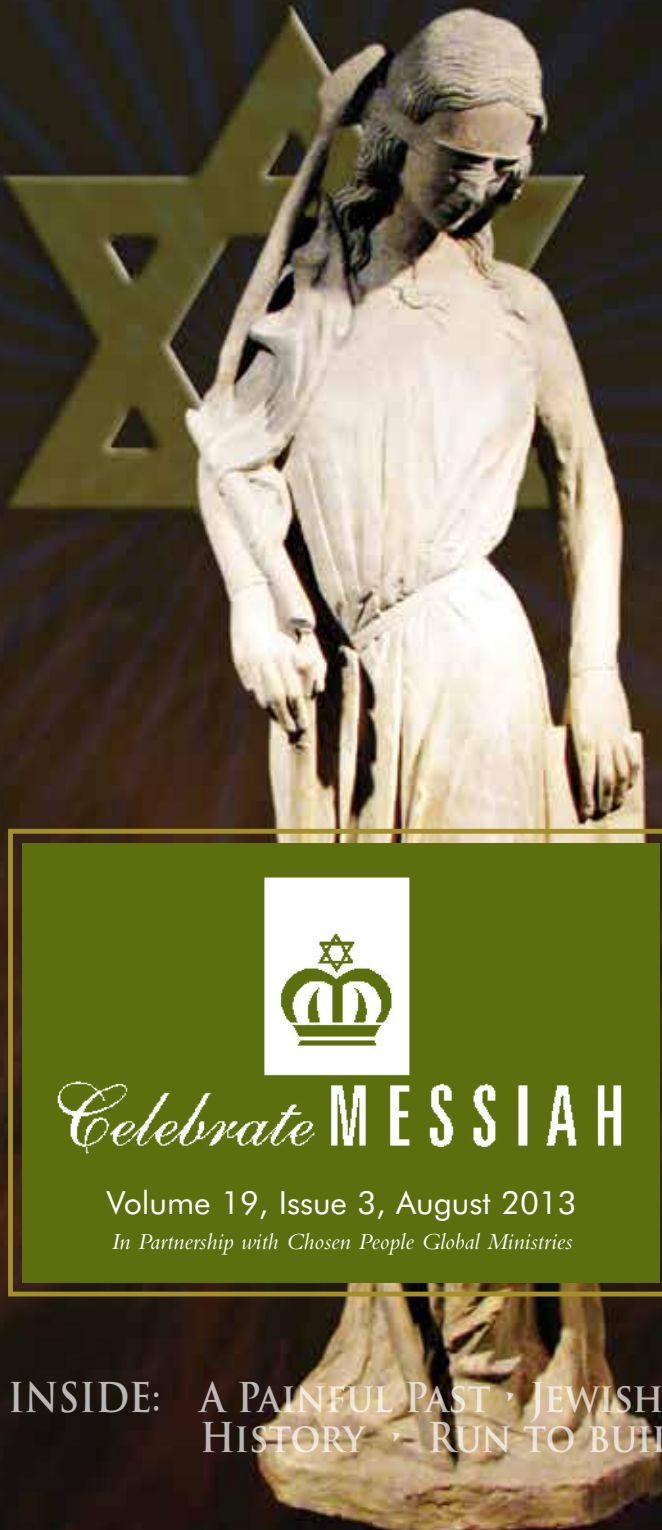


ANTISEMITISM EXPOSED

STATUES IN FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL IN STRASBOURG, FRANCE DEPICTING THE TRIUMPH OF THE CHURCH AND THE BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL.



Celebrate MESSIAH

Volume 19, Issue 3, August 2013

In Partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries

INSIDE: A PAINFUL PAST • JEWISH EVANGELISM IN LIGHT OF A NEGATIVE HISTORY • RUN TO BUILD NEW MESSIANIC CENTRE

A Painful Past

The well-known statues of Ecclesia and Synagoga, carved in about 1230 and situated at Strasbourg's Cathedral of Notre Dame, illustrate the Church's widespread teaching of contempt for the Jewish faith. Christianity, symbolized by Ecclesia, stands in triumphant contrast to Synagoga, who stands for a defeated and humiliated Judaism.

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org

Dear friend,

Shalom. I hope you learn a lot from this volume of the Celebrate Messiah newsletter. The topic of modern day antisemitism is critical—particularly with regard to its impact upon Jewish evangelism. This is not an easy subject, and it is one we would probably prefer to avoid, but to do so would be at our own peril. I believe that honestly addressing this issue will ultimately help the cause of Jewish evangelism.

