



## *Celebrate* MESSIAH

Volume 16 Issue 1, February 2010  
In Partnership with  
Chosen People Global Ministries

**PURIM EDITION**

# HE WATCHES OVER ISRAEL

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

May He Who Makes Peace; Outreach to Israelis in India and New Zealand; Muchan Report; Invite to Passover



# May He Who Makes Peace Above

Dear friend in the Messiah,

Shalom from our Celebrate Messiah base in Melbourne. I hope your heart will be warmed by the wonderful stories in this newsletter about the Lord's work among Israelis in India and New Zealand and the report about what God did in the hearts and lives and young messianic believers in Berlin at the Muchan conference! Also, please take note that you are invited to our annual Celebrate Messiah Passover Banquets that we will be hosting in Melbourne and Sydney this year. Also, contact our branches in Australia and New Zealand to find out where our representatives will be speaking during the Passover Season.

Over the years I have seen many Jewish people open their minds and hearts to Yeshua during times of transition. We have witnessed this on a grand scale over the last few years, as Russian Jews have come to the Lord by the thousands.

These seasons of change are great opportunities for us to share the message of His peace with those whose lives are unsettled and sometimes in turmoil!

The peace we experience when Yeshua (Jesus) comes into our lives is a foretaste of the ultimate peace He will bring at His second coming.

## Purim and Peace

We are now entering a season of the year when Jewish people think more about that future day of Messianic peace—and celebrate the Feast of Purim. This festival commemorates our deliverance from the hand of evil Haman, the Persian official who attempted to destroy the Jewish people but was thwarted by Esther and Mordechai. Purim will be celebrated on the 28th of February this year.

Purim is all about peace and the faithfulness of God, although His name is not mentioned even once in the entire Book of Esther. The story reminds me of one of my favorite synagogue prayers, which is also sung as a folk song and includes the refrain, "May He who makes peace above make peace for us and for all Israel . . . Amen!"

Exhibit in The Israel Museum (Jerusalem) of a modern Jewish bride from Yemen adorned in traditional costume (left). It is customary to wear costumes and give gifts at Purim.

In some ways, this reminds me of the Lord's prayer, asking God that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Peace is our ultimate destiny! Jewish people are waiting for the day when the One who makes peace above will make peace on earth and with His people Israel. Jewish tradition expects that one day the curse will be lifted, the wolf will lie down with the lamb and our weapons of war will be transformed into farming tools.

I believe the Lord is coming soon—just look at the lineup of enemies that the Jewish people have today in the Middle East! We see the Scriptures unfold before our very eyes—but as believers, we also know how it is going to end. What a glorious day it will be when the Lord reigns as King in Jerusalem!

Dear friend, knowing that the future is in His powerful hands keeps me going and encourages me to witness for Him.

Although terribly threatened—especially by a potentially nuclear Iran—we know that the Jewish people will not be destroyed, because God will deliver His people. I don't know if He will raise up a new Esther or Mordechai, but I do know that the promises He made through the prophets—especially this one through Jeremiah—cannot fail.

*"Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name): 'If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever'"* (Jeremiah 31:35-36).

Nothing will keep God from fulfilling His promises to the Jewish people and to our world. One day, Israel will be at peace with her neighbors because the Prince of Peace will reign on His throne.

That day cannot come soon enough for me! But until He comes and His promises to reign on earth

are fulfilled, we are His emissaries, bringing His message of peace to the Jew first and also to the Gentile (Romans 1:16).

## **Celebrate Messiah in Australia, New Zealand, Russia and Israel**

The ministry of Celebrate Messiah last year ended on a very high note after hosting several very successful conferences and special events. We praise God for what he has done in the lives of so many Jewish and Gentile believers in Messiah through these ministry activities.

Simcha conferences were held in Christ Church, Auckland and in Melbourne last year in the month of November. Participants were treated to wonderful worship music lead by international guest artist Ted Pearce as well as heartfelt and deeply impacting messages from our minister-at-large in New Zealand Scott Brown. These conferences are so important as we foster deeper fellowship and greater collaboration in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the Gospel both locally and around the world. We also value the opportunity to bring in good Bible teaching that encourages and edifies messianic Jewish expression and identity. The Simcha conferences last year accomplished these goals successfully and helped pave the way for the growth of Jewish outreach in both countries in this coming year ahead.

