



**CELEBRATE
MESSIAH**

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Volume 22 Issue 4

*In Partnership with Chosen
People Global Ministries*

REACHING WANDERING ISRAELIS

**INSIDE: Israelis in Argentina, New Zealand and Australia Search
for Truth • Repairing the World with Yeshua's Love**



Shalom!

I was recently in Jerusalem and visited with a couple who served as volunteers for six months at the new Celebrate Messiah youth hostel on the southern island of New Zealand. This is a strategic spot as thousands of Israelis wander through the South Island of New Zealand each year to enjoy the spectacular scenery and hiking trails. In fact, the word on the street is that the Israelis who go to New Zealand after the army are looking for God through nature, as opposed to those who go to India who are so often searching for God through drugs and Eastern religions.

This wonderful young Israeli couple shared so many of their conversations and experiences with the 750+ Israeli young people who have wandered through what we call the Zula★ Lodge (★means “a place where friends come together”). They told me and my wife story after story about conversations they had with Israelis seeking the Lord. These spiritually-focused conversations often took place late into the night and early hours of the morning.

The ministry that is taking place at the Zula Lodge, run by our Celebrate Messiah New Zealand team, is absolutely amazing. Many of these young Israelis who’ve heard the Gospel at Zula Lodge continue on their travels and many have come to Australia. My wife and I have hosted many of them in our home in Caulfield and there are networks of Christians who host Israeli travellers in their homes all around the country.

Sometimes it’s really difficult to share the Good News with people who know little about Jesus, or who are resistant to the Gospel. Most Israelis are in this situation as they are raised in traditional but modern Jewish homes

that simply do not know anything about the Lord Yeshua, our Messiah. Many of these young, and most often secular, Israelis also pick up on the resistance to the Gospel prevalent among Jewish people for so many generations. I am happy to say that this attitude seems to be changing and many Israelis are opening up to Yeshua.

This is especially true of Israeli young people who are traveling around the globe looking for the answers to life after having gone through a stressful season of military service.

Wandering and Wondering Israeli Youth

There is no doubt that we have undergone a slight shift in our strategy for reaching these wandering and wondering Israelis. In the past, we have sent short-term mission teams, usually Israeli believers who live in Israel, to reach their counterparts across the globe; from New Zealand and South America to India and even in the United States. However, we have now discovered that setting up permanent facilities where we can house wandering Israelis allows for a deeper and more intimate ministry.

This enables us to take our presentation of the Gospel to a new level!

Argentina

This is why we have recently established another centre for traveling Israelis in Buenos Aires, Argentina – a city of almost 300,000 Jewish people. Our partner ministry, Chosen People Ministries, has been serving in Argentina since 1942, when one of our missionaries from Austria helped many Jewish believers and non-believers flee to Argentina from Vienna. He followed them and began the ministry of Chosen People Ministries in Argentina.

We have two wonderful facilities in Buenos Aires where we are teaching Bible studies, planting a congregation and utilizing the Spanish version of our Isaiah 53 online campaign. God has really blessed this work, which is now a partnership between Chosen People Ministries and the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptists.

The Lord has recently provided a couple that are Argentine Jewish believers, who also lived in Israel for many years. This has allowed them to learn Hebrew and have an in-depth understanding of young Israelis. Thousands of Israeli former soldiers travel to South America to walk through the lakes and mountains and



eventually make their way to Brazil. The usual point of arrival from Israel is Buenos Aires.

We have now renovated a large house that we use to house this missionary couple, some volunteer staff and a dozen or so young wandering Israelis who come to Buenos Aires in order to begin their trek across South America. We hope to greet them warmly and provide housing in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. All with a loving Argentine Jewish couple who are willing to have hours of conversation with them about Yeshua.

Getting Involved

There are lots of ways you can get involved in helping us reach *wondering* Israelis throughout the world. We especially need your prayers. Please pray that God will open the hearts of these wandering young Israelis to the Messiah. When this happens everything else is easy! But we do need your prayers also for God's wisdom in running these various youth hostels, His guidance during late-night conversations and very simply for His hand in directing those He wants to reach through our efforts in New Zealand, Australia, Argentina and elsewhere.

