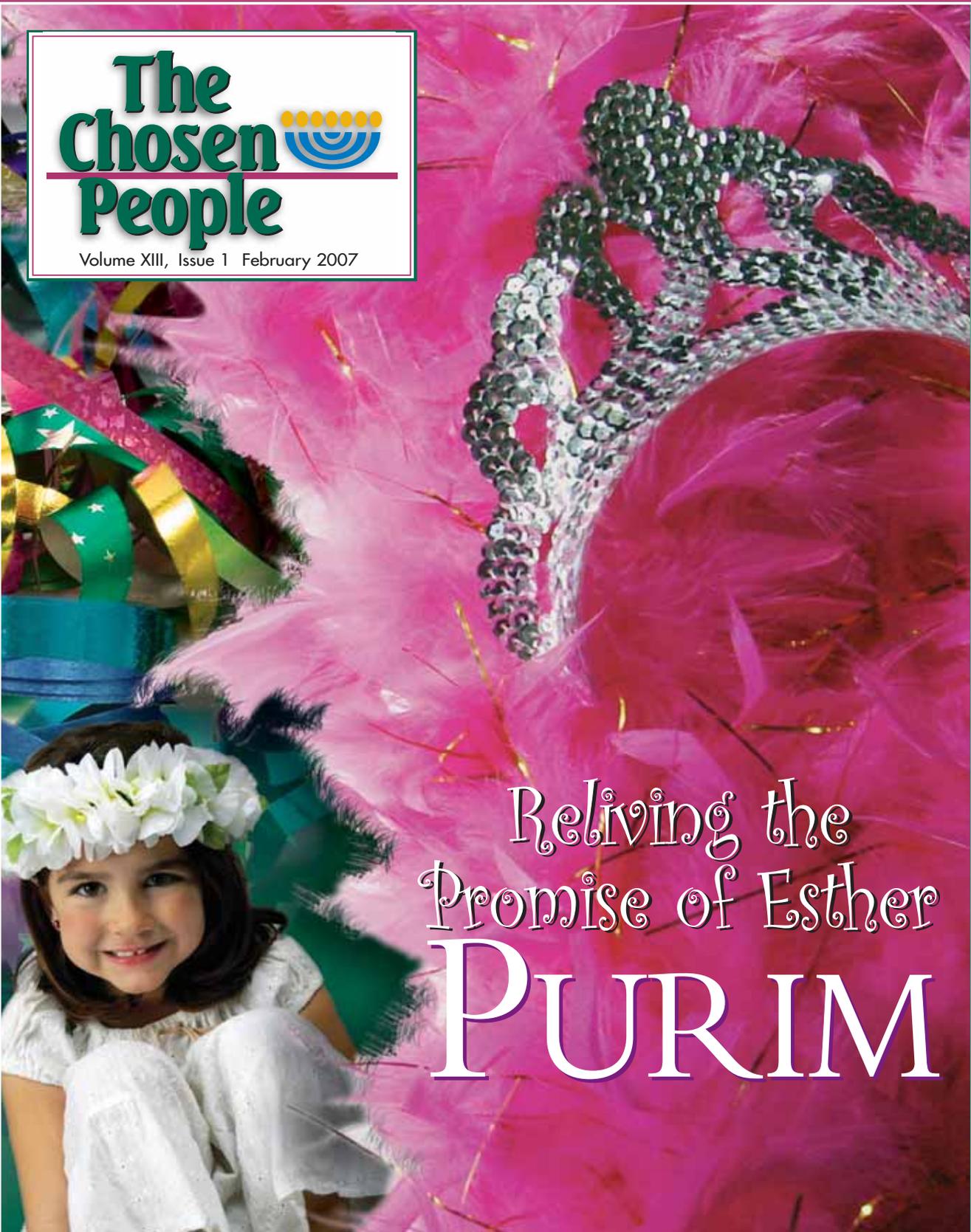


# The Chosen People



Volume XIII, Issue 1 February 2007



## Reliving the Promise of Esther PURIM

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THIS  
ISSUE:**

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God would never allow His chosen  
The Lord's revealed plan was not

# The Open Secret of God's Will for Israel

Dear friend in the Messiah,  
Our world loves conspiracy theories. Unfortunately, I have never heard of one that casts the Jewish people in a positive light!

