

The Chosen People



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Thanking the Lord for The Harvest



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Yeshua

Lord of the Harvest, Yesterday, Today and Forever

Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City and happy Thanksgiving. Isn't it wonderful to know that amidst the challenges and changes we are facing today, we still have an unchanging Lord who is in full control? It is because of Him that we are thankful. I am especially grateful to God for you and your willingness to take a few moments and read about what God has laid on my heart this month.

I want to share a secret about the indescribable blessing of being in Israel, of visiting the sites one has read about, of treading on stones upon which Messiah's feet may have walked. The secret is this: although it is a blessing, it is also a frustrating puzzle. You feel so close to the Prince of Peace, yet it is as though you are standing before a veil that cannot be pierced, for that veil is woven of time itself. You cannot help but think, "Yes, this is the place. But in what ways must it have been different? How can I truly know and understand what happened as Yeshua (Jesus) walked among people who were both so like and so unlike us?"

If Jesus walked among us today, what would He do? What if He lived

in Brooklyn, Buenos Aires, Tel Aviv or Moscow? Would He bring a different Gospel? I think not. For although times change and civilizations progress (or deteriorate), the human heart is the same as it has always been. People still need repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. Therefore, Jesus would do the same thing He did 2,000 years ago—go from place to place and person to person, proclaiming the Good News!

May I point out another rock solid, unchanging truth of Scripture that is the same today as it was 2,000 years ago? The Lord has commanded His disciples in every age to be co-laborers with Him in the Great Commission. And dear friend, this will never change until this great work is finished and the final harvest has been gathered!

There is no better example in the Bible of a missionary or evangelist than the Lord Jesus Himself. When it comes to reaching the lost, I want to be like Him! I find it intriguing that Jesus—though He was a carpenter—used so many farming illustrations to describe the work of bringing the Good News to a broken world. May

I take just a few moments to share some thoughts from the Gospels about Jesus the evangelist?

The Harvest of the Kingdom

Have you ever noticed how frequently the Scripture uses illustrations from nature—specifically the cycle of planting and harvest—to drive home its eternal truths? Nature certainly plays a prominent role in the festivals of Israel, such as the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles) and the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost). Both the Psalms and the Proverbs speak of the harvest as a sign of God's favor, while the Prophets saw the harvest as a symbol of God's long-delayed judgment.

Jesus the Messiah also uses the harvest, not only to illustrate the judgment to come, but to demonstrate His own authority. In the parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-43) Jesus plainly states, "*He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.*"

Although the harvest signifies the conclusion of a redemptive process, it also represents an opportunity. Just as workers must gather the crops in the field, so you and I have the joy of serving as the Lord's farmhands and laborers with Him in the fields that are ripe for harvest. We have been given the opportunity to harvest with the Master.

Messiah's Heart for the Lost

What are the qualities we think of when we consider the character of Jesus, the Lord of the Harvest? First of all, I think of the Savior's compassion. This is so beautifully expressed in Matthew 9:36: "*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.*"

Compassion for the lost was a key quality of Jesus' ministry as He walked among us 2,000 years ago, and it is a key quality of our ministry today. Messiah made time for people, many of whom had been passed over or deemed unworthy of attention from the rest of the world. Many were outcasts of one kind or another—lepers, tax collectors, Samaritans or “fallen” women. But Jesus' ministry also included those with authority and wealth such as centurions, the rich young ruler, and influential people like Nicodemus, who sought Him secretly.

Jesus the Messiah saw the true condition of human beings beneath the superficial aspects of wealth and poverty, social prestige and even religious standing. He knew that, regardless of our external differences, we all share one essential characteristic: the need for love and forgiveness from God. He ached to gather not only Jerusalem, but also the whole world beneath His all-encompassing protection.

Working in the Fields of the Lord

Although methods may change over the centuries and the Gospel is now proclaimed in languages undreamed of by those present at the Upper Room in the second chapter of Acts, it is still the same Gospel! The human heart also remains unchanged—men and women who fall short of the glory of God must be reconciled to their Heavenly Father through the atonement made possible by the death and resurrection of His Son.

This glorious message, borne throughout the centuries by faithful men and women in response to the Great Commission, is as urgently needed today as it has ever been—and perhaps more so, as Paul's words, “*The night is far spent, the day is at hand*” (Romans 13:12), grow truer with each passing day.

