

The Chosen People



Volume XVI, Issue 4 May 2010

TEL AVIV: A GUIDE TO THE SIGHTS THAT THE TOURISTS DON'T SEE

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TEL AVIV— A Tale of Two Cities



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Dear friend,

If you have ever been to Tel Aviv, you know that it is a vibrant, modern city. It is hard to believe that in 1910, the year it was founded, the area was a sand dune.

Today, Tel Aviv and its suburbs have more than a million residents. People rush through the busy streets, each person pursuing his or her goals and dreams.

But like many other urban centers, Tel Aviv has another face—it is also populated by people who, for one reason or another, have fallen by the wayside.

It is almost like a second city, invisible to those who would prefer not to see it. Its residents are often forgotten by the healthy and hopeful citizens of the glittering Tel Aviv we love to celebrate. But they are not forgotten by the Lord—nor by His servants.

This month, our newsletter will highlight the work of Chosen People Ministries' staff members who are serving in the midst of these hurting

people right now. I hope that you will be moved to pray for our workers and for the lives of those they touch with the love of Messiah.

An Expanding Metropolis and an Expanding Ministry

Tel Aviv is a city under continual construction, with cranes dotting the skyline as buildings rise from concrete foundations. The population has also continued to increase. The sudden influx of Soviet Jews since the early 1990s has created many opportunities for our staff.

We planted a congregation for Russian Jewish people in Tel Aviv. This dynamic and growing ministry actively reaches out to seekers and other neighbors.

We have also been feeding the poor and caring for the homeless and those addicted to drugs and alcohol—all in the name of Jesus!

Recently, by God's grace and with your help, we have been able to open the Tel Aviv Messianic Center, a three-story building where we have a meeting hall for congregations to hold their services, seminars and classes.

We also have a fully-equipped industrial kitchen, from which we operate a thriving soup kitchen ministry. I am so grateful for your partnership in this work!

Once a week, we have a coffee house called the Gospel Café, which attracts 100-150 young people each week. The Café offers a homey atmosphere, free coffee and good music. Our staff members talk with visitors and invite them to our

Hebrew-speaking Messianic congregation on the following day.

Our goal is for this new congregation to grow through outreach, and the Gospel Café is a vital part of this growth. Our Russian congregation meets in the Center as well—so we now have services in both Hebrew and Russian!

Mending Broken Lives Through the Power of the Gospel

In the “hidden” Tel Aviv, many are plagued with the evils of alcohol and drug abuse. Neriya A., who helps lead the Russian-speaking congregation, also works in the soup kitchen. In addition, Neriya helps to coordinate two outreaches a week that bring meals to the homeless and hurting who are on the streets.

We hope that through this tangible expression of Messiah’s love, these needy people will become open to the Lord and will eventually enter one of the Gospel-oriented drug rehabilitation centers with which we have a close relationship.

Brian S., another staff member serving in Israel, is deeply involved in ministry to the homeless and drug-addicted. Brian recently wrote:

After only three weeks, all the seats at our soup kitchen outreach in Tel Aviv were full. We’ve also started distributing dry food goods for the needy people to

take home. We are giving out over 4,400 lbs. per month.

Another two soup kitchens are overflowing with people being fed, as well as clothed, having their wounds bound up in the free medical clinic and being counseled, guided and invited to our Bible-based rehabilitation center. These dear people are literally being rescued from death unto life!

Please pray for this rehabilitation center as it is under major spiritual and physical attack from all sides.

A Growing Work to Meet a Growing Need

As I hope you can see, Chosen People Ministries has been expanding our witness for Messiah in Tel Aviv through the Messianic Center and its outreach programs. This is the fruit of the faithfulness and skill of our wonderful staff, and the generous support of our partners like you.

Our staff workers do not have an easy task; they must come to grips with some of the most heart-wrenching situations that human beings can encounter.

Ministering in Israel is not easy under any circumstances, and these servants of Messiah have chosen to do work that requires the utmost patience and love.



