

ISRAEL STAFF MINISTERS TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Israel staff member Maxim K. organized an outreach for Holocaust survivors in Israel by bringing them on a trip from the often-bombarded southern town of Sderot to visit the north of the country. During a beautiful train ride along the coast of the Mediterranean, Maxim, along with a visiting ministry team, sang worship songs and spoke one-to-one with these dear people. In Haifa, they all watched a DVD of testimonies and stories of Holocaust survivors who have become believers. The guests were surprised and excited to see people who went through similar experiences and yet still have hope centred in Messiah Jesus. They had many questions, and many conversations flowed afterwards. We are planning to start a monthly Bible study in Sderot.

THREE FAITH DECISIONS IN CHICAGO

Kirill Swiderski, who ministers in the Chicago area, suggested to a woman attending their services that she host a Sabbath celebration for her Jewish neighbours as an outreach. She did and Kirill was able to share from Hebrews 4 that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Sabbath. At the end of the evening, two women came to faith! Also, a Jewish woman seeking the Lord approached Kirill after a worship service, and he gave her a Bible to help her search. Another believer from their group gave the woman a lift home and after a wonderful conversation, the woman who had approached Kirill received the Lord!

INVITATION FROM FRIEND LEADS TO INVITATION TO MESSIAH

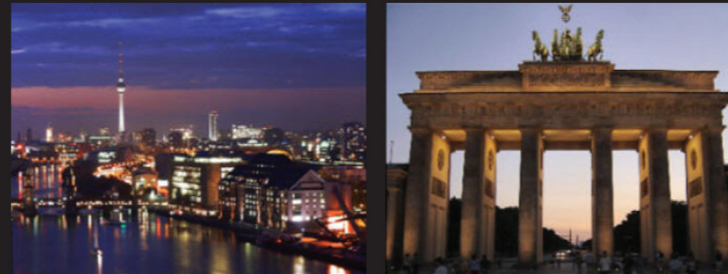
We continue to see Jewish people receive the Lord in Berlin. An elderly Jewish woman recently visited a worship service as a gesture of friendship to the person who invited her. However, as she listened to the message preached by Vladimir Pikman, the director of the ministry in Germany, her heart was touched. Following the service she prayed with him to receive the Lord! As Vladimir says, 'She turned from being a Jewish atheist to being a Jewish believer. Praise the Lord!'



LONDON MESSIANIC CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS

This September not only sees the Jewish Holidays taking place, but it also sees our modest Messianic Centre begin to offer in-house programmes for the first time. Classes, lectures and meetings of various kinds are all expected to minister to a growing number of people in the Jewish community of Golders Green.

MUCHAN




Worldwide Young Adult Messianic Conference

December 27, 2009 – January 3, 2010
Berlin and Poland

Young Adult Jewish believers from around the world will be converging on Berlin for a unique conference in Berlin and Poland. Get Ready! Get Muchan! 27 December 2009 – 3 January 2010. For more information go to www.muchanconference.com.

MERKAZ

Merkaz Meshichi (Messianic Centre) is Chosen People Ministry's latest initiative to minister to the Jewish community in a sensitive and considerate way, with a clear message: Yeshua (Jesus) is Messiah and Saviour.

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

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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.ORG.UK.

WRITE TO US AT: info@chosenpeople.org.uk

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

 **The Chosen People**
REACHING JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

CELEBRATING
THE FALL FEASTS OF ISRAEL

THIS ISSUE

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Shalom from Golders Green. I am happy to tell you that the last few months have been incredibly fruitful in sharing the Gospel with Jewish people! We held four short-term outreaches—including two in Israel — in addition to children's camps in the U.S., Israel and Ukraine. Our staff members have been speaking to more Jewish people about Jesus this summer than I ever thought possible, and we were blessed to have dozens of volunteers join us as well. Thank you for your prayers and support during the summer months. God truly blessed our work, and we are grateful!



We now turn our hearts and minds to the most important season of the Jewish calendar—the three High Holidays: New Year (Rosh HaShanah), the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot).

You can learn more about these festivals in this newsletter, as well as on our website at www.chosenpeople.org.uk.

To learn more about the Jewish year, you might also want to purchase a copy of our beautiful new Messianic Jewish Art Calendar for 2009-2010! Please see the back page of the newsletter for ordering information. I know you will enjoy reading it and displaying it in your home, and the calendars also make excellent witnessing gifts for your Jewish friends.

The Passion of Isaac—Early Portrait of Messiah's Ministry

One of the most important biblical characters mentioned during the Jewish High Holidays is Isaac, the son of Abraham. Although he is usually mentioned along with Abraham and Jacob as one of the three

patriarchs who form the lineage for our Jewish heritage, Isaac is perhaps the least known of the 'fathers'. Yet Isaac is one of the most significant figures in Israel's history, especially because of a moment of greatness that distinguishes him from all others in the Hebrew Bible. The event recorded in Genesis 22, in which Abraham is commanded to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah, is more than just one story among

many. Rather, the story of Abraham's faithful obedience to God's terrible command is told and retold. We strain to place ourselves in Abraham's shoes and wonder how we might have reacted. Would we have risen to his level of obedience?

