THE CELEBRATE MESSIAH TELAVIV INITIATIVE



Dear friend,

Something is Happening for God in Israel!

Celebrate Messiah, in partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries, is expanding ministries in Tel Aviv!

Sensing a need to focus on reaching younger and more secular Israelis, we now have three trained staff members dedicated to serving this ever-growing community. We have also rented a facility for Bible studies and outreach, and we are praying the Lord will provide a few more workers who have a passion to reach Israeli young adults...and their young families!

Our staff is following up on those who have responded (more than 200 Israelis) to our Hebrew language Isaiah 53 web-based campaign – most of whom live in the greater Tel Aviv area. This campaign, which is scheduled to intensify before Passover next year, is one of our primary means of discovering Israelis who are open to the Gospel.

The rented space in the northern downtown area of Tel Aviv also provides a home for the growing Russian/Hebrew-language congregation planted by Chosen People Ministries and supported monthly by Celebrate Messiah Australia. The "Joy of Yeshua Congregation" *(Simchat Yeshua)* has ministries among Russian Jewish immigrants and their children, and a special ministry to the "down and out," as well as those afflicted with drug addiction.

We continue our efforts to reach elderly Russian Jews and Holocaust survivors with the Gospel, offering practical aid and benevolence to this needy community. And I assure you that our new ministries will not replace what we have been doing and what God has already been blessing. As I said, "We are expanding!"

Let me share a quick story with you of what the Lord has been doing through Your Mission to the Jewish People among elderly Holocaust survivors: a community of 200,000+, dying at a rate of 30,000 precious people per year.

One of our staff members reported,

Larisa* is a 76-year-old Holocaust survivor we have been ministering to for several years. Larisa was born in Central Europe and was sent to a concentration camp as a young child.

Larisa is full of energy and joy. She attends all our events for Holocaust survivors, volunteers at one of our food distribution centres, and attends a weekly Bible study run by a member of our staff. This week, there were two happy events in Larisa's life. At the beginning of the week, her son and daughter-in-law had a baby boy. Yesterday, Larisa was baptised! Praise the Lord! Several of our staff members had the privilege of being present at the baptism. Afterwards, Larisa said to me, "I feel different. I feel like a weight has been lifted off me."

I can't help but think about how the birth of the grandson of a Holocaust survivor is a victory over human evil, while her baptism is a victory over spiritual evil. Please pray for Larisa and for her walk with the Lord.

Why Tel Aviv?

Our hearts break for these elderly Holocaust survivors and we will do all we can to reach them before they pass from this world. *Yet, we must turn our eyes towards the future as well!* This is why I am writing to you and hoping that you will pray about helping us make a difference in the future of Jewish ministry in Israel. Tel Aviv is the perfect place for us to focus as we seek to reach a new generation of younger and more secular Israelis for the Lord.

The Tel Aviv municipality has about 500,000 people and was founded in 1909 by secular Jews. But, if you include the suburbs and outer ring of smaller towns, knows as Gush Dan – **the greater Tel Aviv area has a population of 3.4 million people – which is 42% of Israel's total population.** These people are younger and more secular in general than those who live in Jerusalem or Haifa. Tel Aviv is also Israel's economic hub and the nexus of culture, nightlife and growing younger families.

WHEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATTERS, MANY JEWISH YOUNG PEOPLE OPEN UP WILLINGLY AND EVEN ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD.



However, in my experience speaking to this younger crowd in the Tel Aviv area, I have found that many are searching for the deeper meaning to life and a more authentic, "non-Orthodox" spirituality. So many of these young people, having travelled the world after their service in the army, dabbling in Eastern religions and drugs also recognise that these things do not satisfy their souls. When given the opportunity to talk about spiritual matters, and even about Yeshua, many open up willingly and ask questions about God and to listen to the answers we provide. *Many are searching for authentic answers, but simply do not identify with "organised religion."*

Let's Reach Israelis for Yeshua Together!

We have very ambitious plans for the work in Tel Aviv. Every time I travel to Israel – the vision grows stronger and larger! So would you help us continue to support this ministry in Israel? We are committed to sending \$30,000 per year to Israel, but we would like to increase our giving to support these latest developments.

The Gift of Life

Speaking to a group of Jewish people, Yeshua said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn. 14:6).

Did you know that the number 18 means a lot to Jewish people? Before the revival of Hebrew as a modern language, there were no numbers as we know them. Combinations of the Hebrew letters of the alphabet served as numbers! But this ancient way of forming numbers lingers on to this day. The Hebrew word *chai*, which is two letters, equals 18. And this word means **LIFE**. So would you help us give <u>the gift</u> <u>of life</u> to secular, young Israelis and their families in Tel Aviv by sending a gift that might be a multiple of 18?

Perhaps you can only give \$18, but then again you might be able to provide \$180 or \$1,800! Whatever you give right now will help build the foundation for our future ministries among secular, younger Israelis and their families. This is the future! And we cannot do it without you.

Thanks so much for giving sacrificially to make the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah known in the land of His birth.

