

# THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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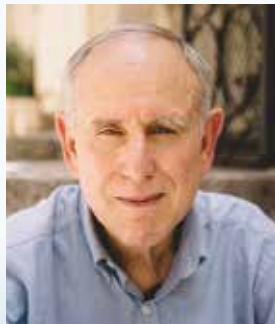
## **SERVING THE LORD IN ISRAEL**



# Transforming the Landscape of God's Work among Israelis

**S**halom in the great name of Jesus our Messiah. My wife Zhava and I are spending quite a bit of time in Israel coordinating and participating in a host of fruitful activities. It is impossible to express my excitement about all the Lord is doing in Israel right now . . . but I will try!

God is moving among second-generation Israeli young believers who are actively proclaiming the gospel among their friends, and many are coming to faith in Jesus the Messiah!



FROM THE PRESIDENT,  
MITCH GLASER

I can only describe this movement as a second-generation movement of the Holy Spirit. Their parents and pastors have done a great job leading this next generation to the Lord and providing opportunities for their discipleship.

Your Mission to the Jewish People is also playing a part in the discipleship of these zealous young adults. We are working alongside these godly parents in preparing their kids for the challenges of mandatory military

service and the social and spiritual issues they face in the Holy Land today. These sons and daughters of Israel work both in the secular world and in full-time ministry. They use their vocations to help their fellow Israelis come to know the Lord. They are leaders in their congregations, ministries, businesses, and the military!

## THE LIVING WATERS MENTORING PROJECT

Chosen People Ministries created the **Living Waters** mentoring project in response to the growth of this young adult movement in Israel. Living Waters focuses on the present and immediate needs of ministry, but even more so, Living Waters casts its gaze toward the future through mentoring young leaders. We are helping to train a new generation of young adults who are even now leading the next generation of the Israeli believing community into greater spiritual maturity and service.

*The growth of this second-generation movement is transforming the landscape of the Lord's work in Israel!*

Let me briefly explain what we do at Living Waters. Each year, we gather about forty younger leaders along with their spouses and children (if they have any) and provide a retreat for them, which includes Bible teaching, fellowship, and practical ministry training. We also help meet some of the everyday needs of walking with the Lord and serving Him through their congregations. Additionally, we connect these young adults with one another and encourage peer-to-peer friendships as well as partnerships with Israelis in different parts of the country.

Just a decade ago, at some of our early Living Waters retreats, everyone from all over Israel seemed to know one another. *But today, the movement has grown to the point where most young leaders are meeting one another for the first time! This trend is another visible sign of the expansion of the Israeli believing community.*



By connecting these young leaders to one another, we are creating an atmosphere for fellowship and ministry partnerships to bless the entire body of Messiah for years to come. We have already seen this happen as our Messianic Jewish testimonies project, Ifoundshalom.com, grew out of relationships built at Living Waters.



The pastors who recommend their young people attend Living Waters are delighted with the program. Additionally, most of the pastors of those who attend Living Waters view the program as an opportunity to enhance their own ministries. They recognize we are helping them train their future congregational leaders.

It is wonderful to see relationships built between young leaders and those who come to teach and mentor them. As a result, doors have opened for further ministry, funds have been raised, additional training received, and new relationships and connections developed from the discipleship experienced through Living Waters.

*Israeli leaders need friends and mentors outside of Israel to pray for them and help gather resources, funds, and training to continue their work in Israel.*

We take great joy in helping deepen these relationships between our American-based mentors/speakers and the Israeli participants.

### THE NEW TEL AVIV MESSIANIC CENTER

Another response to this growing movement in Israel is the expansion of ministry space in Tel Aviv—the city with the largest concentration of Israelis in the country. We recently purchased a commercial space to use as a Messianic outreach center. This new space is two-and-a-half times larger than what we currently rent, and this center will be one of the few facilities owned by believers in Tel Aviv and the surrounding suburbs. It is another sign of God’s favor on the growing Messianic movement in the Holy Land!

I am diligently raising funds, working with architects and contractors, and securing building permits. Please pray for this work, as it is going to be very challenging because some ultra-religious Jewish politicians have a more significant role in Israel’s current government and strongly oppose our efforts. I am hoping God will grant us favor with the officials so our permits to build will come quickly.



