

LOVING JEWISH PEOPLE IN YESHUA'S NAME

Dear friend,

I want to thank you for your partnership with Celebrate Messiah as we carry out our calling to bring the Gospel "to the Jew first" (Romans 1:16) here in Australia as well as in New Zealand, Russia and Israel. I am sure you will enjoy hearing about how your generous support has enabled our missionaries to touch Jewish lives with the saving message of Yeshua the Messiah and I trust that this will be an encouragement to you.

In the following accounts you will hear about the wonderful ways that our partner ministry, Chosen People Ministries, is making a huge difference in the lives of Jewish people in Israel in particular through a wide range of ministry opportunities.

I am sure that you will be very glad to hear that Celebrate Messiah Australia each month sends a minimum of \$2000 in support of the work being done in Israel in the Name of Yeshua. This money that we send is a "tithe" of our ministry's general income and is a gift given in faith each month. We believe that it is a real privilege and blessing for us to be involved in ministry in Israel, together with the work we do here in Australia and Russia.

I have also been encouraged and challenged by the Lord to do more locally to share the love of Messiah with needy Jewish people in Australia. In Melbourne we have a very large community of elderly Jewish people who have come here from the former Soviet Union. Many of them are Holocaust survivors who are struggling with their basic needs. As a start, we are hoping to be able to distribute boxes of groceries to these beautiful people each month and express our's and God's love for them in this way. If you live in Melbourne you may be interested in volunteering for this ministry, please let us know via email (tikkunolam@celebratemessiah.com.au) or call our office.

When Rabbi Leopold Cohn began Chosen People Ministries in 1894, it was his intention to reach his fellow Jewish people—primarily poor Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe—with the Good News of the Messiah. He did this through street preaching, Bible studies and tract distribution, and also by providing for some of the physical needs of the poor Jewish people he was reaching: feeding the hungry, offering clothing and furniture to those who could not afford it, teaching English as a second language and much more!

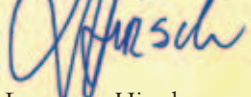
We want to follow in the Rabbi's footsteps. We plan to serve the souls of Jewish people and also care for the "whole person" of those who are in need within the Jewish community.

This new ministry will in no way replace our evangelistic endeavours as acts of kindness are not evangelistic in themselves, but simply showing love in Yeshua's name. A vital ministry in itself as Yeshua said: *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 'The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"* (Matthew 25:37-40)

Over and above your usual support for our evangelistic ministry, you may like to prayerfully consider giving a tax-deductible gift to this new benevolent ministry. If you would like to help us in this way, please tick the appropriate boxes on your Response Form enclosed. If you do give a gift to our Benevolent Ministries, we will send you a Tax Deductible receipt in the post.

Once again, we could not possibly do this work without your partnership! I am grateful for what our Heavenly Father has done for us—and I am grateful for all you have done to help Celebrate Messiah continue our outreach among God's chosen people.

Your brother in Messiah,



Lawrence Hirsch

Executive Director, Celebrate Messiah Australia



Executive Director of
Celebrate Messiah Australia



Celebrate MESSIAH

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In Partnership with
Chosen People Global Ministries



LOVING JEWISH PEOPLE IN YESHUA'S NAME

FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

Every Tuesday at our Tel Aviv Messianic Centre, about 150 needy people receive a hot, delicious meal and clothing and food packages to take home—as well as spiritual nourishment. Staff members Brian S., Rachel G., Neriya A. and Jason R. run the soup kitchen along with teams of volunteers.

Why do we do this type of ministry? First of all, it is commanded in Scripture: verses like Isaiah 58:7 and James 2:16 exhort us to meet the physical needs of those who lack food and clothing. Also, meeting a person's practical needs is often a great gateway to sharing about the Messiah, who meets our spiritual needs. Staff member Rachel G. observes, "Sometimes people can't listen to the Good News until their basic needs are met. Many of the

people we serve have been responding more to the Lord by giving Him thanks, praying and reading the evangelistic books we provide. Months ago, they did not do this!"

Brian S., who also manages a soup kitchen and distribution centre in the neighbouring city of Netanya, shares one recent story from the field: "We always offer support through prayer for the people, and make it known that we would love to stand with them in their time of need. Recently, an elderly Russian Jewish lady and a couple with the wife in a wheelchair came to the soup kitchen, had a meal and received clothes. They approached us and asked for prayer for their children, who were addicted to drugs/alcohol. In the end of the conversation, they themselves realized they were hopeless and helpless and needed a Saviour. All three of these

INTERVIEW WITH MAXIM K., WHO MINISTERS TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS NOW LIVING IN ISRAEL



Why do you have a heart for this type of ministry?

Many Holocaust survivors have become increasingly open and are seeking the truth about God, but their days are numbered. My prayer is that they will receive Yeshua as their personal Saviour.

How do Gospel proclamation and practical aid work together?

I began ministry among elderly people with humanitarian and practical aid—but I always say who I am and what I believe. People were initially very closed, but eventually their hearts became more open. I believe that practical work is preaching the Gospel of Jesus through our lives.

Can you tell us a recent story from your ministry?

I see a big change in the people of Sderot, the town that has been subjected to so many rocket attacks from Gaza—the light of life has appeared in their eyes. After we shared the Gospel during our trip to Poland, an 86-year-old woman said: "I'm so sorry I have not heard this before—I'm only now beginning to live!"





beautiful people received Messiah Yeshua as Lord! Hallelujah!”

