

# The Chosen People



Volume XVI, Issue 10 December 2010



# LOVING JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF YESHUA



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Bible Study: The King's Trilogy of Parables Concerning Israel

# Reflections on God's Grace



Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom! Merry Messiahmas and Happy Hanukkah!

I love New York City during the holidays. Fifth Avenue is crowded with New Yorkers and tourists shopping, enjoying the sights and marveling at the magnificent Christmas tree towering over Rockefeller Center and the enormous Hanukkah *menorah* standing tall at the entrance of Central Park.

Your missionaries to the Jewish people are busy handing out Gospel tracts in public places and sharing the “reason for the season”—which so many miss amidst the glitz and sparkle of the holiday marketplace. It really is a wonderful time to tell non-believers—both Jews and Gentiles—the glorious Good News that our Messiah has come and that He gave His very life as God’s greatest gift for a sinful world.

I am grateful that the Lord gives us the JOY of telling others about His love in the midst of what I have always considered to be the heart and soul of the worldwide Jewish community.

## Reflections on His Grace

We are now wrapping up an encouraging and fruitful year of ministry. Your Mission to the Jewish People reopened ministries in Boston, established a Center in the heart of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, expanded ministries in Chicago, Israel and Australia and has begun what

might become **one of our most significant ministry advancements ever** in the New York area! I will write more on this in a moment!

We have raised the banner of Messiah Jesus through our **Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaign**, and we continue to receive phone and email responses every day as the result of a **new evangelistic ad** in the *Wall Street Journal*—a Christmas/Hanukkah version of our Isaiah 53 ad—inviting Jews and Gentiles to discover the One

who was born to die for their sins. Phase Two of our **Isaiah 53 Campaign**—a Christmas outreach—is now going full steam ahead! We continue to follow up with the many Jewish people and Gentiles who responded and are reading the book *Isaiah 53 Explained*. We have distributed more than 5,000 copies to those who requested the book; many of the recipients are Jews and non-Jews who are *not yet believers*, and quite a few are Christians who requested a book in order to give it to a non-believing Jewish friend!

On behalf of our Chosen People Ministries staff family, Board of Directors and the Jewish community we are reaching for Jesus the Messiah—**thank you for your generosity and faithfulness** in supporting our evangelistic efforts.

**We could not do this work without your loving partnership!**

## Brooklyn Center Update

What could be more important than raising the proclaiming Yeshua (Jesus) in the heart of the largest Jewish community in the world? This is exactly what we are doing in Brooklyn! The purchase of our new Center might be the most important step we have taken in reaching the largest and most concentrated Jewish community in the United States since Rabbi Leopold Cohn, our founder, began Chosen People Ministries in 1894 in Brooklyn!

I am grateful to God that we were able to purchase an 11,000-square-foot former Jewish funeral home in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn. We are now in the process of transforming this wonderful facility into an outreach and missionary training Center that will serve as the focal point for new outreach efforts among the more than three-quarters of a million Jewish people in this busy borough of New York City. This is exciting to me because Brooklyn is not only my home and the birthplace of Chosen People Ministries, but it

also has the highest concentration of Orthodox and Hasidic Jews anywhere outside of Israel.

Our new Center is at the crossroads of the Brooklyn Jewish community. Many different types of Jewish people—including Russian Jewish immigrants, Israelis and working-class Jewish people—live in this area. It is an amazing area of opportunity for lifting up the name of Jesus to Jewish people.

So please remember to pray for us! We are busy acquiring permits and getting ready to renovate in earnest after January 1.

There are two specific ways you can help make this Center a reality.

- **Your generous support**

It will take \$900,000 more to complete the renovation. This is the time of year when many of us, as the Lord allows, trust the Lord and give more than we usually do for His work—and I am asking you to pray about giving as generous a gift as possible for this Messianic Center in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn.

- **Your volunteer help**

We are also beginning to line up individuals and church groups who would like to come to Brooklyn and help reduce the cost of the renovation through laboring with us in the construction of the facility. We are in need of skilled workers, and if this is a ministry that you would like to consider, please contact us at [chosenpeople.com/backtobrooklyn](http://chosenpeople.com/backtobrooklyn) or call our home office at 212-223-2252.