Happy New Year and blessings in our risen Messiah,

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Lawrenc *name changed



Lawrence Hirsch Executive Director of Celebrate Messiah Australia

NEWS Briefs

TIKKUN OLAM -REPAIRING THE WORLD

One of our kosher food hamper recipients invited staff members Barry and Melinda to her son's *Bar mitzvah*. This was to be no ordinary *Bar mitzvah*, as her son is severely, mentally handicapped with autism. For many months before, he was taught by his grandfather, the synagogue's cantor, to recite a portion from the Torah. He succeeded, and it was such a blessing to see how proud the grandfather was of his grandson.

Peter, who co-ordinates the work in Perth, was told by a prominent Jewish leader that *Tikkun Olam* is recognised as one of three major benevolent contributors in the local Jewish community. Fraser's tireless efforts for Israel and the Jewish community continue to bear great fruit; he's begun to work with his friends at the Gold Coast synagogue, and a Jewish family helps him distribute the hampers.

ANOTHER BAR MITZVAH BLESSING

The Lewis Family felt truly blessed by the Lord as the Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation put on a *Bar mitzvah* for Ethan. "Many thanks indeed for the wonderful *Bar mitzvah* service for Ethan," said his mother Jenny. "And the delicious food and the most generous gifts given to him. It has been such a blessing to us and an incredible witness to our family and friends. Our friends have never been to a *Bar mitzvah* before, and the family has never been to a *Bar mitzvah* that was so full of dancing and happy people. We were blown away by the generosity and kindness of all."

"Lawrence, thank you for taking the time to chat to Grandpa Dave. What really struck him was that you told him Isaiah had prophesied about Yeshua 700 years before He was born. He started reading the book 'Isaiah 53 Explained' and has taken this home to South Africa with him. He even asked us to read through the 12 verses of Isaiah 53 with him. Thanks to Jay for his bold presentation of the Gospel to Granny Brenda, and for praying with her that Yeshua would reveal himself to her. We believe that she is very close to receiving Yeshua as her Lord and Messiah."



REFLECTIONS FROM SIMCHA 2014

- Joyce: My 9th Simcha and the best yet. Plenty of food for thought.
- Meredith: Really spoke to me; personal and comforting.
- Heather: *My first attendance at Simcha: enlightening, exciting and wonderful speakers with great challenges for my soul and life.*
- Heather: Praise God for wonderful teaching and fellowship, and we have a lifetime of love and respect for God's chosen people.
- Michael: Excellent weekend and top preachers with clear explanation.
- Dirk: Great only wish we had more people there.
- Janine: Fantastic Simcha. Accommodation great, teaching relevant and challenging.
- Vince & Margaret: Teaching has been spot on; we had a lovely time and have been very blessed.
- Fiona: Thank you for the wonderful Simcha. I loved the sessions, fellowship, music, book stall and food.
- Paul and Jenny: It was truly the best Simcha we have been to, and each and every member of our family grew spiritually and made new and meaningful friendships.
- Tracey: What an amazing message; I have been living with depression for years, now I see it in whole new light.
- David: Before coming I was so fearful that I wouldn't like, understand and not participate in all that Jewish stuff. Scott's teaching on 'no gain without pain' hit home. I was too busy looking at the splinter in your beliefs than the log in my eyes. I was so wrong about you and your Church... God had to get me to come to see that I am so biased about beliefs, that I had a real wake up call. You unlocked all my own selfish drivers, and for the first time I prayed with my hands up, sang really loud, ,raised my hands and laughed and enjoyed the dancing. But I realised it was not about me. But Him. Your mission is to save the Jewish people...but you've saved me, and now I know that God does not make mistakes and I had to come to this conference. All weekend I felt the spirit moving amongst us. I thank Yeshua for leading me to you.

Put this date in your diary NOW... SIMCHA 2015...27-29 November.



JOIN US FOR AN EXQUISITE NIGHT OF CELEBRATING A MESSIANIC JEWISH PASSOVER SEDER TELLING THE COMPLETE STORY OF GOD'S REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT TO GOLGOTHA.

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL | SUNSHINE COAST VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

THURSDAY 2 APRIL | MELBOURNE ST KILDA TOWN HALL

SATURDAY 4 APRIL SYDNEY NORTHRIDGE VINEYARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, THORNLEIGH

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Recorded Messages from Simcha 2014

Purchase a USB stick with all six messages on the theme Under His Wings (Matt 23:37) plus a bonus of two workshops: Scott Brown on 'Hosting Israelis,' and Stan Goodenough on 'Australia in the Valley of Decision.'

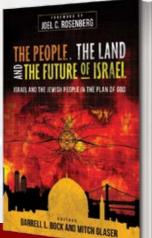
PRICE: \$30 inc. postage Also available on CD for \$45

To order, phone 03 9563 5544 or email simcha@celebratemessiah.com.au

The People, the Land and the Future of Israel

"The People, the Land and the Future of Israel" conference was held in New York City, New York on October 2013 at the historic Calvary Baptist Church. This book contains the messages from this dynamic historic event from great speakers like Joel C. Rosenberg, Dr. Mitch Glaser, Dr. Darrell Bock and Dr. Michael Brown, A must read.....

PRICE: \$25 + p&h Also available on DVD for \$30 + p&h



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"BRINGING THE MESSAGE TO THE ORIGINAL MESSENGERS"

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