We plan to dedicate the new center this December during the Jewish festival of Hanukkah (which means “dedication” in Hebrew). If you want to join us on this unique and memorable tour, you can find all the details and register at [www.chosenpeople.com/dedicationtour/](http://www.chosenpeople.com/dedicationtour/).

**Please pray about coming on the Israel trip of a lifetime!**

### A CHOSEN PEOPLE GLOBAL MINISTRIES REGATHERING

Another major event took place this past month in Israel as we gathered for fellowship with many on our worldwide staff at a hotel in Jerusalem. More than 300 of our Chosen People Global Ministries family were able to see each other face to face for the first time in many years. We worshiped, prayed together, and heard some great messages about the future of Jewish evangelism in Israel and worldwide. Everyone was inspired, encouraged, and energized to serve the Lord.

We also invited families to bring their children. We ended up engaging about fifty-five kids in our children’s program.

*So, we not only envisioned the future but were able to see it right in front of us.*



### A NEW HEBREW-LANGUAGE EVANGELISTIC WEBSITE

I also spent time working with our Israel staff on our new online evangelistic website—*LaOmeK* (the Hebrew word for “going deeper”). This new website offers digital booklets addressing various significant issues among younger Israelis, like healthy relationships and the challenges of loneliness, depression, and anxiety. Thousands of Israelis have already downloaded our booklets. Our Israel staff is now busy following up with them!

The summer will also be busy around the globe as we conduct short-term evangelistic campaigns in Israel, New York City, London, and more!

I cannot thank you enough for your generous support of Chosen People Ministries and your prayers and encouragement. I have more to tell you about new outreach initiatives in the United States we are kicking off this fall, but I will save these updates for another time. I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter, especially the interview with David, one of our leaders at the Tel Aviv Messianic Center. I am sure you will appreciate what he has to say and, as a result, be better informed about how to pray for the growing believing community in Israel!

Your brother in the Messiah,

  
Mitch

## Q&A WITH AN ISRAELI MISSIONARY:

# Reaching Secular Jewish Young People for Jesus *in Tel Aviv*



In the following interview, David, a Jewish missionary with Chosen People Ministries in Israel, talks about how he came to faith in Jesus, his and his wife Viktoria's ministry among Tel Aviv's young, secular Jewish population, and how believers can pray for ministry in Israel.



### **Can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you, as a Jewish believer, came to faith in Jesus as your Messiah?**

My family is originally from Latvia, a small country in eastern Europe. During World War II, most of our family perished in the Holocaust. My grandfather survived, but the Holocaust left an enormous pain in his heart. He was against everything related to God.

After World War II, the communist party ruled Latvia. My grandfather studied communist ideology at university. After graduation, he climbed quickly from one role to another in the communist party until he reached a senior post in the Latvian Communist Party's Ministry of Information. He started working in communist propaganda.

During that time, simply having a Bible at home was against the law. Anyone who kept one risked being arrested and locked in a KGB basement. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Information had copies of the Bible for the purpose of studying the Scriptures and teaching against them.

Because of his position, my grandfather was able to take a Bible to our family's house to study the Scriptures and prepare articles and lectures against them. But God had another plan.

My father, sixteen years old at the time, found the Bible my grandfather brought home and began to read it. When my father read about the Messiah's crucifixion and resurrection, he fell in love with Yeshua (Jesus) and dedicated his life to Him. I had the privilege of being raised in a Jewish family who believes in Yeshua as the promised Messiah.

### **How long have you been serving in Jewish ministry?**

At the age of eighteen, I joined the Israel Defense Forces and served for eight years. After my discharge, I dedicated my life to ministry service. Today, I am forty-one. So, for the last fifteen years, I have been proclaiming





the love of Messiah and the truth of God's Word to the people of Israel.

### **Do Israelis seem open to the gospel?**

Over the past nine years, most of my and Viktoria's service has been concentrated in the Tel Aviv area. The majority of the Jewish people living in this large city are secular. I can say we certainly live in a special period in history.

Today, the Jewish people, especially those in the Tel Aviv area, are more open to the gospel than ever before. Additionally, Jewish people seem more open to hearing and discussing the gospel in Tel Aviv than in other areas of Israel.

### **Can you provide us a snapshot of what your ministry in Tel Aviv looks like?**

Nine years ago, my wife Viktoria and I moved to Tel Aviv. It is a special Israeli city with a population of about 3.7 million people in the greater Tel Aviv area. Most of the area is made up of secular young Jewish people who want to enjoy life in the big city.