In the midst of all these activities at the end of the year we had a *Simcha* (joyous occasion) of another kind, the marriage of Abigail Buirski to Asher Hirsch. This was a very special event that was such a joy to all those who attended and a blessing to the newlyweds and also to the Lord. The year ended with a conference for young messianic believers in Berlin (please read the report on *Muchan*).

## **Mission in 2010**

Ministry opportunities are growing in Melbourne and in Sydney where developments are under way that will increase our

mission activity amongst Jewish people living in these two great Australian cities. Your prayers are much appreciated for God's hand of blessing on these evangelistic endeavours.

The work of reaching Jewish people in the Far East of Russia and Siberia has grown exponentially way beyond our expectations. It was such a joy to see young people from these regions come to the Muchan conference in Berlin and be encouraged in their efforts to reach Jewish people in their towns as far away and isolated as Yuzhno Sakhalin, Irkutsk and Novosibirsk. Through our evangelistic work in these areas Celebrate Messiah has planted about 8 outreaches/fellowships including the work in Birobidzhan—the Jewish Autonomous Region. Please pray for this growing and dynamic work.

Please also continue to pray for J and R who are our outreach workers in Israel. They very involved in ministry in the Netanya region and are working hard in learning Hebrew on a daily basis. They are also expecting a baby later this year so please pray for wisdom for them as they decide where their baby will be born—Israel or Australia.

Thanks for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your love for the Jewish people and for Celebrate Messiah—your partnership means so much to me and to our staff. We could not do this work without you! I hope that you will read through the Book of Esther during the next couple of weeks and be reminded that the Lord who preserves Israel is the same Lord who preserves each one of us in the Body of Messiah.

Happy Purim!  
Your brother,



Lawrence Hirsch



Executive Director of  
Celebrate Messiah Australia



# Opening Home and Heart to Israeli Backpackers

New Age festivals like Shantipi (center) are popular with Israeli young people, many of whom travel to India (right) and New Zealand seeking spiritual enlightenment.



*After serving as founder and congregational leader of a Messianic congregation for almost twenty years, Scott Brown and his wife have embarked on a new adventure. In 2008, they relocated to New Zealand, where they reach out to international backpackers, particularly Israelis, who often travel abroad after their military service.*

The opportunities for evangelism in New Zealand among Israeli travellers are boundless. Thousands of Israelis visit every year in search of new experiences amid nature's beauty. Many are also seeking spiritual truth while they are away from their everyday lives and the stresses of life in Israel. One aspect of our ministry is to hold weekly evangelistic outreaches in regions that are favoured by Israelis for hiking and extreme sports. In addition, we are privileged to train local Christians in Jewish evangelism and the Jewish roots of Christianity, often in partnership with existing ministries.

New Zealand has several networks of Christian households with doors (and hearts) wide open to Israeli travellers. How amazing that this faraway nation of shepherds is making such a powerful impact on "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" through the simple medium of hospitality! But these dedicated

hosts need help. We often hear dedicated and compassionate believers say, "We love the young Israelis who stay in our home . . . we just wish we were better able to reach out to them with the Gospel."

I have heard this longing expressed so many times by so many of these dear hosts that I began scheduling free seminars for intensive training in Jewish evangelism. Our first seminar was packed with enthusiastic hosts, some of whom have hosted thousands of Israeli visitors in recent years. These days of training, prayer and fellowship are a great encouragement for those in attendance, making them more confident and competent in their loving outreach to Israeli guests.

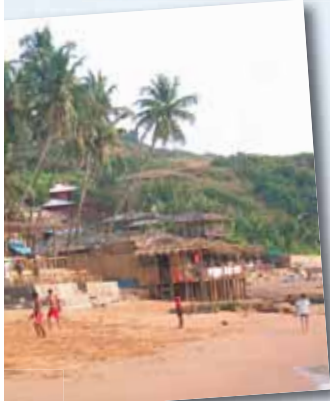
Another form of outreach to backpackers who are both spiritually and physically hungry is through "Gospel Sizzlers"—barbecue outreaches for Israeli and other young international tourists hiking through New Zealand. These events have proven so successful that we plan to hold them in other parts of the south island where backpackers abound. In addition, our first mission team from Chosen People Ministries USA arrived in the first week of

February for a three-week evangelistic trip.

