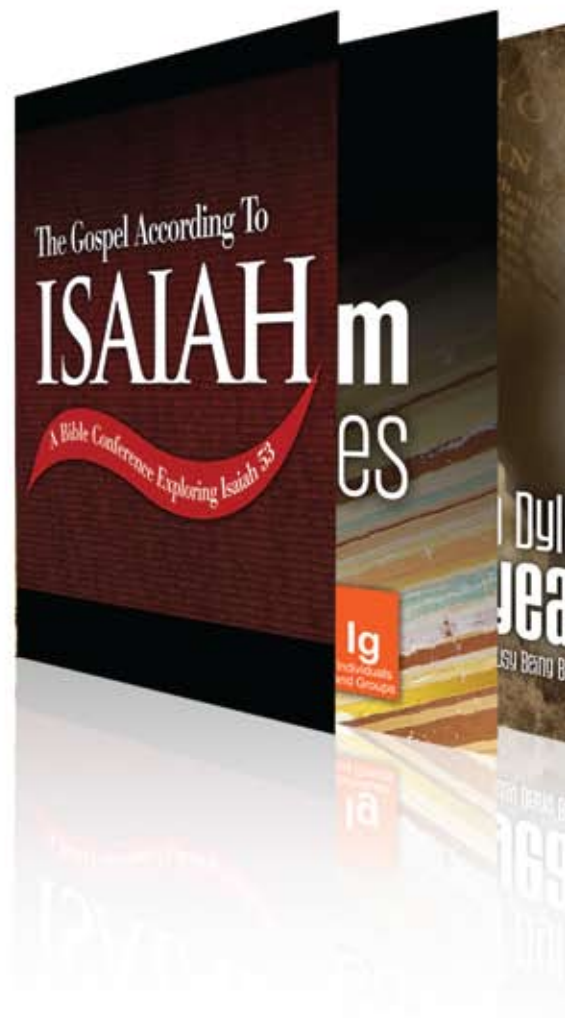


# The Chosen People

Volume XV, Issue 1 January 2009



## CREATIVE PUBLIC EVANGELISM



INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Testimonies of God at Work • A Jewish View of John 3 • The King's Miraculous Power and Authority (Bible Study)

# CREATIVE PUBLIC EVANGELISM

Dear friend of the Jewish people,  
Shalom and Happy New Year  
from your brothers and sisters at  
Chosen People Ministries. I pray that  
2009 will be a blessed and fruitful  
year for you and your family!

## Our Great Heritage

Every year at this time, our  
founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, and  
later his son, Joseph Hoffman Cohn,  
reminded the friends of Chosen  
People Ministries that we have a  
Biblical mandate to preach the  
Gospel “...to the Jew first—and also to  
the Gentile” (Romans 1:16).

These inspired words of  
the Apostle Paul have  
served as the clarion call of  
your mission to the Jewish  
people for 115 years! As the  
seventh leader of our  
historic mission to the  
Jewish people, I plan to  
continue this heritage and  
great tradition!

I hope you will pray for  
us and continue to support  
our missionaries and  
evangelistic projects  
throughout the year. We are  
partners in bringing the

Good News to our Jewish people.  
This ministry is so critical, as we are  
now one year closer to Messiah’s  
coming!

We simply cannot do this great  
work without you! Your prayers,  
financial support and, most  
importantly, your entrusting your  
Jewish friends to us, are of  
inestimable value. Thank you for  
sharing the joy of Jewish evangelism  
with us.

May I take a few moments of  
your time to tell you about the  
results of our recent evangelistic  
initiatives and describe our vision for  
the future?

## Hanukkah and Christmas Ministries

Our staff presented  
the Gospel to hundreds  
of Jewish people  
through Hanukkah and  
Christmas outreaches  
in many major urban  
centers around the  
world. Most of the

**This short-term  
mission experience  
takes place in  
South Florida.**



Messianic congregations we planted  
had Hanukkah outreach parties, and  
the results were so encouraging!