As you read the accounts of our staff members in Tel Aviv, I hope you will come away impressed by their dedication and the joy they have in knowing that as hard as the work may be, they are responding to the Lord’s calling with obedience and trust.

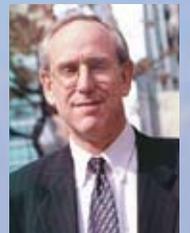
Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support of our work in Israel and in the other twelve countries where your Mission to the Jewish people is making a difference in the lives of Jewish people every day. It is our hearts’ desire, along with the Apostle Paul’s, that all Israel may be saved (Romans 10:1).

Remember to pray for our staff in Israel and especially in Tel Aviv as they reach Israelis for the Lord.

I know you will enjoy the wonderful testimonies and reports in this issue of our newsletter!

Your brother
in the Messiah,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



THE TEL AVIV MESSIANIC CENTER: A HUB OF GOSPEL ACTIVITY



NERIYAH A. – THE MESSAGE OF MESSIAH THROUGH PRACTICAL OUTREACH



My wife and I are part of the Russian-speaking Messianic congregation in Tel Aviv, which is growing tremendously. About 150 people attend the worship services, which meet at the Center; many of

them volunteer in maintaining the Center and participate in the soup kitchen ministry. I am also working with Jason R. to lead the Hebrew-speaking congregation, which began late last year and is slowly growing. We are busy at the Center practically every day with worship services, the soup kitchen and the Gospel Café. We are doing a lot of practical outreach and have developed a network of volunteers. So far, we have distributed \$10,000 worth of food in Tel Aviv, Sderot and Jerusalem. We have also begun an additional outreach in Ashkelon, where we have a small group of three families that we are hoping to develop into a congregation.

We have several different soup kitchen ministries. The one sponsored directly by Chosen People Ministries hosts about fifty families—almost 100 people all together. I go from table to table, meeting people and befriending them. I also work with the congregational food outreach, in which we go to the streets twice a week and bring food directly to the homeless. This soup kitchen that we take to the streets is the first step in inviting addicts to our rehab centers—one in Jaffa and another in Netanya, where Brian S. ministers. We invite them to stay for free in rehab, and slowly but surely they learn about the Lord. So far we have ten young believers being discipled and planning to be baptized. 🙏

If you would like to share our newsletter with some of your friends who might have a burden for the Jewish people, just send us their names on the enclosed card.

JASON R. – PATIENCE AND FRIENDSHIP IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

I direct and manage the Tel Aviv Messianic Center, run the Gospel Café outreach, and am also helping to plant a Hebrew-speaking congregation at the Center.

This building that we have dedicated to the Lord's use actually used to be a casino. Sometimes people come in looking for an opportunity to gamble, and are confused when they enter the building. But when they see what we are doing, some of them keep coming back—they are curious about all we do for others. They ask, "Why are you doing this?" This is really a friendship evangelism ministry, and it can only develop through love and patience.



The Gospel Café is really taking off. Each week, we have a high-caliber program, mostly music. We open our doors at 7:30 pm and sometimes don't close until 2:00 am. Volunteers from various Messianic congregations circulate, getting to know visitors. Our worship services meet in the same building the next day, and we have had success inviting people from the Gospel Café to visit our services as well. My own sense of calling is to make disciples, nurturing people from unbelief to maturity in the Lord. Service is a great way for believers to grow and also to demonstrate the love of the Lord to those who are hurting and in need, whether they are believers or not. 🙏



The Chosen People

BRIAN S. – THIS IS WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT!



I am presently the managing director of the soup kitchen and humanitarian aid department of the Tel Aviv Messianic Center. I also now devote considerable time working with a rehabilitation center in the suburb of Netanya, where we have weekly Bible studies, drug and alcohol counseling and distribution of food and clothing. The soup kitchen we host at the Messianic Center started a few months ago and by the third week, we were maxed out, with a crowd of about 20 waiting to get in as table space opened up. On the same day as the soup kitchen, we distribute new clothes and dry food products, about \$15 per bag.

