



Celebrate MESSIAH

Volume 19, Issue 2, June 2013

In Partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries

REACHING OUT ACROSS THE GLOBE

INSIDE: BRINGING THE MESSAGE; OUR WORK IN ISRAEL; ISI'S COMPELLING TESTIMONY TO YESHUA; TIKKUN OLA HELPING REPAIR THE WORLD

"Bringing the Message to the Original Messengers"

Why We Do the Things That We Do?

I THINK THAT IT IS VERY HELPFUL from time to time to ask yourself the question; "why do I do the things that I do? What is my motivation in life, what gets me out of bed every day and where do I get the power to go on?"

Of course, the same question could be asked of us as a mission organisation; "Why are we so passionate about seeing Jewish people come to faith in Yeshua and what keeps us going each day?"

I think that the core of our motivation, both personally and corporately, to love God and serve him in this world, has to be his love for us. The Scriptures tell us that God chose us and loved us before the beginning of creation.

"In the Messiah he chose us in love before the creation of the universe to be holy and without defect in his presence. He determined in advance that through Yeshua the Messiah we would be his sons—in keeping with his pleasure and purpose—so that we would bring him praise commensurate with the glory of the grace he gave us through the Beloved One." (Ephesians 1:4–6, CJB)

Meditating on these words is a great source of encouragement to me. The Lord reminds us that we didn't choose him, but that he chose us and set us apart to be holy in him. It was God who determined to make us his sons and daughters through Yeshua our Messiah in fulfilment of his plan and purpose for our lives. And the best of all is to know that our Father takes pleasure in us as his children and that our main purpose in life is to bring him praise.

Our Mission

When we bear these truths in mind, then any momentary troubles or sufferings in this life pale into insignificance in comparison to the great calling that we have in Messiah. What a joy and a privilege it is to serve him in this world.

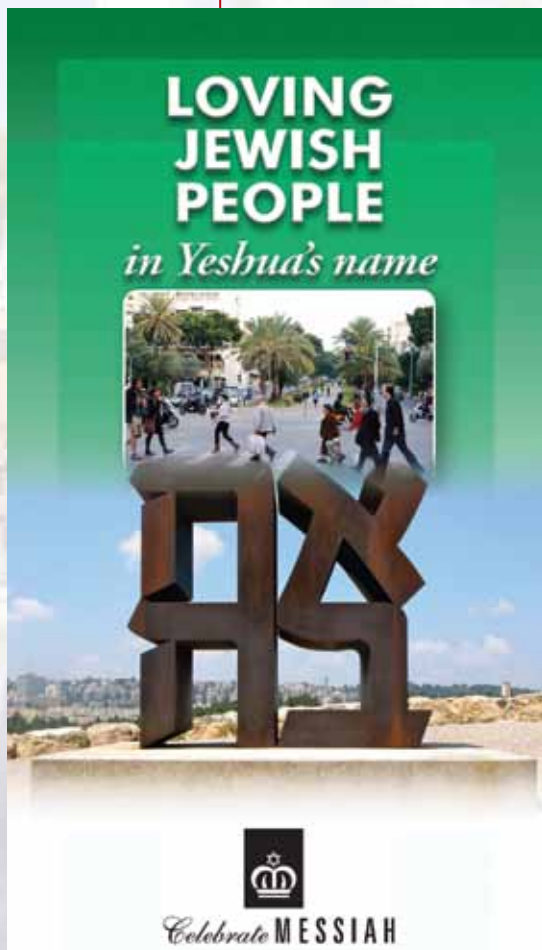
From our identity that is found in him, flows our mission to this world – to tell others of the glory of his grace that he has lavished upon us through Yeshua the Messiah.

This is the motivation behind *your mission to the Jewish people*. Our passionate desire is to let our people know the love of God found through Yeshua, the Son of God.

Our mission statement; "*Bringing the message to the original messengers*" is also a way of acknowledging our gratitude and debt to the Jewish people. Not only was Jesus Jewish, but Jews were also the original messengers of God's message to the world. The truth is that now we are in a place of need, we need the message proclaimed back to us.

In the context of bringing the Gospel to Jewish people, the Apostle Paul says;

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14–15, NIV)



Making Yeshua Known

Our three main strategies; making disciples through creative outreach, loving Jewish people in Yeshua's name, and planting communities of believers in Yeshua are all undergirded by our desire to make Yeshua known to our Jewish people.