## A Final Thought

When Rabbi Leopold Cohn began Chosen People Ministries in 1894, it was his intention to reach his fellow Jewish people—primarily poor Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe—with the Good News of the Messiah. He did this through street preaching, Bible studies and tract distribution,

and also by providing for some of the physical needs of the poor Jewish people he was reaching: feeding the hungry, offering clothing and furniture to those who could not afford it, teaching English as a second language and much more!

We want to follow in the Rabbi's footsteps. We plan to serve the souls of Jewish people and also care for the "whole person" of those who are in need within the Jewish community. One of the greatest areas of success in our ministry in Brooklyn today has been our outreach to those who are drug and alcohol dependent—mostly Russian Jewish immigrants—along with their families. There are also many elderly Russian Jews in the neighborhood of our new Center who simply need a good meal. We made the decision to expand the kitchen area in the new Center (which will cost more than \$100,000) so that we could feed the poor and elderly in the name of Messiah Jesus.

I hope you share our vision and heart for this Center of God's love that we believe He has led us to establish in Brooklyn!

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter, which will tell you a little more about how we are already ministering to our Jewish people in Israel, Brooklyn and around the world. Once again, we could not possibly do this work of worldwide evangelism without your partnership!

I am grateful for what our Heavenly Father has done for us—and I am grateful for all you have done to help Chosen People Ministries continue our outreach among God's chosen people.

May the Lord fill you with the joy of His presence during this Christmas/Hanukkah season!

Your brother in Messiah,



Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

# LOVING JEWISH PEOPLE IN YESHUA'S NAME



## Interview with Maxim K., who ministers to Holocaust survivors now living in Israel



*Why do you have a heart for this type of ministry?*

Many Holocaust survivors have become increasingly open and are seeking the truth about God, but their days are numbered. My prayer is that they will receive Yeshua as their personal Savior.

*How do Gospel proclamation and practical aid work together?*

I began ministry among elderly people with humanitarian and practical aid—but I always say who I am and what I believe. People were initially very closed, but eventually their hearts became more open. I believe that practical work is preaching the Gospel of Jesus through our lives.

*Can you tell us a recent story from your ministry?*

I see a big change in the people of Sderot, the town that has been subjected to so many rocket attacks from Gaza—the light of life has appeared in their eyes. After we shared the Gospel during our trip to Poland, an 86-year-old woman said: “I’m so sorry I have not heard this before—I’m only now beginning to live!”



## FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

Every Tuesday at our Tel Aviv Messianic Center, about 150 needy people receive a hot, delicious meal and clothing and food packages to take home—as well as spiritual nourishment. Staff members Brian S., Rachel G., Neriya A. and Jason R. run the soup kitchen along with teams of volunteers.

Why do we do this type of ministry? First of all, it is commanded in Scripture: verses like Isaiah 58:7 and James 2:16 exhort us to meet the physical needs of those who lack food and clothing. Also, meeting a person’s practical needs is often a great gateway to sharing about the Messiah, who meets our spiritual needs. Staff member Rachel G. observes, “Sometimes people can’t listen to the Good News until their basic needs are met. Many of the people we serve have been responding more to the Lord by giving Him thanks, praying and reading the evangelistic books we provide. Months ago, they did not do this!”

Brian S., who also manages a soup kitchen and distribution center in the neighboring city of Netanya, shares one recent story from the field: “We always offer support through prayer for the people, and make it known that we would love to stand with them in their time of need. Recently, an elderly Russian Jewish lady and a couple with the wife in a wheelchair came to the soup kitchen, had a meal and received clothes. They approached us and asked for prayer for their children, who were addicted to drugs/alcohol. In the end of the conversation, they themselves realized they were hopeless and helpless and needed a Savior. All three of these beautiful people received Messiah Yeshua as Lord! Hallelujah!”

## MINISTRY TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Do you know how many Holocaust survivors are now living in Israel? The number is around 250,000, about a third of whom live well below the poverty line. Many of





these men and women who have suffered so much now consider themselves an atheist or agnostic.

Maxim K. (see interview in sidebar) ministers to these elderly Jewish people by visiting them in their homes, organizing special excursions and concerts, offering food packages and practical help, and holding celebrations of Jewish holidays—all in the name of Messiah.

Not long ago, a group of Holocaust survivors accompanied Maxim on a trip to Poland, where many had spent time in concentration camps. They traveled for twelve days together, meeting every morning and evening to worship the God of Israel and study the Scriptures. Maxim reports, “To my great joy, this trip has changed many of them. Our programs, God’s Word and the love they saw in the Polish believers who invited us made them consider God’s existence and salvation. One woman said that she had never prayed or turned to God, but now she has started to pray together with her husband and they are truly happy!”

