

The Chosen People

Volume XIII, Issue 5 June 2007



Chosen People Ministries and Your Church: Working Together for the Salvation of Israel

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Chosen People Ministries:

Helping Your Church to Reach the Jewish People

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Dear friend,
Shalom in the
Messiah! We
live in exciting
times. How can
you possibly

watch the news and not see prophecy after prophecy fulfilled before your very eyes? The *modern* state of Israel is now 59 years old, but the ancient promises of peace in the Land are still far from fulfilled! There is unrest within the chosen nation, and she is surrounded by determined enemies seeking her destruction. At this time, the United States is still Israel's best friend, but unfortunately, many Christian leaders lack vision for Israel's future. Even a former president has published a book calling for the U.S. to rethink her policies of friendship with Israel.

I am sorry to say that these views have spilled over into many areas—including the need to share the Gospel with the Jewish people. An anti-Israel position has a way of *morphing* into an anti-Jewish position.

When the Church is not positive towards the Jewish people, interest in and commitment to reaching Jewish people for Jesus weakens and wanes.

This newsletter is designed to challenge believers and local churches to renew their love for the Jewish people and to deepen their commitment to Jewish evangelism.

Dear friend, your Mission to the Jewish people cannot reach Jewish people for the Messiah without you! We want to do all we can to encourage, empower and equip Christians and local churches to reach Jewish people for Jesus.

We are grateful for all that God is doing through you and other believers who are still committed to the Jewish people, the nation of Israel and Jewish evangelism!

Chosen People Ministries: Helping Your Church to Reach the Jewish People

For more than a century, Chosen People Ministries has proclaimed the Gospel to the Jewish people. Your

Mission's partnership with churches and church members is the practical outworking of the wonderful mystery explained by the Apostle Paul in the "olive tree" illustration found in Romans 11:16-24—that Jews and Gentiles are brothers and sisters in Messiah.

In verse 11, Paul makes it clear that Gentile believers are called to reach Jewish people through their lives, love and witness: *"I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles"* (Romans 11:11). We are also partners in ministry, and for many years I have been keenly aware of the value of partnering with individual Christians and churches in sharing the Good News with Jewish people. Partnering with churches in Jewish evangelism is not an option. It is a necessity!

We think so highly of the importance of involving local churches in Jewish evangelism and support of the Jewish people that we

actually have a Department of Church Ministries, guided by Dr. Rich Freeman, who has written an article in this newsletter. I hope you will be encouraged by these articles and prayerfully find ways to become involved—personally or through your church—in Jewish evangelism.

Jewish Evangelism and the Jewish People

Chosen People Ministries is committed to reaching our beloved Jewish people and helping churches and church members to do likewise.

For example, Cathy Wilson, one of our most creative and energetic staff members, has partnered with her home church in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she has formed a Jewish ministry team. The team's goal is to educate the church about the Jewish roots of Christianity and train its members to reach the large Jewish community in Scottsdale. This is a wonderful illustration of the kind of partnership that extends the reach of the Gospel among the Jewish people. What a joy it would be if local churches across our country even began praying regularly for the salvation of Jewish people.



Another way to come alongside Jewish people concerns the State of Israel. As I mentioned above, we are seeing an anti-Israel shift in attitude, even here in the United States.

As a result, Jewish people are becoming increasingly aware of who their friends are. One very important thing that you and your church can do to reach out to Jewish people is to become aware of and lend your

prayers and support to local events in defense of Israel being sponsored by the Jewish community. Writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper is a wonderful way to show your love for Israel and the Jewish people.

Growing Opportunities for Jewish Evangelism

In the past few years, many synagogues have been actually reaching out to local churches in order to build friendships—especially because of those Christians who have become known within the Jewish community as friends and not foes.



This growing Christian friendship with the Jewish people has softened some of the Jewish antagonism towards Christianity. This is why I want to encourage this support to continue. Many Jewish people around the world are *spiritually curious*. A more open door for the Gospel will result in a fuller harvest for the Kingdom. Jewish people, especially in light of the disturbing history between Judaism and Christianity, need to be explicitly shown Christian love.

