



Chosen People Ministries

# Tel Aviv

Renewal through the Power of the Gospel

August 2009

Dear friend,

Shalom in His grace. I hope you are having an enjoyable and fruitful summer.

I have exciting news! We are expanding our work in Tel Aviv, the largest city in Israel when you include the suburbs. Imagine—more than a million Israelis—all in need of the Gospel!

If you visit Tel Aviv, you cannot help but notice the city's burgeoning growth. But there is another kind of urban renewal going on—it is the renewal of broken lives through the power of the Gospel.

Many folks travel to Israel to see the holy sites—to walk in the footsteps of the prophets, priests, kings, and most of all, of Jesus the Messiah.

Yet we all find it difficult to face some of the seamier aspects of life in Israel, such as drugs and alcoholism. Like many other large, cosmopolitan cities, Tel Aviv has a dark side that it tries to hide behind glitter and a partying façade.

In Israel, broken lives are being renewed through the power of the Gospel.

There is no darkness that the light of Messiah cannot penetrate!

Our growing group of dynamic staff members serving in Tel Aviv know this is



Tel Aviv is a city full of life.



true. And the lives being transformed by the Gospel are a testimony to this truth. Let me tell you about some of these wonderful servants.

## Sergey and Rita K. *Disciple-Makers in a Thirsty Land*

Sergey K. came to faith in Yeshua (Jesus) along with his mother and his wife through the testimony and prayers of his father. Like many in the former Soviet Union, their family was secular, and atheism—if anything—was their “religion.”

Sergey’s Jewish identity was hidden from him until he was twelve years old. But when his family members received the Lord, they realized the importance of their Jewish heritage through Messiah—and moved to Israel to answer God’s call to reach His people.

Some in our congregation have been set free from their addictions by God’s power.

Today, Sergey leads the Tel Aviv congregation planted by Chosen People Ministries. He also ministers among alcoholics and drug addicts who lead deeply broken lives in a Land that is supposed to represent the hope of fulfilled promise.

Sergey says, “This ministry requires a lot of strength, faith, and love, and results are not always easily seen. But it is a great blessing to see the fruit. Some in our congregation have been set free from their addictions by the power of God. Some of the former rehab program participants will be baptized soon, and others are already serving in our worship teams. We praise the Lord for these changed lives!”

Another priority in Sergey’s pastoral work is children’s ministry. Children’s ministry in Israel requires a great deal of effort, as many parents are opposed to their children hearing about Jesus. Yet we are blessed because the Russian Jewish immigrant families are willing to allow their children to participate in our summer camp. **Many young people have now come to faith through the camping programs—even as recently as last month!**

Sergey and Rita dream of opening a Messianic Center in Tel Aviv, where they can hold services, have youth clubs, study the Scriptures and have a dining room to feed the needy. Please pray for this vision to become a reality.

## Jason and Janice R. *Servants of the Lord in Tel Aviv*

Jason and Janice R. are Americans who have been called to serve the Lord in the Holy Land. They live in Tel Aviv with their five-month-old son, and their burden is to reach and disciple young adults. They currently lead home groups and mentor young adults one-on-one. Jason and Janice, in cooperation with other local leaders, are also working towards the establishment of a Messianic/Christian school in the greater Tel Aviv area.

They are new on staff with Chosen People Ministries, but they are not new to ministry. Jason taught English as a Foreign Language in Israeli public schools as a “tent-maker,” while Janice has worked in school administration, and was also a tent-making missionary in Moscow, Russia. She has extensive experience in discipleship and youth ministry.



Top: Messianic worship is often led by graduates of the rehab program. Middle and bottom: the streets offer many opportunities for ministry.



Jason and Janice disciple young adults in Tel Aviv.

Jason, a worship leader, created an exciting outreach in Tel Aviv called the “Gospel Café.” It was a huge success for its two years of operation as part of a wonderful Messianic congregation led by Avi M. Eighty to 100 people came each week to enjoy the live music, free lattes and friendship evangelism. Some people gave their lives to the Lord, and others rededicated their lives to God. The Gospel Café had to close due to the loss of the congregational facility, but Jason and Janice are seeking the Lord about reopening this unique outreach. We hope to include this ministry as well in a Tel Aviv Messianic Center.