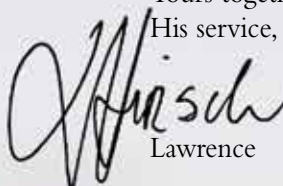
Please can I also ask you to pray for us here in Australia as we develop strategies to further develop work amongst young Israelis in our country? Perhaps we too can establish a "Zula Lodge" type of outreach in Australia. I also ask you to get the word out that Celebrate Messiah, through our partners Chosen People Ministries, is offering these opportunities to serve the Lord in short-term ministry in New Zealand, Argentina and also Israel. Do you know any young people who have a heart for Jewish people or are avid hikers and are capable of sharing the Gospel with Israelis if trained? Perhaps they would be interested in joining mission trips to New Zealand and Argentina over the summer. Also, later this year, Mark Polonsky of Celebrate Messiah Australia, will be leading an Outreach Israel trip for 35+ age group. Perhaps God is calling you to be a part of that team!

Finally, we value your support for these special outreaches and for our regular ministries here in Australia. As I write this newsletter, our Russian Jewish outreach worker Rita Ivenskis is in the Far East of Russia reaching out to Jewish people in Birobidzhan (the Jewish Autonomous Region) and in Artum near Vladivostok. We are running two family outreach camps in these areas and we are praying for many Jewish people to be reach with the Good News of Yeshua our Messiah.

I also hope that you will be inspired by our local benevolent ministry called "Tikkun Olam" (see the report). God is doing amazing work through this unique ministry to needy Jewish people here in Australia, many of them Holocaust survivors.

Thank you so much for your love, prayers and engagement with Your Mission to the Jewish People as we reach Jewish people around the globe with the message of eternal life through Yeshua the Messiah. We feel a sense of urgency in the preaching of the Gospel to our Jewish people. The harvest is plentiful! Let's pray to the Lord of the harvest for the workers and for the provision for the work.

Yours together in
His service,



Lawrence



Executive Director of
Celebrate Messiah Australia



REACHING WANDERING ISRAELIS

Destination: Argentina-New Zealand-Australia

ISRAELI TRAVELERS SEARCH FOR TRUTH

The Lord has blessed us with a thriving ministry among the growing population of Israeli backpackers arriving in Argentina, New Zealand and Australia each year. We are there to provide them with the ultimate travel guide for their journey – the Word of God and the truth of His Messiah, Jesus!

Our dedicated worker, Stephen, in Argentina shares the following powerful testimony of his interactions with one Israeli backpacker:

“Why were they eating the bread and the wine?” This is what Jonah,★ an Israeli backpacker, asked me as we left church one Sunday in Argentina. Most Israelis are intrigued by hearing about Jesus, but almost none of them ever ask to go to church with us. I had shared the Gospel several times and watched a video about Isaiah 53 with Jonah. He had also talked to several of the other volunteers about their faith, and now he wanted to experience what it is like for believers to worship together. On this particular Sunday, we had a guest speaker who preached from Romans 11 about why Christians should love Jewish people and share the Gospel with them. I was a little unsure how he would respond to the part about evangelising to Jewish people, but in the end, he was so amazed by everything that was said that he wished that every Israeli could hear this sermon! He was also very excited to read Jeremiah 31 in Hebrew to see what the Old Testament says about the New Covenant. God’s Spirit was definitely working in that room. Not only was Jonah impacted by the sermon, but people in the congregation began praising God for His plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles and expressing a desire to love the Jewish people by sharing the Gospel with them.

It was this church service that led to Jonah’s question about communion. I began to explain that the Lord’s Supper originated in Passover with the three pieces of unleavened bread that is in every Passover meal. I told him that the rabbis give certain symbolism to these three pieces of bread, but none of them are adequate explanations. When I told him that I believe

these three pieces represent God, he blurted out, “Oh! The piece we break represents Jesus!” Without receiving a complete explanation, he fully understood the symbolism that the three pieces represented the Trinity. He understood that the broken piece represented Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, and he readily agreed that this explanation made so much more sense than the rabbis’ explanations.

Our wonderful staff at the Zula Lodge in New Zealand are blessed with a thriving ministry to the Israelis who come their way. Here are some stories from their work:

We love it when they come alone. In all recent cases when a single person came alone, he was so open to the Gospel message. I invest so much more time talking to them one-on-one about Yeshua and they each receive my input with enthusiasm. In most cases we pour over an open Hebrew Bible until late into the night.

