



CELEBRATE MESSIAH

May 2015

Volume 21 Issue 3

In Partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries

פורים פסטיבל
PURIM FESTIVAL
THURS 5 MARCH
4-8 PM

ONE VOICE
JEWISH CULTURE STREET FESTIVAL
GELLYVA & SINGLAIN STREETS, CLIFTONVILLE
15 MARCH 2015
10AM-6PM **WINEVOICE 090 800 000**

HOW DO YOU RAISE RESPONSIBLE, INDEPENDENT CHILDREN?
THE ART OF PARENTING

RODNEY MORLEY PERSICHETTI

67 ISRAEL
Yad b'Yad
Hand in Hand

יום העצמאות 2015 יד ביד
Yom Ha'atzmaut Concert
Wednesday 22 April - 7:30pm

פסטיבל ישראל 2015
Family Festival
Thursday 23 April 4-7pm

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REACHING OUT TO JEWISH MELBOURNE

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SUNDAY 22 MARCH
(ALL DIVISIONS)

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If you just step outside our office, the headquarters for Celebrate Messiah in Australia, you are in the heart of Jewish Melbourne. Within a five-minute drive around our office, I am able to photograph dozens of billboards advertising organisations, events and Jewish festivals in and around the Jewish

community, all evidence of the vibrancy and dynamism of the Melbourne Jewish community. Walking around Caulfield, East St Kilda or Elsternwick one would think that you're in Israel, or perhaps Odessa, with all the Russian-speaking Jews.

The estimated number of Jewish people living within what is called the Melbourne *Eruv*, is about 75,000. What is an *Eruv*?

An *Eruv* is a specially designated religious Jewish area indicated by an unbroken boundary around a Jewish community. In the case of the Melbourne *Eruv*, the boundary is an unbroken cable attached to the power and telephone poles all around the streets that outline the *Eruv* (see map). In accordance to Jewish law,

religious Jews who live within the *Eruv*, are allowed to do certain things like carrying objects or pushing baby strollers, that would otherwise be forbidden to do on the Sabbath. The Melbourne *Eruv* is the largest Jewish community in Australia and that is why we affectionately call it the "holy land of Australia."

This is where your mission to the Jewish people is strategically located together with the outreaches of the English speaking Beit HaMashiach Messianic congregation, and Dom Missiee Russian-speaking outreach. This is also where we plan to build the *Caulfield Messianic Centre*, the first custom-made messianic centre and synagogue in the Southern Hemisphere. The *Caulfield Messianic Centre* will provide facilities for both the offices of Celebrate Messiah and the congregation of *Beit HaMashiach*.

Many of you have already given to the *Centurion's Legacy: the Caulfield Messianic Centre* project and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity. I would like to update you as to where we are on this project.

Right now, the planning permit for the new centre is at the local city council. We have decided to modify the original grand plan: to completely demolish the existing church building and build an entire new centre. Instead, we have come up with a new

REACHING OUT TO JEWISH MELBOURNE



We would also like to thank the Churches of Christ for their partnership and support of our efforts to raise up a testimony for Messiah Yeshua in the heart of the largest Jewish community in Australia.

Our hearts desire is to see more and more Jewish people come to faith in Yeshua the Jewish Messiah. The work here in Caulfield is a vital part of what Celebrate Messiah is doing all around the country, and undergirds the work we do overseas, especially in Russia and in Israel. Our vision is that the Caulfield Messianic Centre will also be a place of training and equipping for the sending out of workers into the harvest amongst our Jewish people.

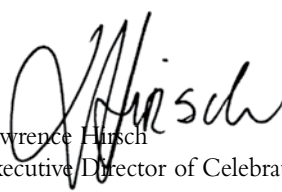
We at Celebrate Messiah are praying and working for that day when "... all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." (Romans 11:26–27, NIV)

Salvation is through faith in Yeshua alone. Our Jewish people need to recognise Yeshua, the "... the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." (Zechariah 12:10, NIV)

Oh what a day that will be, even life from the dead for the whole world! (cf. Romans 11:15).

Thank you for believing with us, praying with us and partnering with us to see these Scriptures become reality.

Yours for the salvation of Israel,


Lawrence Hirsch
Executive Director of Celebrate
Messiah Australia



Executive Director of
Celebrate Messiah Australia

design plan whereby we keep some of the existing structure. The new anticipated cost of the project will now be just below two million dollars, saving more than 50% off the original projected cost.

To date, we have raised almost \$500,000 for the Caulfield Messianic Centre and together with the proceeds from the sale of the manse, which the Churches of Christ will sow into the project, we are only about \$300,000 short of the total target.

We really would like to praise God on His blessing on this project, and for the partnership of those who have sown into the *Centurion's Legacy: the Caulfield Messianic Centre*. Just as the Centurion of Luke chapter seven left a legacy for future generations, so too have you.



Coming closer to God in faraway lands

Earlier in March, Rita and volunteer helper Sally, visited Far East Russia on a mission trip, with the main aim to conduct a seminar to teach God's Word. The six-session teaching seminar was entitled Walking in the Light of Yeshua.