Training Resources for Your Church

The Jewish people are still one of the most unreached people groups in the world, with less than 1% being believers in Messiah. Bringing Jewish people to faith is a challenging and faith-building experience. Chosen People Ministries has excellent training resources for church members who have a burden to reach “the Jew first” (Romans 1:16).

Our foremost training resource is our missionary staff! Our Church Ministries department would be delighted to schedule a speaker to lead a seminar on Jewish evangelism

during your Sunday services or your missions conference.

Our online resource catalogue (www.chosenpeople.com/store) has books, tracts, articles and videos that will help you understand how to share the Gospel in a culturally sensitive way with your Jewish friend, neighbor or relative.

Building bridges is an essential part of the picture. Are there Messianic leaders in your area? Perhaps you can approach them for ideas. Another way to begin is to partner with ministries that are already involved in Jewish evangelism. Local churches need the help

and partnership of Jewish believers and Messianic congregations to reach Jewish people, just as we need the support of the local church. You may call our offices to find out if a Chosen People Ministries worker or other Messianic ministry representative is in your area.

It takes only one person in a church to light a fire for Jewish outreach. **You can be that person!** Your prayers, vision and willingness to find kindred spirits in your church fellowship may be the foundation upon which a meaningful ministry of Jewish evangelism could be built. Dr. Freeman will give you some very practical suggestions if you contact him at church@chosenpeople.com.

Chosen People Ministries exists to reach Jewish people and to serve you as you do the same. I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter. I especially hope you will pray about how the Lord might want to use you and your church in reaching Jewish people for Jesus.

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Our Ministry to the Church & to the Jewish People

by Dr. Rich Freeman



As my brother and friend Mitch Glaser rightly observes in the previous article, Chosen People Ministries and the local church work hand in hand. Each has its role to play in winning Jewish people to Messiah, and each can do things the other cannot.

In my many years of ministry, I have grown keenly aware of how much those of us in Jewish missions have been blessed by churches. It is my heart's desire for Chosen People Ministries to serve God's people in the churches and in doing so, to serve the Messiah to whom we are all so indebted.

What is our blessed hope? It is the return of the Messiah. Although we do not know the day and the hour, we are convinced that it will happen. Until that day, we have been charged in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) with the task of bringing the Gospel "to the Jew first and to the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

It is no secret that we believe that Jewish evangelism occupies a special role in the unfolding will of the Lord in these last times. Chosen People Ministries is eager to help equip churches to carry out the God-appointed task it has been given, the role Paul speaks of in Romans 11:11—to live lives that are so attractive and spiritually contagious that Jewish people would become jealous and would be open to hearing the Gospel.

We believe that Gentile Christians have a unique and special mandate to reach Jewish people in the way Paul instructed—and it really does work! Almost nine out of ten Jewish believers have stated that their coming to faith was due, in part, to the faithful witness of a Gentile family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker.

This is an essential part of Jewish evangelism, and it is my privilege as Vice President of Church Ministries and

Conferences to work closely with churches to help them take hold of their role as God's emissaries to the Jewish people.

Church Ministries – Your Lifeline to Chosen People Ministries

Our Church Ministries department exists to serve your church. The staff performs a critically important job by working with pastors and other church leaders to inspire and train fellow believers to participate in the ministry of Jewish evangelism. We have found that the more a church participates in Jewish outreach, the more deeply it enters into an awareness and appreciation of its heritage in the Messiah. It is exciting for Christians to become involved!

Here are some practical suggestions—and you may be able to add a few others! Please feel free to write to us with any additional suggestions.



Start a prayer group within the church to pray for the Jewish people.

All worthwhile ministries begin with prayer. Jewish evangelism is no exception—and there is an added spiritual dimension in that our adversary will work to keep Jewish people from hearing the Gospel and responding to it.



Travel with Chosen People Ministries to Israel—it will transform the Church.

Chosen People Ministries' "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour of the Holy Land is a life-changing experience (see the back page for information). The joy

Presentations in Your Church

Partnering with churches is a vital aspect of Chosen People Ministries' calling. Your church or group can schedule a speaker and choose from various presentations such as *Messiah in the Passover*, *The Fall Feasts of Israel*, *Israel and the Church*, and *The Future of Israel*.