Historically, conspiracy-minded antisemites have accused the Jewish people of a *secret plan* to achieve world domination. Theories like this, some recorded in the terribly antisemitic and destructive volume, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, have become the basis for the persecution of the Jewish people.

The president of Iran recently held a Holocaust Denial conference in Tehran. He and many others declared the Holocaust to be a fraud—a Jewish conspiracy to seek the sympathy of the world in order to bolster the case for the existence of the State of Israel. What a disgraceful and distasteful view—especially for those who believe that the Jewish people are God's chosen people and for the many Allied soldiers who had the unspeakable task of liberating the concentration camps.

We know that the Holocaust really happened

and that it was not part of a conspiracy theory.

## The Purim Conspiracy

In a few weeks' time, Jewish people around the world will be celebrating the Festival of Purim. This is one of my favorite Jewish festivals for a variety of reasons. The most significant of these is the fact that God preserved the Jewish people from the evil Haman! The implications of this destruction would have been immeasurable. Some of the Bible would not have been written, and the Messiah of Israel would not have been born! Consider that! Neither Mary nor Joseph, nor Elizabeth nor John would have existed—all would have been destroyed by Haman's hand.

Haman actually tried to convince King Ahasuerus that the Jewish people had formed a conspiracy to reject the king's leadership. Haman attempted to enact a secret plan of his own, but God would not allow it to come to pass.

The *secret plan* for the destruction



hamantaschen

of the Jewish people created by Haman came head to head with the revealed plan of God—that He would

never allow His chosen people to be destroyed! The Lord's revealed plan was neither a secret, nor a conspiracy. Centuries earlier, He had spoken to Abraham and said:

*Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* (Genesis 12:1-3)

The Lord confirmed His creation of the Jewish people and the granting of the Land to the descendants of Abraham (Genesis 26:2-5, Genesis 35:9-12).



# people to be destroyed! a secret or conspiracy.

## My Recent Trip to Israel

I have recently returned from Israel, where I was able to spend time at our Jerusalem Messianic Center and meet with our dedicated and capable staff. You would have been impressed with all that God is doing through them as they proclaim Jesus to Israelis. The Lord is moving powerfully in Israel.

There are now more than 10,000 believers in the Land. Only a few years ago there were less than 2,000. Your Mission to the Jewish people is right in the middle of the action—witnessing, training leaders, feeding the hungry, and planting congregations. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Lord's work in Israel.

I am constantly overwhelmed by the fact that modern Israel exists as a nation at all! I don't think I will ever get over the wonder of witnessing the fulfillment of God's promises firsthand.

Is the current Jewish return to the Land of Israel the direct fulfillment of prophecy? I believe so, but perhaps we will not know with complete certainty if this is the final restoration of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel until Jesus Himself returns and sits on His promised throne.

Yet, as I read through God's promises I remain amazed by the power of His Word. The indisputable reality is that more than five million Jewish

people are now living in a Jewish state in the Land of Israel within the very borders God promised to Abraham thousands of years ago.

God has been faithful to His promises! The Jewish people have survived because He promised we would not be destroyed (Jeremiah 31:35-39). The Hamans of the world, such as the president of Iran, will never be successful! And on the day the Jewish people discover that Yeshua—Jesus—is the true Messiah of Israel, the Jewish people and *all* people will live in the Land in peace. I look forward to that day!

## His Secret Plan

Have you ever wondered if God has a secret plan? The truth is—He does! But it is not a conspiracy. One of my favorite verses in Scripture is Deuteronomy 29:29. Moses, under the inspiration of God Himself, writes,

*The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

There it is, embedded in the heart of the Torah! The Lord has told us that He holds some secrets that He may or may not choose to reveal to you and me. Perhaps we could not handle the weight of such knowledge!