In Israel, both men and women must serve in the Israel Defense Forces. For many young Israelis, serving in the army is a challenging time. After discharge, a large number of these young people come to Tel Aviv for short periods of time, anywhere from a few months to a few years. When Israeli young people move to Tel Aviv, they are open to all sorts of new experiences.

Viktoria and I see this time—while young Israelis are living in Tel Aviv—as an opportunity to plant seeds of the good news we have in Messiah Yeshua in their hearts. We have a vision for these young people. Through them, the good news can spread all over Israel when they return to their own towns.

After nine years of service here, we are seeing young people who received the good news go back to their homes and act as living testimonies of their faith in Messiah Yeshua to their families, friends, and coworkers.

Right now, we are renting a small commercial space in Ramat Gan, a suburb of Tel Aviv, as our outreach center, but we are in the process of purchasing a larger one. This new center will serve as our main ministry hub for the entire Tel Aviv

area. Our current landlord is under much pressure from anti-Messianic organizations. Until now, he has been able to cope with the pressure, but we know this can change at any moment. Please pray the Lord continues to provide funds for the purchase and renovation of our own building.\*

### **Can you tell us a little bit more about the pressure you face from anti-missionary organizations?**

Israel is a democratic country. Israel does not persecute believers in Yeshua. Even still, however, there is constant pressure from some ultra-religious Jewish organizations against Jewish believers in Yeshua.

These anti-missionary organizations come to the entrance of our center with signs accusing us of treason. Sometimes, they arrive in groups of a few dozen people in order to disrupt our events, usually by yelling.

### **What is the relationship like between Messianic Jewish people and Arab Christians in Israel?**

I remember a certain time when there was tension between the Arab and Jewish populations. At that time, the Lord put it on my heart to arrange a prayer meeting with both Jewish and Arab believers in Yeshua. We met together and prayed in unity for peace in our country. Not everything is smooth and simple, but I wholeheartedly believe we are to continue striving for unity and strengthening our relationships with our Arab brothers and sisters in order to be good witnesses for Yeshua in our area.

### **How can believers pray for you and your family and for ministry in Israel?**

Viktoria and I have two children, a boy and a girl. Both study in schools, and it is not easy to constantly face pressure from anti-Messianic organizations. We are privileged to serve the Lord in Israel, yet we feel we are on the front lines of a spiritual war. Please pray God will continue to give us the strength to face every challenge while we serve Him.

Israel needs prayer for peace. In addition to waiting for Yeshua's coming Kingdom of peace, we need to actively pray for peace now. Psalm 122:6 exhorts, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." When we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we are praying for every person who lives there—whether believer or unbeliever, Jewish Israeli or Arab Palestinian.

*\*If you would like to learn more about the new Tel Aviv Messianic Center and/or donate to help Chosen People Ministries reach its financial goal to purchase and renovate the center to reach young Israelis for Messiah, visit [chosenpeople.com/telavivcenter/](http://chosenpeople.com/telavivcenter/).*



## Micah 5

## The Ruler Who Brings Peace

Following the well-known prophecy of the Messiah being born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2), Micah detailed how the one who “will be our peace” would accomplish that feat on earth by destroying Israel’s enemies (Mic 5:5). This messianic accomplishment is one of several bringing peace to Israel. Messiah will be Israel’s peace because He will subdue the hostile neighbors surrounding her. Though Assyria no longer exists as a nation today, it appears in Micah 5:5 to represent those nations who, like Assyria in Micah’s time, will threaten and attack Jerusalem.

The Messiah will raise up leaders—not only to lead Israel but also to rule over her enemies: “Then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight leaders of men. They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod at its entrances” (Mic 5:5–6). The use of the phrase “land of Nimrod” was likely another synonym for Assyria. Historically, since the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles, many nations have ruled Israel with a sword, or by force. In Messiah’s millennial reign, when He sits on the throne of David, the tables will be turned, and Israel will rule over her foes.

After Messiah destroys Israel’s enemies at His second coming, the remnant of Jacob (believing Israelites) will be “like dew from the Lord, like showers on vegetation” among the nations (Mic 5:7). The rainy season in Israel was usually from October through March, and the nighttime dew during the other six months was instrumental in nourishing the crops. Just as the dew and rain come from God at the right time and “do not wait for man” (Mic 5:7), in the same way, God will refresh the nations in His own timing apart from human involvement. The millennial kingdom will be a time of great refreshing and blessing for the nations who embrace the messianic king.