Through our presentations, church members are:

1. Edified and encouraged in their faith.
2. Equipped to share the Good News with their Jewish friends.
3. Provided with an avenue to invite a Jewish friend to hear a Jewish person who believes Jesus is the Messiah.
4. Given a way to stay connected to what's going on in Jewish ministry by signing up for our monthly newsletter.
5. Informed how better to pray for us as we bring the Gospel "to the Jew first and also to the Gentile."
6. Presented with opportunities for short-term ministry with Chosen People Ministries.
7. Offered resources for further study on how to share the Messiah with Jewish people.

If you would like to schedule a presentation for your church, you may contact our U.S. Church Ministries Department by phone at 888-405-5874 or by email at church@chosenpeople.com.



In Canada write to info@chosenpeople.ca or call 888-442-5535. Please also see the enclosed flyer for more information.

and blessing of seeing the sites where Messiah and the prophets ministered will inspire you to cherish the Jewish roots of your faith and to reach out to the Jewish people. We would be happy to work with you and your pastor to organize a group from your church. We have two trips scheduled for this October. In the U.S. call 800-459-9402 for more information. If you live in Canada you will want to contact us at 888-442-5535.



Participate in Chosen People Ministries' short-term missions programs.

Chosen People Ministries offers wonderful outreach events in Israel, New York City, and Florida. Held at various times during the year, they serve as great training opportunities. For more information, give our office a call at 212-223-2252 or visit our website.



Invite a special speaker to celebrate the Feasts of Israel.

The Church Ministries department would be glad to send a special speaker to present "*Messiah in the Passover*" to your church or to teach about the other Feasts of Israel.



Use the resources listed on our website.

Materials such as *How to Introduce Your Jewish Friends to the Messiah* and *Jesus Was a Jew* are especially helpful. These and other resources provide valuable information to help you present the Gospel to Jewish people in an informed and culturally sensitive way.



Contact our office if you have Jewish friends.

We can respond to questions and provide follow-up in person, over the phone, through e-mail or through letters. We want to help you reach your Jewish friends, and we would be happy to visit them if we are in the area.



Sponsor events about Jewish issues.

Staff member Justin Kron, who ministers in the Chicago area, can tell you about the fruit that can come from such events:

"What a night to remember! I am thrilled to report that the Holocaust Remembrance service that I coordinated at my church a few weeks ago went amazingly well. It was powerful, thought-provoking, emotional, challenging, and very honoring of our Jewish guests, of which there were many. Several of them thanked me afterwards, including one woman who told me how welcomed she felt by everyone she met and that she was very interested in coming to one of our regular services."

We can help you plan an "Israel Appreciation Day." What a witness that would be!

A Shared Blessing

Our Church Ministries staff would love to speak with you or your pastor about reaching your local Jewish community. We would also like to schedule a Chosen People Ministries speaker to come to your church. Please let us serve you as we serve the Lord and the Jewish people together!

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



DAVID'S DYNASTY AND GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

We have explored King David's role as both a poet and a warrior, but he was also a visionary. He planned for Jerusalem to be the political and spiritual center of his kingdom. Once the Ark of the Covenant was relocated to Jerusalem from the city of Kirjath Jearim, then Jerusalem would indeed become the Holy City and spiritual center of Israel.

DAVID'S DESIRE TO CONSTRUCT A TEMPLE TO HOUSE THE ARK

After the Ark arrived, King David was concerned that it should rest in a temple worthy of it. David lived in a beautiful cedar palace that the Phoenicians had built for him, and he was embarrassed that the dwelling place of the Ark was so unimpressive.

But God denied David's request to build a temple for the Ark. According to the message the Lord conveyed through Nathan the prophet (2 Samuel 7:3-16), David's many years as a warrior involved him in much bloodshed and made his request for such an important work inappropriate.

David's conversation with Nathan must have been very difficult. But although David would not be permitted to build a temple for the Ark, the Lord promised him that a greater house would be built and established forever (2 Samuel 7:16).

GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

The Lord revealed many important prophecies in the Davidic Covenant. These include:

- ✧ David's son Solomon will establish the kingdom of Israel and build

the Temple
(2 Samuel 7:12-13).