I must admit that I am curious about the things the Lord has selected to withhold from us! One day, however, we will know a

megillah

lot more, as we will know Him, because we will be like Him when we see Him as He is (1 John 3:2-3).

Meanwhile, He has clearly revealed for all humankind to read in His Word that the Land of Israel is promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is not a secret! Therefore, until Messiah returns, we should certainly support the right of the Jewish people to possess the Land of Israel.

But more importantly, if we want to see the remainder of God's revealed Word come to pass, we should take seriously Paul's statement in Romans 1:16:

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

As believers in the Messiah Jesus, we should do everything in our power to make sure the Jewish people hear the Gospel—in Israel and throughout the world. This is why your partnership with Chosen People Ministries is so important. By praying for our staff and supporting our staff and ministries, you are taking hold of your role in reaching Jewish people for Jesus.

Enjoy the newsletter and thank you for praying and supporting our 113-year-old mission to the Jewish people.

For Zion's sake,

*Mitch*  
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

grogger

# Purim

## “For Such a Time as This”

*Purim* is a Jewish holiday of unrivaled celebration. The words from Esther 4:14, “for such a time as this,” sum up the gripping drama of an unlikely heroine who was willing to stand up for the sake of her people. Esther risked her life and was rewarded for her faithfulness—and the Jewish people were saved!

Purim is celebrated with joyful gatherings and special foods such as *hamantaschen*—a delicious cookie in the shape of the villain Haman’s tri-cornered hat. Children perform skits called *Purimshpiel*, playing the parts of the Persian King Ahasuerus; Esther’s righteous cousin Mordecai; Haman, the wicked enemy of the Jewish people; and of course, the lovely Queen Esther (*Hadassah* in Hebrew). During the reading of the *megillah* (the Scroll of Esther), children use special noisemakers called *groggers* to drown out the name of Haman every time it is read. Even the grown-ups join in the hilarity.

Although it is the only book in the Bible that does not mention God’s name, the Lord’s presence and guidance may be seen in each of the ten chapters of this wonderful part of Scripture.

Purim is celebrated on the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Adar. This year, the holiday begins at sundown on March 3.



## Adam and Susannah Ruditsky

—White Plains, New York

It took a family crisis to get my attention, and when my father needed major surgery, it really rattled my cage. I actually made a bet with God; I told Him, “Get my father through this and I will follow you!” Well, I learned that you don’t make bets with God and win! How little I realized how high the stakes would be raised.

I was raised in a Reform Jewish family in Los Angeles. I went to Jewish day school, Hebrew school, and then became a Bar Mitzvah (Son of the Commandment). But not long after that, like so many other Jewish boys at the time, I left the synagogue. Although I never forgot God, I went deep into the jazz scene as a musician, a lifestyle that also included drugs, late nights and different adventures.

Shortly after I made my bet with God, I met a Jewish girl who believed in Yeshua (Jesus). At first, my reaction was uncomfortable, but then God, in whom I already believed,



spoke to my heart and told me that there was nothing “un-Jewish” about Jesus. In 1984, I became convinced that he was the Jewish Messiah and I dedicated my life to bringing the Good News of Yeshua (Jesus) to my own people.

In 1990, I met my wife Susannah at a Messianic conference in Grantham, Pennsylvania. She is from

London and was raised as a second generation Jewish believer.

We are currently planting a Messianic congregation among the 150,000 Jewish people in Westchester County (just north of the Bronx). This mostly affluent and non-religious community needs to hear that the Messiah has come.

Our ministry takes a patient approach to relationship building. For example, I met Steve, an atheist, at one of our services. Over a period of time we developed a friendship, and when crisis came into his life, I had the opportunity to share the Messiah and bring him to the Lord. His life has transformed, and today I continue to disciple him.

Along with the congregation, we plan to start a community center for programs, art shows, music and other events. If this community in Westchester becomes a place of Jewish revival, the reverberations will be significant in the New York City area.