Our Experience at Auschwitz

My desire to address this difficult topic has grown steadily ever since my wife Louise and I first visited Auschwitz in Poland several years ago. Our second visit was in 2010 when we led a group of young messianic Jewish believers through Auschwitz as part of the Muchan conference experience.

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest and most streamlined mass-killing death camps ever created by the Nazis. Over 1.3 million people were killed in Auschwitz, most of them were Jewish. As you can imagine, visiting this site is an incredibly sad and moving experience. How could man devise such systematic and efficient ways of killing other humans all because they were either Jewish or perhaps from some of the other minority groups that the Nazis wanted to exterminate? It is truly beyond comprehension!

As you might know, more Jewish people were killed in Poland during the Holocaust than in any other country in Europe. Before the war, there were 3.5 million Jewish people living in Poland—and now

there are less than 20,000! You might not know, however, that among the millions of Polish Jews who died in the Holocaust were thousands of Jewish believers in Yeshua.

Louise and I have been so moved to learn more about these heroes of the Holocaust who died in Auschwitz, Treblinka and also in the Warsaw Ghetto. One of our beloved Board members of Celebrate Messiah Australia is Joan Kirsten who is a child survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, who came to faith in Yeshua later in her life while living in Melbourne.

It also warms my heart to know and meet the wonderful people who work with Chosen People Ministries in Poland. Poland is one of the sixteen countries that Chosen People Global Ministries work in. They are not only doing their best to reach out to the Jewish community resident in Poland, but they also regularly host groups from Israel, including Holocaust survivors, soldiers and children, showing them love in Yeshua's name.

The leader of the ministry in Poland is Kazimierz Barczuk who is a third generation Jewish believer in Yeshua. His grandmother Hajka had come from an orthodox Jewish background and was the first member of his family to become a believer in Yeshua. When the war broke out, the family survived by being hidden by different Christian families.

The Impact of Historic "Christian" Antisemitism

Sadly, the experience of the Barczuk family was certainly not the norm. The Jews of Poland experienced extremely harsh treatment at the hand of the Poles, as did Jews in other European countries as well.

There is no denying that there is a very powerful antisemitic element that runs deep within the culture of



Notable Instances of Australian Antisemitism

1832

Antisemitic stereotypes emerge in Australia after notorious London fence Ikey Solomon is transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Solomon is believed to have been the real life prototype of Dickens' Fagin in *Oliver Twist*. In 1832, Van Diemen's Land newspapers deplore the arrival of 75 Jews (in reality seven, four of whom were children) reporting, 'an entire colony... to replace their brethren of the money-lending tribe about to return to England', and referring to them as vultures.

1891

A false report that a Franco-German Jewish philanthropist was planning to send 500,000 Russian Jews to form an agricultural settlement in Australia in 1891 caused general panic based on fears that the jobs and living standards of Victorian workers would be jeopardized.

1918

Prolific 19th Century writer Marcus Clarke made numerous venomous attacks on Jewry. In one short story describing that, '... All Jewry... is one great firm — a huge bank — which keeps the table against all Christendom'. Celebrated writer Henry Lawson regarded international Jewry as a sinister economic, and therefore, political force, and worshippers of the 'God of Greed'. Another notable antisemite was Norman Lindsay who alleged the inferiority of Jewish culture and drew antisemitic cartoons. In fact his famous book *The Magic Pudding* contains an antisemitic reference: one character calls another an 'unmitigated Jew'.

European Catholicism and Orthodoxy. The Catholic Church has recognized this, which was one of the reasons for Vatican II and the various statements of repentance in recent years disavowing historic antisemitism. The ways in which more traditional Protestants treated the Jewish people in Eastern and Western Europe were not much better, as they inherited most of the same views as the Catholics and Orthodox.

These attitudes towards the Jewish people have profoundly impacted Jewish evangelism in both the past and present! This is true not only in Eastern Europe, but all across the globe as the Jewish response to what can be termed “Christian antisemitism” has shaped Jewish attitudes towards the Gospel.

How can almost two thousand years of ill treatment of the Jewish people by “Christians” be counteracted for the sake of the Gospel? Is it possible for Jewish people to believe in Jesus when it seems that Christianity has treated the Jewish people so harshly?

I know there is hope, because I am Jewish and I believe in Yeshua! Let me offer a few suggestions on how true followers of Jesus can overcome the dark history of “Christian” antisemitism and reach Jewish people with the message of God’s love through the Messiah Yeshua.