Not only will the remnant of Jacob be a refreshment to the nations, but they will also be “like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep” (Mic 5:8). The picture is of a ferocious lion domineering over other animals. In Messiah’s kingdom, Israel will be dominant and

powerful over other nations of the world. God says, “Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries, and all your enemies will be cut off” (Mic 5:9). He will enable Israel to defeat and destroy her enemies.

The messianic king will also purge Israel of any reliance on her military power. “It will be in that day,” declares the Lord, “that I will cut off your horses from among you and destroy your chariots” (Mic 5:10). All vestiges of reliance on the military and strength of the Israelites will be removed, and cities in which Israel builds strongholds and fortifications for protection will be demolished.

Lastly, the Messiah will once and for all destroy false worship from within Israel. Besides destroying enemies from outside Israel, the Messiah will purge the nation of every trace of idolatrous practices, which were enemies within (Mic 5:12–13). Sorcery rarely appears in the Old Testament. When it does, it refers to seeking communication from demonic sources (2 Kings 9:22; 2 Chronicles 33:6; etc.). Fortune tellers and mediums, while strictly forbidden, were prevalent in Israel as people sought to use demonic powers to exercise manipulative influences over others (Isaiah 47:12).

Despite warnings throughout her history, Israel struggled with pursuing her neighbors’ gods. Though prohibited in the Mosaic law, these idolatrous practices—certainly common in the ancient Near East—became attractive to many Israelites throughout much of Israel’s history. God promises in Micah 5:13–14 to deal with these practices: “I will cut off your carved images and your sacred pillars from among you, so that you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. I will root out your Asherim from among you and destroy your cities.” Clearly, modern-day idolatrous practices such as occultism will be prevalent in the future under the influence of the antichrist, but Messiah will wipe out all darkness when He returns to reign. What a day it will be, both in the land of Israel and for all the nations!



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.

# NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## WHEN YOUR TESTIMONY BECOMES YOUR MINISTRY

One of our missionaries in Israel works with new immigrants. Under the Law of Return, any Jewish person in the world has the right to repatriate to Israel, which is populated by people from more than 100 countries. Different people bring their own culture, language, and habits. Israel is famous for its diversity. Since the 1990s, more than 1,500,000 Jewish people have come to Israel from the former Soviet republics, and today 20 percent of Israel's population speaks Russian. In 1996, our missionary who now spearheads this ministry to immigrants was himself one of those Russian-speaking Jewish immigrants.

Arriving in Israel, he knew nothing about faith, the country, or the people. It was complicated for him to adapt. He did not even like this new country as it seemed strange to him. But the Lord sent people who helped him, supported him, and told him about Jesus, the Jewish Messiah who died and rose again so he could live forever. They said God had a unique role and calling for him. The care and love of these people helped our missionary know the grace of God.

Because of his experience, he truly understands those who now come to Israel and experience the same struggles he did thirty years ago. Today, our staff member is grateful for an open door to serve these people and help them settle in this country and come to know God! In 2022, largely due to the war in Ukraine, more than 70,000 Jewish people from Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine came to Israel. God has given our missionary and his team many opportunities to serve these immigrants and proclaim the gospel among them.

Last November, his team organized a conference for families of new immigrants. They met with more than forty families. As a result, many new immigrants started attending local congregations. Children who were at the conference began to come to our camps, where they made new friendships and heard the gospel. Most of these families do not know God, and our ministry team works hard to help hundreds of Jewish immigrants who have returned to their historical homeland. Our staff delights in loving them, serving them, and in helping them recognize the Savior Jesus Christ in the land the God of Abraham promised and gave them.

## “WE HAVE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.”

T and M are a darling newlywed couple who recently stayed at our guesthouse in New Zealand. What caught our staff there by surprise was the couple's situation: she was religious, and he was not! She would not drive or do work on the Sabbath, and he would do everything for her! One of our missionary families had the couple over for a “cuppa” (cup of tea) the Friday evening they arrived to get to know them.

“So, why are you going to the North Island?” they asked our missionary couple. “We are going to share Passover Seders with several churches there,” they replied. The look on T and

M's faces was priceless. “What?! We don't understand. Did you say, ‘Passover’?” “Yes! We said ‘Passover’!” For the next hour, they had a beautiful conversation about the gospel in the Passover and how they, as Gentile believers, believe Jesus (Yeshua) is the Lamb of God and Israel's Messiah. T and M could not believe it; they had many questions, and two more hours flew by until it was time for bed.

