



E | V | A | N | G | E | L | I | S | M

in Israel¹

August 2007

Dear Friend,

Shalom and thank you for caring about the Jewish people. We are praying that both Jews and Arabs will keep their cool during this very hot summer in Israel—especially after the *Hamas* takeover of Gaza.

I am sorry to say that they are terrorizing the Israelis living “next door.”

Sderot—A City Under Siege

Can you imagine what it would be like to live less than half a mile from a group of people whose goal is to destroy you? This is what the inhabitants of the city of Sderot, located almost at the border of the Gaza Strip, have had to live with since the Second Intifada began six years ago. Since the withdrawal of the Israeli presence in Gaza in 2005, the situation has become even worse as *Hamas* launches daily missile attacks on Sderot.

These threats to life and property have had a devastating effect upon the city and its inhabitants. About half the population of 20,000 has left, seeking refuge in Tel Aviv or elsewhere. Most of the stores are closed. Unemployment has



Michael Z. led a team on a mission of mercy to Sderot.



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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An informal prayer and praise meeting in Israel.

skyrocketed and real estate has plummeted.

Daily life for the people of Sderot is filled with frustration and hopelessness.

This is why Michael Z., our Israel Director, led a 13-member team from his congregation and elsewhere on a mission of mercy to Sderot.

The team provided practical aid and witnessed as the doors opened for them to do so.

Michael told me:

The situation was very sensitive. We gave away food and supplies without directly linking the gifts to the preaching of the Gospel. It is illegal in Israel to provide material goods as a way to persuade Israelis to change their religion. Of course, this was not our intent or method...we wanted to help as a sign of His love.

Michael further described what the team did:

In Sderot, we divided into four teams, prayed and went to visit our contacts. One of the families that hosted us was really

We wanted to make it clear that our help comes as a result of His love. We wanted people to understand who we are, what we believe in, and what is motivating us.

amazed by our actions. They could not understand why we were doing all this. I explained that it was because of the love of Yeshua (Jesus). They expressed their love for us with kisses and hugs, inviting us to come again. They prepared a wonderful meal for us that was much appreciated in light of their difficult financial situation. And, as did all the other families we visited, they received a package of books and brochures explaining the foundation of our faith. We hope the seed that was planted will one day bring true fruit.

By the time we left that day, God had allowed us to share goods worth about \$6,000 and, what is more important, the priceless Good News of salvation in Yeshua.

As we viewed the barren streets empty of people and cars, the closed stores, the kindergartens with no children and the fresh signs of damage, we returned home hoping to see better times for the citizens of Sderot and for Israel as a whole. May Yeshua help us in this task!

We echo Michael's prayers and add this one: "May Messiah's Word go forth and find a home in many hearts through the love of ambassadors like Michael and his team."

Evangelism at The New Age Festival

Israel is at war! But the war is not only material—it is also spiritual. The Evil One is trying to destroy the Chosen People—in more ways than one.

I am deeply concerned about the many young Israelis who are being swept away by New Age philosophies and Eastern religions!



A team of volunteers provided practical aid as a means of encouraging residents of Sderot.

In fact, one of the places where Israelis flock is an annual New Age festival called “Shantipi” (a combination of the Hindu “shanti” meaning “peace” and American Indian “teepee”), which takes place on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Our committed evangelists Henry, Darlene and Neriayah were at the Shantipi festival sharing the light of the Gospel in the midst of gross spiritual darkness. New Age teaching has unfortunately reached enormous levels of popularity in Israel.

Thousands of young Israelis travel to the Far East each year searching for “enlightenment.” As a result, Shantipi, which attracted about 5,000 spiritual seekers this year, has become a marketplace for gurus, yoga practitioners and Kabbalah instructors.

A group of twelve volunteer evangelists shared the Good News of Jesus at Shantipi. For three days, they witnessed to dozens of Israelis, many of whom, after hearing the message, received Bibles in Hebrew.