Keep the Message Personal

Make sure your Jewish friend knows that you do not represent a religion, but rather a person – a Jewish person – Jesus the Messiah.

Additionally, try to communicate that following Jesus is not something you are born into, but rather a matter of personal choice – which you had to make as well. Make sure your Jewish friend knows the difference between a real born-again believer and the types of “Christians” who persecuted Jewish people. Sharing your personal testimony will be helpful.

Extend Love and Patience

The dark historical clouds that shroud the light of the Gospel from Jewish eyes can be dispelled by your love. Find ways to prove history wrong and to demonstrate that

true believers in Jesus love the Jewish people. Show kindness and concern for your Jewish friends. Respect them when they explain why they cannot believe in Yeshua and meet their objections with patience and understanding. Their willingness to consider the claims of Yeshua may not happen quickly; time and many positive experiences may be needed to change their attitudes towards the Gospel message.

Be Sensitive to Jewish Life and Concerns

Since your Jewish friend may not expect you to understand the Jewish faith, take the opportunity to astound them with your knowledge of the Old Testament and of issues that concern the Jewish people. Express a love for Israel, send cards on the Jewish holidays, and if antisemitism erupts in one way or another in the world or in your community, tell your Jewish friend that you want to stand with them against this evil.

Do not allow this overwhelmingly negative history to keep you from sharing the Good News with your Jewish friend.

Pray

Most importantly, remember to pray that your Jewish friend will be able to overcome this obstacle through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. After all, God loves your Jewish friend even more than you do! And touching the heart of your Jewish loved one is His work, not ours... so prayer is the key to Jewish evangelism. As the Apostle Paul writes,

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation (Romans 10:1).

Your brother – praying for your loving witness to my people!



Lawrence



Executive Director of Celebrate Messiah Australia

1938

The Australian delegate to the Evian conference, T. W. White, which in 1938 convened to discuss the issue of increasing numbers of Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution, said, "... as we have no real racial problem, we are not desirous of importing one by encouraging any scheme of large-scale foreign migration."

Despite eventually agreeing to admit 15,000 German refugees, of whom around 5000 were Jewish, he said, "... the Jews who are coming here will be of no help to a producing country like Australia."

1987

The League of Rights has been the longest-lasting and most pervasive source of antisemitic hatred and propaganda in Australia's history. In 1987 the League sponsored the visit to Australia of David Irving, the controversial British historian whose most notorious claim was that Hitler knew nothing of the Holocaust, and that Winston Churchill almost single-handedly destroyed the British Empire.

2012

For the year ending September 30, 2012, 543 incidents of racist violence against Jewish Australians were documented by Jewish organisations in Australia. These incidents included physical assaults, vandalism and harassment. This was a five percent increase over the previous 12 month period, and 42% above the average of the 22 years previously for which a national database has been maintained.

Source: H. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia - A Thematic History*, Vol. 1, 1788-1945, Sydney, William Heinemann Australia, 1991.

Jewish Evangelism in Light of

The primary reason Jewish people today will not easily consider the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah is because of the historically negative relationship Jewish people have had with Christianity. Growing up in a Jewish home, I was sure of two things: that Christians did not like Jews, and Jesus was not the Messiah...and I knew that the two were intertwined.

Why? For many reasons!

The History of Antisemitism and Christianity

The seeds of antisemitism were sown by the antagonism of early Christian leaders toward Jews and the Jewish religion. A famous example is John “Chrysostom” (Golden-Mouth), Archbishop of Constantinople (349–ca. 407), whose stirring sermons moved many listeners. But when he turned to Jews and Judaism, his mouth was anything but golden.

He vented his ire against members of his own flock, whom he accused of “Judaizing” because they were visiting synagogues and some were trying to keep the Jewish feasts. Underlying his pastoral concerns was a deep disdain for the Jewish people. He wrote,

Do you not see that you are condemned by the testimony of what Christ and the prophets predicted and which the facts have proved? But why should this surprise me? That is the kind of people you are. From the beginning you have been shameless and obstinate, ready to fight at all times against obvious facts. (Homily V, XII, 1)

This is one example of antisemitism on the part of a “Church Father”— and there is much more! From Origen to Augustine to Luther and Calvin, harsh and negative rhetoric was often used against the Jewish people by Christian leaders. This attitude towards the chosen people reached a high point in Luther’s treatise entitled, *The Jews and Their Lies*, where he called for the burning of Jewish religious texts and the dismantling of synagogues. In fact, in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler asserted that he was merely continuing what Luther started!