## Jennifer Rodgers

– Berlin, Germany

The Israeli woman peppered me with questions. There I was, in Berlin, in the home of a woman who hosts a fellowship and Bible study, speaking earnestly with a bright, young student of Jewish Studies who wanted to explore a Messianic interpretation of Yom Kippur from an academic standpoint.



We spoke for several hours. She had many insightful questions. And then something happened. She stopped asking from an academic perspective and began to ask out of her own spiritual hunger. Questions poured out of her, and at the end of the meeting she invited me to get together again and expressed hope that the discussion could continue.

This encounter only seemed to confirm a path that I had chosen—or was chosen for me—what seemed like years before. I was born in 1982 and raised mainly in Modesto, California. However, during childhood I was privileged to live in many places—including nearly five years in Germany.

I came to know the Messiah at the age of six through the testimony of my godly parents. As I grew in faith and through my life of frequent traveling, I came to see that God was preparing me to serve in missions.

I graduated from Cornerstone Bible Institute in Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 2003. It was during my senior year that the Lord confirmed a passion and a burden to reach Jewish people. After that, I went to Philadelphia Biblical University, where I studied Biblical and Jewish Studies and graduated in 2005.

My earlier experience in Germany has proven to be providential because my specific calling is to reach Russian-speaking Jewish people—in Germany! I hope to be a part of meeting the need for women to be involved in witnessing and discipleship. I also plan to serve in youth ministry and teach Bible classes for Russian Jewish immigrants.

I was appointed to Chosen People Ministries' staff in 2005. I am currently raising the necessary support to go on the mission field full time, and I hope to begin serving in October 2007.

## Jeff Kipp

– Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

They say that God can use every experience—and my ministry in Messiah is living proof! Take Michael, for instance. He was a young man who got involved in the occult and started hearing voices and lived in constant anxiety and fear. Little did he know that the middle-aged man who was reaching out to him was an ex-hippy.

Although I was born in a typical, middle class Jewish home in Brooklyn, New York, I was a veteran of the turbulent 1960s. Like many of my peers, I sought meaning in the counter-culture of psychedelic drugs and in eastern mysticism. These experiences helped me to relate to Mike and lead him to the Lord and see him, in time, be set free from the demons of fear and shame. He now lives a new, productive life in Jesus.

My own turning point came after much searching and many twists and turns in the fall of 1973, in Taos, New Mexico. While there, I was introduced to Jesus as my personal Messiah by another Jewish believer who was also from New York City. I found deliverance from the destructive habits that had bound me, and I dedicated my life to Yeshua.



In 1979, while in a church planting ministry in Santa Cruz, California, I met my wife Kathy. After two years of courtship, we were married and moved to Kathy's

hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Over the years I have served as an evangelist, a conference chairman, and a regional director for the Union of Messianic Congregations, and pioneered planting two congregations.

In 1993 we moved to Pittsburgh, where we lead a Messianic congregation and reach out to the homeless and those suffering with addiction through the Light of Life Mens' Rescue Mission. Last year, I joined the staff of Chosen People Ministries.

# See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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

## David's Restraint and Saul's Remorse

*Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord"... Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God..." (Romans 12:19; 13:1).*



The great Apostle Paul penned this exhortation based upon the teaching of Moses (Deuteronomy 32:35). We find that David practiced this principle under the most challenging circumstances when many might have ignored it.

### SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID

King Saul made at least seven attempts to slay David. Because David's reputation began to outweigh that of Saul, jealousy drove Saul to try twice to literally pin David to the wall with his spear (1 Samuel 18:11). David escaped each attempt "...because the LORD was with him..." (1 Samuel 18:12).

After these two unsuccessful attempts to exterminate David, Saul had David removed as the "court musician" and placed him in the military, apparently hoping that David

would be slain in battle (1 Samuel 18:17). But the mighty David slew 200 Philistines, thus gaining Saul's daughter Michal for his wife.