Henry wrote:

After planting many seeds, we prayed for a harvest. On the last night of the festival, the leaders from the different evangelistic groups came together for communion as ONE body. It was powerful to worship God in the midst of this dark festival—and many Israelis wondered what this was all about. A distraught woman who was worried about her sons going into the army was drawn to our group because of our worship songs. We explained the Gospel and the peace that only Jesus gives. Then, as we prayed together, she came to know Jesus right by the Sea of Galilee. What a joy and a privilege!

The Chosen People Ministries evangelists found it very difficult to be in the midst of the festival. Not only was there New Age spiritual darkness to contend with, but in addition, anti-missionaries from among the Orthodox tried to evict the team from the premises.

You can see how important it is for you to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Ministering in the Midst of Opposition in the City of Arad

While there is a great deal of excitement in doing evangelism in Israel, there is also opposition, which is understandable given the degree of distrust that exists in Israel towards Jewish believers. In Arad, a city of about 24,000, the small Messianic community has been the target of ongoing harassment, including destruction of property and even death threats by a minority of militant, ultra-Orthodox Jewish groups who are determined to make them leave. Rachel, who led our Outreach Israel teams this summer, describes some of what is going on:

When we arrived in Arad, our purpose was to help the Messianic community. They live under constant persecution from the ultra-Orthodox. We had a wonderful meal with the believers there and sang and prayed together. The next night, while at their weekly Bible study in the home of the pastor, we started to hear dogs barking and then the unmistakable sound of shouting. Who would be shouting as the sun sets in a quiet residential neighborhood? The anti-missionaries had come to mock and bother the group

For three days, they witnessed to dozens of Israelis, many of whom, after hearing the message, received Bibles in Hebrew.



Henry and Darlene M. ministered at the New Age festival



Each year young people from the States participate in one of several ministry trips to Israel.

of believers who had gathered together to study the Word.

It lasted about an hour. As the shouts were coming from the front gate of the house, we noticed the Lord's peace on the faces of the believers in Arad, even though it was evident that they were concerned. We stopped in the middle of the study to pray for our oppressors. Please pray that these precious brothers and sisters will remain strong and full of grace and mercy in the face of almost daily persecution.

Heart to Heart with Our Israeli Evangelists

When I think of our staff in Israel, the first thing that comes to my mind is a prayer of thanksgiving. Think of it! Israeli messengers of the Gospel are living in the land where our Messiah ministered, died and was raised from the dead!

The work of our national missionaries in Israel is critical—especially as, each day, we draw closer to Messiah's return.

We must fund our workers living in Israel.

They depend upon the Lord to provide through us.

I wish there were another way for these dedicated workers to receive missionary support. But there is not. **It is impossible for them to raise support in Israel.** This is true of our national workers in many countries—including Russia and the Ukraine.

We need at least \$48,000 in additional funding this year to keep our Israeli missionaries on the field. They are so faithful! I want to lift the burden of finances off their shoulders by providing the support that they are unable to raise.

That is why I am asking you to help our workers by praying for and supporting their ministries. **We need at least \$48,000 in additional funding this year to keep them on the field.**

I don't mind asking on behalf of our staff, who are often in places that are hostile to the Gospel and where they cannot raise support for their ministries. We are so blessed to be in America where we can find funds for God's work!

Our workers are so faithful and I want to lift the burden of finances off their shoulders by providing the support that they are unable to raise.

Can you pray about helping today? The summer continues to be a tough time for all ministries.

If each believer reading this letter were to give an extra \$50 or \$100, we are confident that these precious workers will have what they need!

I know you will respond as the Lord enables you. Thank you for your prayers and partnership. We share a glorious future because of Messiah's promises.

Yours in Him,



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

P.S. We have recently received copies of the new DVD of the recent debate entitled **“Did Jesus Die for Our Sins?”** between Messianic Jew Dr. Michael Brown and Rabbi Shmuley Boteach. I would like to send you a copy for your gift of \$150 or more!