MINISTRY TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Do you know how many Holocaust survivors are now living in Israel? The number is around 250,000, about a third of whom live well below the poverty line. Many of these men and women who have suffered so much now consider themselves an atheist or agnostic.

Maxim K. (see interview in sidebar) ministers to these elderly Jewish people by visiting them in their homes, organizing special excursions and concerts, offering food packages and practical help, and holding celebrations of Jewish holidays—all in the name of Messiah.

Not long ago, a group of Holocaust survivors accompanied Maxim on a trip to Poland, where many had spent time in concentration camps. They travelled for twelve days together, meeting every morning and evening to worship the God of Israel and study the Scriptures. Maxim reports, “To my great joy, this trip has changed many of them. Our programs, God’s Word and the love they saw in the Polish believers who invited us made them consider God’s existence and salvation. One woman said that she had never prayed or turned to God, but now she has started to pray together with her husband and they are truly happy!”

CARING FOR BROKEN FAMILIES

The Scriptures tell us that God is “*A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows*” (Psalm 68:5). Arik and Mona P., working in Israel, share the Lord’s heart for these people. They have a ministry to single mothers that includes Bible-based counselling, discipleship and practical help.

The despair and poverty in a modern country such as Israel can be shocking, and many of the situations these families face on a daily basis are heartbreaking. In addition to the struggle for daily necessities, some of these women and children have experienced abuse, humiliation and violence, resulting in deep-seated emotional issues. Arik and Mona write, “We want to be there for them, to listen to them and cry with them...”



to pray with them and see them find comfort from the Lord.”

Arik and Mona distribute food vouchers, make home visits, organize events, offer financial counselling, and run workshops with a focus on

healing and lifestyle changes—emphasizing encounters with God and biblical answers to life’s problems.

Naomi (name changed), came as a non-believer to one of the workshops, opened her heart to Yeshua, and is now attending a local congregation and growing in her walk with the Lord. Arik and Mona have recently started a new workshop with twenty broken women, including two who are very open to the Gospel and have been in touch with believers for a while.

Arik and Mona ask, “We know we cannot do this ministry without God’s help and wisdom; please pray for us, and pray that these women would be drawn closer to the One who can heal their wounds.”

TRUE FREEDOM IN MESSIAH

Many Jewish people from the former Soviet Union immigrated to the U.S. in search of new opportunities and a better life—but some of them, sadly, became addicted to drugs and alcohol. Klaudia Zhelezny, one of our long-time missionaries in Brooklyn and herself an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, is deeply involved in ministry to drug- and alcohol-dependent Russian Jewish people. The ministry—which includes practical aid, rehab classes and Bible study—is based in our Messianic Centre in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn.

When drug- and alcohol-dependent people visit the Centre for food or other material needs, Klaudia always tells them about the true freedom that can only come from our Heavenly Father and His Son Yeshua. In her ministry to those enslaved to addictions—as well as their families—Klaudia has found that many of them have soft hearts and are open to the Lord.

Klaudia writes, “God’s blessing on this outreach has been surprisingly abundant. He is opening the way to freedom to the participants through prayerful support and Bible classes, along with very practical help on how to overcome addiction. In this way, many receive the Lord.”





Join our Romans 1:16 Partnership Programme

Can I ask you to please prayerfully consider joining our Romans 1:16 Partnership Programme. This regular-giving programme is designed to maximise the benefit of your donation to Celebrate Messiah by minimising processing time and costs. You will be relieved of the hassle of writing cheques and also eradicate your mailing costs.

The Romans 1:16 Partnership Programme will also provide Celebrate Messiah with regular, predictable funds for Jewish evangelism. This means your generosity has the maximum impact.

Call our office or email enquiries@celebratemessiah.com.au and we will send you a Romans 1:16 Partnership Form to fill out.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16, NRSV)

Great New Book!



Missionaries in Action – Inspiring Stories from real people on the mission field, including a chapter by Lawrence Hirsch. \$17.

Bringing to Life the Story of God's Love at Passover

The **Messianic Passover Haggadah** is a must for those who want a deeper understanding of this feast. This Haggadah has been prepared to show God's redemptive grace in the Passover through the death, burial and resurrection of His Messiah, Jesus, and to symbolize God's spiritual redemption of His people.

Messianic Passover Haggadah **\$15.00**

The **Matzah Tash** (unity) is a pouch with three compartments for matza—a vivid illustration of the unity of God's triune nature. This white Matzah Tash is beautifully embroidered in Israel.

Matzah Tash **\$45.00**

This silver **Seder Plate** is made in Israel and beautifully displays the seder elements.

Seder Plate **\$45.00**

Each of the four times the **Kiddush Cup** is filled during the Passover meal, the story of God's redeeming work among His people is illustrated. This silver cup is about three inches tall.

Kiddush Cup **\$45.00**

Complete Set:

Haggadah, Matzah Tash, Seder Plate & Kiddush Cup **\$150.00**



Passover Banquets to Diarise:

Sydney Passover Banquet – 16 April, 6.30pm

Sunshine Coast Passover Banquet – 19 April, 6.30pm

Melbourne Passover Banquet – 21 April, 6.30pm

More details to follow in next newsletter or visit our website www.celebratemessiah.com.au



Celebrate MESSIAH "Bringing the Message to the Original Messengers"

Serving together with Chosen People Ministries in: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Ukraine, United States.

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