My vision is to share the love of God with “the least of these”—the poor, the needy, Holocaust survivors, widows, single mothers, addicts and prostitutes—and to see people come to the Lord. I also want to see our work expand and multiply, as we have seen some wonderfully encouraging fruits in our labors. For example, a homeless alcoholic, a Russian Jewish man, recently came to faith through the ministry of our rehab center. Another man received the Lord through our witness at the distribution center. Just recently, I had the pleasure of seeing both of them volunteering at the Messianic Center on the same day. Seeing them serving side by side, being disciplined in service, made me very emotional and excited. Knowing Yeshua (Jesus) and serving others—this is what it is all about! 🌟

FACTS ABOUT POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN ISRAEL:

One in every three children in Israel lives below the poverty line, according to the National Insurance Institute (NII). The NII says, “Over 400,000 families in Israel suffer from ‘nutritional insecurity,’ a euphemistic term for hunger. This means that 28% of Israeli citizens—1,600,000 people—are living in an ongoing state of need. Among them are more than 600,000 hungry children.”

“In 2008, it was estimated that there were over 3,000 homeless people in Israel, most in the major cities of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheba. About a third of them receive no assistance from the authorities.”

IRIN – UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

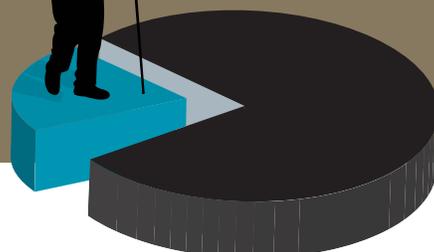
“The proportion of single-parent families in Tel Aviv-Yaffa is high—21.4% of all families with children in December 2007, as compared with a national average of only 12.5%. In fact, since the beginning of the 1990s, the number of single-parent families in the city has doubled.”

Tel Aviv-Yaffa Municipality

1 IN 3 CHILDREN LIVES BELOW THE POVERTY LINE



28% OF ISRAELI CITIZENS LIVE IN A STATE OF NEED



MISSION PRAYER POINTS

Here are some highlights from Chosen People Ministries’ global outreach. Please pray that the Lord will build upon what He has already established!

- Pray for our staff in Israel—particularly for Brian, Jason, Neriya and other staff and volunteers as they minister to those in need of Messiah’s truth. 🌟
- Pray for Chosen People Ministries’ Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies as we seek a facility to accommodate our expansion as a learning institution and training ground for tomorrow’s leaders. 🌟
- Pray for protection and restoration for our ministry in South America, whose headquarters were recently burglarized. 🌟
- Pray for Kirill Swiderski and his family as they plant a new Messianic congregation in Wheeling, a suburb of Chicago. Pray that the large Russian Jewish population of North Chicago will receive Messiah’s message through their ministry. 🌟
- Pray for the completion of the renovation of our new Messianic Center in Toronto. Pray especially for staff member Bob Seemar as he oversees the project. 🌟
- Pray for Scott and Marjorie B. in New Zealand as they continue to bring the Gospel to Israeli travelers there. 🌟

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 FORMULA FOR OBTAINING ETERNAL LIFE (Matthew 19:16-30)

“Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” Is there any more urgent question than this one, put to Jesus in Matthew 19:16 by a sincere individual familiar with Jewish law? Jesus’ answer, as usual, poses challenges of its own.

Only God Can Give the Formula for Obtaining Eternal Life (Mt. 19:16)

Jesus stated, “No one is good but ...God.” By this, Jesus challenged the man to trust in His divine nature, and evidently the man did not object—but he continued to seek the formula for eternal life. Later on Jesus stated, “Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life...” (Jn. 5:24).

Eternal Life Is Not Obtainable Through Law-Keeping (Mt. 19:18-22)

The Jewish moral Law (Ex. 19; Dt. 5) was given for many reasons. It established the holiness of God; it created an orderly government within Israel; it exposed the nature of sin and militated against idolatry. Primarily, the Law was God’s

perfect standard of righteousness. However, law-keeping could never justify a man or cancel out his past sins, because that was never the purpose of the Law. “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith, apart from the deeds of the law” (Rom. 3:28).