South Florida is rapidly becoming  
the second-largest Jewish population  
center in the country—and it is also  
the location of our newest Messianic  
outreach center. God moved  
powerfully through our evangelistic  
events there during the holiday  
season.

Ben Alpert, one of our long-time  
staff members, reports:

*On Sunday, December 28, on the last  
night of Hanukkah, our South  
Florida ministry held a very unusual  
Hanukkah outreach.*

*Many of our communities here in  
South Florida are gated and very hard  
to reach—but the Lord opened a great  
door of opportunity with the social  
director of a nearby housing complex  
(himself a Jewish man who does not  
believe in Jesus). He invited two other  
communities to hear us present the story  
of Hanukkah to the mostly elderly  
Jewish people living in the complex.*

*We began with a catered dinner and  
then performed a musical presentation  
of the themes of the holiday—linking  
these themes to the coming of the  
Messiah Jesus, the true Light of the  
World! We were able to weave together  
the message of good triumphing over  
evil and the need we all have for the  
Redeemer! The response was wonderful*

and we had many conversations with Jewish people who do not yet know the Lord—many who are only steps away from eternity!

We continue to follow up with the many people who showed an interest in the Gospel—some hearing the message in a Jewish way for the first time!

### New Ways of Reaching Jewish People for Jesus

As you know, we sponsored a showing of a film in New York City that focused on Bob Dylan's "Gospel Years." This documentary was produced by a non-Messianic Jew, and I had the privilege of being interviewed extensively in the film. I was actually able to explain in detail what it means for a Jew or a Gentile to be *born again!* Of the several hundred Jewish people who packed the auditorium that night, it is likely that very few had heard the Gospel before.

We also sent a team to India to reach wandering Israelis. Israeli young people almost always take a year to travel

**This event held in New York City in November drew many Jewish seekers.**

around the world after completing their army service. They often spend time in the United States—New York City and Los Angeles in particular—and also in Thailand, Brazil, Argentina, New Zealand and especially India!

One of our team members who spent three weeks sharing the Gospel with Israelis in India visited many of the sites that were recently attacked

by Muslim terrorists. The Lord spared her life, as she could have easily been there at the very time that the attacks took place. Our team talked to dozens of Israeli travelers about Jesus—having deep conversations about faith in Messiah with people who were often quite open to the Gospel! It was an incredible outreach and we hope to do more of this type of ministry in the future.

### Creative Evangelism Is Critical in Reaching Jewish People Today

In addition to the day-by-day, heart-to-heart, person-to-person evangelism we are continually doing through our missionaries, congregations and Messianic Centers, we also believe these **creative new approaches to Jewish evangelism are essential** if we are going to reach the wide variety of Jewish people in the world.

I am sure you know why this is true. Jewish people are often resistant to the Gospel because of the negative history between Christians and Jews. From the Crusades to the Holocaust to the vicious pogroms in Russia, Jewish people have historically felt victimized by Christianity. In light of this terrible history, we have much to overcome in our witness to Jewish people today. Somehow, we must show Jewish people that real Christians love God's

chosen people.

Dear friend, this is what takes so much creativity as the first response of most Jewish people to the Gospel is to resist the message or even to be

Find out more about this conference at [www.gospel53.com](http://www.gospel53.com)

offended by the Good News.

We must reach out in innovative and creative ways to bring the message of Messiah in a more Jewish way to His chosen people!