Our beloved Messiah calls us to sow the Gospel seed among the lost sheep of the House of Israel and beyond. This must continue to be our focus, even though evangelism—especially more direct evangelism—is so unpopular these days. We must continue to do this work until the harvest is fully gathered. This desire to reach men and women—Jews and Gentiles—for Jesus grows out of what Professor J. I. Packer describes in his landmark book, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, as the “evangelistic impulse” that the Lord puts in the hearts of all born-again believers. This desire to be part of the harvest is something I want to cultivate in my own soul, and I trust the Lord will cultivate this “impulse” in yours as well.

My dear friend, the Lord does not need our help to do His work. He gives us the privilege of being part of the harvest. I love what He said to some of His first disciples: “*The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest*” (Luke 10:2). May we follow the example of Jesus by joining Him in the fields!

It is wonderful to consider the harvest before us during this season of Thanksgiving. It is good to give thanks and it is good to *give*. In fact, all giving—whether of our time, treasure or talent—should be motivated by being thankful to the One who sent His Son to die and rise for our salvation.

I am so thankful this Thanksgiving for all He has done. He saved me, gave me a new life, a beautiful family, and has allowed me the privilege of working with you and our Chosen People Ministries Board and staff in reaching our world for Yeshua.



So, on behalf of our worldwide staff—now in 13 countries—thank you for sowing with us and for joining us in this end time harvest of Jewish people that the Lord has prepared. You have been “in the fields” together with us through your faithful prayers and financial support.

May I remind you, once again, that if you want to actually “put your hands in the dirt” with us, all you need to do is let us know! We have short-term missions trips to New York City, Israel, Florida and other exciting fields. Please call 212-223-2252 about these wonderful opportunities for service and training.

I am also thankful for our Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies—a seminary program conducted in New York City in partnership with the Talbot School of

Theology (part of Biola University). The Feinberg Center is designed to train workers for the Jewish fields, which are *white unto harvest*. The seminary program is up and running and doing quite well. There is more information at our website

www.feinbergcenter.com about the opportunities available to study Jewish ministry at the Feinberg Center. If you or someone you know might want to experience an intensive training program in Jewish ministry, please take the opportunity to find out more about this wonderful training program.

May the Lord of the Harvest fill your heart with joy and Thanksgiving!

Your brother,


Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Throughout the past 115 years, God has used the faithful workers of Chosen People Ministries to bring the message of His Messiah to Jewish people around the world. Today, we are witnessing an openness to the Gospel unlike any other time in the history of our ministry—an incredible harvest! As you read these first-hand accounts, pray for our staff members as they continue to be a light for Messiah in their communities.



Scott and Dana Nassau – Reaching the “Unreachable”

Los Angeles to reach this important yet neglected sector of the Jewish world. Scott and Dana have a special focus on young people, and will be arranging a series of informal talks on spiritual issues in this city. Scott shares: “We want to build a core community of ministry comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers to pray together and coordinate efforts to grow in a healthy way.”

Some of the fruit of their ministry while they lived in Dallas came in the form of what Scott calls “apartment ministry.” He says, “We took the time to build community in apartment houses with home visits and special events such as block parties, breakfasts and book clubs. During this time, we built relationships and were blessed to see some faith decisions. We are confident that this will prove to be good preparation for what is to come, as our ministry in Dallas was to a population that is very similar to the one we are trying to reach in Los Angeles.”

The Nassaus know they are beginning a difficult work, but they trust that the Lord will lead them.

Roy Schwarcz is a servant of Messiah who brings a vast array of skills to his ministry. Having served as a congregational planter and leader for many years, he recently rejoined Chosen People Ministries as the Midwest Regional Director. Roy’s mission field is the upscale North Shore area of Chicago, which is home to thousands of Jewish professionals and business people, many of whom are secular and difficult to reach. Roy understands them and says, “They are unaware of their need—wealthy and insulated. These things hinder them from hearing the Gospel. But their lives are incomplete. My desire is to develop a strategy to touch their hearts.”

The groundwork is already in place. In addition to a home group that meets twice a month, Roy leads three Bible studies attended by many Jewish seekers. When Roy was invited by a trader on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to lead a Bible study, one Jewish attendee would sit outside the room, listening in. Gradually the man entered the group and before long, he received the Lord.

One of the keys to the success of Roy’s ministry is his ability to impress Christians with the Jewishness of their faith. The awareness of their Jewish roots affects their approach to their Jewish colleagues, who then begin to be interested in the Gospel. His greatest challenge is “to show that Jewish people who believe in Jesus can be joyful people who love God, who want to raise healthy children and who love Israel and the Jewish people.”



