

The Chosen People



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Helping the Helpless in ISRAEL

A New Ministry Initiative



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Helping the Helpless in Israel

A new ministry initiative

Greetings to you in the grace of Jesus the Messiah. I hope your summer is going well. As usual, Chosen People Ministries is quite active, particularly in Israel, where we have four of our “eXperience Israel” and “Outreach Israel” short-term mission teams in the Land. Please pray that the Lord will make them fruitful for His Kingdom and that they would travel under His protection.

This month I want to tell you about a new type of ministry your Mission to the Jews is involved with in the Holy Land. As you know, direct evangelism is the very heart of Chosen People Ministries. But as we become more involved in people’s lives and circumstances, we gain a greater awareness of the obstacles many Israelis now face that require a new approach to outreach.

Chosen People Ministries has carried out an active ministry in Tel Aviv for the last ten years. Now, if you have never been to Israel, it is easy to imagine that the whole country is filled with strong men and women, confident and eager to build their country. However, if this was once true, it is sadly no longer the case.

While the vast majority of Israel’s citizens are willing and able to contribute to the growth of the nation, the past few years have seen a sharp increase in social problems that would have been unimaginable in



past generations. Tel Aviv, long known as a magnet for business, education and entertainment, is starting to pay the consequences. The number of homeless people and drug abusers in Israel has increased—especially in Tel Aviv—and this problem is becoming difficult to ignore. That is where we, through our Tel Aviv congregation, are developing ministries to serve these desperate Israelis.

From Soup Kitchen to Rehabilitation Center

The work began with the simple mandate from our Messiah to feed the hungry. The Chosen People Ministries Messianic congregation in Tel Aviv, which serves as the hub for much of our evangelistic effort in the area, became involved in a soup kitchen that serves as many as 150 homeless people every week. The Lord began to move in a powerful way, touching lives and raising up believers with a heart for this ministry.

Neriyah A., who helps lead our work there, told me that about twelve people who had recovered from drug and alcohol addiction had begun attending the congregation’s services. Neriyah started a Bible study with these twelve, and from this group came the vision to start the soup kitchen to feed the needy. It did not take long to discover that many of the people being fed were suffering from horrendous problems, including

drug and alcohol addiction. Some of the women to whom they began ministering had resorted to prostitution to feed their habits.

The soup kitchen became the basis for an expanded vision that included a rehabilitation center. Brian and Racheli S., new staff members in Israel who had prior experience in this field, became involved under the leadership of Sergey K., the pastor of our congregation in Tel Aviv.

The rehabilitation center has now become a reality and the needs have already outstripped the human and financial resources we are able to provide. *They now have three apartments and more than twenty addicts in their program.* The Israeli government can help to pay the housing for these destitute people, but it cannot provide what these addicts and homeless Israelis need most!

We are seeing the fruit of this ministry as some of them help in the worship during the services and as others assist in the soup kitchen ministry. But the greatest joys of all are the testimonies of the faith decisions in Messiah—and this is what I want to share with you now.

Testimonies of Faith: From Darkness to Light

A few months ago, the Tel Aviv congregation baptized eleven people. Among them was Roman, a man who had been an alcoholic but had become a believer two months earlier. Roman is a resident of the center that Sergey leads, and is a “first fruit” of this new ministry partnership.

Before he came to the rehabilitation center, Roman was deeply troubled. In addition to his alcoholism, he was under deep spiritual oppression and tormented by suicidal thoughts. He actually attempted suicide twice. The first time, he was saved as a man and a woman stopped him from jumping

off a bridge. The second time, he attempted to hurl himself in front of a speeding car but amazingly emerged from that experience unharmed. Roman was committed to a mental hospital and, following his release, found his way to the rehabilitation center where he was cared for and came to faith in the Messiah. He still lives there and now devotes himself to helping others.

Another wonderful testimony was reported by Brian:

“I brought a team of simple, humble people down to Tel Aviv to do outreach to the homeless. One of the women to whom we ministered acknowledged a sincere desire to get off the streets and off the drugs to which she has been enslaved for more than twenty years. We prayed for her and she prayed with us to receive Yeshua as her Messiah. Bless Him!

“She was overjoyed and we all rejoiced together. But we were deeply frustrated that there was little more that we could do for her. There are no Bible-based women’s shelters for those who speak mainly Russian. Our vision is to establish an evangelical women’s shelter for the homeless, drug addicts, prostitutes and women with unwanted pregnancies. Please pray for this huge need.”