There is no doubt that anti-Jewish teaching by church leaders – both Catholic and Protestant – contributed greatly to the Crusades, pogroms and finally to the Holocaust.

This intermingling of the Church’s anti-Jewish teaching and the resultant antisemitism it fostered is an almost insurmountable obstacle to Jewish evangelism by Christians today. But this dark cloud can be pierced!

I know this is true because the Lord reached me through faithful and loving Gentile Christians who showed me the difference between what I was raised to believe and what is true of believers who know the truth and have been transformed by the Gospel. As Paul wrote,

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. (Romans 11:11)

We have the opportunity today to show our Jewish friends and neighbors that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah for all – and that His true followers love the Jewish people.

The “Oldest Hatred” Goes Global!

For as long as the Jewish people have existed, their history has been punctuated by antisemitism, the world’s “oldest hatred.” It comes in different forms: from academic boycotts to cemetery desecration to physical violence, not to mention Holocaust denial and even murder.

Based on the latest statistics, antisemitism is at the highest level since the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism started to keep records twenty years ago. Of course, everybody remembers the Toulouse, France massacre of last March that claimed the lives of a rabbi, three students and three soldiers. There are parts of France where Jews do not dare to go out wearing a yarmulke or any visible Jewish symbol.

Antisemitism is also growing in Spain, the United Kingdom, Poland, Greece and Hungary. We have even started to see the



Words More Than Deeds

Universities all over America are promoting yearly anti-Israel conferences under the banner of “Israeli Apartheid Week.” Other organizations prefer to support the BDS movement (Boycott Divestment and Sanctions) against Israel.



France had more than 370 incidents of antisemitism just in the last year.

a Negative History

rebirth of political antisemitism with Neo-Nazi parties in Greece and Hungary. Europe is rapidly losing its Jewish communities who, for safety reasons, are immigrating to Canada, the United States and, of course, Israel.

Antisemitism in the "Golden Land"

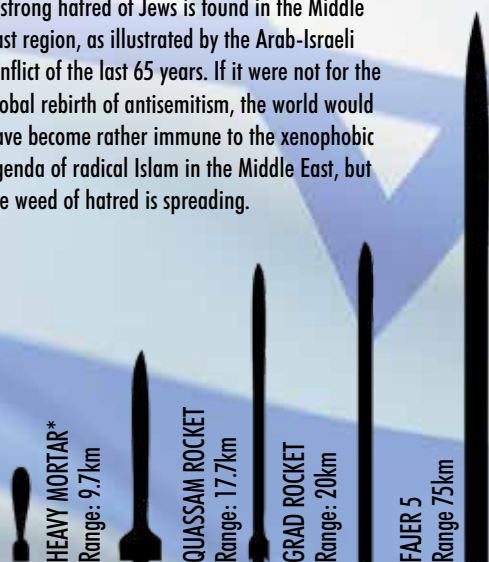
From the late 19th into the early 20th century, approximately three million Jewish people fled persecution in Europe for the United States – which was known as the Goldina Medina, or "Golden Land." The 1986 animated film *An American Tail* depicts this journey, as Fievel Mouskewitz, a Jewish mouse, and his family flee from ferocious cats in Russia. These cats represent the Cossacks who carried out pogroms, or violent riots, against Jewish villages in Russia and Eastern Europe. The Mouskewitz family believed that living in America would alleviate their problems, but when they arrived, they discovered that cats live here too.

Even so, for the most part, America, like Australia, has treated the Jewish community better than all other nations in history. George Washington established a strong relationship between the US and its Jewish citizens, as did Australian politician and diplomat Doc Evatt, who as President of the U.N. General Assembly in 1948–49, was prominent in the negotiations which led to the creation of the modern state of Israel. Since the first settlers, Australia has provided a place where the Jewish people have flourished.

Yet while America remains the Goldina Medina, and Australia is known as the Lucky Country, the existence of antisemitism must not be overlooked. Just as the Mouskewitz family discovered "cats" in America, Jewish immigrants to the US and Australia have faced notable instances of prejudice. Typically, these experiences were subtle and less pervasive than in Europe, but at times this hatred has become more overt and venomous.

Since 2005, terrorists have fired more than 8,000 rockets into Israel.