Jesus, as the perfect instructor, counseled the man to keep the laws dealing with a man’s relationship to his fellow man—namely, the last six commandments. The inquiring man testified that he had kept them, saying that he honored his parents, and he did not steal, murder or commit adultery. Jesus never refuted the man’s claim.

But the tenth commandment deals with inward motives rather than outward performance: “You shall not covet...” (Ex. 20:17). To reveal to this man his inner sinful nature, Jesus said, “If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor...and come, follow Me” (Mt. 19:21). The man refused to do this, demonstrating his sinful and covetous nature: “When the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” (Mt. 19:22; see Rom. 7:7).

Eternal Life Is Obtainable by Following Jesus

Had this young Jewish man followed Jesus, it would have led him to Calvary, where Jesus the Jewish Messiah died for the sins of both Jews and Gentiles. He might even have been numbered among those who were privileged to see Him after the Resurrection or been present in the Upper Room to receive the Holy Spirit.

Today, following Jesus begins by believing the Gospel, namely that “Christ (Messiah) died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day...” (1 Cor. 15:3,4).

While following Jesus begins with the simplicity of faith, genuine belief will continue by following the Messiah in a consistent biblical lifestyle of dedication and service to accomplish God’s will. Jesus declared, “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (Jn. 15:5). 🌈

FAITH DECISIONS AT MOSCOW MESSIANIC CONFERENCE

After preaching an evangelistic sermon in Moscow, Vladimir Pikman, our Germany Director, learned that eight Jewish people received the Lord that evening. Vladimir was in Moscow to train new Messianic leaders. About 35 leaders from all over Russia and some from Ukraine attended. His subject was “Messianic Apologetics,” which deals with answering Jewish objections regarding Yeshua. Vladimir says, “Speaking for several hours in defense of Yeshua encouraged not only the participants, but also me personally. And what a privilege it was to see the fruits of a sermon immediately after it was preached!”

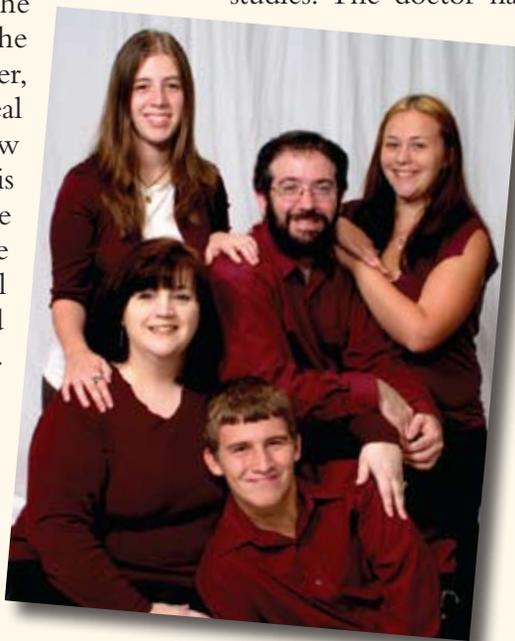
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR RECEIVES MESSIAH IN ISRAEL

Maxim K. ministers to more than 70 Holocaust survivors in the city of Sderot. Maxim has visited one particular man, Reuven,* for the past three years and helps him and his wife where possible. Several weeks ago, Maxim and co-worker Eugene helped Reuven get new dentures and had a good conversation. Reuven and his wife asked many questions. He said that he was willing to believe, but that he had doubts. They said a simple prayer together and during the prayer, Reuven wept as he received the Lord.

INTERFAITH COUPLE TRULY JOINED TOGETHER

Staff member Neal Surasky, who leads a Messianic congregation in northern Virginia, has been counseling an interfaith couple who will be getting married this fall. When the woman started attending the congregation, she heard something that she had never heard before—that as a believer, she would still be Jewish. One day, Neal asked, “After hearing about Jesus for a few months, are you ready to say that He is the promised Messiah of Israel?” And she was! Neal prayed with her to receive the Lord. About two weeks later, when Neal was speaking with her mother, he learned that she also had become a believer. Seeing faith in Messiah lived out in a Jewish way gave her the encouragement to believe.