Neriyah and Anna now have four children and minister full time in Tel Aviv.

## Neriyah and Anna A.

### Compassionate Ministers in Messiah’s Service

One of the most powerful elements of Christian love is compassion, a word that actually means to “suffer alongside.” If patient suffering is a key qualification of such love, then Neriyah A. has the life experience to back it up. As you may remember, Neriyah suffered with chronic kidney disease for many years until a pastor’s wife who had heard of his plight through one of our letters stepped forward to donate a kidney. The operation was a success, and now Neriyah, his wife Anna, and their four children

*The Spirit of God was present as the congregation heard the preaching of the Gospel.*

are immersed in vibrant life and ministry in Tel Aviv.

Active in both the rehab center and in the Messianic

congregation’s leadership, Neriyah is a testimony of how a balance of practical outreach undergirded by the power of the Gospel can transform lives.

Recently, almost two hundred people—including many non-believers—attended a special service. Neriyah, who is always so passionate about the Gospel, comments about the effectiveness of this outreach:

*The Spirit of God was present as the congregation heard the preaching of the Gospel. Please pray for a family in Petah Tikva (a suburb of Tel Aviv) that was present. The mother is 67 years old, and her two daughters and granddaughter are on dialysis. There is also a grandson who is blind.*

*We explained that the most important thing is faith in Yeshua (Jesus), but all of them are so absorbed in their sicknesses that it was hard for them to understand. I can relate to their problems, as I was on dialysis for a year and a half. Amazingly, they are coming to the home group that we have in Petah Tikva. Would you join us in praying for this family’s complete restoration, both physical and spiritual?*

Neriyah adds,

*A young man named Boris,\* who is addicted to alcohol and suffers from epilepsy, came to our soup kitchen ministry. After a few hours of intense conversation, he received the Lord and entered our rehab center. After some weeks of treatment, he came to the soup kitchen as a new man and witnessed about Yeshua. It was wonderful to see the jealousy of his friends as they saw not only that his life has changed, but also that he received healing! A few folks from the soup kitchen immediately showed a desire to join him at the rehab center.*

*Our center operates on two levels. At the first level, the participants do not work outside the center, so that they are not exposed to outside temptation. At the second level, all of them work*



\*name changed



and support the new people who are at the first level. This system works well, unless the expenses of the first group exceed the earning power of the second—and that is what is currently happening. We do not receive any funding from the government.

*I am so grateful for the support given to the rehab center by Chosen People Ministries in the United States—it makes a huge difference in our outreach to those who are in such deep despair. It is a joy to be able to give them hope through the Gospel!*

## Transforming Lives Through God’s Love

Our dedicated staff wants nothing more than to help people through life’s desperate circumstances by introducing Israelis to the only One who saves, heals and provides for all our needs! Our workers in Israel are so grateful for your love, prayers and support.

**You are an important part of this great work!** It’s likely that you cannot easily travel to Israel to minister—though you probably would love to! **May our staff be your representatives** in Israel and—of course, more importantly—the Lord’s hands, feet and voice, proclaiming the Good News to needy people in Tel Aviv.

Summer is usually a time when people travel, and it is understandable that ministry support slows as folks might be away from home. However, the needs in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, New York City and in so many other places do not slow down! The summer is actually one of our most fruitful times of ministry. So please pray and, if possible, could you support us financially this month? Your gift will be appreciated!

Together, as members of one Body, we function as Messiah’s presence to those for whom He died.

I know you are rejoicing with me about the expansion of our ministry in Tel Aviv. Stay tuned for more!

Thanks again for caring about the Jewish people and for helping us reach our people with the Gospel.

Yours in Messiah,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President  
Chosen People Ministries

P.S. If everyone receiving this letter gave just a little bit extra this month, we could avert the “summer slump,” even in the midst of the ongoing challenges of our economy. Thanks for helping!



**Chosen People Ministries**