In this newsletter we have included a report of some of the work that is being done to make Yeshua known in Israel through our partnership with *Beit Sar Shalom Israel* (Chosen People Ministries Israel).

As a mission we have made a faith-commitment to send a minimum of \$28,800 a year to Israel in support the work of that God is doing there through *Beit Sar Shalom Israel*. Perhaps you would like to consider helping us with this faith-commitment to Israel over and above your ongoing support for the work in Australia.

Celebrate Messiah is also committed to sending short-term mission trips to Israel every year through our *Outreach Israel* programme. Please pray for our team of young Australians going to Israel this July as they prepare to be Yeshua's hands and feet.

This year too in August, we are sending out a team to reach out to the "Forgotten Jews of Far East Russia." Over the years, since we began our work in this region in September 2004, we have been involved in planting and encouragement ministry amongst Jewish in several cities/towns across this vast area. Please pray for God's provision and favour, and opportunities to share Yeshua with our Jewish people as we visit Vladivostok, Khabarovsk and Birobidzhan in the Jewish Autonomous Region.

Power to Fulfil Our Calling

Recently, we celebrated the Festival of *Shavuot* (Weeks) also known as the Feast of Pentecost. It was at the Feast of *Shavuot* in Jerusalem two thousand years ago that God poured out his Spirit on the early messianic believers.


Earlier, Yeshua had said to his disciples; "...Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4-5, 8 NIV)

Once they received the "baptism with the Holy Spirit" on *Shavuot*, these timid Jewish disciples were empowered to be his witnesses "... in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NIV)

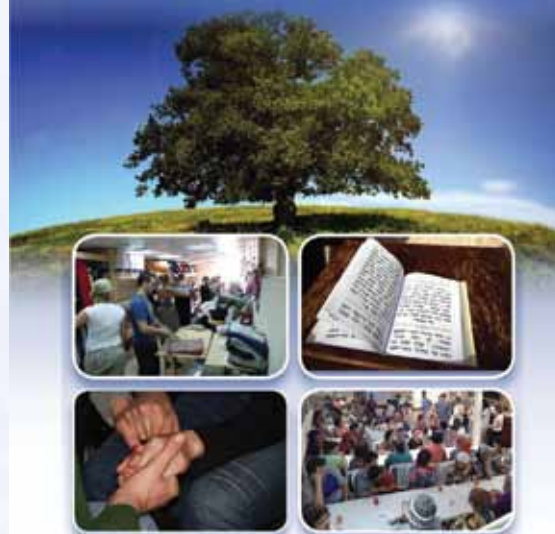
Two thousand years later the Holy Spirit continues to empower all believers "to be his witnesses" and to complete the work he has called us to prior to the Messiah's immanent return. And the Lord remains faithful to his promise that whatever he asks us to do; he will give us the power to accomplish it.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue to share the Good News of Messiah with Jewish people here in Australia and worldwide. Your partnership in the Gospel is so appreciated.

Yours together in Messiah's service,

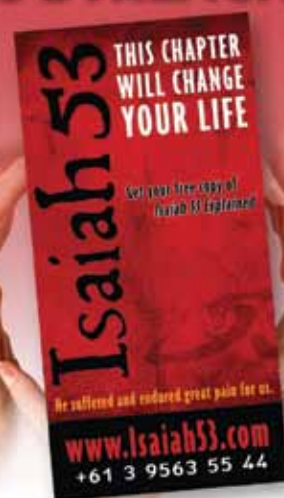

Lawrence Hirsch
Executive Director

PLANTING COMMUNITIES *of believers in Yeshua*



Celebrate MESSIAH

Making Disciples THROUGH CREATIVE OUTREACH



Celebrate MESSIAH

CELEBRATE MESSIAH AUSTRALIA'S

benevolent ministry to the Jewish community, Tikkun Olam, has given out more than 1000 food hampers since it was established a little over two years ago.

And a total of 259 volunteers have been involved in purchasing, packing and distributing the hampers to Jewish people in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

It serves those in the Jewish community who are physically and spiritually poor.

A study of poverty and emergency assistance in the Jewish community found substantial inequality and poverty.

Several indicators pointed to a level of poverty and near poverty, which is likely to be above 20 per cent of the Jewish population, and higher in Victoria than in NSW.

Analysis of census data also indicated that more than 2,250 Jewish people in Victoria and more than 1,300 in NSW lived in families whose income was below the poverty line.