- ✧ The throne of Solomon's kingdom will endure forever (2 Samuel 7:13) after some temporary interruptions (2 Kings 25).
- ✧ The Davidic kingdom will be established eternally (2 Samuel 7:16; 1 Corinthians 15:24).
- ✧ The Davidic line would always be the royal line and would include an actual earthly kingdom.

The Davidic Covenant also contains many promises, some of which have come to pass and others of which have yet to be fulfilled. It ensures that the nation of Israel will be preserved by God and returned to her land, and that David's greater Son—Messiah Jesus—will return to rule over all Israel in Jerusalem.

THE PLEDGE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Psalm 89 may have been written during the darkest days of the Babylonian captivity. But even in such trying times, the Psalmist sings of the faithfulness and mercy of God that is best illustrated by the Davidic Covenant: "*I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations'*" (Psalm 89:3, 4).

This promise is expressed another way in the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary in the Gospel of Luke: "*He [Jesus] will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end*" (Luke 1:32, 33). ✧



FAITH DECISION AT MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER PRESENTATION

Chosen People Ministries' staff member Dennis K. has done dozens, if not hundreds, of "Messiah in the Passover" presentations. At one presentation,

Dennis asked a nine-year-old girl to help with the children's parts of the Seder meal. The service went well, the meal was delicious and Dennis had a chance to talk with many of the adults afterwards. Finally, Dennis went to the pastor's office to say good-bye. There was the little girl, with happy tears on her face, with her mom and dad. Something that Dennis had said, she told the pastor, had made her want to believe in the Lamb of God. She received the Lord that very night!

PASTORS' WORDS OF APPRECIATION

"Thank you for your diligence and conscientiousness; your calls are like a smile and it is always good to speak with you. Thank you for introducing us to the work of Chosen People Ministries. We are truly blessed."

– Pastor Dan Collis
Southside Baptist Church, Sun City, Florida

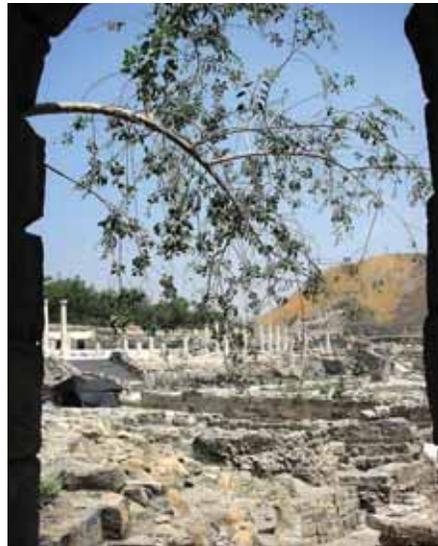
"After the 'Messiah in the Passover' presentation, I heard so many people say how meaningful the service was and how much they learned. We thank you so much for calling us and offering a Chosen People Ministries representative to come and speak at our church. We look forward to being together again soon."

– Pastor Rick Johnson
First Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

At a Messianic Passover Seder officiated by Rich Freeman at a local church in South Florida, a number of Jewish people attended who were invited by church members. One Jewish person, who did not know the Lord, was following along with her own *Haggadah* (a book containing the story of Passover).

Each time Rich prayed, she would mouth the prayers along with him. At the end of the service, she began speaking to Rich's wife, Julia. It turned out that she was the wife of a Holocaust survivor and came to America from Germany prior to World War II. Rich and Julia took her to lunch to get to know her better. She proved to be open to the claims of Messiah. Please pray that the relationship will continue and grow to fruition.



ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM THE "SEE ISRAEL THROUGH JEWISH EYES" TOUR

As believers and supporters of God's Chosen People and the nation of Israel, we urge you who have it on your heart to visit this sacred land to bless her with your presence. And so, too, shall you be blessed. To those loved ones and friends who will undoubtedly ask, "How can you go now?" we would say, "How can we *not* go now?"

As one traveler put it, "At no point during my two weeks did I feel the least bit uneasy. Israel actually felt safer than most urban areas in America. Because of this trip, I am persuading family members to go to Israel next year."

For more information about Chosen People Ministries' "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour, contact Dr. Ben Alpert at 800-459-9402.

