



# MINISTRY UPDATE: SHALOM NEW YORK

August 2019

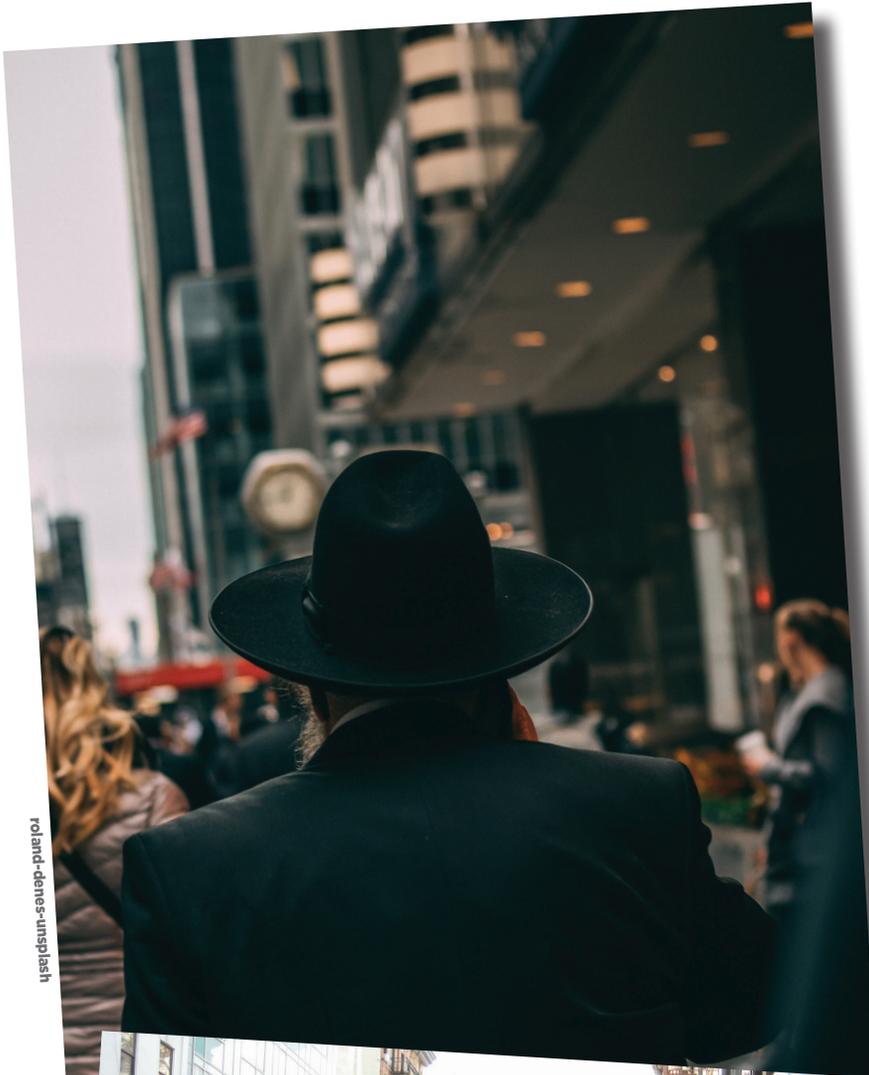
Dear friend in the Messiah!

Shalom from New York City, the home of more than two million Jewish people. Throughout July and August, we have enjoyed the privilege of sharing the gospel intensively with Jewish people throughout the metropolitan area. Our team of more than 125 staff and volunteers have spoken to hundreds of Jewish people about the gospel. I wish you could have been here!

## **Good News from the Streets of New York City**

We are in the midst of following up with the many Jewish people who indicated they are interested in hearing more about Jesus. While this includes secular Jewish people, we are also in touch with many religious Jewish people we met during our street outreaches in religious neighborhoods and through our online campaigns.

We also had two major events that drew many Jewish seekers. We sponsored a well-attended dialogue between scholars about the value of the Old Testament Scriptures. We also held a debate between Messianic apologist Dr. Michael Brown, and Orthodox Jewish Rabbi Shmuley Boteach. The title of the debate was, “Is the New Testament Antisemitic?” This is a hot issue in the Jewish community today as antisemitism is on the rise. The purpose of this debate was to show that the New Testament and Jesus Himself are Jewish. The terrible history of “Christian” persecution of the Jewish people resulted from those who did not take the words and message of Jesus to heart. Consequently, many Jewish people were raised to believe that Jesus and Christianity are enemies of the Jewish people. Unfortunately, I was raised with these same prejudices.



## Jewish Objections to the Gospel Message

It is a common perception among Jewish people that the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Russian and Ukrainian pogroms, and the Holocaust were all in some way motivated by a form of Christianity. Oftentimes, Jewish people blame Christians for the Holocaust! Let me explain. We know that there were believing Christians who died in the Holocaust risking their lives to help Jewish people. But in general, Jewish people are not aware of this. They are more familiar with the fact that many Christians were ambivalent or slow to act and that the German state church as a whole did not act in favor of the Jewish people. We know that the Nazis, by faith and ideology, were not Christians. Rather, Hitler and his accomplices were heavily influenced by the occult and Teutonic mythology. This is why Jewish people come to the gospel with baggage that most non-Jews do not carry. We try to explain these issues, which helps to create a better climate for preaching the love of God revealed through Jesus the Messiah.