I often draw strength from King David, who wrote:

*Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.* (Psalm 126:5)

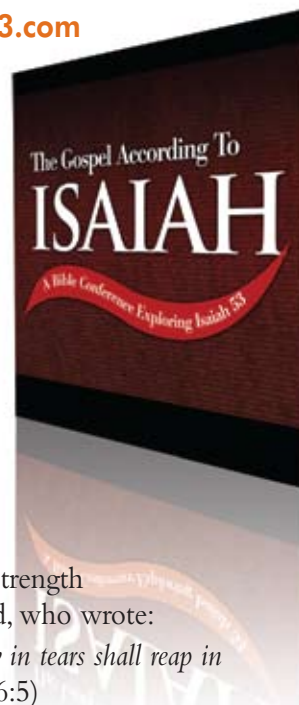
Sometimes, it is very difficult to endure the negative responses of Jewish people towards the Gospel. It can bring a person to tears—not out of frustration, but because our hearts break for His chosen people. But reaching Jewish people is dear to the heart of God—and those faithful believers who witness, pray and help support Jewish evangelism will always be blessed.

Thanks for sharing the burden and the joy of bringing the Gospel to our Jewish people. I know you are going to be greatly encouraged by the reports in this newsletter!

Your brother in the Messiah,

  
Mitch

Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



P.S. You can read stories of Jewish people who have come to faith in Messiah at [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com)

# TESTIMONIES

## Brooklyn

Klaudia, our missionary in Brooklyn, New York, tells of the Bosky\* family whom she has known for many years. On one occasion Ari accompanied his believing aunt Rivka to our Messianic retreat. Seven years later, his mother Nadia came to Klaudia asking for prayer for Ari, as he had become involved with drugs. God was very merciful and delivered him from his addiction. Later, Ari married an Orthodox Jewish woman. This past June, Klaudia was invited to a Bosky family picnic, where a discussion about Yeshua (Jesus) started very naturally. During the discussion, she learned that Ari's wife was planning to divorce him. Ari was upset and having difficulty with the Orthodoxy of his wife's family. Rivka and Klaudia took a walk with Ari to talk with him about Yeshua and about personally receiving Him as his savior and helper. Ari was moved to tears and prayed to receive the Lord. Today the family is restored, with Ari and his wife looking forward to the birth of their first child. What a blessing to see how a seed planted at our Messianic retreat blossomed years later to bear fruit in Ari's life!

*Klaudia Zhelezny leads the Hilda Koser Messianic Center in the Kings Highway section of Brooklyn.*

## Israel

Victor and Julia B. left behind family, friends and successful academic careers in Estonia to move to Israel, part of a larger movement of almost a million Russian Jews in the last decade (Amos 9:13-15). In Soviet-occupied Estonia, where

Victor had taught scientific atheism at the university, they had been cut off from their Jewish roots. Nevertheless, they were earnestly seeking the truth.

The first believer they ever met had a completely unexpected love for the Jewish people and shared the message of salvation with deep compassion. This divinely orchestrated meeting completely changed Victor and Julia's lives, as God changed their "hearts of stone" to "hearts of flesh" on their way to Jerusalem (Ezek. 36:26-27).

For seventeen years, Victor and Julia have preached the message of



Victor and Julia B. and their three children. Victor and Julia have been on staff with Chosen People Ministries for four years, and are currently studying in the United States in order to be better equipped for continuing ministry in the Holy Land.

salvation to their own Jewish people in Jerusalem. In Israel, they raised three children, graduated from Bible school, and helped plant three Messianic congregations, one of which Victor pastored for fourteen years. This congregation has seen more than a hundred Jewish people receive Yeshua and has trained several ministers of the Gospel.

Victor has served as Chairman of the Board of the only Messianic Bible College in Israel. Julia has written books based on Biblical texts with insights that have touched

many hearts; these books have been translated and published in several countries.

## Arizona

I (Jack\*) was born and raised Jewish in New York. When I was 10, my uncle became a follower of Jesus—my grandparents removed my uncle's photograph and we were forbidden to mention his name.

Many years later, my wife said to me, "We are going to have spirituality in our house." She dragged me to an Easter service at Scottsdale Bible Church; we arrived late and the only seats available were in the front! I slouched like a spoiled child. However, the pastor spoke to my heart as he talked about the Jewish roots of Christianity. I left feeling encouraged, but extremely confused.

