



Celebrate MESSIAH

February 2012 / Shevat 5772

In Partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries

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PROCLAIMING YESHUA IN WORD & DEED

JEWISH EVANGELISM YESHUA-STYLE!

Executive Director of
Celebrate Messiah Australia



Shalom! We have enjoyed a very fruitful season of ministry over the summer, and I have just a quick moment to catch my breath before we move on to a new and

exciting season of outreach over Purim and Passover seasons!

Over the summer period much has been happening through the ministry of Celebrate Messiah in New Zealand and also in Israel. During the month of January a team of volunteers have been doing outreach to Israeli backpackers in

New Zealand. The team was made of folks from Israel and the USA and was led by a very capable Jewish believer, Robynne who reported having dozens of very significant and meaningful encounters and conversations with Israeli backpackers that led to many opportunities to share the Gospel with these young travellers.

Also, during the month of February Celebrate Messiah has a team of six young people doing outreach in Israel. The team is very capably led by our local Melbourne outreach worker Jay. They are doing outreach and practical ministry amongst young Israelis, Holocaust survivors, young Israeli believers and Russian Jewish immigrants. Please take a moment to read his report from the field on page 4.

Please can you pray for the Outreach Israel team during the month of February? Thank you so much for standing with us as we reach out to our Jewish people. We are looking forward to all that God has for us in 2012.

The Gospel of Matthew and the Jewish People

I would like to take a moment—before all these new activities kick in—to share some thoughts from Scripture about *why* we do what we do! Sometimes our ministry activities move so fast! I'd like to take some time right now to tell you a little more about the heart of your Mission to the Jewish people.

In the Gospel of Matthew chapters 9 and 10, Yeshua the Messiah instructs His disciples in the essentials of evangelism. I like to call this passage “Missions According to Yeshua!” Although these words originally applied to the disciples' first “missions trip,” the principles in the passage continue to shape the way in which I view our ministry among the Jewish people.

The message we preach is founded on Scripture—as is the way we conduct our ministry! I firmly believe that being true to the Scriptures is the only way we can expect

to receive God's blessings on our efforts. Please take a moment to look at Matthew chapters 9 and 10 with me.

Preach the News and Care for Those in Need

After preaching the Sermon on the Mount recorded in chapters 5–7 of Matthew, Yeshua performed three miraculous healings and one instance of deliverance in chapter 8. Then in chapter 9, He heals a man after telling him his sins are forgiven and raises a young girl from the dead. On the way to raising the girl from the dead, He heals a woman who had a hemorrhage. We also find Yeshua healing two blind men and a Jewish man who was mute, casting out the demons who had taken away his voice. It is no wonder the amazed crowds responded by saying, “*It was never seen like this in Israel!*” (9:33). Yeshua was a very busy Messiah!

Over the last century, many mainline Christian denominations began to focus on benevolence, such as helping the poor and feeding the hungry. Unfortunately, this often came at the expense of preaching the pure and true message of the Gospel. This caused other believers to try to counteract this tendency by focusing almost exclusively on Gospel proclamation—at the expense of extending practical aid. As a result, the balance between word and deed has been elusive for many ministries.

The Bible tells us that we have a responsibility to care for the weak, marginalized and hungry—and the Bible is also clear about the necessity of preaching the Gospel. As followers of the Messiah, we should do both—just as He did!

As Matthew writes,

Then Yeshua went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (9:35)

The Saviour was a *master* of word and deed. He demonstrated the perfect balance between benevolence and Gospel proclamation.

Yeshua's Good Works Are Proof of His Messiahship

There was a prophetic element to these aspects of the Messiah's ministry as well: these miraculous works were proof that He was the Messiah promised to the Jewish people!

Isaiah had prophesied about the blessings of the future Messianic age,

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:5–6).



One person who understood this perfectly was John the Baptist, who heard of the works of Yeshua (Matthew 11:2) and sent his disciples to ask if He was the “expected one”—the Messiah—or *should he wait for another?* Yeshua responded by quoting from Isaiah 35!

The physical healings Yeshua performed are signs of the Messianic age and provided a testimony to the Jewish people that the Messiah had come. Today, the Lord continues to provide for the needs of His people—including through the dedicated staff of Celebrate Messiah.