IN MEMORIAM

The Chosen People Ministries family wishes to express its condolences to the Ennis family at the passing of retired missionary William T. Ennis on April 28. Bill and his wife Jo began their ministry with Chosen People Ministries in Dallas, Texas. He also served as branch director in Flushing, Queens, and oversaw the ministry on Long Island. Bill and Jo were married for 63 years.

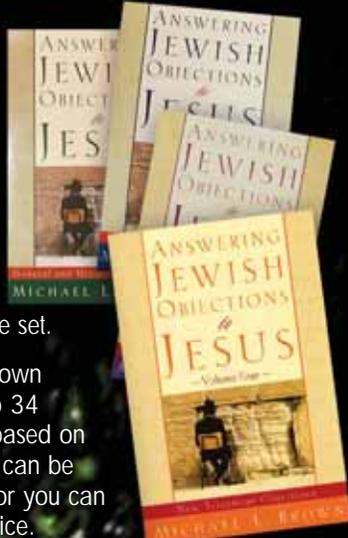
Chosen People Ministries also prays that the Lord will continue to extend His peace and comfort to Ted Benedict, whose wife Barbara went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 20. Barbara served faithfully for many years as Executive Secretary, as well as Secretary to Chosen People Ministries' United States Board of Directors.

Resources for Outreach and Discipleship

Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus

Have you ever wondered why your Jewish friends object to the claim that Jesus is the Messiah? Internationally known author and speaker Dr. Michael Brown provides clear, in-depth responses to objections on a variety of topics in this four-volume set.

In the NEW fourth volume, Dr. Brown explains the Christian response to 34 Jewish objections to Christianity based on the New Testament. Each volume can be purchased and read on its own, or you can purchase the set for a reduced price.



3070	Volume One, General and Historical Objections	.....	\$21.95 ^{US}
3072	Volume Two, Theological Objections	.....	\$21.95 ^{US}
3068	Volume Three, Messianic Prophecy Objections	.....	price: \$21.95 ^{US}
3075	*NEW* Volume Four, New Testament Objections	.....	price: \$21.95 ^{US}
3105	All FOUR volumes	.....	SAVE! price: \$79.95 ^{US}

God's Appointed Customs by Barney Kasdan

This book explains how God's appointed customs can be part of anyone's lifestyle, Jew or Gentile. This is especially relevant to believers in the Messiah, since Yeshua (Jesus) himself observed them.

3060 \$16.95^{US}



How to Introduce Your Jewish Friends to the Messiah

We often find it difficult to share the Gospel with those who we do not know well or feel we do not understand. This manual will help you reach Jewish people with the message of salvation.

Special 20% OFF — 3004 regular price \$9.95^{US}NOW \$7.95^{US}

Order online at www.chosenpeople.com, or for phone orders in the U.S., call 1-800-333-4936.

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

has been serving the local church for more than a century by providing presentations that edify, educate and equip believers in their faith.

- The Feasts of Israel
- Messiah in the Passover
- The Future of Israel
- Jewish Evangelism Seminar
- The Church and the Jewish People
- Personal Testimony

To schedule a Chosen People Ministries speaker at your church or ministry event, contact:

Chosen People Ministries
Church Ministries Department
P.O. Box 7897
Delray Beach, FL 33482-7897

888-405-5874
church@chosenpeople.com

In Canada
888-442-5535
info@chosenpeople.ca

See Israel through Jewish Eyes

Visit Israel and You'll Never Be the Same!

Plan now to accompany Chosen People Ministries' Dr. Ben Alpert on the trip of a lifetime—chose from two tours this fall. 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.

October 15-25, 2007
CALL 800-459-9402

for a full-color brochure of this tour leaving from New York, or see a full itinerary at www.chosenpeople.com/tour.

October 30-November 8, 2007
CALL 888-442-5535

for more information about this tour leaving from Toronto with Rev. Joseph Gray and Dr. Ben Alpert.



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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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: P.O. Box 47871, Golders Green, London, NW11 1AL (www.chosenpeople.org.uk). In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah Australia, P.O. Box 304, Caulfield, South Vic 3162, Australia (www.celebratemesiah.com.au). Editors: Zhava Glaser, Andrew Sparks; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Design: Lois Gable.



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Our Spanish website is www.pueblolegido.com. ©2007 Chosen People Ministries

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



A higher standard. A higher purpose.

Printed in the USA.