## Showing Jewish People the Love of the Messiah

So, how do we dispel this unfortunate narrative that keeps Jewish people from considering Jesus? This is done one heart at a time. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans of the critical role believers, especially those who are not Jewish, play in the salvation of individual Jewish people. The Apostle writes, *“I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous”* (Romans 11:11).

Jesus Himself declares that salvation has its spiritual roots in God’s relationship to Israel and the Jewish people. The Savior explains to the woman at the well, *“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews”* (John 4:22).

This passage may encourage Gentile believers to share the love of Jesus with their Jewish friend from a heart of gratitude for what God has done through the physical seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



By opposing antisemitism  
you are pleasing the Lord.

During our recent outreach campaign in New York City, we had dozens of Gentile believers on the streets of New York City speaking to Jewish people about the Lord. They also brought food to the poor and elderly and cleaned homes for those who cannot keep up because of age or illness. Showing love in practical ways gave power and authenticity to our proclamation!

Hundreds of us also marched over the Brooklyn Bridge in an effort to call upon the public and Christians to oppose antisemitism! We wore bright T-shirts with the message “Oppose Antisemitism” and created a web page where believers could learn more about the growth of this insidious cancer that seems to be growing out of control around the globe. I view this growth of antisemitism as satanically orchestrated. As a result of this false and devious connection between antisemitism and the gospel, there is a broadening of the chasm between the Jewish people and Jesus.

### Oppose Antisemitism

Christian opposition to antisemitism is a powerful witness to our Jewish family and friends. This reshapes the gospel playing field by showing from the start that real Christians love the Jewish people and condemn antisemitism.

Would you stand with us against antisemitism? Believe me, our actions as the Body of Messiah will make a difference in how the Jewish people feel about the Messiah Jesus. One of my mentors once said that believers should hate what the devil loves and love what the devil hates. An interesting approach! Despising antisemitism easily flows from a heart filled with love for God and His Anointed One. After all, Jesus was Jewish. His earthly family was Jewish, the apostles were Jewish, and it was God Himself who created and chose the Jewish people (Genesis 12:1–3). Loving the Jewish people is an expression of God’s heart!

By opposing antisemitism, you are pleasing the Lord!

### Think Globally, Act Locally!

You can help put a stop to antisemitism in your community! Let me suggest a few ways to do this:

- Educate your church on the evils of antisemitism—we have great materials on our online store.
- Encourage your pastor to preach about this issue from the pulpit.
- Pray for the Jewish people in your community.

Gentile believers have been showing the love of Jesus to Jewish people in practical ways, destroying the myth that Christians hate Jews.



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- Attend Jewish community events in order to build bridges with the Jewish people.
- Say something if and when antisemitism arises in your community.
- Make sure the Holocaust is taught in your local school systems and especially at Christian schools and homeschooling associations.
- Encourage your church or Messianic congregation to teach about the history and current expressions of antisemitism from a biblical perspective.

It is critical that we make our Christian community aware of the problem and that you positively engage the Jewish community where you live so that you can build loving and respectful relationships with the Jewish people.

Our love will be used by God to create a bridge for the good news.

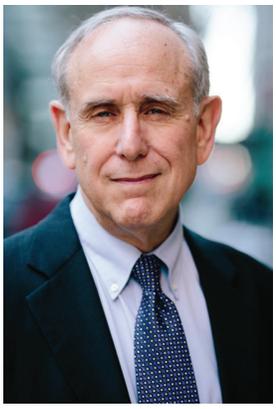
### Partners in the Gospel

Thank you for taking the time to hear my heart for my people! I hope you will pray for the Jewish people and for Your Mission to the Jewish People as we share the good news in nineteen countries across the globe. Also, please consider sending an extra gift this month since August always seems to be a “low” month for donations as folks are away from home.

We are doing more than ever in ministry during our 125th anniversary year. Your Mission to the Jewish People is trying to engage 125,000 Jewish people and Christians who have Jewish friends and neighbors, and we are already approaching the 100,000 mark! We are asking you to help support our campaigns and our massive effort to reach the Jewish people online by giving towards our goal of \$1,250,000.

We have also produced some great summer T-shirts that can be used in a local **Oppose Antisemitism** campaign! Wear one to your next church picnic and see if this does not get your brothers and sisters thinking about how to help put an end to antisemitism!

I pray the Jewish people in your community will take notice of your efforts to stand with them and to finally see that true Christians love the Jewish people!



Thanks for caring!

Mitch Glaser

P.S. For your gift of \$125 or more we will send you a free **Oppose Antisemitism** T-shirt! Just let us know your size or, if ordering for a family member or friend, their size.