We are proclaiming the Gospel and at the same time providing food parcels for needy Jewish people in Australia as well as supporting the benevolent work of Chosen People Ministries in Israel that feeds about 3,000 poor and elderly Israelis each month. We are also increasing our ministries to Russian Jewish immigrants in Australia and in poverty-stricken areas of Far East Russia.

We love our people, and I am delighted that the Lord has given us the opportunity to show His love in very practical ways! And we could not do this without your faithful prayers and generous support!

The Harvest Is Waiting!

At the conclusion of Matthew 9, Yeshua sent His disciples out on a “missions trip” and instructed them to do exactly what He did!

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease (Matt. 10:1).

The disciples were to heal in His name and power—and to preach the Good News of the Kingdom.

We know that the efforts of these twelve followers of Messiah were just the beginning of all that the Lord would do for our broken world. This is why Yeshua also instructed His disciples to pray for more workers. Yeshua knew that the harvest would one day go far beyond the work of these first disciples and extend far beyond the borders of Israel to the entire world.

He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matt. 9:37–38).

We are the labourers in the harvest! Would you pray with me that many new workers—Jews and Gentiles who love the Lord—would join us in the harvest? Speaking of new workers, I would like to welcome Mark Polonsky onto our staff in Melbourne. Mark is a Jewish believer in Yeshua who has many giftings that will be a blessing to the work. Please pray for Mark.

Thanks for Your Partnership in the Gospel

The example of our Messiah teaches us to balance Gospel preaching with meeting the practical needs of the people we are called to reach.

Enjoy the reports in this newsletter and please pray that Celebrate Messiah Australia will always DWYD...Do What Yeshua Did!

He is our example!

Your brother in Messiah,

Lawrence
Lawrence



HOPE, HUMMUS & HOSPITALITY

Shalom!! The last few days have been intense as we have all found our feet in this intriguing land of Israel. We have worked with various ministries in Tel-Aviv, Jaffa and Netanya so far, helping out with a coffee shop, distribution centre, completing street evangelism and have had plenty of great times of worship and fellowship with local believers.

PRAYER POINTS //

- ☐ Please pray for our boldness. Please pray for our wisdom and discernment. We are continually meeting people in need of the love of Yeshua; pray that we would not hold back but would demonstrate His power and love through our words and actions. Pray that we would have many divine appointments.
- ☐ Please pray for our continued health, safety, alertness and for continued unity and peace amongst the team.

PRAISE POINTS //

We have had some amazing opportunities and divine appointments thus far. Praise God for;

- ☐ Marco – met while we were eating lunch one day. Had the opportunity to bless him, pray for his new job opportunities and to talk to him about Yeshua. He had not read the New Testament, so we were able to give him a copy in Hebrew. Pray that he would come to know the Messiah for himself.
- ☐ Mishi – met on the beach one morning, Mishi spent Shabbat with us and the local Believers. Though she is yet to accept Yeshua as her saviour, she is on the way! Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to convict her and draw her into His love.
- ☐ Sharoni – J and A met her on the plane; she expressed her keenness to join in with our work in Israel. She is yet to surrender to Yeshua and fully experience his love, but is hungry. She has recently been through trauma and needs to come into His comfort and care.
- ☐ These are just three of the many amazing people God has brought our way so far. Praise God that people are open and searching, that He is their quenching drink, the Answer!



I am sure that you will be encouraged by this report from Jay that we received about their first few days of outreach in Israel. When the team returns, I am sure we will get a full report that we would love to share with you in the next newsletter.



THE POWER OF LOVE

Nourishing Body and Spirit through Messiah's Love

Although forging a new life in the Promised Land has been the lifelong dream of countless Jewish people across the centuries, no one ever promised it would be easy. The early Zionist pioneers faced staggering obstacles in simply surviving and establishing a simple life for their families and communities. Today's immigrants to

Israel face both physical and psychological difficulties that are, in some ways, even more complex.

Unfortunately, life in Israel is a grim struggle for a significant percentage of its people. But Chosen People Ministries is finding opportunities to be Messiah's hands and feet in ways that are meaningful to those who stand in such need of that redeeming love.

One by one, the Lord has opened doors—literally—for our benevolence work in Israel! First the Tel Aviv distribution center opened, then the Jerusalem distribution center, and now the doors are wide open in the cities of Netanya, Sderot and Ashdod. Through these distribution centers, Chosen People Ministries is able to feed the needy—in more ways than one!