As you can see, the challenge is great. But Scripture tells us that the Lord “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

I hope you will be as moved by the articles and testimonies in this newsletter as I have been. I want to do more to help our Israeli workers reach these dear folks—mostly Russian immigrants—who need so much help. We do want to feed them, help them “kick” their addictions, and care for their many physical needs, but



A baptism by our Tel Aviv congregation

more than that, we want them to come to know the Messiah, whom to know is life eternal!

My heart goes out to those held captive by drug addiction and alcoholism. I care because more than 35 years ago, I was enslaved to these merciless taskmasters myself. But Jesus delivered me and transformed my life, so I know He can do the same for these precious people. Would you pray about helping to reach them for the Lord?

Thank you for your prayers and partnership that help make this much-needed *ministry of mercy* possible. We know our Israeli staff cannot raise their missionary support. They rely on the Lord and us—on you and me. We live in an affluent country with many believers, and it is our joy and responsibility to pray for our brothers and sisters abroad and provide funding so that they can fulfill their ministry.

I am so grateful to you for your generosity and support—especially for our work in Israel, Russia, and other places where our local staff workers need our help! They are willing to work sacrificially—they just need our encouragement and practical support.

Blessings!


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



Messiah's C



Chosen People Ministries staff and volunteers provide practical assistance through rehabilitation and outreach in Israel

There are many roads to the Lord's service, and very often a person's past experiences are transformed into mighty instruments of ministry. This is especially true in ministry to the addicted. It is a beautiful testimony of hope to see the life-changing power of Messiah in someone who was formerly enslaved but is now living a victorious life.

The team that the Lord has assembled to work at the newly established rehabilitation center in Israel has at least two workers who know what it is like to struggle with the immense challenge of overcoming addiction.

Brian S. – Finding Wholeness in Messiah

Brian S. was born in 1969 and raised in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood near Los Angeles, California. Though non-religious, his Jewish parents always celebrated the holidays with family.

Before coming to the Lord, Brian encountered a series of difficult and stressful

times in his life. As a teenager, he fell into drug and alcohol abuse, seeking to satisfy a deep need for fulfillment and attention. His lowest point came after being arrested for possession of narcotics at the age of 16. However, the Lord got Brian's attention and put him on a path of recovery and spiritual discovery. In the spring of 1987, at the age of 18, Brian came to know his Messiah in a powerful revelation through the godly witness and love of a Christian man who showed deep care and concern for Brian's emotional and spiritual needs. Through the Lord, Brian has found the wholeness he had always searched for.

Brian deeply desired to help others with a similar background, and this led him to seek professional education and become a certified drug and alcohol counselor. He began working in hospitals with patients being treated for drug and



alcohol abuse, psychiatric disorders and other life-controlling issues. He then went on to earn his nursing license. In 1996, when Brian was 26, God called him to leave all the

comforts of home in California to immigrate to Israel. On one of his many visits there, he served for four months as a volunteer at a Messianic rehabilitation center in Haifa. This center helped Israelis

and Arabs with drug and alcohol addiction issues.

In 1997, Brian married Racheli, an Israeli believer. They and their young children live in a suburb of Tel Aviv and are excited to be part of the Chosen People Ministries family, working on the front lines of Jewish evangelism and bringing the healing ministry of Jesus the Messiah to the lost and addicted.

Sergey K. – From Atheist and Addict to Messiah's Servant and Shepherd

Sergey K. was born into an atheistic Jewish family in St. Petersburg, Russia. Like many Jewish people from the former Soviet Union, he was barely aware of his Jewish identity. As a result, his upbringing was far away from the values and heritage of Judaism. He, too, spent years in darkness, in bondage to gambling. While in the grip of his addiction, Sergey did many things of which he was

Comforters to the Addicted

ashamed, but he felt powerless to stop them.

However, something had changed in his family. His father came to faith in the Messiah in 1989 and began witnessing to him. In 1992, Sergey came to the realization that God did indeed exist. The following year, through a search of the Scriptures, Sergey made his own faith decision and was delivered from his gambling addiction.

After this, Sergey served for many years as a pastor in a Baptist church in Russia and was also a director of the Russian division of “Light in the East” Christian mission. A growing awareness of his Jewish identity led him to outreach among Jewish people in St. Petersburg. After he immigrated to Israel, Sergey became the leader of the congregation



Tel Aviv skyline

planted by Chosen People Ministries more than ten years ago in Tel Aviv. Now Sergey also directs the

rehabilitation center where he serves as a teacher and counselor.