Since he was not religious, M offered to drive our staff to the airport the next morning. In the car, he said, “We stayed up another two hours talking about everything you shared with us. We have never heard anything like this before.” Before they went into the airport, they gave M a New Testament as well as an *Isaiah 53 Explained* book in Hebrew. Please pray the Lord continues to draw T and M and for them to find Jesus!

## SENIOR ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICER HEARS GOSPEL—IN JAPAN!

At our hostel in Japan, our staff receive many messages from Israeli travelers who have participated in our activities. They describe their experience with our staff as exciting and thought-provoking, leaving them feeling blessed and grateful for the love they received. Recently, a senior officer from the Israel Defense Forces named Amos\* visited the hostel and expressed interest in attending our celebrations for Israel's Memorial Day (*Yom HaZikaron*) and Independence Day (*Yom Ha'atzmaut*). Our staff was upfront about being Messianic Jewish believers, but he still gladly accepted the invitation and even offered to speak. At the event, Amos described his experiences in the military, and our staff was able to proclaim the gospel to him and other Israelis who participated in the event. Pray for Amos and his wife Sarah,\* for the gospel seeds our staff sowed in their hearts to lead to a transformative experience, and for them to know Yeshua (Jesus) as their Messiah. Pray also for our volunteers in Japan to continue to be a beacon of light for the Jewish people in Japan. May God strengthen and encourage them in their work.

## SWIMMING FOR THE GOSPEL—“WHAT MAKES YOU DIFFERENT?”

This summer, one of our missionaries in Israel will participate in her fifth race across a portion of the Sea of Galilee. She will swim 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles) with 500 other women. Together they will raise funds for a home for disabled adults. This event is one of the highlights of our missionary's year. She has trained hard over the last couple of months, and says it is so beautiful to swim on the Galilee at 6 AM when the sea is calm, and flocks of birds fly overhead. Best of all, the swim brings wonderful opportunities to speak about the Lord! Most of the women at the swim race are Orthodox Jewish women. Therefore, our missionary stands out. They often ask what makes her different. She takes the time to talk about her faith and why she is different.

\*Names changed



# THE TOP FIVE REASONS TO LEAVE A LEGACY

## OF PROCLAIMING MESSIAH TO JEWISH PEOPLE

We are thankful for your partnership in introducing Jewish people all over the world to their Messiah—and we want to help you build upon your faithfulness to support Jewish evangelism.

Today, you can designate Chosen People Ministries as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan. Here are the top five ways this kind of generosity can bless Jewish people and benefit you and your family:

- 1.** You—and your loved ones—will have reassurance your family's needs will be provided for when you go home to heaven.
- 2.** It makes a powerful statement to those you leave behind about your beliefs, your priorities, and the high value you place on proclaiming Jesus the Messiah to Jewish people.
- 3.** You will spare your loved ones the burden of probate courts and excessive estate taxes or fees.
- 4.** You will gain peace of mind knowing your wishes will be carried out.
- 5.** The impact of your partnership with Chosen People Ministries—reaching the Jewish people with the good news of Messiah—will continue far beyond your lifetime.

Whether you choose to make a bequest of a specific dollar amount, or a percentage of the after-tax estate, you will receive the joy of knowing you are proclaiming the message of Messiah!

*Your will or estate plan is the way to establish a legacy of blessing Jewish people for years to come—even after you go home to heaven.*

**For questions or additional information about creating or updating your will or estate plan, please contact Cindy Forbes today at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208 or [cforbes@chosenpeople.com](mailto:cforbes@chosenpeople.com).**



## Dedication Tour 2023

*Join us in Tel Aviv*  
**December 5–15**

Experience for yourself how Chosen People Ministries serves the Jewish people through our work in Israel as we dedicate our new outreach space.

- Pray over the new Tel Aviv Messianic Center.
- Tour key biblical and historical sites.
- Hear stories from our local staff in Tel Aviv.
- Listen to testimonies of young believers.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:  
[WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.COM/DEDICATIONTOUR](http://WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.COM/DEDICATIONTOUR)  
OR CONTACT MICHAEL MOORE AT (212) 223-2252.**

**THE CHOSEN PEOPLE**



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

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