The Lord has also provided some further opportunities for ministry to an even wider audience. Last April, a Christian radio station invited me to offer weekly "Jewish Perspectives"—brief teachings about the Scriptures from a Messianic point of view. None of us really knew how these would be received, but praise God, the live weekly interviews have become so popular that they are repeating the broadcasts during prime time! Among other blessings, this exposure launched a relationship with an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who recently moved to New Zealand from Brooklyn, New York. We discuss the Jewish roots of Christianity,



# Searching for Peace & Spirituality



Each year, 40,000 Israelis travel to India in search of spirituality, as well as fun and new experiences. Why do they go? After their mandatory military service, these young Israelis take a year off and travel in order to unwind from the stress of life in Israel. Those who go to India are generally seeking peace and spiritual enlightenment. They are particularly drawn to Goa, a beach region with a culture that is much like

Woodstock in the 1960s. Hippies, poetry readings, and music in the moonlight are all a part of the scene. Drugs are available at every turn, and spiritual discussions are a common occurrence, though such discussions tend to veer toward a vague, New Age kind of spirituality.

I am struck by the fact that in Goa we find the children of Israel in a foreign land, seeking a foreign god. That is why we have established short-term missions outreaches to India and New Zealand, another popular destination for backpacking Israelis. Our desire is to share the God of Israel with the people of Israel. Last month, a team of about a half-dozen of us traveled to India to share the Gospel.

What did we do there? We came alongside these seeking souls wherever we could, joining them in music, poetry readings and discussions. By day, we shared in café settings. By night, we sat around a table, opened a Bible and responded as people gathered around to talk and ask questions. It was an amazing experience to share with Israelis in a unique environment where hearts and minds were open, and long spiritual discussions were a normal part of the day.

This month, we are in New Zealand, working with the ministry to backpackers that Scott has established. Pray that the Lord would reach many Israeli young people during these exciting short-term outreaches!

– By Robynne B.

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and he is asking questions about Messianic Jewish faith and practice.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to make our ministry in New Zealand an instrument of His redeeming grace.

– By Scott Brown

PS. **Special News.** The Browns have recently been granted their permanent residency in New Zealand which paves the way for their long term ministry goals and residency in New Zealand. Hallelujah!

## Why I Went to India

Before I became a believer, I was into the underground band scene with roots in Eastern religion. The Israelis who travel to India are seeking the same kind of spiritual experience. As the Lord brought me out of Eastern spirituality, He freed me from all kinds of bondage and brought a work of deliverance into my life. I went to India to build relationships with both Israelis and Indian nationals, encouraging them to apply the truths of the Bible to their lives and turn to the Lord. I wanted to be a part of that redemptive work.

– By Joshua M.

*Joshua M. was first introduced to Chosen People Ministries about ten years ago and presently attends the congregation at the Mission's Messianic Center in Boynton Beach, Florida, where he helps lead the worship services.*





# Muchan Conference Berlin, Germany

December 27th 2009 – January 3rd 2010



An extraordinary conference was held in Berlin (what was once the seat of the Nazi regime) for a group of 110 young Messianic Jewish and Gentile believers representing ten different countries. The name of this historic conference was *Muchan* (the Hebrew word for 'Ready', see [www.muchanconference.com](http://www.muchanconference.com)) and the attendees enjoyed a packed program of teaching, worship, fellowship and an opportunity to delve into our shared history as Messianic Jews—many of our family lines being traced back to the heart of Europe.

The conference was sponsored by Chosen People Ministries and a group of ten young messianic believers from Australia attended, including Lawrence and Louise Hirsch who had dreamed of bringing young messianic believers from around the world together when they visited Auschwitz three years ago.

Organized by representatives from all over the globe: Melbourne, Moscow, Berlin, Jerusalem and New York City via skype and email! A youth hostel was chosen in the heart of Berlin and young adults began flying in from the Ukraine, Australia, Canada, England, Israel, Poland, America, Russia and even as far away as Siberia and the Far East of Russia. All bringing their stories of Jewish life from their cities and encouraging reports of growing messianic communities! The dream had become reality.

Near the beginning of the conference, we boarded chartered buses for a long, solemn journey to visit the death camps of Auschwitz. In the freezing cold and snow of Krakow, Poland, we stayed at a hostel (not far from the death camps), spending time in prayer and preparation for our next day's visit to the very place we have studied, heard

horror stories and seen in the movies. Auschwitz/Birkenau. While there we received a lesson from Dr. Michael Rydelnik giving us an overview of the Holocaust and dealing with issues like "The Problem of Evil" and "Where was God during the Holocaust?"