Roy Schwarcz – Midwest Minister to the Business World

Have you ever considered serving the Lord in Jewish missions? Chosen People Ministries has part-time and full-time missionary and administrative positions available. We also have short-term service opportunities in New York City, Florida and in Israel. In addition, the Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Studies offers courses in academics and practical ministry. For more information, please call 212-223-2252 or visit [www.chosenpeople.com](http://chosenpeople.com).



About 300,000 Jewish people make their homes in the United Kingdom—and about three-quarters of them are within 45 minutes of Golders Green, London, where **Daniel and Deborah N.** have lived for the past four years.

Daniel and Deborah face the challenge of reaching Orthodox Jewish people. Daniel says, “Our greatest obstacle is that our Jewish neighbors are convinced that Jesus is not for them and that Jewish believers in Messiah are, quite simply, badly mistaken. To establish credibility among them is a huge task.”

Earlier this year, Chosen People Ministries sponsored debates between Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Dr. Michael Brown in London and Oxford. Dr. Brown did an excellent job defending the Gospel; this challenged the Jewish seekers who were present and provided names of people for follow up. Daniel and Deborah are also reaching out to other Jewish believers through the British Messianic Alliance Fellowship Network, and they are slowly but surely making inroads through weekly services at the congregation they are planting, which presently meets in their home.

The field to which the Lord has called them is not an easy one, but Daniel is thankful: “We are very encouraged by the stable group of people, including Jewish seekers, with whom we meet on a regular basis.”



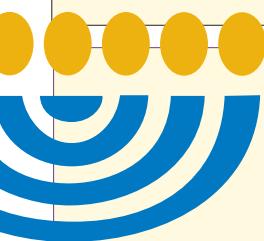
Daniel and Deborah N. – Called to the Jewish People of the UK

Ricardo Chemi, the director of Chosen People Ministries’ work in South America, is well suited to his calling. A trained rabbi, he now leads Chosen People Ministries’ Messianic Center in Buenos Aires, which has the largest Jewish community in South America. He describes his work in this way:

“Our Messianic Center serves as a home base in which we offer weekly services and hold classes for our two-year Messianic seminary program, where we have twenty-five students. People also study with us by correspondence. The Center also distributes Messianic materials and books in Spanish.”

Ricardo also reaches beyond Buenos Aires, coordinating teams of volunteers who form Bible studies and prayer groups and hold services in various cities in Argentina, including Córdoba, Almáfuerte and Rosario. Ricardo is constantly visiting churches to promote Jewish evangelism, and also produces a weekly 15-minute radio program.

His patient work has made significant inroads in the Jewish community. Someone in Buenos Aires introduced Ricardo to a member of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, and he gave her the book *Jesus Revealed in the Festivals of Israel*. Ricardo says, “She liked it so much that she became convinced that we should be represented among the other religious groups of the Embassy!”



After many years of ministry in Canada, **Carole B.** is now working with Jewish retirees in South Florida. Many of them are lonely and far from other family members. As a relatively young member of the seniors’ complex she lives in, Carole has assumed a leadership role there that expresses itself mainly in service. She holds Bible studies and has an active ministry of visitation. The Jewish seniors in the community know what she stands for, and some of them have come to depend on her for spiritual and other forms of support and help. Carole’s faithful friendship has made a difference, and she has a story to illustrate this fact.

“One woman was very distressed because the apartment she is renting was going into foreclosure, and she could be evicted. She had converted to Judaism when she married her first husband, but comes from a Catholic background. I visited her and shared the Gospel with her. After several hours of reading Scripture, Jan (name changed) received the Lord. She is a voracious reader and has already read the books of Matthew, Luke and John, plus several Psalms and Proverbs. I went with her and a real estate agent to see several apartments. We finally found one she could afford, and she signed a lease. Please pray for her to grow strong both spiritually and emotionally.”