Barry, who manages Tikkun Olam said, "We see more and more that both the giver and the receiver of our food hampers are thoroughly blessed."

Here are some testimonies from recipients.

- A Russian Jewish man named F was very moved by the gift. He came to the Passover Banquet and other outreaches. A widower for about 15 years, he is very lonely. He said he didn't believe in God, but he willingly accepted some literature and a Russian Bible.
- S is a 75-year-old woman very ill with arthritis, kidney malfunction and other problems. She rang

the day after receiving the hamper and said she cried for half a day because she never received anything like that before.

- A 93-year-old Russian Jewish man could not overcome his communistic atheism, but has now begun to believe. His daughter became a believer a few years ago, and the son-in-law is coming around. He was thrilled to receive the hamper.

Tikkun Olam has also been recognised by leaders in the traditional Jewish community.

A volunteer who helps in purchasing, packing and distributing for Tikkun Olam recently had a knee replacement. While convalescing in hospital, he was visited by two leaders of the local Jewish community, one of whom was a rabbi. These two men asked if there was anything they could do to help him.

Barry sees this as a great breakthrough. "I really see so much of God working behind the scenes in this encounter, as members of the Jewish community have come to appreciate and respect the work of this volunteer and his family."

Barry said in addition to food hampers, the team had recently begun distributing care hampers, specifically for Jewish men, woman and children who are in hospital or going through difficulties with their health.

If you would like to support Tikkun Olam financially please indicate on the response form enclosed in this mailing. To volunteer your time or to assist in any other way please email tikkunolamau@gmail.com



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES'

work in Israel operates under the name Beit Sar Shalom, which translates to House of the Prince of Peace. Celebrate Messiah has been in partnership with Beit Sar Shalom since joining the Chosen People Global Ministries Network in 2000.

The work in Israel is varied and extensive ranging from evangelistic ministries to congregational work, humanitarian aid ministries to Holocaust survivors and outreach. Our two main centres are in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv.

The Jerusalem Messianic Centre serves as the home for numerous events and activities; conferences, seminars, bible studies, prayer meetings, housing for short-term missions, concerts, festival activities, fellowship, youth ministry, one-on-one evangelism and a place of unity for all of the congregations and ministries in the land of Israel.

The scope of the work includes running and serving in rehabilitation centres, ministry to single mothers and children's camps during the school breaks.

The staff has grown to 13 full-time members plus dozens of volunteers during the year. As well, two operating soup kitchens serve the poor and needy a hot nutritious meal. Outreach to Holocaust survivors functions as practical, emotional and spiritual encouragement. These elderly are needy in many areas and crave a listening ear and smiling face. Holiday dinners, tours around the country and special weekend retreats help them see and understand who the God of Israel is and why He loves them so much!

Beit Sar Shalom hopes to see distribution centres opened in three more cities, to aid the community with practical and spiritual matters.

The Tel Aviv Messianic Centre hosts four different Messianic congregations, a soup kitchen for the needy, a distribution centre of canned goods and clothes, and the Gospel Cafe. Planned for the near future are a Messianic school (in partnership with the local Body), a library, and an after-school club for kids and youth with activities and Bible lessons. The desire is that the centre would become a spiritual home for the believers from the area as well as a light of His testimony and gift of salvation. Prayers and support for this work are welcomed.

Reaching Out to God's Chosen People in Israel

MEET DIMTRI

We would like you to meet one of the interns who works with Beit Sar Shalom Israel. His name is Dimitri and he holds a BA in Biblical Studies and an MA in Messianic Counselling. He is married to Anna and they have three children—including a baby daughter born in March.

"I serve in a number of Chosen People Ministries Israel ministries: the Tel Aviv distribution centre and soup kitchen and the children's camps.

At the distribution centre, I help people put their food packages in their trolleys. This gives me an opportunity to talk with them spontaneously and informally. Since most of the people know that we are believers, I think the main goal is to present the gospel via practical help. Sometimes people just need someone to listen to them. Sometimes they let me pray for them. At the last distribution, I carried a food package to the bus for an old grandfather who came without a trolley. I think this kind of help can be as encouraging as direct witnessing.

Since starting my internship at Chosen People Ministries Israel, I have begun to work fulltime at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Tel Aviv. The participants in this program help at the weekly soup kitchen run by Chosen People Ministries Israel in Tel Aviv. I work alongside these volunteers, setting up for the soup kitchen and serving food to our guests.