One interesting story was with Gal.★ We spotted a guy in town that looked Israeli. I started talking to him in Hebrew and sure enough he was Israeli. We invited him to stay with us. It was such an enigma to him that he was unexpectedly approached by followers of Yeshua, “A mere coincidence or is God indeed after me?” He wondered. In a very similar way to other solo travelers, we had amazing, deep conversations with him including answering his questions and reading from the Old and New Testaments.

Scott Brown, the leader of our New Zealand work, shares this exciting and heartwarming report:

“This has to be a fluke. It can’t possibly be this good all the time.”

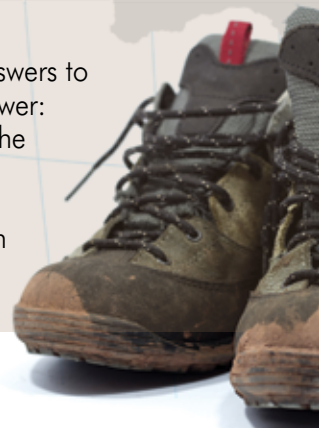
This was the thought that possessed me exactly nine years ago, as Margie and I motorcycled throughout New Zealand’s wild South Island in celebration of our 30th anniversary. Everywhere we went we discovered scores of young travellers – Israeli and otherwise – who seemed primed and ready for spiritual conversation. For a missionary like myself, it just seemed too good to be true.

Well, you know the rest of the story. We moved to the South Island the very next year to test the surface. And we soon discovered that the evangelistic opportunities here are



Every year tens of thousands of Israelis travel the world after being discharged from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The IDF does provide local integration options, but many Israelis decide to travel abroad before deciding on a career or school path.

As Israelis desire to see the world and contemplate the answers to life’s questions, we want to be there to give them THE answer: Yeshua. In the midst of intense natural beauty at the end of the earth, we backpack alongside Israelis and share Messiah in relevant and relational ways. Our staff, volunteers and local believers share their spiritual journeys and the Messiah from the Scriptures with these Israelis.



not what we originally thought... they're even better! Case in point: A few nights ago it took me four hours to finish a 45-minute cleaning chore on the campground. No, I wasn't slacking off, and my sponge wasn't broken. The problem was non-stop interruptions. You see, young Israelis at the camp kept stopping me, wanting to talk about God, Jesus and the Bible. Quite the problem, huh?

As you read this, I will be commencing my 29th year of missionary service with Chosen People Ministries. While it's true that we have witnessed countless works of God in these 29 years, I've never seen anything like this past summer in New Zealand. Through our Israeli youth hostel, evangelistic Shabbat dinners and "Hummus Nights," Jewish holiday celebrations, Hebrew literature distribution, Bible studies, barbecue outreaches and our campground ministry, we have had over 1,000 personal evangelistic encounters with young Israeli travellers.

But what excites me most is their high level of receptivity, enthusiasm and openness to the Gospel. Good grief; some nights I can't even find time to clean the toilets!

And Lawrence Hirsch reports on the growing opportunities in Australia...

We have a great opportunity here in Australia to have "Israel" in our own homes. Every year, hundreds of young Israelis travelers (aka backpackers) tour around our beautiful country and would love to stay in your home for a night or two. There are two networks that help link Israelis with Christian or messianic hosts, HIT (Hosting Israeli Tourists) and Chiburim (Connections). Our family have had the privilege of hosting a dozen or so Israelis this year so far and we have had some wonderful times to just love on these young Israelis, share some great meals together and often we get to share our faith in Yeshua our Messiah and invite them to Beit HaMashiach, our messianic congregation in Caulfield.



We've had some great interactions and here is a sampling of some of the comments our Israeli guests have written:

"You made me feel, despite being on the other side of the world, like I'm right at home – a feeling of love and comfort I've never experienced in all my travels"

"Thank you for everything

– for your motherly, fatherly and brotherly care, for your passion, for your wisdom, for your friendship, for your time and dedication, and... for washing my socks!"

"My gratitude goes beyond the 'obvious' of a comfortable bed, warm showers and meals. I thank you for doing more than expected. You treated me as a part of the family, with warm welcoming, great tips, eye to eye conversations and so much more."

"It has been a very special time for us. We learned from you a lot about family, love and community."