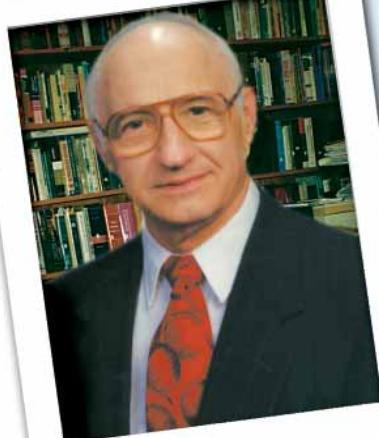
Carole B. – Servant to Senior Citizens in Florida



Ricardo Chemi – Ambassador for Messiah to the Jews of South America

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES *Bible*

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



THE SUPERLATIVES OF MESSIAH'S KINGDOM (Matthew 5-7)

THE LOFTIEST MORAL STANDARDS OF ALL RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

"The Sermon on the Mount" stands unrivaled in the religious literature of the world, including that of Judaism. In his landmark work, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* (Vol. 1, pp. 524-541), Alfred Edersheim, the great Jewish scholar of the 19th century, collected and contrasted the teachings of the rabbis in the Talmud with the instruction of Jesus in Matthew 5-7. Edersheim marks the great contrast between the two in every area such as righteousness, sin, repentance, faith, alms, prayer, fasting and the kingdom.

This beautiful discourse raises the ethical standards of both the Talmud and the Mosaic Law. The Old Testament standards are widened from the act of

murder to include the hatred that spawns it (Mt. 5:21, 22), and from the betrayal of adultery to the lust that motivates it (Mt. 5:27, 28). The great King taught that His kingdom of heaven deals with the root of sin and not merely its fruit.

THE GREATEST BLESSINGS GOD BESTOWS UPON OBEDIENT DISCIPLES

To be sure, God's kingdom is a term covering a vast sphere, including its innermost nature, "*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*" (Rom. 14:17). This aspect of Messiah's kingdom is the quality of life that a believer in the Messiah experiences when, by faith in the Gospel, he submits his life to the rule of redemptive love.

Often, the beatitudes of Jesus are associated with the "fruit of the Spirit" taught by the Apostle Paul (Gal. 5:22-25). Some expositors title the beatitudes the "Be Happy Attitudes," since the word "blessed," which introduces each one, is a translation of *makarios* (Greek for "happy").

Here, Jesus the Messianic King lifted everything from an earthly to a heavenly plane. On earth, Jesus practiced this sermon and gave His life for us. Now, in heaven He gives His life *to* us. This sermon outlines "the more abundant life" (Jn. 10:10) that believers may live, being indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 15:45; Col. 1:27).

THE HIGHEST HOPE FOR A NEW WORLD

While many of the beatitudes associate a blessing with an immediate realization (Mt. 5:6, 9), in most cases there is a future outlook for a new world. Not only is the "kingdom of heaven" in view (Mt. 5:3), but we also are taught to pray "*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" (Mt. 6:10).

The earth itself will be redeemed (Rom. 8:18-22) and peace will prevail (Isa. 2:2-4) when Jesus the King Himself returns (Zech. 14:3, 4; Acts 1:11; Jude 14-21). The Jewish Scriptures preview the coming kingdom initiated by the King Himself in such passages as Isaiah chapters 11 and 35.

When the King arrives to initiate a new kingdom (Ps. 2:6-12), Jesus will accomplish what the United Nations has failed to achieve. The beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount outline for us the highest hope for the world to come. ✡



The Dedication of the Hilda Koser Messianic Center

As you may have read in a previous newsletter, we have

rented a facility in the Kings Highway section of Brooklyn to serve as an outreach center. We are calling this 1,700-square-foot space the Hilda Koser Messianic Center, in honor of Miss Hilda Koser, who faithfully served with our Mission for more than three decades—almost all of it in Brooklyn. Many Jewish people heard the Gospel and gave their hearts to the Lord through the ministry of Miss Koser, and a number of our staff members received their basic ministry training under her tutelage.

A Russian Messianic congregation already meets regularly at the Center, and we continue to have services and outreach activities there as well—Bible studies, English as a Second Language classes, and more. It is a great joy to be able to continue Miss Koser's wonderful legacy of ministry in Brooklyn.

Prayer Partners in Africa

Henry and Darlene M., who minister in Israel, had the privilege of seeing many souls coming to know Jesus in an evangelistic outreach to a small Maasai Village in Tanzania, East Africa. The whole village came to know Jesus, and the Lord provided additional funds to donate Bibles to new believers in the Swahili language.

Henry and Darlene went to teach and encourage a small group of intercessors, who have a replica of the Western Wall in Jerusalem made of mud bricks. Although these believers have not seen Jerusalem, they come together by this little wall to pray for the peace of Jerusalem according to Psalm 122:6. It is amazing to think that somewhere in remote Africa, someone is praying for the Jewish people, for Jerusalem and for Jesus to come back soon!