I also help with the Chosen People Ministries Israel children's camps, which are held twice a year: at Pesach and Sukkot. At the last camp, I was responsible for the activities of the instructors' assistants. These are teenagers who are too old to attend the camps but still want to be involved. We held our lessons while the younger kids had theirs. We studied the same subjects, but in more depth.

Please pray for Dimitri and the other outreach workers that they may continue to be encouraged in bringing the Good News of Messiah to fellow Jewish adults and children in the Land of Israel. Celebrate Messiah Australia provides \$2400 a month towards Chosen People Ministries' work in Israel and also offers practical help through ongoing short-term mission work such as Outreach Israel. Your prayerful financial support for this ministry will be a great blessing to them and to you.

NEWS BRIEFS



ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE CONCERT BRINGS UNITY

The Yom Haatzmaut, Israeli Independence Day event at Beit HaMashiach was an exciting time as we were treated to a very special concert from accomplished musicians. We had a special guest violinist Gregory as well as our well known baritone singer Fred who was accompanied at the piano by his wife Raya.

The audience enjoyed themselves tremendously as they clapped and joined in by singing to familiar tunes they grew up with. Most of the people who attended were Russian Jews who came to Australia from the former Soviet Union. Many of the songs brought joy and tears to their eyes. Songs sung in their familiar mother tongue Yiddish, which was spoken at home by their parents. These were mingled with Russian and Hebrew tunes. There was a great unity amongst the Russian folks as they identified themselves to their roots of being Jewish. For many of them it was a real connection to Israel as they now could think of themselves of being Jewish before being Russian. Messiah is the one who is starting to bring them to Him in their twilight years.

PRAYER FOR MISSION TRIPS

Jay leads an outreach team of 10 young adults to Israel in the first two weeks of July and Rita, Lawrence and Phil are off to Far-East Russia early August. Please pray for the young people who still need to raise money for their air tickets. Also for the team that the contacts they make will express the love of Messiah. For the Russia team that they will have wisdom and discernment, and also to uphold their families back home.

THE WORD IS ALWAYS ON THE MOVE

Using public transport can be frustrating and tiring, however it can also provide an unintentional opportunity, as one Sydney worker found. Our Sydney worker has a bible study on Isaiah 53 several times a week while travelling with a Jewish friend. Other commuters have recently started asking for copies of Isaiah 53. Truly mobile evangelism!

YOUNG PROFESS THEIR FAITH

The Beit HaMashiach congregation rejoiced late last month with two female members of the youth group publicly confessing their faith in Yeshua at a Mikveh (baptism) ceremony.

READY TO SHARE YESHUA

Some of the Sydney CM team have recently attended birthday celebrations for Jewish friends & family for 1st, 21st, 50th, 60th & 70th birthdays. Our workers report they have been surprised to be asked why they believe in Yeshua during some of the casual conversations at these parties. We are reminded to always be ready to share the Hope we have within us!

Testimony

ISI* CAME TO FAITH IN YESHUA AS MESSIAH AFTER HIS FRIEND WAS KILLED WHILE THEY WERE SERVING TOGETHER IN THE IDF...

I was born in Iran to a traditional, observant Jewish family. My parents escaped extreme Muslim persecution to settle in Israel in 1979. Out of respect for my parents and Jewish heritage, I kept the traditions, although I wasn't looking for God nor did I question His existence or purpose for me.

At 18, I was recruited to perform my national service in the IDF. A year into service, in 1993, we were posted to serve at a checkpoint in Judea and Samaria on the border with the Palestinian territories. A car driven by Palestinian terrorists approached our checkpoint and succeeded in following all the identification procedures before being let through into Israel. Suddenly, the men inside the car opened fire killing two of my friends. As one of our servicemen opened fire in return, halting the attack, me and another soldier woke up and ran out to aid the soldiers bleeding on the ground, but we were not able to save them.

As we were preparing to attend our friends' funerals I discovered that one of the men, whose name was Lev, was not supposed to be at that post. It was supposed to be me. It turned out that because we were short-staffed, 10 minutes before the shift change, our commander received orders to take Lev off his routine duty and place him into the post to start a rotation of rest for us, as we hadn't rested for over 72 hours. The rest-rotation started with me.