Thank you for the warm welcome, the amazing dinners, the music, the prayers, and especially the smile. We can't wait to show you some of our favourite places in Israel."

"We will never forget these amazing days and especially Pesach (Passover)... it was an amazing experience and I'm so grateful that I could experience this with you. It was such a happy and beautiful evening with amazing food, music and stories.

Louise and I highly recommend that you consider opening up your home to Israeli backpackers and show them true Christian love and hospitality.

For more information, please call our office or visit our website.

*names have been changed



75,000
soldiers are
discharged from
the Israeli
Defense Force
each year

1/3 of them travel
abroad
they travel for
6 months
10% travel up to a year

Travel is often
done in groups of **5-20**



Hostels often serve as a
"base camp" allowing
travellers to explore local
spots and scenery ¹



1 <http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidyin/2013/12/19/out-of-israel-into-the-world/#54c2f0067d9f>

TIKKUN OLAM: REPAIRING THE WORLD WITH YESHUA'S LOVE

Celebrate Messiah's benevolent ministry *Tikkun Olam has had the incredible privilege of "Responding to Grace" within the Jewish Community of Australia by providing more than 600 food hampers over the year.

It's a real blessing for us to respond because of what Yeshua our Messiah has done for us. Tikkun Olam's ongoing work is dependent on the assistance of volunteers and donors. Here are some reports from team leaders in the field:

PETER BOLAND: PERTH

Recently when delivering the Passover hampers a dear Jewish man who has cancer was sharing where he is up to with treatment, and has decided to go back to Israel for more treatment since here in Perth they can do no more for him. His wife and children will be staying here. I said I'd like to pray for him, and he allowed me to. This dear man is not a believer, nor his wife, however as I finished praying everyone was in tears. The presence of the Lord was there working in their hearts. Please pray for him and his family, that they may come to know their Messiah.

Another dear Jewish lady said to me, "I don't know how to repay you, you have no idea how this helps me and blesses me."

HARRY HAMMAN: SYDNEY

My neighbors and I have become very good friends and the festival food hampers were instrumental in this. As I have a five-year-old living in my house and they have a 7 year old, the children play together and even come to birthday parties. My neighbor knows the family living with me are believers in Yeshua and that the mother is Jewish.

My 95-year-old Polish Holocaust survivor friend is always happy to receive a festival food hamper. He has come now quite a few times to Celebrate Messiah meetings and this relationship blossomed due to the giving of a festival food hamper.

I love giving a festival food hamper to my fellow Hebrew student, the mother a

Chabad Rabbi. Our relationship has blossomed to the point she invites me to her home, knowing I am a believer in Yeshua.

FRASER HARDING: BRISBANE

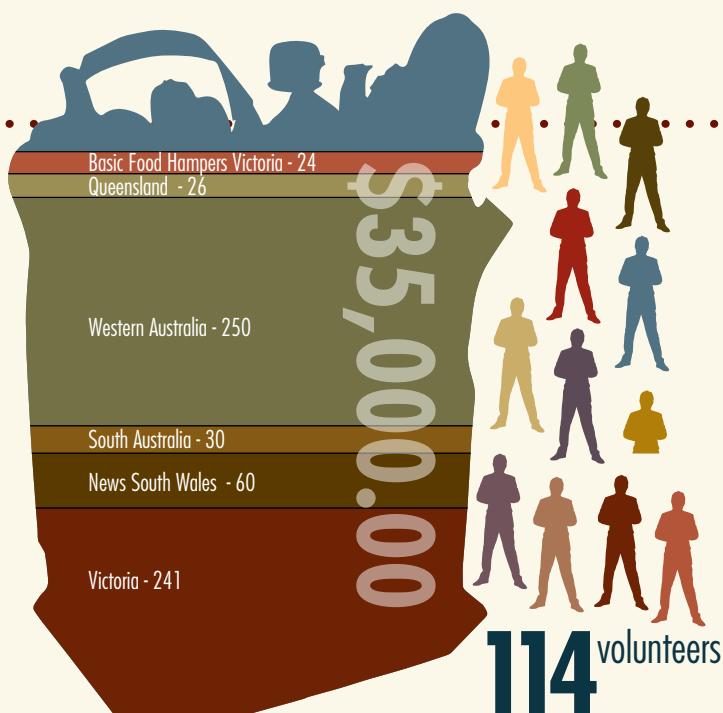
Over the past year, I have distributed the food hampers to various Jewish individuals - widows, widowers and folk in aged care. I have sought to find those who are most in need of assistance, and have always been met with sincere appreciation, as they are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the various feasts with these additional food hampers. This at times gives rise to an opportunity to share about Yeshua HaMashiach and to leave some appropriate literature. I certainly appreciate the ongoing contact with some of my elderly Jewish friends.

