



**CELEBRATE  
MESSIAH**

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*In Partnership with Chosen  
People Global Ministries*

**INSIDE:**


High Holy Days &  
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Rosh Hashanah testimony

# MESSIAH IN THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

# The High Holy Days

## Messiah's Return



Yom Kippur is a legal holiday in the modern state of Israel. Over the last few decades, bicycle-riding and inline skating on the empty streets have become common among secular Israeli youngsters, especially on the eve of Yom Kippur in Tel Aviv.

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Shalom from Caulfield in the heart of the largest Jewish community in Australia! It is not hard to see why Caulfield is affectionately called, the holy land of Australia. Jewish life is evident all around us – kosher restaurants and supermarkets, Jewish schools and Yeshivot (Jewish colleges), and billboards advertising Jewish events and upcoming festivals are all around us.

Very soon we are coming up to the holiest time in the Jewish calendar known as the High Holy Days that begins on the first day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar known as the month of Tishrei.

The month prior to the seventh month, the month of *Elul*, is considered as a time for spiritual preparation for the High Holy Days. This normally falls in August to September in the Gregorian calendar. For religious Jews, this month is considered as a time of serious introspection, a time of repentance and restoration of relationships in preparation for the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Can I encourage you to please pray for our Jewish people during this time of repentance and prayer? Pray that God would reveal Yeshua to our people and that they would come to know the atonement that Messiah has made for each one of us – Jew and Gentile. To aid in praying for the Jewish people during this time, please consider purchasing the Jewish Prayer Focus booklet that has been specially prepared for this purpose.

Let me also give you this year's schedule of holy days so that you can be attuned to the rhythm of your Jewish friends and family during the next few weeks.

First, we will observe the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah. In English, Rosh Hashanah literally means, “the head of the year”—that is, the Jewish New Year! This year, Rosh Hashanah starts on Thursday, September 25. Remember though, that Jewish days begin at sunset the day before. So, in actual fact, you can wish your Jewish family and friends a Happy New Year on the evening of the 24th of September.

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, will be observed on Saturday, October 4. Finally, there is Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles), which will be celebrated for a total of eight days beginning on Thursday, October 9 through to the 16th of October.

I wish I had the space in this newsletter to provide more details about all three of these glorious Jewish holidays. However, please take some time to browse our website where you will find many great articles on this topic together with other wonderful resources that you can purchase. You can also learn more about the Jewish holy days by purchasing a copy of our beautiful new Messianic Jewish Art Calendar

for 2014–2015. These great resources are available through our website ([www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store/](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store/)).

May I take a few moments of your time to share with you, from my heart, some thoughts about the first of these great holy days, Rosh Hashanah?

## Rosh Hashanah: The Jewish New Year

The great theme of Rosh Hashanah is repentance. One of the most significant moments of the Rosh Hashanah service is the blowing of the *shofar*, the ram's horn. In biblical times, the sounding of the *shofar* was usually understood as a warning of impending danger. In Jewish tradition, however, the blowing of the *shofar* also represents a call to repentance and is a reminder of one of the greatest stories in the Old Testament Scriptures.

This story, found in Genesis 22, describes the occasion when God commanded Abraham to go to Mount Moriah and slay his son, Isaac. As Scripture describes, Abraham was just about to thrust the knife into the body of his young son, when the Lord spoke from heaven and told him to stop. Abraham then found a ram, caught in the thicket by its horns, and sacrificed it as a replacement for Isaac on Mount Moriah.

This is prophetically significant, as Mount Moriah is ultimately where King David purchased the land where his son Solomon would build the Temple, the holiest of all sanctuaries, where thousands upon thousands of animals would be sacrificed for the sins of the Jewish people. It would also be the place where a greater son of Isaac, Jesus the Messiah, would give His life as atonement for the sins of the world.

The sounding of the ram's horn reminds the Jewish people of Abraham's great faith as he was willing to do whatever the Lord asked him to do—no matter what the cost! Abraham is also a great example for those of us who have embraced Jesus as our Messiah and Lord. We also need to exercise the same obedience and willingness to do whatever the Lord tells us to do, knowing that He will always provide for us.

## A Season of "Muted Joy"

I would describe Rosh Hashanah as a season of "muted joy" for me. On the one hand, there is hope and joy because of the focus on the possibilities of a new year. However, this holiday also makes me rather sad, because of the emphasis that modern Jewish tradition places upon repentance and good works as the pathway to personal salvation.

Good deeds and repentance can never bring a man or woman into a personal relationship with the God of Israel. In fact, if we learn anything from Rosh Hashanah and from Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, it is that salvation goes beyond any human effort. Although both repentance and good works are important

to our relationship with God, entry into His presence can only come through actions outside of our own human capability.

This twinge of sadness I feel is tempered by the great joy I have in knowing that God did for us exactly what he did for Abraham—providing a *sacrificial substitute* at just the right moment. Yeshua the Messiah, the perfect substitute as described in Isaiah chapter 53, gave His life for us as a sacrifice for sin. It is through Him that we enter into the presence of God and enjoy the gift of personal salvation, which only God Himself can provide. This gift is available for Jews and Gentiles, on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and every day of the year. We can enter into His presence by trusting in the One who came and paid the price for our sin.