These “needy” are the poor, marginalized and forgotten. Israel's poverty line keeps sinking lower and lower, and it is those below the line who have the greatest need. Our workers are able to offer a hot meal, take-home food parcels (filled with must-have cupboard staples) and donated clothing. Every month, we serve over 3,000 people. Each one has a story—from struggling single mothers to elderly Holocaust survivors to those who are recovering from alcoholism and drug abuse. At times, we minister to whole families who join us for a weekly hot meal. We have even been able to assist members of the migrant worker population from Africa. At times, our distribution centers look like the United Nations!

As these people visit our distribution centers located throughout the country, we get to know them and their stories. They in turn hear our story of why we care and share such nutritional food—as well as spiritual food. Our hope and prayer is for people to encounter the Messiah Jesus, who cares

for their every need and is their comforter and provider, even when it seems like there is no one else to help them.

God's Transforming Love Changes Lives

Recently, two people came for a meal and it was obvious that they were seeking more than just physical food as they shared their problems, asked for help and were offered prayer. As these dear new friends responded to the love of the Lord, both of them opened their hearts to receive Jesus as their Messiah. In so doing, they were filled with the hope and joy of eternal life! Now that's something to say

“*P'chaim*” (to life) about! Please keep praying for more faith decisions as well as God's provision in every way to continue and expand this work.

Our distribution ministries in Sderot and Ashdod are particularly special, as most of the people we serve in these cities are elderly Holocaust survivors. Many receive only a

meager pension from the government, which is barely enough to pay their bills. We are able to offer practical aid (food parcels and supplies such as warm blankets for the winter) as well as home visits. Not long ago, one of our workers had a great conversation with Boris* and Tanya* over traditional Russian tea. They spoke about the difficulties of living in Israel and our worker shared the Gospel with them through Old Testament prophecies. At the conclusion of their time together, Boris and Tanya accepted the Bible they were offered and asked us to stay in touch with them.

From the very beginning of its outreach to Jewish people, Chosen People Ministries has found there is no substitute for a warm hand and a warm heart. This is true in Brooklyn, in Melbourne, in Jerusalem, in Tel Aviv and everywhere there are human lives to be reached. Our staff in Israel is responding to the practical and spiritual needs of God's chosen people—and we are seeing the results! What greater blessing could there be?

**not their real names*

We get to know them
and their stories.
They in turn hear our
story of why we care.



SPOTLIGHT

SUSANNA GALER: ETERNAL LIGHT



Susanna was born into a Sephardic Jewish family in Singapore and raised in the traditions of the Jewish faith. However at the age of 13 she went to a Catholic School called "St Theresa's Convent." Like many other Jewish people in Singapore, Susanna's parents sent her to a private Catholic school for a good education. At her first Scripture Class Susanna was told that she will have to learn the book "The Acts of the Apostles" off by heart, two chapters at a time. Even though she was the only Jewish girl in that grade, Susanna topped that class being the best at Scripture memorisation. Perhaps it was then that a seed about the Messiah was planted in Susanna's heart.

The family was very musical and it soon became apparent that Susanna was gifted at a young age. By the time she was 18 years old she had established herself as a solo artist, performing at the Singapore Hilton. Within a short period of time the hotel patronage increased as more people came to watch her play and sing. In no time at all, she received many offers to play at a number of different hotels in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

In 1989 Susanna was married and moved to Australia. Her stepson Malcolm, who was only 14 years of

age, was a committed Christian. Malcolm began to share his faith with Susanna under protest. "Jews cannot believe in Jesus because He is the Christian God," Susanna would say. But Malcolm wouldn't give up and continued to share that Jesus was Jewish and that he was the promised Messiah of Israel, showing her Scriptures from the Hebrew Bible. Susanna started searching the Scriptures for herself and began writing out all the prophecies and fulfilment concerning the Messiah. After two years of diligent inquiry she received Yeshua as her Messiah and Lord in March 1993.

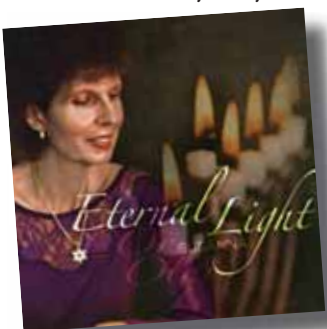
That night the Lord gave her a vision of a map which was in a form of a jig-saw puzzle having two sections on opposite sides which were moving closer and closer together until it joined into one piece. It was at that very moment her eyes were opened and she realised that Yeshua was the middle line joining the pieces of the puzzle, Old and New Testament, Jew and Gentile, together in Him.