LESLIE SCHWIMMER: ADELAIDE

Einav K. is in genuine need and I know that as a recipient of these festival food hampers, he sees this kind of work as an act of love in his favour. Avi G. and his wife from Henley Beach also see this goodness as a fruit. On receipt of their Passover hamper recently we were invited inside their home where we were given much hospitality. We had a pleasant conversation with his family of 5 all in one room.

PAUL HAMPSHIRE: MELBOURNE

A lovely, gracious Jewish lady told us her life story, and mentioned her faith in the God of Israel and this led to more amazing details of her faith in general. I asked if she had a personal relationship with God to which she replied "not really", so then we had a discussion about whether this was possible as the God of Israel had so protected and guided her through life, surely this was a thing to be desired, we both gave a short testimony as to how we had spoken to God and He'd worked in our lives. Driving away we prayed that our words would impact her thinking, and she would truly come to know personally the God she obviously has faith in.



Making a donation to **Tikkun Olam** will provide a generous festival food hamper. This fund is tax deductible. We can arrange regular monthly support with your bank. So, please consider making a donation towards helping in a practical and spiritual way those needy Jewish folks in our local community. An online donation can be made through our WEBSITE WWW.CELEBRATEMESSIAH.COM.AU/DONATE. PLEASE SPECIFY THAT YOUR DONATION IS FOR **TIKKUN OLAM** SO YOU'LL RECEIVE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT.

WE AS THE MESSIANIC COMMUNITY STRIVE TO SEE THAT **TIKKUN OLAM** CREATES NOT ONLY BLESSING TO THE WORLD, BUT ALSO "KEDUSHAH", A LIFE OF SANCTITY, PURPOSE, AND MEANING. JOIN WITH US AS WE LEARN TO GIVE TO THOSE IN PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEED IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.

OUR FULL 2105-2016 REPORT AND FURTHER TESTIMONIES CAN BE VIEWED at WWW.CELEBRATEMESSIAH.COM.AU under the **Get Involved** menu, and by selecting **Tikkun Olam**.

**631 FESTIVAL AND BASIC FOOD HAMPERS
DISTRIBUTED BY TIKKUN OLAM IN 2015-2016**

*Tikkun Olam is a Hebrew phrase which means Repairing the World

NEWS BRIEFS

DR BROWN ANSWERS OBJECTIONS WITH GREAT EFFECT

The enormously successful visit by Dr Michael Brown to Australia promises to bear long lasting fruit. His visit to the Beit HaMashiach congregation, and the Celebrate Messiah conference and outreach events, had a significant impact on our community as well as on the wider body of believers. But what of the impact on Jewish not-yet believers? Well, we had a bumper crowd at the congregational service, with several new Jewish visitors. Dr Brown challenged Jewish people with scriptures that pointed to patriarchs Moses (Exodus 33) and Abraham (Gen 18) having discussions with God who appeared as a person. The point being that God incarnate is a Jewish concept and was not introduced by Christianity.

And at the Saturday night outreach, Dr Brown spoke of the Jewish idea that after the destruction of the Temple, the death of the righteous serves as an atonement for the sins of other men. There are many references to this concept in ancient Jewish writings. This presentation and the Q&A that followed was livestreamed to facebook, and it has received almost 5000 views. Check it out on the Celebrate Messiah facebook page.

GERMANY'S JEWISH "CHURCH" CONTINUES TO GROW

Weekly fellowships at our Berlin congregation are "on a roll!" Three months ago our German leader, Vladimir Pikman, encouraged the congregation to begin meeting in weekly fellowship groups, and already there are more than 20 such communities. These small communities include two women's fellowships (one in German and one in Russian), two youth fellowships, two prayer fellowships, five Bible fellowships, two evangelistic fellowships, fellowships for women with little children, an Israeli fellowship, and a fellowship at a Jewish retirement home. There is even a Persian Messianic community that is beginning to grow. Praise the Lord! Do you know a Jewish person who is interested in Jesus? Invite them to watch the testimonies found on our website: www.ifoundshalom.com.