We attended Scottsdale Bible Church for several weeks, and then we met Cathy Wilson, who is on staff with Chosen People Ministries, and her husband. We started attending their Messianic services. I was beginning to understand, but the world as I knew it was seemingly being transformed. On Fathers' Day 2004, I left my wife and children at home in bed and was drawn to a church I did not normally attend. On that day I was made complete as I received Yeshua as my Savior. Since then, I have learned much about being His follower. The Lord does not want you to have a religion, but rather a relationship. Was my world transformed? No—rather, the Lord transformed me! 🌈

\*indicates name has been changed

# A JEWISH VIEW OF JOHN 3

by Scott Nassau

While Jesus was in Jerusalem observing the Passover, many began to follow Him, seeing the miraculous signs he performed (John 2:23). The crowds following Jesus and His purification of the Temple courtyard caused quite a commotion and piqued the curiosity of Nicodemus, a leader of the Pharisees and a member of the ruling council known as the Sanhedrin (3:1). Nicodemus approached Jesus seeking answers, because he believed the miracles signified that Jesus was a teacher who had come from God (3:2).

Jesus responds to Nicodemus' inquiry by explaining that no individual can see the Kingdom of God unless he is *born from above*, which also means *born again* (3:3). Nicodemus obviously thought Jesus was speaking about physical rebirth, when he asked how it is possible for a man to enter into his mother's womb a second time (3:4).

While the term "born again" has become a popular cultural appellation for Jesus' followers, Judaism often uses rebirth as a metaphor to describe the change of a person's status, such as when an individual converts to Judaism. The Talmud describes a convert to Judaism as a newborn infant. Rebirth also occurs on a man's wedding day; when he takes a wife he becomes like a newborn child. Jewish tradition teaches that when Israel offered sacrifices to God on Rosh Hashanah (the Feast of Trumpets, or Jewish New Year; Lev. 23:24), God considered it as though He had created them as a new being.

Finally, Judaism frequently uses new birth to describe the world to come. Job looked forward to his renewal during the coming resurrection (Job 14:14) and the Dead Sea Scrolls speak of works of renewal during the world to come. In this world, God will remove sin from His people and permanently plant Israel in her land (Ezek. 36:25-36). God's people look forward to the coming world, because He will make a new creation.

Despite the presence of new birth imagery within Judaism, Nicodemus did not comprehend the significance of Jesus' declaration that a person must be *born again* to see the Kingdom of God. He did not yet recognize his own personal need for rebirth (John 3:9-10). Jewish teaching in the Mishnah<sup>1</sup> says that all Israel will share in the world to

come. Since Nicodemus was born into the covenant by natural birth, perhaps he thought that rebirth was only necessary for Gentiles converting to Judaism.

Yet Jesus' concept of new birth was dramatically different from the images of rebirth common within Judaism at the time. New birth is only possible *from above*, because it occurs when God transforms an individual and gives him a new heart (John 3:3; Ezek. 36:26; Jer. 31:33). This is not the rebirth of a Gentile becoming Jewish, but the spiritual awakening of God's children (John 3:6-8).

Jesus says that a person cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of both water and the Spirit (3:5). When God purifies Israel, He will sprinkle clean water on her and remove her sin (Ezek. 36:25). This cleansing occurs as a supernatural work of God's Spirit when He indwells an individual and gives him a new heart. Jesus invited Nicodemus to experience the authentic transformation that God promised to Israel—a transformed life born of the Spirit. 🌈

1. *An ancient code of Jewish oral law that may date to the time of Jesus or earlier.*



Scott and his wife, Dana, are beginning a dynamic Messianic congregation in West Los Angeles, California, fulfilling a vision planted in their hearts by the Lord over seven years ago.

# SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

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



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

## THE KING'S MIRACULOUS POWER AND AUTHORITY

### MATTHEW 8-9

After the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' followers accompanied their Master down the mountainside toward the lake. Perhaps they were wondering: if this man was indeed the King of Israel, where was His power?

To remove the doubt of His disciples, the King performed a series of miracles that certify and substantiate His Messianic kingly authority. A miracle, in Biblical days, may be defined as a suspension or alteration of natural law, such as the drying up of the Red Sea in the Exodus account (Ex. 14).

#### I. Authority Over Disease (Mt. 8:1-22)

Jesus the Messiah has authority over disease, and by healing the sick He demonstrated His kingly authority while on earth in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:4 (Mt. 8:17). James indicated that believers have a right to seek the will of God through godly church elders for healing (Jas. 5:14).

When the Messiah died at Calvary, He suffered for the sinful diseases of the soul. In spite of illness and disease in this present life, God's people may look forward to the "redemption of our

bodies" and triumph over death (Rom. 8:22, 23).

#### II. Jurisdiction Over Nature (Mt. 8:23-27)

While in a boat with His disciples on the Sea of Galilee, a violent storm threatened to sink it. Awakened from sleep, Messiah quickly stilled the waters.

Messiah is the God-man. As God He is both the Creator (Col. 1:16) and Sustainer of the universe (Heb. 1:3). He alone was able to calm both the sea and the souls of His disciples (Mt. 8:26). His disciples marveled, saying, "*Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?*" (Mt. 8:27)

#### III. Dominion Over Demons (Mt. 8:28-32)

On the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee, we see two "exceedingly fierce" Gergesene men who are controlled by demons (Mt. 8:28). The demons recognized Jesus at once and confessed what so many deny: namely, the existence of God, the divinity of Jesus, and the reality of a future judgment. The Messiah demonstrated His dominion in expelling the demons and restoring the men to their right minds.

#### IV. Forgiveness of Sins (Mt. 9:2-8)

In the healing of the paralytic, Jesus first dealt with forgiveness of his sins, saying that "*the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins*" (Mt. 9:6a). Only the Messiah has this power and authority. John stated that God "*the Father . . . has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father*" (Jn. 5:22, 23). How you and I respond to Jesus now will determine how He will respond to us on the Day of Judgment!

#### V. Hope for the Hopeless (Mt. 9:20-22)

A woman with a disease of the blood approached Jesus. This woman had been to many doctors, but none could help (Mk. 5:26). Her hopes were shattered, and she despaired. Only God knew her thoughts as she reasoned, "*If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well*" (Mt. 9:21). Jesus indeed is the Messiah, who has the power to heal (Mt. 14:35, 36).

By faith in our Messiah Jesus, we may reach out to Him, for He is the only hope for the hopeless soul. We give praise to God for providing this marvelous hope! 🌈

## Deep Conversations in Queens

Randall and Luda Ford, based in Queens, have been enjoying fascinating discussions with Jewish



friends and neighbors. The courses in theology and apologetics that the Fords are taking at the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies have helped fuel several conversations. One brilliant Israeli friend started a discussion with Luda at a Bible study. The conversation continued during a fellowship meal,

and the Fords stayed up late listening to this woman's story and making a case for a personal relationship with God, not mere religion. She disagreed with them, yet repeated several times: "You don't know how much this discussion means to me. I LOVE talking about these things." Luda is excited that five Jewish ladies also told her that they want to study the Bible privately.

## Jesus from a Jewish Perspective

Cathy Wilson has a wonderful ministry among seniors at a retirement center in Arizona. She recently spoke about the end times, explaining that the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, is the only way to heaven. Afterwards, Eva\* told Cathy, "I've never read the New Testament. I've never heard teaching about Jesus from a Jewish perspective!" Eva expressed interest in studying the New Testament and the Book of Revelation, and she has even been inviting her Jewish friends to the study. Pray that the Lord would reveal His truth to Eva as she reads the words of the New Testament, and pray that hearts would continue to be touched by Cathy's ministry.