A strong hatred of Jews is found in the Middle East region, as illustrated by the Arab-Israeli conflict of the last 65 years. If it were not for the global rebirth of antisemitism, the world would have become rather immune to the xenophobic agenda of radical Islam in the Middle East, but the weed of hatred is spreading.



In 2012 antisemitism was up by 30% globally.



In Venezuela, this "oldest hatred" is state-sponsored.

Today, followers of Yeshua have a unique opportunity to reach out to the Jewish community wherever they are and express Messiah's love and compassion for the "apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8). Antisemitic antagonists and indifferent bystanders of yesteryear can be replaced by people who love, support, and defend the Jewish people. As one of the villagers said in *Le Chambon*, France, where the whole town saved over 5,000 Jews during World War II, "It was the most natural thing to do."

Loving Israel and the Jewish people should be the most natural thing to do for Christian believers who understand the biblical mandate of Genesis 12:3. Even though blessing the Jewish people [with the Gospel] might become increasingly challenging, genuine disciples of Yeshua are among the few remaining friends of Israel in a world of many foes. As such, we have no choice but to combat antisemitism.

NEWS BRIEFS

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP WARM UP RUSKIES

It was a very cold winter's day but inside the hearts of our Russian folks there was joy and happiness. Our Russian congregation Dom Missi'ee is growing into a *mishpochah* (family) and these days they are looking forward to our monthly luncheon and fellowship. The Russian folks got a big surprise as they were served with a hot plate of *plov* (a traditional dish of meat, rice and carrots) with a tasty tomato



salad. A testimony from Klava touched everyone, and their eyes were moist as she told how the hand of God protected her and her mother from certain death during the time of the Holocaust.

PRAY FOR THOSE BLESSED BY HAMPERS

Recipients of our benevolent ministry Tikkun Olam continue to be blessed by food hampers during the *chagim* (Jewish festivals). One Jewish lady was so thankful that she made a special personal visit to Barry to thank him and the team for the provision of a hamper for *Pesach* (Passover) and a care hamper. But when Barry asked if he could pray with her she declined. However, this doesn't mean that Barry will stop praying for her. Please join with us in prayer as we trust that Jean will come to know that Yeshua is her personal saviour as well as the Messiah for all Jewish people.

BLESSING THOSE WHO BLESS ISRAEL

Michael Z., our Israel Director, was pleased to find out about a most encouraging development that came as a result of a speaking engagement at a large conference held in a predominantly Muslim country in the former Soviet Union. The topic of Israel generated controversy, but Michael challenged those in attendance to start praying about Israel and blessing her instead of cursing. Now Michael has heard that after the conference one man helped start a prayer group in support of Israel that has now grown to 200 churches and almost 1,500 individuals. Michael writes, "They invited me to speak at a conference at a 10,000-member church. How faithful is our Lord!"



ISRAELI TIM* SEEKS LIFE WITH YESHUA

A young Israeli visiting Melbourne and staying with a Messianic family cannot seem to get enough of Yeshua. His first homestay 'parents' gave him a *Brit Hadashah* (New Testament) and he's now received and read *Isaiah 53 Explained*, and watched numerous You Tube videos testifying that Yeshua is the Messiah and the only way to eternal life. Praise God that Tim has been touched by God and please pray that he continues to grow in faith as he walks in the Light.

NOT JUST A WALK IN THE PARK

Louise and Rita decided to go for a coffee, and sat down in a nearby park. Rita noticed an older woman sitting by herself on a park bench and somehow could tell she was a fellow Russian Jewish lady. Vered* said she was very lonely as her husband had passed away and her children seldom made contact. She was crying out to God for friendship and said she'd like to go somewhere to speak to people in Yiddish. Rita mentioned the monthly lunches at Dom Missi'ee and started to talk about God's love for us in sending his Son Yeshua. Vered started to cry, and Rita asked her if she wanted to give heart to Yeshua. Praise God, she said 'Yes'.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH BUMPER STICKER

Just before Isi* made Aliyah last month, doubts came flooding in about whether moving his family from the comfort of Melbourne to the uncertainty of Israel was really God's will. After praying in his car while overlooking Port Phillip Bay for two hours, he drove out of the carpark past an old car and noticed a bumper sticker which said in Hebrew 'everything will be all right.' When he got out to take a photo to show his wife of the confirmation, he saw there was a person in the car, a young orthodox Jewish man who was praying for God to reveal himself. They discussed God for another three hours and then prayed together. The man said he had never felt such a strong presence of God. This was just the confirmation that Isi needed to know that sharing his faith in Yeshua to Israeli non-believers was God's true will for his life.