In 1998, Susanna began travelling around Australia and New Zealand ministering with various Christian and Messianic organisations. Susanna's passion is to minister in song to both Jew and Gentile as one in Messiah and help bring her own Jewish people to faith in their own Messiah - Yeshua.

Susanna has recorded three Albums with the most recent one, *Eternal Light*, being released in late 2011. The album is dedicated to Susanna's Jewish mother Gertrude Hanin who passed away after a long illness in July 2010. Many of the songs were written during this time when Susanna was caring for her mother whose life was a wonderful testimony to the Lord. The album is of international quality and every song has a story about how the Lord placed each song in her heart.



Susanna is married to Paul Becker and they live on the Sunshine Coast. Paul is helping to manage Susanna's music ministry and together they plan to tour New Zealand and Australia ministering to various Christian and Messianic congregations under the ministry of Celebrate Messiah. They are open to invitations. Please call the Celebrate Messiah office for more information.



Eternal Light, produced by Turn Around Music, is available on CD for \$25 at our online bookshop, www.celebratemessiah.com.au, or call the Celebrate Messiah office.

NEWS BRIEFS

BENEVOLENT MINISTRY IN AUSTRALIA

An ongoing part of our ministry in Australia is assembling and personally delivering food baskets to Holocaust survivors, elderly and needy Jewish people in Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Often these deliveries coincide with Jewish holidays. Thus far we have received many encouraging testimonies from both the volunteers we have recruited and also the recipients who have received these hampers. One recipient shared that during World War II he stayed in the home of a Catholic Polish woman (whom he credits as having saved his life), and he saw a book on her shelf titled *Jesus the Jew*. He wanted to read it but never did. How incredible that more than 60 years later God is still knocking on the door of this Holocaust survivor's heart through the delivery of these beautiful food baskets by Messiah's followers. This man was so blessed to receive the parcel that he showed it to all his neighbours! – *Barry Buirski*

JOY AT SIMCHA CONFERENCE

It gives me great joy to report to you that we had an amazing Simcha conference during the last weekend in November 2011. The conference was attended by over 280 people and we were very blessed and challenged by the excellent teaching of Noam Hendren from Israel. Noam spoke about "Preparing for the Return of the King" and he gave us a series of indepth teachings about the "End Time" that was clear, challenging and inspiring. These teachings have been recorded and can be ordered from our office.

The best thing about the conference was that 4 Jewish people came to faith in Messiah during the conference as well as 4 youth committed themselves to the Lord. Praise the Lord! One of the Jewish people that came to faith in Messiah was a lady that Louise and I had met 26 years ago before we started full time ministry to Jewish people. In amazing circumstances God brought her back into our lives resulting in her giving her life to the Lord at Simcha. – *Lawrence Hirsch*



BARBECUE AND BIBLE STUDY IN NEW ZEALAND

Over 50 young adults from a dozen different countries attended the kickoff of our fourth year of outreach to backpackers in New Zealand. Scott Brown, who leads this outreach, rejoices over the spiritual openness of these young people: "It continually amazes me how attentive our guests are as we share the Gospel and a bit of personal testimony about its transforming power." Scott especially enjoys seeing the backpackers peruse the literature table, replete with Bibles, testimonials and other Gospel literature. "My heart leapt as I watched Tal,* an Israeli musician and chef, pick up a Hebrew New Testament and other Hebrew literature while sincerely thanking us for the multiple blessings. I privately gloried in the promise, 'My word... shall not return to me void...'"

MINISTRY TO RUSSIAN JEWS IN MELBOURNE

A pastoral care team has developed to continue to provide care for the Russian Jews. We visit people in their homes, hospitals and nursing homes and community flats. Sally has been able to minister with the Harp and songs of God's word. We have been able to pray for people and comfort them in Yeshua's Name. Recently two Russian Jewish ladies came to faith in Messiah through this visitation ministry. In a couple of weeks time, several Russian Jews are going to be baptised as committed believers in Yeshua. Praise the Lord! – *Rita Ivenskis*

**names have been changed*

Purim Celebration at Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation

Special guest speaker, Dr Arnold Fruchtenbaum. Saturday 10th of March, 10.30am
at 206 Bambra Road, Caulfield South, Victoria.