## Holiday Outreach through Messianic Music

The Hanukkah and Christmas season is a time of the year when people are often more open to the Gospel. From December 19-21, Chosen People Ministries held four holiday outreach concerts featuring Marty Goetz in the New York area—home to over 2 million Jewish people! Marty is a Jewish believer in Jesus and a world-renowned musician who uses his musical gifts and talents to share the Good News. We sent over 60,000 postcard invitations to Jewish homes in New Jersey and Manhattan. Many Jewish people attended the concerts, where Marty performed his beautiful music and shared his personal testimony. Chosen People Ministries staff members are currently following up on a person-to-person basis with the Jewish people who attended the events.

## Helping the Homeless in Israel – Physically and Spiritually

Neriyah and Anna A. are being blessed with many opportunities to share the love and healing power of Messiah at the rehabilitation center that



is part of their ministry in Tel Aviv. As winter sets in, many homeless alcoholics and drug addicts find their way to the rehab center, which is the only one in Tel Aviv. At the center, they not only receive help for their physical addictions, but also for their spiritual needs. Neriyah and Anna are kept very busy ministering the message of the Gospel. Neriyah writes, "We believe that the only cure for their addiction is the Gospel. Please continue to pray for the salvation of souls."

\*indicates name has been changed



## We'll help you review your estate plan

Whether you rely entirely upon a will to distribute your estate, or whether it is part of a more complex estate plan, a periodic review is necessary.

Family changes, inflation, changes in tax and probate laws, as well as changes in your desires . . . all require periodic review of your estate plan.

Our *Guide to Planning Your Estate* will be a valuable source of information as you begin this review. Or if you have not completed your estate plan, it will help you take the first step in this important act of stewardship.

Our staff is available to assist you in determining if this provision of the tax code will benefit you. There is no cost or obligation, and we would like to help. For confidential assistance, contact Rachel Shirokov at 212-223-2252, or rshirokov@chosenpeople.com, or in Canada call 888-442-5535.



Learn more about your Jewish roots!

For phone orders in the U.S. call 800-333-4936  
Or for even more resources visit us online at  
[www.chosenpeople.com/store](http://www.chosenpeople.com/store)

## The Gospel According To ISAIAH

A Bible Conference Exploring Isaiah 53

### SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 19-21, 2009

IRVING BIBLE CHURCH · IRVING, TEXAS

[WWW.GOSPEL53.COM](http://WWW.GOSPEL53.COM)



The theme for Chosen People Ministries' annual Messianic retreat will be "The Parables of Yeshua Through Jewish Eyes: The Mysteries of the Kingdom Revealed" with guest speaker Roy Schwarcz. Join us for a special evening concert with Ted Pearce, this year's worship leader, as well as wonderful times of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun!

May 22-25, 2009

Carlisle, Pennsylvania



### The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

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](http://www.chosenpeople.org.uk)). In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah Australia, P.O. Box 304, Caulfield, South Vic 3162, Australia ([www.celebratemessiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au)). Editor: Zhava Glaser; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Art Director: Brian Freeman; Designer: Lois Gable

Serving in: Argentina • Australia • Canada • France • Germany • Hong Kong • Israel • Mexico • New Zealand • Russia • Ukraine • United Kingdom • United States  
Chosen People Ministries U.S. Board of Directors: Mr. John Holbrook, Jr., Chairman • Mr. Roy Adams • Dr. Darrell Bock • Mr. Jeffrey Branman • Ms. Cindy Forbes • Dr. Mitch Glaser • Dr. Gregory Hagg • Mr. Eugene Johnson • Mr. Tom McHugh • David Schiller, Esq. • Mr. David C. Weland

Visit us on the Web at [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com) Our Spanish website is [www.pueblolegido.com](http://www.pueblolegido.com). ©2009 Chosen People Ministries

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