But what about Isaac—what part does his obedience play? There is a mystery in his acceptance of his father's will that points ahead to Messiah's ministry and offers us instruction as His followers.

Abraham and Isaac—Faithful Father and Child of Promise

The story of Isaac's birth in Abraham and Sarah's old age is well-known. In response to Abraham's plea on behalf of Ishmael, born of Hagar the maidservant, God promises that Ishmael's seed shall indeed be abundantly blessed. However, it is clear from the beginning that the covenant will be established with Isaac's descendants:

"Then God said: 'No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him . . . My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.'" (Genesis 17:19, 21)

Abraham's faith was vindicated by the birth of the son that God had promised. However, as is often the case, the reward for a strengthened faith is greater testing and strengthening. No one would find this truer than Abraham—no one except perhaps Isaac, the beloved son whose own obedience would be tested as well.

Isaac in Jewish Religious Thought

The Akedah, or 'Binding of Isaac', in Genesis 22 is mentioned in no other place in Scripture. Many scholars, both Jewish and Christian, detect a strong message against the idea of human sacrifice—including child sacrifice—an idea which was not uncommon in the cultures of that day. God's angel does, after all, stop Abraham's hand before the knife descends.

However, as the persecution of Jews increased in the Christian era, Isaac became a symbol of Jewish martyrdom, a role model of obedient submission, ready to offer the ultimate sacrifice in obedience to God. Such martyrdom, termed Kiddush Ha-Shem (Sanctification of the Name), was the choice of many faithful Jews who chose death rather than forcible conversion during the shameful chapters in Church history when torture was used to coerce Jews into renouncing their faith.

Isaac's example has also found a place of honour in the liturgy of the Jewish New Year, which features the reading of Genesis 22 and links the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) to the sacrifice of the ram that the LORD provided in place of Isaac. During the service, a prayer is offered that even as Abraham suppressed his natural compassion in order to perform God's will, so may the LORD's mercy overcome His just wrath on account of our sinfulness.

Isaac and Messiah — Obedient Sons of the Father

There are several striking similarities in the roles of Isaac and of Jesus the Messiah which cause many to see Isaac as prefiguring the prophesied Son of God. Both were obedient sons to their loving fathers. Just as Isaac obeyed his father Abraham on Mount Moriah,



which tradition identifies as the Temple Mount itself, so Jesus the Messiah trustingly obeyed His heavenly Father and went willingly to the place of sacrifice.

The Gospels show us that as He prepared to offer Himself, Jesus—who could have called upon a host of angels to deliver Him—chose instead to be led through His unspeakably painful ordeal without protest. Genesis 22 tells us that Isaac also passively bore his ordeal and addressed his father Abraham with only one question:

'Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' (Genesis 22:7).

There is a striking difference, however, between the account of Genesis 22 and the sacrificial death of

Messiah. In Genesis 22, the Angel of the LORD stayed Abraham's hand; no son was to be sacrificed that day. Instead, Abraham offered a ram caught in the thicket by its horns (Genesis 22:13). That sacrifice, and those which came after it, were the temporary provision God gave until the day came when the LORD required from Himself what He, in His mercy, did not require from Abraham—the life of His Son.

The parallel between Isaac and Messiah holds. Each was willing to become an offering in obedience to God's will. In Isaac's case, his life was spared. In the case of Messiah, His sacrificial blood was shed; the offering was received and Messiah was gloriously vindicated in the Resurrection.

Only rarely are we given such an agonising choice as Abraham's. Yet we are asked in small and large ways for the same obedience which God required of Abraham, who chose to do God's will—and we are called upon to offer the same obedience as Isaac, who submitted to that will in perfect trust. This is one of the great lessons of the Jewish High Holiday season—a reminder to obey God in the small things so that we are ready to make the right and godly choice when we are tested on a larger scale.

Thank you for being part of our Chosen People Ministries family.

Please pray for us, as we have dozens of Messianic High Holiday services across the globe during these holidays. Many Jewish people come to know Jesus during these services, and this is our greatest desire—to see Israel saved.

Thanks for praying for and caring about the Jewish people.

Daniel
Daniel Nessim
Executive Director



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MESSIANIC RESOURCES

It is now time to order your copy of our *Messianic Jewish Art Calendar* for September 2009 to December 2010, featuring the tapestries of Israeli artist Bracha Lavee. As the months unfold, your sense of wonder will be renewed as you reflect upon the beauty of the Land and the promises of God that are given through it—promises that are indeed fulfilled in the Messiah He has sent. These calendars make great gifts, especially for Jewish friends who need to hear about the Messiah.

A Jewish believer in Jesus examines the festivals of Leviticus 23, their history, their present celebration in the synagogue and home, and their prophetic fulfilment. In Leviticus 23 God presents seven annual sacred feasts of Israel. At first this passage seems to simply list Israel's holy days, but the more one studies the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, the more one realizes that this passage is more than just a list of holy days; it is actually an outline of God's calendar from eternity to eternity. *Israel's Holy Days in Type and Prophecy* is a brief but thorough review.