

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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MAY 2022

WILL CHRISTIANS



STAND WITH ISRAEL?

BRINGING HIS PEACE TO OTHERS | A LOOK INSIDE ISRAEL |
MICAH AND THE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS

BRINGING HIS PEACE TO OTHERS

world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Peace is always possible through the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Messiah. He overcame the evil of this world through His atoning death and resurrection, and He enables us to live without fear in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Bringing His Peace to Others

We cannot keep this peace and confidence in God’s promise of a glorious future to ourselves. He calls us to help others experience His shalom now and forever. Your Mission to the Jewish People is assisting others to experience His peace by helping Jewish Ukrainian refugees, especially those moving to Israel.

The common term for this process of moving to Israel is *aliyah*, which in Hebrew means “to go up,” as Jerusalem is in the Judean hills and one always travels up to Jerusalem. As we read in Isaiah 2:3, “*Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob.*”

The Israeli government offers full citizenship to those who can demonstrate they have at least one Jewish grandparent. Israel also provides many benefits to those making this move—from tax breaks to initial funding for food, housing, and Hebrew lessons! However, in a usual year, the number of Jewish people making *aliyah* is around 25,000 people.¹ Some are expecting there to be between 50,000 and 100,000 Ukrainian Jewish people making *aliyah* over the next year due to the war and their need to resettle someplace other than Ukraine.

Many Ukrainian Jewish refugees have relatives in Israel. About 1.4 million Russian-speaking Jewish people moved to Israel after the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. This large movement of Russian-speaking Jewish people took place over twenty years. Most of those who came to Israel from parts of the former Soviet Union, including Russia, Ukraine, and other now-independent nations as younger men and women, have served in the Israeli army, attended Israeli school, speak fluent Hebrew, and play a vibrant part in Israeli society. The Russian-speaking influence in Israel today is extensive!

Project Promised Land

Allow me a moment to explain how we plan to help this new wave of Ukrainian Jewish people now moving to Israel.

We plan to provide housing, basic language skills, job counseling, friendship, and whatever else is needed to help them resettle in Israel as the Israeli government will not be able to absorb so many people quickly.

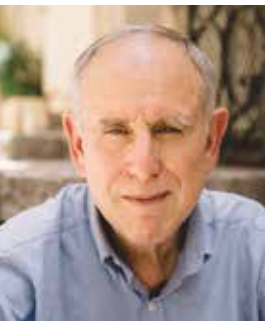
We are calling this effort **Project Promised Land!**

1. Michael Starr, “Aliyah Recovers from COVID-19 Slump in 2021, New Record of US Olim,” *The Jerusalem Post*, December 22, 2021, accessed March 21, 2022, <https://www.jpost.com/aliyah/article-689471>.

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom in His peace. One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 26:3–4, which I will quote the way I memorized it from the King James Version. Although I usually use the New American Standard Bible, this verse just sounds so much better in the King James! “*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.*”

The great hope we have in the Lord is sometimes made cloudy by the fog of war, pandemics, and every form of human crisis. His powerful presence is revealed to us even in the midst of the whirlwind (Job 38:1), and as we learn from Paul, “*hope does not disappoint*” (Romans 5:5)!



FROM THE PRESIDENT,
MITCH GLASER

Yet, our world today is facing great danger on so many fronts! The Russian onslaught in Ukraine has made this painfully obvious. The horrors of an unjust war remind us that there is no end to human suffering and that innocent men, women, and children will experience hardship and even death because of the evil of others.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those suffering such overwhelming loss.

Thankfully, one day, this sinful world will give way to a new creation filled with the glorious presence of the Lord. There will be no more suffering, no more death, and God will wipe every tear away from our crying eyes. The apostle Paul wrote so poignantly about our future hope:

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (Romans 8:18–21)

This sure hope is why we can have peace in the midst of tribulation. Jesus Himself said, “*These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the*

This new effort is the suggestion of our Israel director, Michael Zinn, a Jewish man from Ukraine who made aliyah about thirty years ago. He and his wife Natalie found the Lord after they moved to Israel. Michael told me a little bit about his story, and I would like to share this with you!