## CARING FOR BROKEN FAMILIES

The Scriptures tell us that God is “*A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows*” (Psalm 68:5). Arik and Mona P., working in Israel, share the Lord’s heart for these people. They have a ministry to single mothers that includes Bible-based counseling, discipleship and practical help.

The despair and poverty in a modern country such as Israel can be shocking, and many of the situations these families face on a daily basis are heartbreaking. In addition to the struggle for daily necessities, some of these women and children have experienced abuse, humiliation and violence, resulting in deep-seated emotional issues. Arik and Mona write, “We want to be there for them, to listen to them and cry with them...to pray with them and see them find comfort from the Lord.”

Arik and Mona distribute food vouchers, make home visits, organize events, offer financial counseling, and run workshops with a focus on healing and lifestyle changes—

emphasizing encounters with God and biblical answers to life’s problems.

Naomi (name changed), came as a non-believer to one of the workshops, opened her heart to Yeshua, and is now attending a local congregation

and growing in her walk with the Lord. Arik and Mona have recently started a new workshop with twenty broken women, including two who are very open to the Gospel and have been in touch with believers for a while.

Arik and Mona ask, “We know we cannot do this ministry without God’s help and wisdom; please pray for us, and pray that these women would be drawn closer to the One who can heal their wounds.”

## TRUE FREEDOM IN MESSIAH

Many Jewish people from the former Soviet Union immigrated to the U.S. in search of new opportunities and a better life—but some of them, sadly, became addicted to drugs and alcohol. Klaudia Zhelezny, one of our long-time missionaries in Brooklyn and herself an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, is deeply involved in ministry to drug- and alcohol-dependent Russian Jewish people. The ministry—which includes practical aid, rehab classes and Bible study—is based in our Messianic Center in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn.

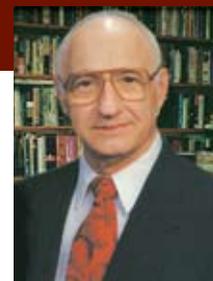
When drug- and alcohol-dependent people visit the Center for food or other material needs, Klaudia always tells them about the true freedom that can only come from our Heavenly Father and His Son Yeshua. In her ministry to those enslaved to addictions—as well as their families—Klaudia has found that many of them have soft hearts and are open to the Lord.

Klaudia writes, “God’s blessing on this outreach has been surprisingly abundant. He is opening the way to freedom to the participants through prayerful support and Bible classes, along with very practical help on how to overcome addiction. In this way, many receive the Lord.” 🌈



# SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

## THE KING'S TRILOGY OF PARABLES CONCERNING ISRAEL

### Matthew 21:19-22:14

Shortly before His death at Calvary, Jesus the Messiah castigated the unbelief of the religious rulers of Israel by teaching three parables.

To prepare His disciples for His teaching ministry through parables, we have the story of a wayside fig tree (Mt. 21:19-22). Though He expected the fig tree to provide Him and His hungry disciples with food, its branches bore only leaves, having nothing to offer its Creator—so He cursed the tree. The nation of Israel, so highly favored by God above all nations, should have excelled in fruitfulness. Israel, like the fig tree, would soon wither as a nation and be scattered among the Gentiles for many centuries (Is. 6:11-13).

#### A PARABLE OF TWO SONS—(Mt. 21:28-32)

Two sons are told to labor in their father's vineyard. The first son refused, but afterward repented and went to work. The other son promised to comply, but never showed up.

The parable compares the first son to the publicans and harlots who ultimately responded to John's baptism of repentance. The second son represents the religious leaders who ultimately rejected the

message of repentance and would not respond to John the Baptist's preaching.

Thus Jesus declared to the chief priests and elders, "*Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you*" (Mt. 21:31-32). What an endorsement of John the Baptist's ministry!

#### A PARABLE OF THE LORD AND ISRAEL, HIS VINEYARD— (Mt. 21:33-46)

The second parable concerns the Lord and Israel, His vineyard (see Is. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:6-16). The Lord had provided enough for Israel to produce good spiritual fruit. At harvest time, Israel's leaders (the tenants) refused to fulfill their agreement and to "pay the rent!" Instead, they mistreated the Master's representatives—namely God's servants, the prophets.