Jesus: More than a Rabbi

Brooklyn-based staff member Peter Shirokov received an email through our ministry's website from a Jewish man in Brooklyn who wanted to talk about Messiah. He went to visit Stanley* and, as they got acquainted, Stanley said that he recently came to the conclusion that Jesus was more than a rabbi—that He indeed is the Messiah.

Stanley had never been a religious man, but he began to search for God during a difficult time in his life. Lately he had been studying about the Messiah, reading and researching on the Internet until finally it all made sense to him: Jesus must be the promised One. Stanley had prayed to God and asked Him to forgive his sins, because he now believed in Jesus.

Peter says, "By this point in our talk I was awed, because my role of helping people come to this very decision point had been done by the Holy Spirit way ahead of me. I just praised God and remembered once again that He is the one who draws people to Himself."

Running Out of Chairs in South Florida

The Florida Messianic Center and Beth Sar Shalom Congregation held a Rosh Hashanah service and outreach event at our Center in Boynton Beach. The outdoor event was originally set up to accommodate 100, but 150 people attended! There were many Jewish seekers in attendance as a result of lawn signs and newspaper ads announcing the services. As Dr. Rich Freeman was closing the service, two people prayed to receive the Lord. The event concluded with a concert by Messianic musician Ted Pearce. It was a great evening, and we praise God for the work He is doing in this growing Jewish community in South Florida!



Finding Eternal Life in Yeshua

On a recent visit to a convalescent home in Los Angeles, Michael Cohen met with Manny,* an Israeli who suffers from HIV. Michael shared his testimony with Manny and read Zechariah 12:10, explaining that the "pierced Messiah" was Jesus, who had come to pay the penalty for our sins and who would one day return.

Michael writes, "I told Manny that if he received Yeshua, he would have eternal life. I paraphrased Psalm 90—that life on earth is but a small fraction of eternity—and said that he needed to be reconciled to God in order to spend eternity with Him. Manny then prayed a prayer of confession for sin and received Yeshua. Please pray for his growth and comfort."

*name changed

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. Come **See Israel through Jewish Eyes** when you join Chosen People Ministries in the Holy Land from **April 27 to May 8, 2009**. For those interested in reaching Israelis for the Messiah, ministry trips to Israel are planned for the summer of 2009: **eXperience Israel** (July 11-26) for young people ages 18-35 and **Outreach Israel** (May 20-June 21) for college students. For more on any of these trips, visit www.chosenpeople.com, email opportunities@chosenpeople.com or call 888-2-YESHUA.



Special Benefits for Year-End Gifts

Are you aware of the benefits available when you make a gift at year end? Among them are:

- Potential tax savings from charitable deductions
- Increased income from non-productive or low-producing property
- Avoidance of capital gains tax on highly appreciated property
- Personal satisfaction in knowing that you are involved in a worthwhile mission

We want to help you with your year-end planning. Our staff has prepared a guide that explains the many giving options that are available to you. And we would like to make a copy available to you at no cost or obligation. If you would like to receive your free **Planned Giving Guide**, email us at giving@chosenpeople.com, or call (888) 2-YESHUA.



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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Yeshua: The Reason for the Season

The flickering lights of the nine-branched Hanukkah menorah remind us that God is mighty to save and that Yeshua, Jesus, the Messiah, is truly the Light of the World. Hanukkah is truly a time of celebration! Now you can own this beautifully crafted Hanukkah menorah from Israel to place in your home as a statement of your faith and hope in the Messiah of Israel and of all the nations of the world.

[5023] • Hanukkah Menorah • \$33.95^{us}

Based upon the biblical mandate to take the Gospel "to the Jew first," this comprehensive resource by various evangelical scholars looks at the historical, theological and biblical context for Jewish evangelism, and provides encouragement for Gentile and Jewish believers engaged in this task.

To the Jew First

[3131] • To The Jew First • \$21.95^{us}

Celebrate the birth of Yeshua, the King of Kings, the Messiah of Israel, as you enjoy both Christmas and Hanukkah, the Festivals of Light. Though growing up with the music of Hanukkah, Messianic Psalmist Marty Goetz

always enjoyed the music of Christmas. Now, as a Jewish believer in Yeshua, he loves singing them both. Join Marty as he sings the traditional songs of Christmas and Hanukkah with a Messianic emphasis.

[4050] • Festivals of Light CD • \$19.95^{us}

For phone orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936. Or visit us online at www.chosenpeople.com for more resources.

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