Before his *bar mitzvah*, (a ceremony celebrating a young man's official passage to manhood at age thirteen), Michael's father told him he could believe in anything—except Jesus. Michael started reading the New Testament anyway. In his thirties, he moved to Israel with his wife. While studying Hebrew, they met an American couple who were extraordinarily loving toward them. After Michael poured out his heart to this couple, the man said, "I cannot help you. There is only one who can help you. His name is Yeshua." After some time and ongoing conversations, both Michael and Natalie placed their trust in the Messiah Jesus.

The Plan for Project Promised Land

We have already done a lot to help Jews and non-Jews within Ukraine, particularly on the western border in Poland but also in Germany and other parts of Europe. That was phase one of our efforts to help many survive the ravages of war, and these ministries are ongoing! Our next step is to focus on two or three families per month by placing them in apartments in Jerusalem and the greater Tel Aviv area. We will give these precious new immigrants places to live and the personal help they need but cannot readily receive from the Israeli government, which is overwhelmed by the massive wave of new immigrants making aliyah.

We are providing low-cost housing, food, companionship, vocational counseling, childcare, and so much more so they can stand on their own two feet in their new country. Israel is not just any country; these Ukrainian Jews have returned to the land God promised them thousands of years ago. We hope that they will meet the God who promised to love and care for His chosen people.

The annual budget for this project is \$75,000. Already, even some of our staff are contributing to **Project Promised Land**. We also received a grant from a faithful supporter who went to be with the Lord and provided funds to help Jewish people make aliyah. Your prayers and partnership mean so much to us.

We can do this but need the funding soon. If we raise more than the requested amount, then we might be able to open more housing for the new immigrants as need arises and funds are available. We have the staff who speak Russian, Ukrainian, and Hebrew.

How Long, O Lord?

The psalmist asked this question in Psalm 13:

*How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me? How
long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow
in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy
be exalted over me? (Ps 13:1–2)*

OUR NEXT STEP IS TO FOCUS ON TWO OR THREE FAMILIES PER MONTH BY PLACING THEM IN APARTMENTS IN JERUSALEM . . .



How long will it take for Ukraine to get back to normal? How long will it take to rebuild the country? Who knows whether the war will be over by the time you receive this newsletter? How long will we need to continue to supply relief for those struggling in Ukraine, Poland, Germany, and other parts of the globe where the refugees move? How long will we need to provide help and housing through **Project Promised Land**? We simply do not know the answers to these questions. But we do know that His love never runs out. As long as we can show love and care to those suffering, we will do our best to continue the project.

We have signed a year's lease for our apartment rentals, so we expect this need to continue for at least twelve months. However, the time may come when **Project Promised Land** is no longer needed to serve Ukrainian Jews making aliyah. In that case, we might find others making aliyah from other countries who need this level of personal help when they arrive in Israel.

We pray that those we help will look past us and see the risen Messiah of Israel as the One who is wrapping His loving arms around their families and providing for their needs.

That is my hope and prayer.

Thanks so much for your help and for being part of Project Promised Land!

In Him,


Mitch

P.S. For your gift of \$75 or more, we will send you a copy of our new devotional book entitled *The Portion* based upon the sections of the Five Books of Moses we read weekly in the synagogue. I am sure it will enrich your spiritual life and remind you to pray for **Project Promised Land**.

A Look Inside Israel

With all that is happening around the globe, Chosen People Ministries still has our eyes fixed on reaching the worldwide Jewish community with the gospel of Messiah. This issue of *The Chosen People* shines a spotlight on the continuing efforts of our Israeli staff to share Jesus with His people.

We are now focusing on training Messianic Israeli women who are excited to spread the good news. In Israel, women play a significant role in evangelism. Recently, one of our staff members working with Chosen People Ministries in Israel shared her excitement over the next generation of Israeli Jewish female believers and their significance in spreading the good news of the Jewish Messiah.