Arnold will also be teaching a seminar from 1.30-5.30pm on Spiritual Life.

Passover Banquet at the St Kilda Town Hall, Melbourne

Come and join us this year in the heart of Jewish Melbourne for an exquisite night of celebrating a messianic Jewish Passover Seder. We will be reading the *Haggadah*, singing and dancing accompanied by a professionally catered three course meal with spit roast. This night is different from all other nights of the year. Hosted by Lawrence and Louise Hirsch founders of Celebrate Messiah Australia.

Wednesday 4 April 2012 at 6.30pm

(booking deadline 30 March) Please do not delay in placing your booking as there is limited seating.

Please call our office or visit our website or fill out the Response Form included.

Call our office for information on Passover Banquets
in Sydney and on the Sunshine Coast.

Celebrate Messiah Representatives are available to host
Passover presentations/banquets in your church, fellowship
or home group. Please call Mark Polonsky at 03 9563 5544
or email churchrelations@celebratemessiah.com.au
to make a booking.



“Walk in the Footsteps of Moses and Yeshua the Messiah – visit Israel and you’ll never be the same again”



"See Israel through Jewish Eyes" Exodus Tour

**18 August
8 September**

Have you ever dreamed of Israel? The Holy Land is a place that meets the present and the past and is alive to embrace them both. It can transform your life.

This unique 3 week tour will include ministry in Israel and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Your tour hosts Lawrence Hirsch and Polonsky are Jewish believers in Jesus with a qualified messianic Jewish rabbi. "Israel through Jewish Eyes." The tour is by Inner Faith Travel.

The "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" tour will feature: Israel: Eilat, Jerusalem, Galilee, Valley, Masada & The Dead Sea.

**18 August –
8 September 2012**

Have you ever dreamed of visiting the land of Israel? The Holy Land is a place where the past meets the present and the words of Scripture come alive to embrace them both. It is an experience that transform your life.

This unique 3 week tour will include three days of on ministry in Israel and follow in the footsteps of the Your tour hosts Lawrence Hirsch, Barry Buirski and Polonsky are Jewish believers in Yeshua and, together with a qualified messianic Jewish tour guide, will help you "Israel through Jewish Eyes." The tour will be operated by Inner Faith Travel.

The "See Israel through Jewish Eyes" Exodus Tour will feature: Israel: Eilat, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Jordan Valley, Masada & The Dead Sea, Sea Of Galilee, Jordan: Petra, Madaba, Mt. Nebo. Cost of Tour: \$6,585. For more info visit our website or call our office.



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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Phone: +64 3431 2564 Email: scottssodc@gmail.com

www.celebratemessiah.com.au

Celebrate MESSIAH RESPONSE & ORDER FORM

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Here is my support for the **ongoing**
evangelistic work of Celebrate Messiah:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$ _____

Here is my tax-deductible donation toward the
benevolent work of Celebrate Messiah in Australia:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$ _____

☐ Please send me more information about your
Romans 1:16 Partnership regular giving program

TOTAL \$ _____

Payment method

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Celebrate Messiah Australia

PO Box 304, Caulfield South VIC 3162 Australia

PH/FX 61 3 9563 5544

PASSOVER BANQUET

Venue: St Kilda Town Hall, Cnr Carlisle St & Brighton Rd, St Kilda

Date: Wednesday 4 April 2012 at 6.30pm

Booking and Payment must be received by 30 March 2012

Please use order form (right)

then fill in contact & payment details on reverse

Individuals and groups welcome (book a table of 10 for \$400)

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

I would like to purchase...	Qty	Cost
Passover Banquet – Adult – \$45 each		
Passover Banquet – Pensioner – \$40 each		
Passover Banquet – Child (under 12) – \$20 each		
Eternal Light – CD by Susanna Galer – \$25 each		
Postage & Handling		
Sub Total		
Donation		
TOTAL		

Please also fill out reverse >

Postage and handling costs:

\$0-30 add \$5; \$31-60 add \$7; \$61-200 add \$10

NB! If ordering from overseas, please double the above postage and handling costs and payment in Australian dollars please.

Banking details: Celebrate Messiah Australia

BSB 633 000 Account # 113278741