According to orthodox tradition, a person's Jewish identity is determined by the mother and not the father. Lev's father was Jewish but his mother wasn't, so the orthodox organisation responsible for burials, decided not to bury him in the Jewish part of the cemetery but rather outside that perimeter and next to the fence. The newspapers shared the nation's outcry over this. They later re-buried him within the respected cemetery perimeter.



The effect of these events, especially knowing that my friend died in my place at a post that he was not supposed to be at, in order for me to rest, prompted many questions in my mind about life and its

purpose. As I grappled with these questions for more than seven years, some began to be answered, such as God's existence, His being in charge of every person's timing in life, and that life is an extremely precious gift.

After a long search, discussions and many trials, I came to realise that knowing that God exists and that we have freedom to choose the way we live on the face of the earth, that if I didn't relate to Him, life would be a continuous cause of depression resulting from a lack of purpose, direction or understanding of life's design.

Following Jesus meant to me accepting the idea that God who is all-capable is so real that at some stage in recorded history, He decided to take on the form of fully human flesh and blood, and walk the face of the earth.

I prayed to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel (Jacob), and said, "I'm willing to believe you have appeared in the form of a man through Jesus (*Yeshua*, in Hebrew). However, because Your commandments instruct us to not follow any other gods but the One and only God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, I ask of you to confirm that I've not made a mistake."

Many confirmations came supporting Jesus as the Messiah of Israel. Ultimately, one of the major ones was a reflection on the military incident I was involved in.

Lev's life reminded me about the reality faced by Jesus: travelling a long distance from home, both selflessly serving their nation, and both buried outside of the cemetery perimeter, treated like an outcast.

God used these answers to convey to me the great work He has achieved through His Son, his own image, Jesus!

Isi* (name changed) is a member of the Beit HaMashiach congregation and regularly reads from the Torah scroll in Hebrew at our monthly Torah service on the last Shabbat of each month.

Simcha* 2013 – a global extravaganza

Chosen People Global Ministries will be holding its international conference in Melbourne to coincide with Simcha, and so representatives from 16 member countries will be joining us at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort from Friday 6 December to Sunday 8 December 2013.

Hear excellent Bible teaching from messianic leaders, pray for revival amongst Jewish people in Australia and around the world, enjoy Messianic worship in music and dance.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Celebrate a special Simcha* conference this year with an extravaganza of messianic speakers from around the world.

*Simcha is a Hebrew word meaning a joyous occasion

Simcha 2013

Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in the heart of Jewish Melbourne

The evening will feature music by Phil Plotnek and the Beit HaMashiach band, Israeli dancing, a sukkah, and a timely message from Rabbi Lawrence Hirsch.

Supper will be served after the service
All are welcome

Cost: Adults \$15, children \$5
St Kilda Town Hall • 7.30pm
Wednesday 25 September 2013

For tickets please email
events@celebratemessiah.com.au or
phone 03 9563 5544 or visit
www.celebratemessiah.com.au

19 October - 9 November 2013
See Israel Through Jewish Eyes
including 5 days in Turkey

In the Footsteps of Yeshua and Paul

This unique 3-week tour will include hands on ministry while following in the footsteps of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah and Paul the Apostle. Your tour hosts Barry Buirski and Mark Polonsky are Jewish believers in Yeshua and, together with qualified messianic Jewish tour guides, will help you see Israel through Jewish eyes. The tour is presented by Celebrate Messiah and operated by Inner Faith Travel.

The **See Israel Through Jewish Eyes** tour will feature:

- **ISRAEL:** Haifa, Jerusalem, Jordan Valley, Masada, the Dead Sea, and the Sea of Galilee
- **TURKEY:** Istanbul, Troy, Pergamom, Smyrna, and Philadelphia

For more details or to apply please contact:
Inner Faith Travel, 20 Grandview Tce, TALLAI, QLD 4213
Phone: 07 5530 2900 toll free 1800 074 426
email: holyland@ift.net.au



Celebrate MESSIAH "Bringing the Message to the Original Messengers"

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

In Australia contact: Celebrate Messiah Australia, PO Box 304, Caulfield South, VIC 3162, Australia. Phone: +61 3 9563 5544
Fax: +61 3-9563 5544 Email: enquiries@celebratemessiah.com.au

In New Zealand contact: Celebrate Messiah New Zealand, 276 Danseys Pass Rd, 12 CRD, Oamaru 9491, New Zealand,
Phone: +64 3431 2564 Email: scottsdcc@gmail.com

www.celebratemessiah.com.au