## He Has and Will Again Tabernacle Among Us

One day, Yeshua the Messiah will return to sit on His throne in Jerusalem and reign as King. In that day, *shalom* (peace) will fill the earth, and all the cares and concerns that weigh so heavily upon us today will disappear. Every teardrop will be wiped away by His presence. All problems, large and small, national, international and personal will no longer exist—because Jesus will reign as King. The Prince of Peace will finally solve the Middle East crisis! Imagine that!

Please pray for the Jewish people during this important season of the year. During the holidays, the hearts of Jewish people are especially tender towards God—so it is a crucial time to pray for your Jewish friends, to wish them a Happy New Year, to send a Rosh Hashanah card, and to encourage your Jewish friends and family to seek the Lord and find true forgiveness in Messiah.

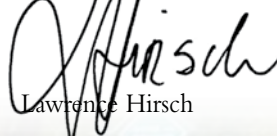
## Your Partnership is Appreciated

Thanks for praying for Celebrate Messiah and the many Jewish people that we are reaching in Australia, New Zealand, Russia and Israel through the work of our missionaries.

The traditional Jewish greeting on Rosh Hashanah is "May your name be inscribed in the book of life." I am sure that your name is written in the Lamb's book of life, but I encourage you to pray for your Jewish friends and neighbours, that their names might also be inscribed in His book of eternal life.

Happy New Year!

Your brother in Messiah,

  
Lawrence Hirsch





An Australian  
Jewish believer  
who delights in  
bringing the  
Gospel to Jewish  
people tells of what  
Rosh Hashanah  
means to her...

# MAY YOU BE INSCRIBED

By Esther M.

**W**hen I was growing up in a traditional Jewish community, the greeting for Rosh Hashanah was “*Ktivah V’chatima Tova*” – May you be inscribed (in the Book of Life) for Good, and other blessings for ‘a sweet year’, ‘health’, ‘well over the fast’... The sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah, a special festival meal, dipping apples in honey—representing a sweet year to come—begins the most sacred season of the Jewish calendar. My birthday is in this season, and as a child I always thought it extra special to have these blessings during my birthday.

Traditionally Rosh Hashanah is more than just the start of a New Year; it is believed that on Rosh Hashanah God opens the books in heaven where everyone’s actions are recorded and at the end of the ten days on Yom Kippur, the books are sealed for another year. The period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are ten days of introspection and repentance known as *Yamim Nora’im* ‘the Days of Awe’. During these ten days it is customary to ask forgiveness of other people whom we have wronged during the year and to make restitution where needed, (Num 5: 5-7), before fasting and coming together as a community to pray for forgiveness on Yom Kippur. It is then hoped we are written into God’s ‘book of life’, but it is only temporary, until the next Rosh Hashanah.

Rabbinic commentary refers to The Days of Awe in Yoma 86a-b:

Rabbi Levi said: Great is repentance for it reaches up to the Throne of Glory as it is said: ‘Return O Israel unto the Lord thy God.’ (Hosea 14:2)

Rabbi Jonathan said: Great is repentance because it brings about redemption as it is said: ‘And a redeemer will come to Zion and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob.’ (Isaiah 59:20)

I especially appreciate my birthday in this special season even more as an adult. Why? It was on my birthday, as an adult, during Rosh Hashanah and the Yamim Nora’im, I discovered in the Scriptures our promised Redeemer, Messiah Yeshua has come and forgiven all our sins through His sacrifice of himself, once and for all, not just temporarily!

*‘In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.’ (Ephesians 1:7)*

*‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’ (1 John 1:9)*

*‘Therefore repent and return so that your sins may be wiped away in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.’ (Acts 3:19)*

So now I consider my birthday, and every day, a season to live in repentance and reconciliation with people and God, enjoying the blessings that come from having assurance of forgiveness through the sacrifice of Yeshua, Messiah Redeemer.

*May your name also be inscribed for a good and sweet New Year  
and through Yeshua  
in the book of life  
for Eternity.*

# NEWS BRIEFS

## HAMPERS SHOW YESHUA'S KINDNESS THROUGH US

Celebrate Messiah's benevolent ministry **Tikkun Olam** is much appreciated by the recipients of the food hampers:

"Thank you so much for helping out my family with lovely gifts that are so practical. Barry and the team do a remarkable job making us feel so cared for and special. The items are chosen with care and for practicality, and my children have a big smile going through the packages, looking for the treat that is surely to be there for them. It is so nice to know that someone cares about us, those that are struggling to make ends meet and provide the best we can for our children. My note is to let you know how grateful we are as a family that there is such goodwill and chessed (kindness) in this world. Wishing you light and blessings and may we see peace in Israel!"