Finally the owner (God) sent His closest representative, His only Son. The tenants thought they could seize possession of the estate by killing the son. Jesus invited His critics to finish the story. He asked them what the landowner would do with these tenants (Mt. 21:40). The chief priests and elders incriminated themselves by their answer (Mt. 21:41).

#### A WEDDING PARABLE— (Mt. 22:1-14)

The marriage of the Lord to Israel was a familiar concept. Traditionally in those days, wedding guests received advance invitations as well as a second call at the time of the wedding feast. The Old Testament prophets invited Israel to attend, but the nation refused the invitations. Then the King bid his servants to issue a general invitation to any who would join the wedding feast (Mt. 22:9,10).

This may be viewed as an invitation to Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles (Acts 1:8). One is reminded of the future great "marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev. 19:7-9) that will include a great multitude of believers—Jews and Gentiles from every nation—who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior (Rev. 7:9,10).

The Jewish father customarily provided the guests with proper wedding garments. Similarly, God the Father will clothe all believers in Jesus the Messiah with His own righteousness (Rom. 3:25-28; Rev. 3:18). Anyone attempting to enter heaven in his own "filthy rags" (i.e. so-called "good deeds") will be cast into suffering and outer darkness (Mt. 22:11-13; Rev. 21:8). 🌈

## BIBLICAL TRAINING BEARS FRUIT

Jason B., a student at our Charles Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies, was at Starbucks a few weeks ago when an Orthodox

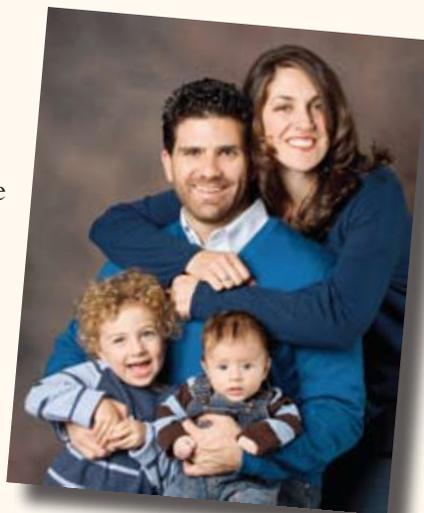
### CHARLES L. FEINBERG CENTER

FOR MESSIANIC JEWISH STUDIES

Jewish woman sitting next to him asked why he was studying Greek. Jason told her about the program and the type of work he does, and they began talking about Scripture. Jason shared several Messianic prophecies with her from Zechariah 12:10 and Isaiah 53. She was quite shocked, saying she had never seen these texts before. Jason writes, “She had some questions and objections, but the training from the Charles Feinberg Center really helped me to give her solid answers.” The woman requested more information, which Jason gladly sent. Please pray that the Lord may use this material to further draw her to Himself.

## A MEETING OF THE MOTHERS

A few weeks ago in the L.A. area, Dana N. met Sarah,\* a young Orthodox mother who was at the park with her children. She and Dana began talking and discussing their religious beliefs. Sarah, who had not heard of Messianic Jews, responded by asking, “I know Jesus was Jewish, but didn’t he become Gentile?” Dana told her that Jesus always lived a Jewish life with a strong connection to the Jewish community. Sarah was surprised, but said that she is open to talking to people who believe differently. Dana exchanged contact information with her and discussed the possibility of meeting again in the near future. Please pray that God will help Dana build a relationship with this Jewish mother who needs to know her Messiah.



*\*names have been changed*

## NEW OUTREACH IN NEW YORK CITY

Out of New York City’s Hebrew-speaking population of several hundred thousand Israelis, only a handful are believers in Jesus. To reach these people, Randall and Luda Ford have started a new Hebrew-speaking meeting at our headquarters in Manhattan. The Fords invited believing and seeking friends for a Sabbath meal, which featured music, food, Sabbath prayers and a short message—all in Hebrew! Many have been praying a long time for a regular Hebrew-speaking gathering in the New York Metro area, and the Fords look forward to continuing the work and seeing it bear fruit.