In the spirit of humility and of reconciliation, we were also joined by a group of wonderful Germans (both Jewish and Gentile) who were invaluable in assisting those who had not dealt with the emotions of the Holocaust or the pain that it brought up. Much prayer and discussion was held over these issues. We especially want to thank all those from Yad bYad, this ministry of reconciliation and community between Israeli and German young believers.

On the morning of our visit to Auschwitz, with more than a foot of snow (and freezing temperatures), it looked like the sky and the ground



had become one in the same shadowy grey color cast that enveloped everything, everywhere. Many of us wondered what kind of emotions we would feel entering the gates of the camps—Tears? Anger? Numbness? Disbelief? I felt guilty for being all bundled up, in hat and boots (when the prisoners had only sparse and thin clothing even in these same harsh conditions). We walked past windowed show cases in the camp buildings of collected eye glasses, prosthetic limbs, tons of hair, clothing and suitcases—I saw my family name “Goldstein” daubed on the side of one of those suitcases, it was all so real.

Here are just a few participants’ thoughts on their time in Poland:

*The Auschwitz prayer session was the most meaningful thing to me. It was a chance to share stories, pain, healing, love, and the forgiveness of Messiah. Yeshua is the only one who can help us make any sense of the Holocaust.*

*The single moment of the conference that I’ll remember forever is when the shofar was blown in Auschwitz-Birkenau. I had been to Auschwitz before, but this time was special because I was with other Jewish believers in Messiah. Blowing the shofar at that site was a confirmation of God’s faithfulness to His people, and it was so meaningful to be there as Jewish and Gentile followers of Yeshua.*

*I used to hate the German people, but God has been working in my heart. Walking through Auschwitz with my wife, whose whole family was in the Holocaust, was an amazing experience. Today I can say I am completely healed of my former hatred.*

The depth of healing experienced by individuals and by our community as a whole is hard to describe. Apart from Yeshua, this is impossible. On the ride back from Poland, there was a dramatic shift—we move from being a conference to being one big family . . . a community. Not only did we make friends with people from around the world, but it was a huge blessing to be so encouraged and strengthened, being in one place and in one Spirit

with like-minded people, both Messianic Jews and Gentiles!

The rest of the week was spent exploring topics as we gathered to remember the past, celebrate our community and to get ready (to be *Muchan*) for the future leadership of the Messianic movement worldwide. Our speakers were Larry Feldman of *Shuvah Israel*, Irvine, California, Lawrence Hirsch of *Celebrate Messiah*, Melbourne, Australia and Vladimir Pikman of *Beit Sar Shalom*, Berlin, Germany. The *Muchan* Conference was not simply meant to be another Holocaust Reconciliation conference but one to equip and ready young people from around the world. This was done through round-table discussions in main sessions as well as in time off and in many a late night! Emotions from the depths of grief were tempered with celebrations and the highest of joy, expressed during the conference through dance, song (led by the talents of Ted Pearce) and much laughter.

It was amazing to sense community and love grow in a large group of 110 people! A highlight for many was a Klezmer band of participants who had just met on the conference - bringing their violins, clarinets, drums and guitars to sing traditional Hebrew/Yiddish songs while circle upon spinning circle of dancers danced the *hora* and other Israeli/Jewish folk dances led by Louise Hirsch!

Here are some comments from various participants:

*This conference was beyond amazing! The most meaningful thing to me was fellowship and WORSHIPING in a Jewish way with a young generation of believers that really have genuine hearts for the God of Israel.*

*The speakers were great. I enjoyed the topics and I liked that each speaker had two sessions: one theological and one practical. It was a great balance and very biblical. I also loved the fact that the focus was to help us discuss these things for ourselves.*

*For me, the most meaningful part of Muchan was walking through the streets of Berlin, being with a global Messianic youth community, and walking on the soil of the Holocaust—because it built*

*character, love, and hope in work with both Jews and Gentiles. We experienced healing and reconciliation.*

Chosen People hopes to do another *Muchan* conference in a couple of years time. We are committed to the investment and building up of this next generation. Lawrence Hirsch, the conference director says “It was so awesome to see this dream become a reality and to journey with these wonderful young messianic believers from around the world exploring issues relating to our past, our Jewish identity and asking God how we can serve him now and into the future in anticipation of the Messiah’s return. I am absolutely thrilled at the caliber of the next generation of messianic believers that we met. The more we can empower and encourage them, the better.”