Many miracle healings followed the teaching of God's Word, and prayer:

- ☑ One sister was healed of a left blind eye
- ☑ Another had a back condition for 12 years with limited movement. She jumped out of her seat bent over and started to dance.
- ☑ One man said he was taken to heaven during worship and heard angels singing.
- ☑ Broken hearts were healed.
- ☑ One young man had suffered from fear and epilepsy. He'd been physically abused by his father. During worship he said he was healed, and it was like a warm blanket was over him.
- ☑ At a service for 100 children in an orphanage in Birobidzhan, 40 asked Yeshua in to their hearts.

Rita and Sally experienced God's favour with travel arrangements too: an airport closed due to poor weather opened up for their flight to land, and on another occasion their train pulled into a platform that it had never come into before, saving them a 20-minute walk.

Please pray for people in Russia as the cost of living has doubled and continues to spiral. People need prayer to stand firm and be bold in their faith as the government restricts funding from overseas to orphanages and churches.

Rita will return to Far East Russia in July to run two camps for families and children.

Lessons of Passover resonate with Russian speaking Jews

Celebrate Messiah's Russian speaking ministry in Melbourne hosted a Passover Seder for 65 Russian speaking Jews from the former Soviet Union, many of whom had never experienced a Passover Seder before. Most of them have now come to faith in Yeshua, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Halleluyah!

Ministry leader Rita reports...

My husband Elia was born in Lithuania. His father was Jewish and a holocaust survivor. For many years Elia could not understand who Yeshua is. I was praying for him for the last 20 years and through the love and faithfulness of God he came to the Lord five years ago. Elia and I were able to conduct the Passover Seder this year with our Russian Jewish community.

... But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Rita is so grateful for the lessons of Passover and what the Lord did for her family, and many others, through his Son Yeshua the Lamb of God.

We had amongst us a lady from Moscow who is 102 years of age and this is amazing how God shows His love and compassion towards his people. That God in His mercy has sustained many Russian Jews who attended our Passover Seder this year. Many of them were touched by the Lord and perhaps for the very first time felt how they belong to the Lord of Israel through Yeshua.

... All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53-6)

Celebrate Messiah has planted two Messianic Congregations in Far-East Russia. One in Artyom and the other in Birobidzhan. They too celebrated the Passover Seder, and for the congregation in Birobidzhan it was the first time.

Rita is so grateful to the Lord for what He is doing in Far-East Russia, that those two congregations are growing stronger.

"We have a great privilege to serve the Lord amongst Russian Jewish people in Melbourne as well as in the Far-East Russia. Praise the Lord," she said.



NEWS BRIEFS



LET MY PEOPLE GO TO THE TOWN HALL

The name of Yeshua was proclaimed and lifted high in the heart of Jewish Melbourne when 450 people packed St Kilda Town Hall to celebrate the redemption from bondage of the Jewish people from Pharaoh more than 3000 years ago. Many Jewish people heard for the first time that when Yeshua walked the earth around 1200 years after the Exodus, he was to become the Passover lamb who takes away the sin of the world, and be the redeemer for people of all nations, Jew and Gentile. Feedback from this year's event was overwhelmingly positive, and the team effort of volunteers was characteristic of the unity in our Messianic community. In setting up the hall for the Seder, not-yet believing Israelis worked alongside Iranian believers as well as folks from many other nations and denominations. A successful Seder was also held at the Northridge Vineyard Fellowship in Sydney with around 180 people.



SURVIVORS GRASP SALVATION MESSAGE

Maxim K reports from Israel about a special Passover celebration in Sderot, just a few kilometres from the Gaza border. Celebrate Messiah's partner ministry in Israel Beit Sar Shalom had the privilege of organising a Passover Seder banquet for more than 50

Holocaust survivors in Sderot. The main point was to share about Yeshua, who was the promised Passover lamb. Working with these people now for a long time, there's a perceptible change in the way they accept the information. Everyone left with a full heart, and stomach. The sad point, however, is that they're getting older and weaker at each meeting. Please pray that God would open their hearts to recognise Yeshua as Messiah, and to receive the message of salvation.

YOUNG HEAR ABOUT WAY OF YESHUA

The Beit Sar Shalom team also ran a children's camp for 50 young people. The main theme was Becoming the Nation of God. Since Passover was the birth of the Jewish nation, it was a great opportunity to share with the children what it meant to be the Nation of God. Firstly escaping from Egypt, then being merciful to people who come from other cultures, to the nation of Israel. Further teaching was on the obstacles that prevent us from becoming more God-like. And finally, saying the only chance to be close to God is through Yeshua the Messiah.

ETHNIC MIX BLENDS WELL IN SMALL COMMUNITY

A Messiah in the Passover Seder in a very small western Sydney church was a great evening and a wonderful example of how Celebrate Messiah partners with churches to assist their outreach to their local community. Many ethnic groups of all ages came, including a Filipino musician the church only met on street outreach the day before. So, he was invited to come and lead the singing; the only songs he knew: Amazing Grace and Hava Nagila. The world mix included Indigenous Australians, Pacific Islanders, Chinese, Finnish, German, Swedish, refugees from Afghanistan and even an Israeli backpacker. Some had limited understanding of English, but all came away with a deeper understanding of Yeshua, God's solution for our salvation. Please pray for the Israeli backpacker as he travels in Australia.