Freedom and Addiction: A Spiritual and Physical Struggle

Human beings are born with an overwhelming but often unrecognized need for a relationship with God. The challenges of life teach us that we are incomplete without this sense of fulfillment in the depths of our souls. In our confused and fallen state, however, we sometimes seek destructive ways to fill the emptiness that only the Lord can satisfy.

Substance abuse, while by no means the only form of addiction, is one of the worst. How does one identify a drug addict? One way is that the life of the person revolves around seeking drugs and other, more wholesome activities take a back seat and often cease.

Drug-dependent people need larger and larger doses to achieve the desired effect, and they experience withdrawal symptoms when the drug is not available to them. Despite the downward spiral of their lives, they will continue until an effective intervention is set in place or until they die.

The Lord wants human beings to enjoy the freedom that comes from a relationship with Jesus the Messiah. He is able to break the chains of the captives and set them on a path to health. Some people will testify that they were freed in an instant. For others, the road is longer and requires constant maintenance.

However, we know that in a life that is consecrated to Messiah, God is able to use a troubled past in powerful ways. And He often uses those who are being healed to minister to others who have suffered similar wounds.

Bondage comes in many forms, but the Apostle Paul’s words are a special reminder of Messiah’s freeing power: *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins”* (Colossians 1:13-14).

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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



KING DAVID ADDRESSES THE 'UNITED NATIONS' (Psalm Two)

While the modern United Nations Charter became effective in 1945 in what some would call an idealistic quest for peace, King David prophesied centuries earlier that the nations would unite for a different purpose.

Listen to the four different voices sounding out their messages in this prophetic and Messianic Psalm:

THE NATIONS ON EARTH UNITE IN DEFIANCE (Psalm 2:2,3)

David looked ahead to a time when all nations would unite in battle array against the Lord and against His Messiah (Psalm 2:2; see also Zechariah 14:3; Revelation 19:11-21). Their purpose would be to cast off God's authority, like a restive and stubborn animal wanting to break its yoke (Psalm 2:3).

The major goal of nations uniting against God's Messiah is to prevent His universal rule over all the nations from the Davidic throne (2 Samuel 7:12).

IN HEAVEN, GOD LAUGHS IN DERISION (Psalm 2:4)

In certain Psalms, David portrays God as laughing at the wicked (Psalm 37:13; 59:8). Be certain that even the inhabitants of heaven are laughing at the futile efforts of men to govern themselves apart from Divine guidance (Psalm 52:6).

Today, God speaks to all of the nations in His love and grace, imploring them to trust His Son, the Messiah. However, the day will arrive when He will address the nations in His wrath (Revelation 6-19).

God has declared an eternal decree from heaven, saying, "Yet I have set My

King on My holy hill of Zion"
(Psalm 2:6; see also Luke 1:32).

MESSIAH'S RESURRECTION DECLARATION (Psalm 2:7-9)

In Psalm 22:1, David prophesied the very words that Jesus would utter at His death. David also stated that God would raise Him up from the dead (Psalm 16:10).

In Psalm 2:7-9, we hear the voice of Messiah Jesus, no doubt uttered at His resurrection from the dead. Messiah declared, "*The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You... I will give You the nations for Your inheritance... You shall break them with a rod of iron...'*" (Psalm 2:7-9).

When the Apostle Paul preached in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, he connected the "begetting" mentioned in Psalm 2:7 with the resurrection of the Messiah (Acts 13:32-37).

DAVID ADVISES THE RULERS OF THE 'UNITED NATIONS'

"Now therefore, be wise, O kings... Serve the Lord with fear... Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled... Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him"
(Psalm 2:10-12).

The Jewish Scriptures declare that God has a Son (Prov. 30:4). The word for "Son" (Hebrew "bar") in Psalm 2:12 must be interpreted in line with Psalm 2:7, "*You are My Son...*" Jesus the Messiah is not only the Son of God and the coming King, but also the Judge (Psalm 2:8,9). In the ancient world, loyalty to a king was demonstrated by kissing the hand or cheek.

The Psalmist's desire is that the rulers of nations be blessed rather than perish: "*Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him*" (Psalm 2:12b)—that is, in Jesus the Messiah. ✧



Photos from a recent evangelistic outreach at Shantipi, the annual New Age festival at the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel during Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost).