Believing in Jesus and living in Israel does not hinder the possibilities for women in ministry; on the contrary, it opens many doors of opportunity. After high school, military service is mandatory for every Israeli, male or female. The countless needs that arise during army service create numerous areas of ministry for female believers. Some believing women have had the opportunity to become officers in the army and air force or serve in particular areas with high-level commanders. After the mandatory two-year requirement, the IDF has even invited some women to continue their army service. They have boldly shared their faith with others around them without compromising their positions. In some situations, they have been able to train fellow believers to take over their positions once their service is complete.

Like most Israelis, many of these believing women desire to travel after their mandatory army service and get away from Israel for a time to decompress. But instead of choosing just any country to visit, they usually decide to go to places where they can serve the Lord among their fellow (but secular) Israelis. They have spent time in countries like New Zealand, India, Thailand, Peru, Argentina, and many others—all of the most popular places where Israelis tend to travel to seek a time away from Israel. They have joined and even trained groups traveling specifically to speak to Israeli backpackers. These women serve in hostels, campgrounds, and even coffee shops that Chosen People Ministries has explicitly established for ministry to backpacking Israelis. They often lead small groups and share the gospel in these places.

When these believing women return from their world travels, they often decide to attend university. They view education as necessary for their future, as it gives them the ability to serve, care for others, and work in an unbelieving world. As a result,

many of them study at the graduate level and complete degrees in various areas, including clinical psychology, nursing, medicine, biochemistry, physical therapy, social work, archaeology, Jewish history, law, and special education. Ultimately, they all end up in positions to share their faith and their lives with those around them. It is exciting to see how God is leading this new generation of young women who love the Lord and dedicate their lives to serving Him with all their hearts, minds, and souls.

Reports like that are so encouraging! God will work through our environments to change the world for Messiah.

It is also heartwarming to hear that the Lord continues to move in Messianic congregations. One of our staff members in northern Israel witnessed the birth of a new Messianic congregation in Haifa years after a Bible study in that area had come to an end. Here is what he told us:

About a year ago, while visiting my mom in Haifa, my wife and I accidentally ran into some friends who had become like family to us. We had met them years prior at a Bible study we had started while living in Haifa. Unfortunately, shortly after we went back to the United States to complete my studies, the next Bible study leader decided that he could not continue with that ministry, and the group dissolved. Our friends' kids grew up and had families of their own, and they had two more children since we last heard from them. Spiritually, however, they were not in the best shape. The parents recently left their church, and their children were not walking with God. My wife and I prayed and felt that we needed to help this family get back on track with the Lord. So, we began traveling once or twice a week from Jerusalem to Haifa (almost 100 miles each way) to study the Bible, pray, and counsel them.

The results were incredible. Other people who were



part of that Bible study group we led years ago reappeared in our lives. Several of them have joined our new Bible studies on Zoom, and we also started to meet regularly with some of them in person. During the summer of 2021, a dozen people from the new group accepted Yeshua as Lord of their lives and were baptized. We soon realized that God wanted us to relocate to northern Israel and start a new ministry there. It took us several months before we could rent a house where we could live and host our young congregation, which already consisted of almost thirty people. The house is in a village in the Jezreel Valley, between Haifa and Yokne'am, a few miles away from Megiddo. Public transportation to our home is wonderful, and there are many highway exits to the area. It makes the meeting place an easily accessible destination for those who live in these two cities and for people from nearby Kiryat Tiv'on and Afula.

We currently have meetings on Friday, including a Kabbalat Shabbat service and a Bible study followed by fellowship and a potluck. On Monday evenings, I teach a youth group. Those who cannot attend in person join us via Zoom (we still have several people who live in Jerusalem and even further away who requested to be a part of our meetings).

Of course, our congregation is relatively young, and we have not yet chosen a name for it. Still, we are trying to mature spiritually to become a beacon for the Messiah Yeshua so that His Name will be glorified in Israel and particularly in the Jezreel Valley. Through our years in God's service, we have had the blessing of witnessing many moments when people gave their hearts to the Messiah. We certainly love to play the role of God's "midwives" by being an active part of "delivering" new spiritual children into His family. We have never seen the level of openness and willingness to accept Yeshua as Savior as we have during our recent time in Haifa.