Neal and Kim Surasky family



MINISTRY IN ARGENTINA ATTACKED

Ricardo Chemi, who directs our work in Argentina, reports some disturbing events concerning the ministry there. Two young men, one of whom looked like he was on drugs, came into the Chosen People Ministries building through the front door, tied up the receptionist, demanded money and took three laptop computers. Thankfully, they didn't hurt her. The congregation reinforced the building's security and took an offering that replaced the stolen money. Please pray for protection of our staff and facilities, and pray that enough funds will be raised to replace the computer equipment.



Ricardo and Karina Chemi

LISTEN TO YOUR DOCTOR!

Staff member Cathy Wilson, who serves in Scottsdale, Arizona, says she is still smiling! A Jewish physician at a retirement center, who is not yet a believer in Jesus, is encouraging his patients to attend her weekly Bible studies! The doctor has also ventured out to several classes, as well as to a few outreach events. A patient told Dr. Wikler* that as she walks by the classroom at the center each week, she has a desire to join the group. Dr. Wikler then exclaimed, “I take Cathy's classes and love them. You should go!” She replied, “Because you are telling me to go, doctor, I will go!”

*name has been changed

Why I support Jewish Missions



MARGOT THOMPSON

I first heard of Chosen People Ministries through my daughter, Kristen, who heard Mitch preach about Jewish evangelism at a church meeting in Texas. I felt called to start praying for Israel and the Jewish people in 2005. I had been trying to find an organization that would help me find out more about how to pray in this area. My daughter gave me *The Chosen People* newsletter, and I've been getting it ever since. I believe that Jewish evangelism is close to God's heart, because the Scriptures are just filled with God's purpose and plan for the Jewish people. God's Word tells us that Jesus will return to rule in Jerusalem and that all Israel will be saved. We should all be praying for this, and we should support those who are called to serve in the field as His workers.

For more information on ways you can be involved in giving, please contact us today. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at giving@chosenpeople.com.

Is this you?

Do you wish you could use your work experience to serve the Lord? Do you have experience as a scheduling agent? You may be just the person we are looking for. If you meet this criteria, can work out of our International Headquarters in New York City and would like to be considered for this position, please call 1-888-405-5874 or submit your resumé to Julia Freeman at jfreeman@chosenpeople.com.

Messianic Specials

Joined Together is a 45-minute documentary featuring four interfaith married couples who share their discovery that faith in the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, can bring a dynamic and joy-filled basis to their marriage.

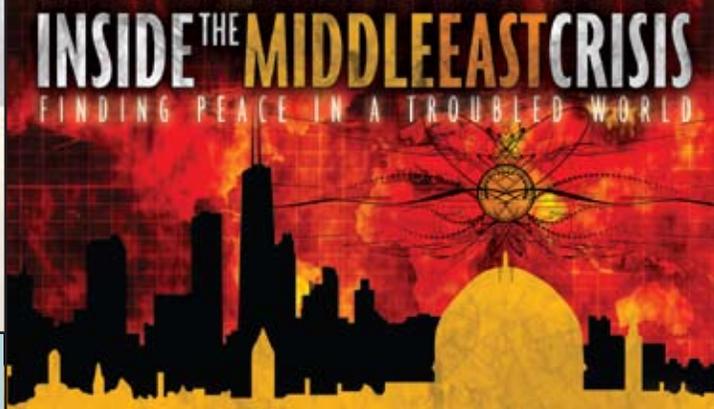
Joined Together? DVD • \$19.95^{US} • 8024

Up to Zion is a chorus of beautiful voices and great brass and instrumental sections backed by a praising, clapping and worshipping congregation. Recorded back in 1990, this album is a classic and is still going strong.

Up to Zion CD • \$13.95^{US} • 4020

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The Chosen People Newsletter

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



A higher standard. A higher purpose.