This conference taught us that we have such a faithful God and His people will not be destroyed. We see that there is a mighty generation of young people READY/MUCHAN to serve and follow Him in every corner of the world. Be encouraged, be steadfast and be ready!

One final comment from a participant:

*“ . . . Standing on the stairs of the Reichstag as a group, as the Remnant of Israel, singing Am Yisrael Chai . . . a living declaration of King Messiah’s victory over Hitler’s Final Solution is emblazoned in my mind. Singing quiet praise to Yeshua on the platform of Birkenau, saying Kaddish at Auschwitz at the crematorium, proclaiming the goodness of God in the face of evil is a living letter of Jeremiah 31:35-37 and Psalm 83. The spiritual dynamic of recognizing God’s faithfulness to the Jewish people, standing at the ash field of the Shoah touched my heart beyond all expectation. . . . .”*





# Bringing to Life the Story of God's Love at Passover

The **Messianic Passover Haggadah** is a must for those who want a deeper understanding of this feast. This Haggadah has been prepared to show God's redemptive grace in the Passover through the death, burial and resurrection of His Messiah, Jesus, and to symbolize God's spiritual redemption of His people.

**Messianic Passover Haggadah** ..... \$15.00

The **Matzah Tash** (unity) is a pouch with three compartments for matza—a vivid illustration of the unity of God's nature. This white Matzah Tash is beautifully embroidered in Israel.

**Matzah Tash** ..... \$49.50

This silver **Seder Plate** is made in Israel and beautifully displays the seder elements.

**Seder Plate** ..... \$64.95

Each of the four times the **Kiddush Cup** is filled during the Passover meal, the story of God's redeeming work among His people is illustrated. This silver cup is about three inches tall.

**Kiddush Cup** ..... \$49.95

**Complete Set: Haggadah, Matzah Tash, Seder Plate & Kiddush Cup** ..... \$150.00



Come and join us for an exquisite night of celebrating a messianic Jewish Passover Seder through reading the Haggadah, singing and dancing accompanied by a professionally catered three course meal. This night is different from all other nights of the year. Hosted by Lawrence and Louise Hirsch. Please do not delay in placing your booking (see Response Form enclosed).

**SYDNEY VENUE:** The Chatswood Club, 11 Help St, Chatswood on Saturday 27th of March 2010 at 6 pm. Cost \$50 per head, children \$20.

**MELBOURNE:** Matrioshka Restaurant, 1046 Dandenong Road, Carnegie (Melway 68 H3) on Sunday 28th of March at 6 pm. Cost \$55 per head, children \$25.

For phone bookings call 03 9563 5544 using our eftpos facilities or alternatively fill out the Response Form enclosed and post or fax to our office.

Bookings must be received no later than Friday 19th of March 2010.

SIMCHA CONFERENCES IN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA  
FOR MORE INFO – [WWW.CELEBRATEMESSIAH.COM.AU/](http://WWW.CELEBRATEMESSIAH.COM.AU/)  
EVENTS OR CALL OUR OFFICE ON +61 3 9563 5544

## I Felt a Sense of Responsibility...

By Doug McEvoy



When we heard about Jewish missions in 2001, it was new to us. We were hearing Paul's proclamation of the Gospel "to the Jew first" in Romans 1:16 for the first time. It gave us non-Jewish followers of the Lord a sense of responsibility to the Jewish people I had never thought about. This grew, and over the years it formed in me the calling to encourage others to support Jewish missions financially, which is something we certainly do ourselves. Looking ahead, we want to leave bequests to loved ones, but we also want to make a generous provision for Celebrate Messiah. We encourage others to do the same.

Please write today to: [enquiries@celebratemessiah.com.au](mailto:enquiries@celebratemessiah.com.au) or contact us at +61 3 9563 5544.

# Simcha 2010

Simcha NZ Conferences  
Auckland / 13 November 2010  
Christ Church / 20 November 2010  
Simcha Oz Conference  
Melbourne / 26-28 November 2010



**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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