- Mrs S. and children :)

## ZOHAR REPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND...

**Mixing in the Jewish Synagogue:** During winter our attention shifts toward reaching the local Jewish community. My family and I are slowly becoming known as Messianic Jewish believers by many members of the local Synagogue. We freely speak about our faith in private conversations during the meetings and activities. We have befriended one family in particular from the Jewish community. They occasionally come over for a Shabbat meal or for a social visit, and we enjoy sharing our Messianic worldview with them. *Please pray for more opportunities to declare the uncompromised biblical truth within the Jewish community in Dunedin.*



**Meeting the Israeli Ambassador:** The highlight of this month was meeting the new Israeli Ambassador to New Zealand. I was invited to meet him and his family at a private dinner organised by a local believer in Christchurch, to commemorate the Feast of Weeks (also known as Pentecost). As we were socialising and eating the customary foods, I was able to bring to light my faith in Yeshua the Messiah. Both he and his wife

received it very well, and even expressed their desire to visit us in Dunedin in the future. *Please pray for the Holy Spirit to enlighten the Israeli Ambassador and his family with the true understanding of the Gospel.*

## KLAUDIA COMES TO FAITH IN HER JEWISH MESSIAH

Klaudia witnessed the compassion and mercy of the Lord of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through personal struggles and hardship during World War II. The fact that she's alive today is a miracle. Klaudia was only nine when war broke out. Her mother moved from one place to another to survive. After many trials and disappointments a Russian Christian woman who lived in a house adjoining a school agreed to take them in to her house. She managed to keep them hidden behind a wall rug and that was their secret place where they lived. One day a German officer came and told the Russian woman that he would be occupying the school. They felt trapped with impending calamity, and had no idea what to do. The Russian woman told Klaudia's mother to pray to her God whilst she would pray to her's. They spent a whole night praying and the miracle was that the German officer didn't end up coming. Eventually the Russians came and the place was liberated. In 1975, Klaudia and her family migrated to Australia. Through personal and physical illnesses she felt completely broken and had nowhere to turn. Then she heard about Yeshua when she came to a Dom Missi'ee (House of Messiah) meeting, then based in St.Kilda. Soon after Klaudia came to her faith in Yeshua and has accepted him as her Lord and Saviour. She now regularly attends Dom Missi'ee services at Beit HaMashiach.

## COMING UP...

### High Holiday services at Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation

#### Wednesday 24 September:

*Erev Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish New Year) service.

#### Friday 3 October:

*Erev Yom Kippur* (Kol Nidre) service

#### Wednesday 8 October:

*Erev Sukkot* (Feast of Tabernacles) service

### Sydney Celebrate Messiah Rosh Hashanah dinner

#### Saturday 27 September:

info and bookings contact NSW CM administrator at Robyn Kneale [robyn@celebratemessiah.com.au](mailto:robyn@celebratemessiah.com.au)

# MESSIANIC RESOURCES

## MESSIANIC JEWISH ART CALENDAR • \$19.95<sup>AUD</sup>

Announcing our newest 15-month Messianic Jewish Art Calendar just in time for the Jewish New Year! This year's theme is "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem." You will be inspired by Carly Hennigan's photographs of Jerusalem and its environs, and be blessed by the Scriptures and the brief devotionals that accompany them. The Jewish Calendar is not designed merely to mark the

passage of time; in fact, it has a story of its own to tell—the history of redemption as recorded in the Scriptures. Our calendars make great gifts, so don't forget to order extras!



To order, please use the response form enclosed with this mailing or for these and other resources, including shofars, visit us online at [www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store).

For phone orders call 03 9563 5544.



## JEWISH PRAYER FOCUS 2014 • \$9.95<sup>AUD</sup>

The theme for this year's JEWISH PRAYER FOCUS is, "Look Up! Your Redemption Draws Near" (Lk 21:28).

The booklet contains a 22-day call to prayer (Sept 24 – Oct 15, 2014) for a harvest of souls amongst the Jewish people group, at the time of year when they are soul-searching and repenting in accordance with the Holy Days outlined in Lev 23:26-44. Sixteen new Messianic Jewish leaders from Israel and the diaspora share their testimonies, introduce us to their ministries/congregations or provide insightful teaching from an OT and NT perspective.

## Celebrate Simcha\* • 5 Dec - 7 Dec 2014



Registration now available online at [www.celebratemessiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au)

\*Simcha is a Hebrew word meaning a joyous occasion

# Simcha 2014

Join us at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort from Friday 5 December to Sunday 7 December 2014. Hear excellent Bible teaching from messianic leaders, pray for revival amongst Jewish people in Australia and around the world, and enjoy Messianic worship in music and dance. Book early to avoid disappointment.

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CELEBRATE  
MESSIAH

## "BRINGING THE MESSAGE TO THE ORIGINAL MESSENGERS"

Serving together with Chosen People Ministries in: Argentina • Australia • Baltic States • Canada • Finland • France • Germany • Hong Kong • Hungary • Israel • Netherlands • New Zealand • Poland • Russia • South Africa • Ukraine • United Kingdom

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