## THERE’S A HELL’S ANGEL IN THE CONGREGATION

Scott Brown in New Zealand was about to speak at a meeting when he walked Tom,\* a tattooed and pierced member of Hell’s Angels who was involved in a movement to eradicate Israel. As Scott began to speak, Tom shifted violently in his chair, but managed to maintain a semblance of composure as Scott recounted the power of the Gospel to transform one’s life and awaken an understanding of God’s love and purpose for the people of Israel. Afterward, Scott immediately approached Tom; they spoke for an hour, and a new friendship was formed. For lack of knowing Jews personally, many New Zealanders are easily influenced by anti-Jewish sentiments. God has given Scott the privilege of addressing thousands of people, both publicly and privately, with the message of Israel’s critical role in the redemptive theater, and our corresponding debt of love. Pray for Tom as he considers these new ideas, that he would be willing to open up to the Lord.



## ANTI-MISSIONARY ADS BACKFIRE

The ministry of Vladimir and Inna Pikman in Germany is very visible, making major Jewish publications in that country write to warn Jewish people about them. However, these articles bring the opposite result—God leads people to the Pikmans by using these “warnings.” One Jewish lady, Anna,\* found the congregation this way and became a believer—along with about fifteen of her relatives and friends!



If you are between 18 and 35, consider hiking through **India** or **New Zealand** this winter to reach the thousands of young Israelis who travel there to find answers to life. Or discover the wonders of Israel this summer on **Outreach Israel** or **eXperience Israel** as you work to make a difference in the lives of Israelis!



For more info, check out [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com) under the tab "Get Involved" or contact [opportunities@chosenpeople.com](mailto:opportunities@chosenpeople.com)



## REACH SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY ISRAELIS!

## Celebrate Hanukkah with Messianic Resources

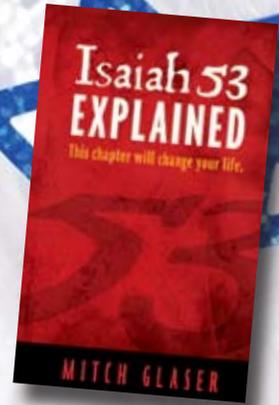


The flickering lights of the nine-branched Hanukkah menorah remind us that God is mighty to save and that Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah is truly the Light of the World. Hanukkah is a time of celebration! Now you can own this beautifully-crafted pewter plated Hanukkah menorah from Israel and place it in your home as a statement of your faith and hope in the Messiah of Israel and of all the nations of the world. 8½" tall.

[5023] • Hanukkah menorah • \$19.95<sup>us</sup>

Do you have Jewish friends who have questions about the meaning of life and spirituality? Maybe it is time for them to go right to the source and rethink their relationship with the Creator. *Isaiah 53 Explained* will help kick-start your friends' personal pilgrimage and introduce them to a chapter in the Scriptures that has the potential to revolutionize their lives!

[3135] • *Isaiah 53 Explained* • \$12.95<sup>us</sup>



For phone orders in the U.S. call 1-800-333-4936. Or for even more resources, visit us online at [www.chosenpeople.com/store](http://www.chosenpeople.com/store).

Are you aware of the substantial **benefits** available when you make a **year-end gift**?

Among them are:

- Potential tax savings from charitable deductions
- Increased income from non-productive or low-producing property
- Avoidance of capital gains tax on highly appreciated property
- Income tax deductions this year for gifts actually made in future years
- Personal satisfaction in knowing that you are involved in a worthwhile mission

Gifts don't need to be limited to cash. Many of our friends give gifts of property such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, and insurance policies.

We would like to help you with your year-end planning. Our staff has prepared a special planning report, "How to Maximize Your Year-End Giving," to provide more detailed information on each of these planning concepts and to give you ideas of ways you can maximize your giving to God.

Please write today for your free, no-obligation copy of this report. Call 1-888-293-7482 (or in Canada 1-888-442-5535) or email us at [plannedgiving@chosenpeople.com](mailto:plannedgiving@chosenpeople.com).



### The Chosen People Newsletter

Chosen People Ministries has been taking the love of the Messiah to Jewish people worldwide since 1894.

The Chosen People newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. For more information or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to: Chosen People Ministries, International Headquarters, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. In Canada, write to: Box 897 Station B, North York, ON, M2K 2R1. In Great Britain, write to: P.O. Box 47871, Golders Green, London, NW11 1AL ([www.chosenpeople.org.uk](http://www.chosenpeople.org.uk)). In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah Australia, P.O. Box 304, Caulfield, South Vic 3162, Australia ([www.celebratemessiah.com.au](http://www.celebratemessiah.com.au)). Editor: Zhava Glaser; Staff Writer: Alan Shore; Designer: Lois Gable.

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will. "I will bless those who bless you." (Genesis 12:3)



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