FIT TO FINISH: NORMAN, SALMA AND HUGH TRAIN FOR THE LONG RUN

The Centurion's Run

Inspired by the Centurion in Luke 7, a multi-talented Messianic musician is staging a gruelling 220km run around Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay to help fund the Caulfield Messianic Centre Project.

Norman Frazer, who is part of the Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation, will swap his violin for a pair of runners, shorts and a singlet in an act of love for the Jewish community of Caulfield and beyond. Norman, a 54-year-old Aussie, will be joined by a 52-year-old Scotsman, Hugh, and Salma in her 20s from Morocco, for the approximate 36-hour run from midnight on Friday night 25 October 2013.

Norman has drawn inspiration from the Centurion in Luke 7:4-5 who helped build a synagogue for the Jewish people that he himself would not be able to attend.

"A few years ago, when the idea had been birthed to build a Messianic Community Centre in amongst the Caulfield Jewish Community, it made something in my heart jump with the idea of having a special run to inspire funding for the building from like-minded people here and around the world who also have a love for God and the Jewish Community."

Norman said that the Centurion had attributes of kindness, care and love towards the Roman soldiers in his charge.

"This was intermingled with his primary duty to be brave and fearsome. His love and care extended to the Jewish community and was particularly noted in his action of building a synagogue for the community in Capernaum; thus seeing a need and bringing to completion the answer to that need," Norman said.

The Centurion's Run will start outside Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park, at midnight Friday night 25 October and finish about 12 noon to 4pm Sunday 27 October, inside Lakeside Stadium.

And for a spectacular finale: "Hugh plans to run into the stadium in his kilt – a must see," Norman said.

Everyone will be welcome to come to the stadium on the Sunday from noon till 4pm to join in worship and praise.

There are several options for supporting the run financially. Those who donate \$1000 or more will be included on a special dedication wall of names in the new centre.

"... YOU SEE THE TROUBLE WE ARE IN: JERUSALEM LIES IN RUINS, AND ITS GATES HAVE BEEN BURNED WITH FIRE... THEY REPLIED, "LET US START REBUILDING." SO THEY BEGAN THIS GOOD WORK." (NEHEMIAH 2:17-18)

To find out more about the project, how you could be involved, or to make a donation, visit the website at www.caulfieldmessianiccentre.com.au. For more information please contact Lynne on 0439 336 759 or Jeanette on 0406 428 228.

"They came to Yeshua and pleaded earnestly with him, "He really deserves to have you do this, for he loves our people – in fact, he built the synagogue for us!" (Luke 7:4-5, CJB)

WHY BUILD THE CAULFIELD MESSIANIC CENTRE?

- To create a facility that will be; a worship centre (synagogue), community centre (proximity space), creative hub, providing a place of outreach, education, hospitality, and training for local, national and international missions amongst Jewish people.
- To provide a place of identity and refuge, giving validity and dignity to the Messianic community and leaving a legacy for future generations.
- To make a public declaration that Yeshua is Israel's Messiah and the Saviour of Jew and Gentile alike.

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. To book fill out form with enclosed registration form, or on our website www.celebratemessiah.com.au

Simcha 2013

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*

What's coming up:

• **Wed 4 Sept**

Erev Rosh Hashanah service, Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation

• **Fri 13 Sept**

Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre) service

• **Wed 18 Sept**

Erev Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) service

• **Sat 21 Sept**

Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) celebration in Thornleigh Baptist Church, Sydney

• **Wed 25 Sept**

Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) celebration St Kilda Town Hall, Melbourne

Jewish Prayer Focus

The Jewish Prayer Focus 2013, compiled by Jill Curry, is a booklet that explains God's appointed feasts, and takes you through a simple prayer journey over the 22 days of the Jewish high holidays. So you can:

- Intercede for the Jewish world
- Celebrate the prophetic Biblical feasts
- Prepare for the Messiah's return

JEWISH PRAYER FOCUS • \$10.00

Our Hands Are Stained with Blood

by Dr Michael L Brown

From the first "Christian" persecutions of the Jews in the fourth century to the horrors of the Holocaust, from Israel-bashing in today's press to antisemitism in today's pulpits, this shocking and painful book tells the tragic story that every Christian must hear.

OUR HANDS ARE STAINED WITH BLOOD • \$20.00



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

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