Throughout the land, God is on the move! We have staff establishing a work in the Golan Heights and a team working with the Bukhari



WE ARE NOW FOCUSING ON TRAINING MESSIANIC ISRAELI WOMEN WHO ARE EXCITED TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS.

Jewish community who were originally from the region of the former Soviet Union now known as Uzbekistan:

Our Greater Tel Aviv Messianic Center is also in full swing, reaching the secular Jewish communities on the Mediterranean coast. This outreach hub in Ramat Gan is a perfect complement to our Jerusalem Messianic Center in the heart of the German Quarter. Many of our ministries use one of these two locations as a base of operations, including our ministry to Holocaust survivors, food and clothing distribution ministries, Bible studies, and so much more!

Not the least of which is our concerted effort to help the refugees from Ukraine who have made aliyah to Israel. We continue to search for additional housing for these displaced Jewish Ukrainians, who often come with only the clothes they are wearing.

God is good, and He is providing for His chosen people worldwide. His provision includes sending messengers who will share Messiah with them (Romans 10:14). As the reports above indicate, these "preachers," as the apostle Paul calls them, include our missionaries as well as Jewish people who have become followers of Jesus. However, also counted among them are those Gentiles whom God has called to make Israel jealous by their faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and His Son, Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah.

To that end, Chosen People Ministries continues to evangelize Jewish people everywhere, discipling and training both Jewish and Gentile believers to do the same. One day, we know that "all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26). But, until that day comes, we still have work to do!



Micah 3: The Condemnation of Israel's Leaders

In the first two chapters of Micah, we studied the first part of his prophecy against the false prophets. For the next three chapters, we will look at the second half of his condemnation of Israel's leadership, which includes the religious leaders and expands to Israel's civil authorities.

Chapter three begins with the command to hear the words of the prophet of God and is an expansion of the judgment previously described in the first two verses of chapter two. "And I said, 'Hear now, heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice?' (Micah 3:1). The "heads of Jacob and the rulers of the house of Israel" are the civil authorities, judges, and magistrates. Micah asks them—with a hope and desire to see them reflect and repent of their evil ways—whether they, as the civil authorities, are not the very ones who should know the characteristics of justice. Was it not their role and responsibility as judges and magistrates to know justice? They were accustomed to presiding in judgment over others, so they should be aware of the judgment that awaits them for their evil deeds.

Micah describes the leaders in this way: "You who hate good and love evil, who tear off their skin from them and their flesh from their bones, who eat the flesh of my people, strip off their skin from them, break their bones and chop them up as for the pot and as meat in a kettle" (Micah 3:2-3). This language is very graphic; it compares their horrible behavior toward the less fortunate with the brutal killing and eating of animals. These rulers of Israel are like hunters who regard and treat ordinary citizens, for whom they should care, as animals rather than human beings. Therefore, their condemnation is greater because they failed in their obligations as leaders.

Micah then describes God's response to their wicked ways: "Then they will cry out to the Lord, but He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time because they have practiced evil deeds" (Micah 3:4). Only when God's judgment is upon them will they truly understand the consequences of their detestable ways. Still, they will cry for deliverance from anguish and pain but not out of genuine repentance of their sin. God will treat them just as they treated the people. In the same way that they refused to heed the cries of the needy, the Lord will refuse to hear their cries. God is omniscient and hears all prayers, but in the case of these civil authorities, He chooses not to respond to them. Micah writes that "the

Lord will hide His face from them." Essentially, their punishment is like hell itself—the absence of God's presence. God turning away from the sin of the leaders reminds me of how He turned His face away at the cross when Jesus became sin for all mankind (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). Such is also the cry of the evil civil authorities who mistreat the less fortunate.