WITNESSING AT ISRAELI NEW AGE FESTIVAL

The prophets of Baal seem to be making a comeback in the Promised Land if *Shantipi* (meaning “Tranquil Tent”) is any indication. This annual New Age festival, which takes place around *Shavuot* (the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost), features yoga, tarot cards, palm reading, magicians and a number of other dubious spiritual practices designed to appeal to the thousands of Israeli youth who flock to the shores of the *Kinneret* (Sea of Galilee) for this three-day event. But the Lord was also present through the witness of our faithful staff members. Here are two testimonies to help us remember that spiritual seekers may find their Messiah in the unlikelyst of places.

NERIYAH A. – SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE

For the last three years, I did not participate in outreach at *Shantipi* because of my kidney disease. But praise God, He provided a new kidney, and I was able to be there. I joined about 70 young Israeli believers who preached the Gospel with great zeal! They were a real testimony of unity, hospitality and purity. There were about 3,000 people and there was trash everywhere except at the place where the believers were. I gave a ride to a news reporter who told me, “You folks are so different from other groups!” We met many young Israelis who asked questions about Yeshua (Jesus). One young man

prayed to receive the Lord on the first day of the festival! He participated in all of our devotionals, and each of us had a chance to share our faith with him. On the last day of the festival, he asked us to baptize him, which we did with great joy.

HENRY AND DARLENE M. – MINISTERING IN UNITY WITH THE BODY OF MESSIAH

My wife Darlene and I had a team of twelve people at *Shantipi* to share the Gospel during the event. Hundreds heard the message and many received Bibles in Hebrew. After much planting of God’s seed, we also prayed to Jesus for a harvest. On the last night, the Lord did a miracle. I asked the leaders from the different ministry groups to come together to celebrate the Lord’s Supper as one Body of Messiah. It was powerful to worship God in the midst of the spiritual darkness of this New Age festival. After communion, our team returned to our tent to share the Gospel with the many people who stopped to visit. One was a woman who was terribly worried about her sons, who were going into the army. After some time together, she understood how only Jesus could remove the fear she was living with and why we need to trust in Him. We explained the Gospel and the peace that only Jesus gives, and then this woman prayed to receive the Lord right there by the Sea of Galilee. What a joy and privilege to be a part of this decision that will change her life forever!



RANDALL AND LUDA FORD—WITNESSING IN NEW YORK CITY

For at least a year, one of our friends from the English as a Second Language classes we teach would barely speak with us. He used to be friendly but was offended by our presentation of the Gospel during a Bible study. He recently suffered a heart attack, so we visited him at home. Over a meal, we suggested he attend our Messianic conference, *SIMCHA*, partly at our expense. He accepted! Our reluctant friend illustrates the nature of our outreach. One year, he is very friendly and open. The next year, he freezes us out. And the following year, he is open and friendly once more. We feel that the key elements of our ministry are praying, persevering, and reflecting the love of Messiah in our lives.

Love the Land Love the People



Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Dr. Michael Rydelnik, Professor of Jewish Studies at Moody Bible Institute, goes beyond media images for an in-depth look at the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. *Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict* places the "crisis that never ends" in its scriptural, historical, and prophetic contexts, and challenges the reader to think biblically and to stand with

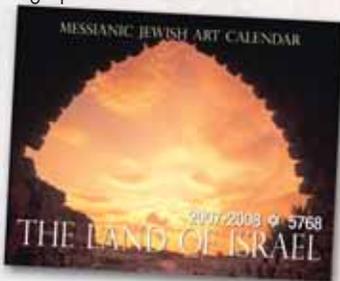
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Have you considered offering a gift to Chosen People Ministries from your IRA? Many of our ministry partners have been doing this as a way to give more than they might otherwise be able to give. Giving from a qualified retirement plan allows you to give away assets that, for tax reasons, you might not otherwise have accessed. If you give from this asset to Chosen People Ministries, the gift remains tax-sheltered. If you would like more information on creative ways to give, please contact Doug McEvoy at 212-223-2252.

Visit Israel and You'll Never Be the Same!

When is a good time to visit Israel? The answer is "Now!" Israel is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both. Chosen People Ministries offers tours and ministry trips that uniquely focus on God's Chosen People. These opportunities are sure to draw you closer to the Lord and transform your walk with God.

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Please remember
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will. "I will bless
those who bless
you." (Genesis 12:3)



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