### DAVID'S RESTRAINT AT EN GEDI

But where Saul was vengeful, David was merciful. Scripture records two instances when David spared the life of King Saul. The first is at En Gedi, near the Dead Sea. With his 3,000 men, Saul went in hot pursuit of David amid the wild, tangled countryside full of forbidding caves. Saul unwittingly wandered into the huge cave where David and his men were residing.

Resisting the temptation to slay Saul, David curbed his own passion and contented himself with cutting off the skirt of the king's robe, proving how completely Saul's life was in David's hands. David states, "...The LORD forbid

*that I should do this thing to...the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him..." (1 Samuel 24:6).*

### RESTRAINT AT THE WILDERNESS OF ZIPH

Saul's life was spared by David a second time in the wilderness of Ziph. While Saul and his soldiers were sleeping at night, David and Joab's nephew Abishai stole into the king's camp, taking Saul's spear and water jug as proof that they had been close enough to slay Saul. God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Saul's soldiers (1 Samuel 26:12), making this audacious act possible.

Centuries later, when Messiah Jesus taught us, "... love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who...persecute you" (Matthew 5:44), He might well have pointed to David as the Hebrew Scriptures' greatest example of that principle.

### KING SAUL – REMORSEFUL BUT UNREPENTANT

Saul wept for his sins and confessed that he returned evil for good, but his repentance was artificial, for he never changed his way of life. Therefore, David wisely recognized that he should separate himself from such a demonically controlled man (1 Samuel 27:1), who later died a most unhappy death (1 Samuel 31:4).

Like Esau who wept (Hebrews 12:16,17) and Judas who had regret (Matthew 27:3,4), Saul joined those sad souls who confessed and expressed remorse over their sins, but never sincerely repented and changed their lives (Matthew 3:7,8). We do well to ask ourselves, "Is my repentance genuine?" By God's grace it can be so. ✨

## CHARLES L. FEINBERG CENTER FOR MESSIANIC JEWISH STUDIES TO OFFER SUMMER CLASSES

The Charles Feinberg Center will offer five courses this summer at Talbot Seminary in California as part of the Master of Divinity degree in Messianic Jewish Studies. In addition to the New Testament Survey course taught by Dr. Noel Rabinowitz, we plan to offer either Rabbinic Theology or Jewish History. We also will offer a Research Methods course and Introduction to Field Education. The dates are June 11 to July 25, 2007. If you need more information please call Dr. Rabinowitz at 212-223-2252.

Jewish Studies Centered on the Messiah



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SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

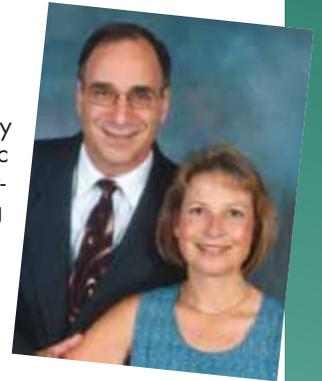


Chosen People Ministries

the Lord as a result of his ministry. Then, in Magadan, a port city on the Sea of Okhotsk, Lawrence and his team found a vibrant church led by a Messianic Jew. They had great fellowship there and in the Jewish community, leading two Jewish people to the Lord right in the Jewish community center. All together, Lawrence and his co-workers saw eighteen people come to the Lord—fourteen of them Jewish.

## MESSIANIC CONGREGATION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GROWS - IN EVERY WAY

Chosen People Ministries' Larry Feldman, who leads a Messianic congregation in Irvine, California, gives thanks for seeing growth "...in every way. Our attendance has been steadily increasing and we have seen a number of Jewish people come to accept Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah. A new believer's class was started for them." The group is currently looking for a new building to meet in since they are outgrowing their present facility. Please pray that the Lord will lead them to the place that will help them keep pace with His wonderful work among the Jewish community in Southern California.



## JEWISH MAN IN NEW YORK CITY DRAWN TO MESSIAH

Steve Fenchel, who leads the Chosen People Ministries Messianic congregation in Manhattan, encountered a young man outside our International Headquarters one evening. As they spoke, Steve found he had much background in common with this spiritually hungry Jewish young

man. They walked to a small park just down the block from the office where they talked and read Scripture. There, by the waterfall in the park, the young man prayed to receive the Lord. He has been attending Steve's weekly discipleship class and is on the road to a new life. Pray for this man, as he is Jewish and afraid of losing his family over his newfound faith.