In this portion of the book of Micah, God is presenting a philosophy of human government, a foundation for how Israel's leaders should be of good character and minister to and care for the less fortunate. Leaders are not the only ones who can learn from Micah's words. When believers find themselves ministering to those who are less fortunate, they should understand that there will be great blessing when done in a way pleasing to the Lord. However, along with the greater blessing of ministering to people, leaders also hold greater responsibility for leading with the right hearts and motives. That is why there is a warning in the book of James that with greater responsibility comes stricter judgment (Jas 3:1).

Now, as we consider this passage in Micah regarding ministering to the less fortunate, please keep the leadership and people of Ukraine in your prayers.



Your Mission to the Jewish People, pictured here assisting Ukrainian refugees in Poland, is actively ministering to the less fortunate.

Rich Freeman, DMin, serves as the vice president for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia.



MINISTRY NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

NINETY UKRAINIANS COME TO FAITH THROUGH THE TESTIMONY OF OUR WORKERS

Since the war on Ukraine began on February 24, one of our missionaries has been helping to buy and deliver food, medicine, warm clothes, and water for almost 100 families (more than 300 people altogether, mostly disabled, sick or unable to leave) in the cities of Kyiv, Chernigiv, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Zhitomir, Yagotin and Volnovakha, where they had and still have Messianic congregations. Our people faithfully continue this work even now where it is possible.

They have helped to relocate unknown numbers of people from the eastern and central parts of Ukraine to the western part of the country, and they are in the process of helping to find accommodations for more than 160 people in the three areas of Ternopil, Lutzk, and Lviv. This assistance includes finding places to live (rent homes, apartments, or using broken or unattended facilities by renovating and fixing them), helping with buying food, gasoline, clothes, mattresses, blankets and pillows, and toothpaste for adults as well as for children of all ages. It is interesting to note that in Ternopil, our missionary is working closely with an Orthodox synagogue, and in Lviv, with a local Catholic church.

He and his team have also helped hundreds of people on the border with hot food and water.

Dedicated volunteers have helped with financial aid, and in cooperation with our missionaries in Poland and Germany, have helped more than two hundred people go from the border of Poland and Ukraine to move further into Poland, Germany, and other countries of Europe.

There is currently a huge spiritual awakening among people in Ukraine. In just two weeks, more than 90 people accepted Yeshua as their Savior because of the testimony of the love of Yeshua that those unbelievers have seen in our workers when they received help from them. Please pray for great fruit for Yeshua.

MOODY STUDENTS RAISE SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AND CHURCHES

This past month, one of our Ukrainian-Israeli missionaries focused on the Ukrainian war with Russia. He was able to raise \$1,430 to send to two churches in Ukraine—both of them are in the city where he was born, and both of the pastors are close friends of his. The money was raised by students at Moody Bible Institute and some friends of his ministry. The churches used the funds to help refugees by providing hot food, blankets, and Bibles, and they preached the gospel to the people on the streets.

Students from Moody also helped our missionary gather clothes for the refugees. They put together six boxes of warm clothes, sweaters, gloves, and coats that were brought to the airport where a group of volunteers took them to Poland.

He said, “We pray that this war will soon be over. Both sides of the conflict have a lot of people that do not want this craziness to continue, and the whole world is watching the devastation happening.”

COMING TO A CONGREGATION AND FAITH!

Recently, several Jewish people who do not yet believe in Jesus began attending a Messianic congregation where one of our missionaries is the congregational leader. This alone is amazing, as they are coming of their own accord, with an obvious interest in learning more about our faith in Messiah Yeshua. One man, Levi (name changed), was sharing his story with our missionary. He said, “I am this close to believing that Yeshua is the Messiah. I have a million questions, but it feels right in my heart.” Our staff member, trying to contain his joy and excitement for the man, calmly said, “Questions are good. Let us talk more. But for now, from one Jewish man to another—you are going the right way.”