THE WORKS OF A MIGHTY GOD

Michael, our missionary in Sevastopol, Crimea, attends a Messianic Jewish congregation. Before the holiday of Purim, Michael received an appeal from the Jewish community of the city of Eupatoria for assistance in

celebrating Purim. They said that there was an old synagogue in Eupatoria that has been long unused because there is no rabbi. But the Jewish community agreed to resume meeting and to celebrate Purim. Someone advised them to seek the assistance of Messianic Jews. Thus, they found Michael who gladly responded and helped with the Purim celebration.

The director of our work in Russia writes, "We try to use every opportunity to spread the Gospel to God's chosen people, and we couldn't miss this opportunity to bring the Good News to the Jews of Eupatoria. Michael organized the Purim celebration and this feast became the day of dedication of the synagogue. Michael openly spoke about his faith in Yeshua the Messiah and also about the changes in his life that occurred through faith in Yeshua. After the holiday, many Jewish people came and thanked him for the wonderful celebration of Purim." Please pray for Michael and the work in Crimea. Pray that our staff have more opportunities to share the Gospel with Jewish people.

GOD MOVES IN MISSION TO FAR EAST RUSSIA

Our energetic ministry leader to the Russian speaking Dom Missi'ee Congregation, Rita, is over in Far East Russia leading a team to run two family camps modelled on our Simcha camps that we hold at Phillip Island each year. The camp in Birobidzhan was a huge triumph, and Rita was scheduled to do another in Artum a few days later. "We had an amazing time at Simcha. We had 75 people including 30 children. There was an amazing sense of God at work among the people. We experienced Yeshua's love and His shalom." Rita was so excited to report that an aunt of one of our Israeli-based Jewish ministry workers accepted Yeshua at the camp. Simcha is quite aptly the Hebrew word for 'a joyous occasion'.

**Friday 25-
Sunday 27
November
2016**

Simcha

National Messianic Conference

Streams in the Negev

The Future Restoration of the Nation of Israel

With special guest speakers/musicians Avner and Rachel Boskey from the Negev region in Israel. Avner and Rachel are dynamic servants of God who have been ministering in Israel, and many other nations, for over 30 years through evangelism, Bible teaching, pastoral work, and through writing and producing anointed messianic worship – truly bringing forth *Streams in the Negev*.

Come and be personally inspired and spiritually refreshed at Simcha 2016.

*Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the
wilderness and streams in the desert."*

— Isaiah 35:6, NIV

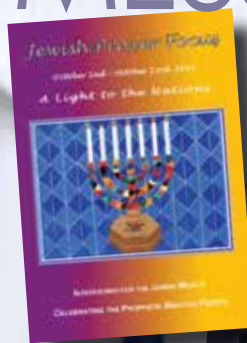


Register at
www.celebratemessiah.com.au/events

MESSIANIC RESOURCES

A fantastic resource for those who wish to pray for the salvation of Jewish people worldwide during the awesome High Holy Days.

\$9.95AUS + p&h



As the nation of Israel struggles to regain control of the land...as Arabs fight and riot against Israel...how can we know that Israel's future will indeed be glorious?

\$15AUS + p&h

To order, please use the response form enclosed with this mailing or for these and other resources visit us online at www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store. For phone orders call 03 9563 5544.

NEW Messianic Jewish Art Calendar: Explore the deep connection between the commonplace, daily act of nourishment and the particular role food plays in the worship, celebration and other observances of Jewish life and culture.

\$19.95AUS + p&h



Giving to Jewish Ministry in Your Will

When you remember Celebrate Messiah in your Will, you become a partner in our life-changing work amongst God's Chosen People worldwide as we await the Messiah's return. If you would like to speak to a Christian solicitor about including Celebrate Messiah in your Will, please call our office on **03 9563 5544** for more information.

Stay connected with Celebrate Messiah!

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www.facebook.com/CelebrateMessiah



2016 High Holidays Calendar

Rosh Hashanah – Sunday October 2

Yom Kippur – Tuesday 11 October

Sukkot – Sunday 16 October

Simchat Torah – Monday 24 October

Note: Jewish festivals and feasts start at sundown



**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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