YESHUA'S LOVE OPENS HEARTS ON HIGH SEAS

Celebrate Messiah outreach worker Jay was invited to be the travelling "Rabbi" on a cruise over Passover. He was able to bring his wife and children all expenses paid which was an incredible blessing. During a Seder for the Jewish travellers on board, Jay shared his faith and the deeper revelation of Yeshua hidden in the meal. Most were very open to listening. Relationships grew from that night, and Jay got to share about Yeshua with one of the Jewish travellers in more depth, and throughout the week in conversation with many who came to the Seder. One beautiful elderly couple in their nineties had many questions about Yeshua and God.

The next Friday night Jay held an erev Shabbat service and almost everybody from the Seder turned up. Jay finished up with a drash (brief sermon) from the Torah portion which included a challenge to approach God not through our own means or ways, but through the way He provided. Then he read Isaiah 53 and discussions broke out. Praise God for this amazing ministry opportunity. Several of the Jewish couples shared their contact details and said they'd visit the Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation when in Melbourne.

NEW WALK FOR SEARCHING ISRAELI

An Israeli wrote to our staff about their "spiritual birthday" following their decision to believe in Yeshua. "I am happy that I have been baptised on Easter Sunday. After so many years of searching and spiritual work, it is all coming together for me with the acceptance of Yeshua, not just as Messiah and Lamb but as the enabler of the connection to God. Well, words might not be the best media to describe this, yet the question 'why do we need Jesus to get to God' is now resolved for me and I find it so incredible.... How amazing, mysterious and uncompromising is God's transformation of us humans...". Please continue to pray for "HN"



Simcha 2015

Celebrate Simcha*
27 - 29 November

Join us at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort from Friday 27 November to Sunday 29 November 2015. Hear excellent Bible teaching from messianic leaders, pray for revival amongst Jewish people in Australia and around the world, and enjoy Messianic worship in music and dance. Book early to avoid disappointment.

*Simcha is a Hebrew word meaning a joyous occasion

SAVE THE DATE



Sukkot

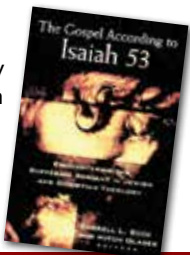
(Feast of Tabernacles)
St Kilda Town Hall
Melbourne

7.30pm Saturday 3 October

for more details please visit
www.celebratemessiah.com.au/events

The Gospel According to Isaiah 53

Equip yourself to present the redemptive work of the Messiah. Exploring issues of atonement and redemption, respected scholars show how Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's "suffering servant"—and offer suggestions on how to share this Good News with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Edited by Darrell Bock and Mitch Glaser.



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To order, please use the response form enclosed with this mailing or for these and other resources visit us online at www.celebratemessiah.com.au/store.

For phone orders call 03 9563 5544.



Impacting the World through Giving

Tikkun Olam a benevolent arm of Celebrate Messiah delivers kosher food hampers in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Sydney, and now also to the Queensland Jewish community. Our 60 volunteers across the country have tirelessly and selflessly served in these Jewish communities.

As part of the Messianic community we are reminded of God's covenant with the Jewish people, which in Genesis 12:1-3 calls us to impact the entire world. "Through you all the nations of the earth will be blessed." We are not supposed to be a ghetto people. To fulfill the covenant, we must exercise influence on humanity, including the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The Good News is God's way to restore what sin has destroyed. Jewish tradition has a relevant phrase that communicates this idea: Tikkun Olam or Repairing the World. It can mean everything from social justice for orphans to helping the environment. God wants the world restored to His purpose and not merely recreated in our own image.

We as the Messianic community strive to see that Tikkun Olam creates not only blessing to the world, but also kedushah, a life of sanctity, purpose, and meaning.

Here are some testimonies from volunteers and recipients...

"An Israeli Jewish believer, who is part of the team in Perth, encountered people embracing him with tears in their eyes such was their delight and gratitude in being given a hamper."

"Amazingly, a rabbi is more than happy for us to assist in blessing those in need in his synagogue."

"A prominent leader in the Jewish community has informed me of the great respect the Jewish community in Perth has for the work of Tikkun Olam."

"When I gave the hamper to the young guy in the Israeli beauty product shop, he kissed me on both cheeks and held both hands like I was his mum."

"I visited an Israeli Jew and discussed my faith in Yeshua, and I had the opportunity to encourage her to continue the journey with her Messiah."

Donations to Tikkun Olam are tax deductible. If you'd like to help the work, please use the response form with this mailing, or phone 03 9563 5544.



CELEBRATE
MESSIAH

"BRINGING THE MESSAGE TO THE ORIGINAL MESSENGERS"

Serving together with Chosen People Ministries in: Argentina • Australia • Baltic States • Canada • Finland • France • Germany • Hong Kong • Hungary • Israel • Netherlands • New Zealand • Poland • Russia • South Africa • Ukraine • United Kingdom

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