## CELEBRATE MESSIAH'S FRUITFUL MINISTRY TO FAR EAST RUSSIA

Lawrence Hirsch, who directs *Celebrate Messiah*, Chosen People Ministries' partner in Australia, led a mission trip to Far East Russia. He had wonderful opportunities in Birobidzhan, which has a small, struggling Jewish community. Ten people came to



## POSITIONS AVAILABLE IN NEW YORK CITY

■ **Stacey Huiskes, who has been faithfully serving as Dr. Mitch Glaser's personal assistant, is about to have a baby. If you would like to serve with Chosen People Ministries and have personal assistant skills, please contact our office manager, Julia Sedaca, at 212-223-2252.**

■ **We also have a Receipting Manager position available. You must be a good manager of people, understand computer systems, and have an advanced knowledge of Excel. Please contact Julia Sedaca at the number above.**

# Walk in the Footsteps of Yeshua the Messiah

Israel is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both. A tour with Chosen People Ministries will draw you closer to the Lord and give you a whole new perspective on your walk with God.

The **eXperience Israel** ministry tour is an adventure into the world of Yeshua for young people ages 18 to 35. You will enjoy insightful Messianic teaching, passionate worship and unique opportunities to commune with God as you walk through the pages of biblical history. You will also experience a number of outreach and service opportunities. The **eXperience Israel** ministry tour is guaranteed to provide life-changing encounters with God, His Land, and His people.

**eXperience Israel**  
July 7 – 22, 2007

The **Outreach Israel** ministry trip is designed for college students interested in reaching Israelis for the Messiah. **Outreach Israel** offers excellent opportunities

to witness for the Lord and encourage Israeli young people who are part of congregations in the Land. This trip includes ministry activities such as beach and café outreach, youth work,

service projects, and visiting historic biblical sites.

**Outreach Israel**  
July 23 – August 6, 2007

**Impact Israel**  
March 5 – 15, 2007

**Impact Israel** is a ministry trip especially designed for adults who have a passion to reach Israelis with the Good News of Yeshua. You will tour a number of significant biblical sites but spend the majority of your time ministering to Israelis. The tour offers a glimpse into the connection between Jewish history and what the Lord is doing in Israel today. Join Dr. Ben Alpert, host of more than 45 tours to the Land of Israel, and Dr. Rich Freeman on an excursion throughout Israel from Tel Aviv to Jaffa to the Mediterranean coast to the Dead Sea to Galilee and Jerusalem.

For more information on any of these tours, visit [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com), call 888-2-YESHUA (888-293-7482), or email [opportunities@chosenpeople.com](mailto:opportunities@chosenpeople.com).

## Joined Together?

DVD [8024] ... \$19.95<sup>us</sup>

Chosen People Productions' DVD/video will help you explore answers to pressing questions asked by your interfaith married family and friends. *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 foundation to their marriage.

## Marty Goetz:

**LIVE IN CONCERT**

DVD [8019] ... \$21.95<sup>us</sup>

The multi-talented Marty Goetz (composer, pianist, vocalist) performs twelve original compositions accompanied by a symphony orchestra. This 90-minute DVD will provide many enchanted evenings for years to come. Plus bonus CD of *More Than the Watchman*.

## A Chosen Vessel

DVD [8034] ... \$19.95<sup>us</sup>

Alan Shore presents *A Chosen Vessel*, the life legacy of the Apostle Paul, through a one-man dramatic presentation filmed in live performance. This full-length play, set in the dungeon where Paul is awaiting execution, is a recollection of his life and journey that is completely faithful to the biblical account.

## Experience Your Jewish Roots through Multimedia Resources

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Order online or for phone orders in the U.S. call 1-800-333-4936.



### 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)



A higher standard. A higher purpose.

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