God is using the staff at Chosen People Ministries to reach non-Jewish people as well. At a recent speaking engagement at a church in North Carolina, our missionary shared a **Messiah in the Passover** message, and following the service, six people put their faith in Yeshua! The pastor said it was the largest response in one service that he has seen in his time leading the church. What a remarkable blessing!

NUDGING A NEW JEWISH BELIEVER TOWARD FELLOWSHIP

One of our missionaries has been remotely discipling a new Jewish believer since the summer of 2020. But Malka (name changed) was recently struggling with doubt and not taking steps toward fellowship in her area.

Our missionary had the opportunity to meet Malka for breakfast in person for the first time. He asked, “Why is it so difficult for you to try going to church?” He had connected her with a large church in the area in 2021, and she had spoken on the phone with their staff members and listened to sermons online—but had never gone in person. She replied, “I’m scared to go by myself.”

At that moment, our staff felt the Spirit encourage him to do something unscripted. It was Saturday morning—not the best time to show up at a random church unannounced. Nevertheless, he replied, “Malka, for at least right now, you have me with you, and I am not scared to go to that church, so how about we drive over there and see who the Lord introduces us to?” She agreed.

To make a long story short, upon arriving at the church, they met a sweet couple that was Malka’s age and were super-relational. They invited her to sit with them at church the next morning, which she did—and she loved it! This couple got Malka connected to a midweek women’s group and made plans to go out to lunch with her and other church friends as well. She texted our missionary after her first Sunday, “The service was excellent! It is my new church, essentially my new home! I cannot thank you enough . . . it was definitely God!” Yes, it definitely was.

Malka is now connected with new friends at a church home that is taking care of her so well. She needed an extra push to get out the door—which our missionary provided by being in person with her—but the Lord has taken it from there. Hallelujah!

save the date

Love Israel? Love the feasts!

The fall festivals of Israel are coming—and **now is the hour** to book your date for a timely, relevant, and inspiring message that will enrich you and your congregation. Discover why thousands of believers have told us that their faith in the Lord was strengthened and their understanding of God’s redemption plan was deepened through our presentations on one of these topics:

- The Gospel in the Fall Feasts of Israel
- Messiah in the Feast of Trumpets
- Messiah and Atonement: Yom Kippur
- Messiah in the Feast of Tabernacles

Do not miss your chance to learn about the fall festivals and the plan God revealed through them! Then you will understand why the Lord Himself considered them so important that He told the people of Israel four times that their feasts must be “**a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places**” (Leviticus 23:14, 31; see also Lev 23:21, 41).

V I S I T

chosenpeople.com/church-presentations/
or call (561) 737-1431 to book
your speaker and be blessed today!

THE TOP 5 WAYS

A PROPERLY EXECUTED WILL OR ESTATE PLAN BENEFITS YOU—AND HELPS YOU SHARE THE MESSAGE OF MESSIAH TOO!

Your faithful partnership with Chosen People Ministries is introducing Jewish people to their Messiah every day—all over the world!

You can build upon this legacy of love and be a blessing to the chosen people for decades to come . . . through establishing or updating your will or estate plan. Here are the top 5 ways this will benefit you and bless Jewish people too:

- 1 A completed will or estate plan will give you peace of mind and reassure your family you will provide for them in the future.
- 2 Your will or estate plan is an actual testament of your values and priorities—including your support of Jewish evangelism through Chosen People Ministries.
- 3 You will relieve your surviving loved ones of the burden of excessive taxes, fees, and probate associated with your estate.
- 4 You will have the assurance that your estate plans are being fulfilled in the way you intended.
- 5 You will have confidence that, through your careful planning, Chosen People Ministries will continue to share the good news of the Messiah with Jewish people far beyond your lifetime!

Contact your attorney to establish or update your will or estate plan. You can make a bequest to Chosen People Ministries of a specific amount or a percentage of the after-tax estate . . . and receive the joy of knowing that you continue to bless the chosen people with the good news of the Messiah, Jesus!

For answers to your questions regarding creating or updating your will or estate plan, we would love to help. Please contact Cindy Forbes at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208 or cforbes@chosenpeople.com today!



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

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