sayings of the Savior that are recorded in Revelation 22?



FIRST MESSAGE

**“Behold, I am coming quickly!”
(Revelation 22:7)**

The great hope of believers is the return of Jesus. In the Book of Revelation, the Lord speaks seven times of His coming. This is the “blessed hope” of all believers (Titus 3:12). The upward look is the best outlook.

SECOND MESSAGE

“Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” (Revelation 22:7)

In Revelation, there are seven blessings, or beatitudes. The book begins by pronouncing a special blessing on all its readers (1:3). Jesus will bless both “readers” and “keepers” of His instructions.

The Book of Daniel was to be closed (sealed) until the End

Times (Daniel 12:9). Revelation is to be “read and kept” (Revelation 1:3).

THIRD MESSAGE

**“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”
(Revelation 22:12)**

Each of us shall stand before the Bema (award seat) of Messiah. While salvation is based entirely on grace, rewards will be given for wise stewardship involving: (1) time, Ephesians 5:16; (2) self control, I Corinthians 9:25-27; (3) soul winning, Daniel 12:3; (4) finances, I Timothy 6:17-19; (5) reaction to temptation, James 1:2,3; and (6) respect for God’s Word, II Timothy 2:2.

FOURTH MESSAGE

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” (Revelation 22:13)

As the Alpha, Messiah was the Creator of the universe (John 1:3), and as the Omega, He is the consummation of all (Revelation 1:8). Therefore we can trust Yeshua (Jesus), our “A to Z,” with both our present and our future.

FIFTH MESSAGE

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.” (Revelation 22:16a)

The church (assembly) is built upon Messiah, the Rock (Matthew 16:18). He is its Head (Colossians 1:18), and in the Book of Revelation, He is delivering a specific message to the pastors of each of the seven local churches, as found in chapters 2 and 3. Here is the only occasion when Messiah personally addresses letters to His assemblies.

SIXTH MESSAGE

**“I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”
(Revelation 22:16b)**

Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Jesus’ coming that “*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse [David’s father], and a Branch shall grow out of his roots*” (Isaiah 11:1). As the “*Star out of Jacob*” (Numbers 24:17), Messiah will return before the dawn of a new millennial day.

SEVENTH MESSAGE

**“Surely I am coming quickly.”
(Revelation 22:20a)**

Here is the last Biblical promise from the lips of our Lord. Scoffers say, “*Where is the promise of His coming?*” (II Peter 3:4). Believers pray, “*Even so come, Lord Jesus!*” (Revelation 22:20b).

Indeed, is this not the cry of our hearts today? A special reward is promised to those who look for and long for Messiah’s certain appearing (II Timothy 4:8). We pray that you are already or will soon be a member of that blessed number through faith in Yeshua the Messiah. ☆

UPDATE – MESSIANIC JEWISH CENTER EXPANDS PROGRAM

The Jerusalem Messianic Center is “up and running.” Israel Director Michael Z. reports that a series of seminars is under way that is focused on young leaders— particularly those who minister in worship in Messianic congregations. Starting in December, activities will expand further as the Center launches a program that will include prayer retreats, single women’s groups, concerts, public lectures and academic pursuits in conjunction with Israel College of the Bible. The Center will be “officially” dedicated this month at a special service with Chosen People Ministries President Dr. Mitch Glaser and his wife Zhava in attendance.



A NEW JEWISH SISTER IN MESSIAH

Boris Goldin, who ministers in South Florida, is praising the Lord for a new sister in the Lord. Her name is Ruth,* a 20-year-old Jewish girl who recently came to a worship service with her mother. Both of them enjoyed the worship and said they felt very much at home. After the service, Ruth approached Boris with many questions about God. Boris explained the Gospel, beginning with the Hebrew Scriptures, and finally led Ruth in the “sinner’s prayer.” This young Jewish girl, with tears and gladness, accepted her promised Messiah. Please pray for Ruth and for her mother, a Jewish woman who is also searching for God.

FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIP BRINGS HARVEST FROM THORNY SOIL

Staff member Peter Shirokov, who ministers in Atlanta, has been quietly witnessing to a Jewish friend for five years. Although for almost all that time his friend did not show much interest in spiritual things, lately he started to attend worship services and a weekly Bible study. During one of the Bible studies, the Good News suddenly made sense to him. As Peter explained the parable of the soils, his friend suddenly jumped in and said,

“I am the soil with thorns, the ones that choke the seed.” He admitted that he had been pushing God out of his life with various daily concerns and worries. That evening, he was finally ready to acknowledge his faith and trust in Yeshua (Jesus).

PRaise REPORT FROM NERIYAH IN ISRAEL

Recovering from his kidney transplant (see October issue of *The Chosen People* newsletter), Neriayah says: “I



Neriayah and Cyndi

want to thank you for your prayers for my health, which is improving day by day. Things are going very well in our congregation. Cyndi was in Israel for more than two months and she became part of our congregation. She was such an encouragement to all of us, and we miss her very much. While she was here to donate her kidney to me, she continually evangelized. Many people heard the Gospel and many were touched by her sacrifice. Please pray for those who heard the Gospel but have not responded yet.”

*Names changed

GIFTS FOR HANUKKAH & CHRISTMAS

Messianic Music Special

The holiday season is coming! What better gift to give to family and friends this holiday season than the gift of music—especially music that glorifies our Messiah, Jesus? We have bundled some of our favorite Messianic music together for you to enjoy—and to pass along as a blessing to others.

Paul Wilbur Bundle #4015 • price: \$33.95

Marty Goetz Bundle #4014 • price: \$33.95

Limited time offer - good until December 31, 2005

Joined Together?

Joined Together? is a 45-minute documentary featuring four interfaith married couples who share their discovery that faith in the Jewish Messiah can bring a dynamic and joy-filled basis to their marriage, and that knowing Yeshua (Jesus' Hebrew name) is the key to building that

longed-for and lasting bond of unity.

Joined Together DVD #8024 • price: \$20.00^{US}

Joined Together VHS #8025 • price: \$20.00^{US}

Hanukkah Menorah

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, as a statement of your faith.

Hanukkah Menorah #5023 • price: \$33.95^{US}

In the U.S. call 800-333-4936. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.



Simcha South 2006

A Messianic Celebration! February 4-6, 2006
Bradenton, Florida

This year's special speakers will be Dr. Mitch Glaser, Dr. Rich Freeman, and Dr. Ben Alpert

CALL 1-888-405-5874
for more details

Registration deadline January 10

S.T.E.P. FLORIDA

February 10-16, 2006

This Short-Term Evangelism Program in Florida is designed to help you learn the Jewish roots of your faith and put it into practical application. **STEP Florida** will be held in beautiful **Delray Beach**, in the center of the 600,000-member Jewish community of south Florida. To receive an application for STEP Florida or if you have questions,

CALL 1-888-405-5874

See Israel through Jewish Eyes

Tours to Israel twice a year with those who have a love for the Word and a heart for the people.

Plan now to accompany Chosen People Ministries' Dr. Ben Alpert on the trip of a lifetime. While touring sites mentioned in the Bible, he will teach on our common Judeo-Christian heritage and the Messianic traditions among Jewish believers at the time of Jesus.

CALL 1-800-459-9402

for a full-color brochure, or see a full itinerary when you visit us at www.chosenpeople.com/tour.

A friend from Washington summed up his experience on a recent "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour:

...to see the Land is truly life-changing. When you "see Israel through Jewish eyes," Scripture comes alive in a new and fresh way...it changes the way you read Biblical passages.



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)