

November 2010 / Kislev 5771

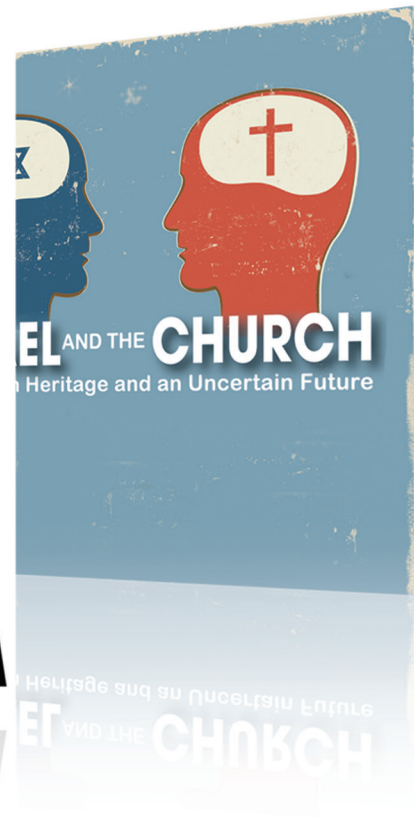
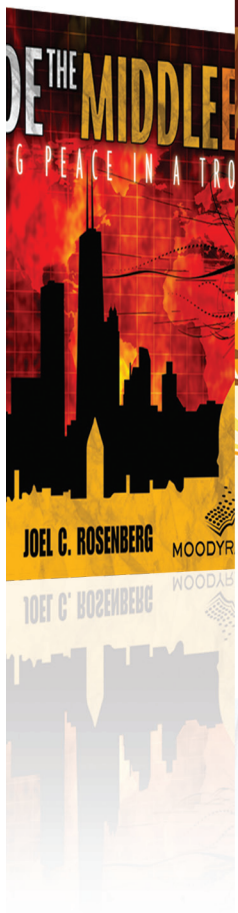
Volume 6, Issue 2

The Chosen People

SERVING THE JEWISH PEOPLE SINCE 1894



CREATIVE PUBLIC EVANGELISM



THIS ISSUE

Chosen People Ministries
Worldwide

UK History and Ministry

Dear friend of the Jewish people,
Shalom from your brothers and sisters at Chosen People Ministries. I pray that 2011, when it comes, will be a blessed and fruitful year for you and your family!



DANIEL
NESSIM

Our Great Heritage

Every year at this time, our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, and later his son, Joseph Hoffman Cohn, reminded the friends of Chosen People Ministries that we have a biblical mandate to preach the Gospel '...to the Jew first – and also to the Gentile' (Romans 1:16).

These inspired words of the Apostle Paul have served as the clarion call of our mission to the Jewish people for 116 years. As the UK leader of our mission to the Jewish people, I plan to continue this heritage and great tradition.

I hope you will pray for us and continue to support our evangelists and evangelistic projects throughout the year. You are partners with us in bringing the Good News to the Jewish people. This ministry is so critical, as we are now one year closer to Messiah's return!

We simply cannot do this great work without you! Your prayers, financial support and, most importantly, your entrusting your Jewish friends to us, are of inestimable value. Thank you for sharing the joy of Jewish evangelism with us.

May I take a few moments of your time to tell you about the results of our recent evangelistic initiatives and describe our vision for the future?

Celebrate Messiah

This summer, our staff worked with a team of volunteers to reach the Jewish community of Golders Green in a special outreach designed to be sensitive, appropriate and yet direct.

Over a week, our team distributed thousands of leaflets in the Golders Green area, on the streets and door to door. Two outreaches were advertised: an art exhibition at our Messianic Centre, and a

concert on the Sunday night. On the back of every flyer distributed was a copy of Isaiah 53, the famous chapter in the Old Testament that so clearly depicts our Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus) who has been revealed to us in the New.

We were encouraged, knowing that God's Word will not return to Him void. Many will have read that chapter and considered – what does it all mean? Our prayer was that for some it might be part of their journey back to the Living God, the Father of our Lord and Saviour.

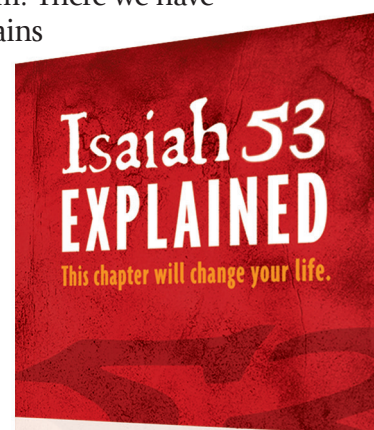
During the week, several Jewish people who do not know Yeshua as their Messiah came to the art exhibition. Our concert on Sunday evening was another opportunity to reach out. Having learned a lot, our hope is that our next outreach will build on these lessons, and that yet more people will be reached next time around. After all, the Olympics are coming! That's an opportunity for evangelism that we daren't miss.

New Ways of Reaching Jewish People for Jesus

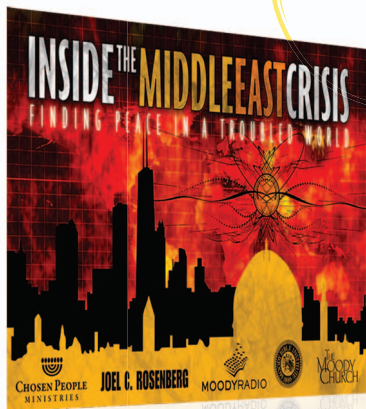
Another new approach to evangelism has been pioneered by our New York branch. In New York, billboards, bus advertisements, and social networking media on the internet have all combined to drive thousands of Jewish people to our website isaiah53.com. There we have offered a book that explains the significance of Isaiah 53, the chapter that we featured on our flyers in our Celebrate Messiah outreach.

This has been one of our most effective outreaches ever in terms of the number of Jewish people contacted – and in fact they have all contacted *us*! We have even had people in the UK, sometimes while visiting New York, visiting our website and providing contacts for us to follow up on here.

As you might guess, we are taking a close look at how this outreach programme is working in the US so that we can effectively adopt a variation of it in London. Please pray for us in this, as we are in the planning stages now.



CREATIVE PUBLIC EVANGELISM



Creative Evangelism Is Critical in Reaching Jewish People Today

In addition to the day-by-day, heart-to-heart, person-to-person evangelism which we are continually doing through our evangelists and a Messianic Centre, we also believe these creative new approaches to Jewish evangelism are essential if we are going to reach the wide variety of Jewish people in the world.

I am sure you know why this is true. Jewish people are often resistant to the Gospel because of the negative history between Christians and Jews. From the Crusades through the vicious pogroms in Russia, to the Holocaust, Jewish people have historically felt victimized by Christianity.

In light of this terrible history, we have much to overcome in our witness to Jewish people today. Somehow, we must show Jewish people that real Christians love God's chosen people.

Dear friend, this is what takes so much creativity, as the first response of most Jewish people to the Gospel is to resist the message or even to be offended by the Good News.

We must reach out in innovative and creative

ways to bring the message of Messiah in a more Jewish way to His chosen people!

I am often encouraged by what the psalmist wrote:

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.
(Psalm 126:5)

Sometimes, it is very difficult to endure the negative responses of Jewish people towards the Gospel. It can bring a person to tears – not out of frustration, but because our hearts break for His chosen people. But reaching Jewish people is dear to the heart of God – and those faithful believers who witness, pray and help support Jewish evangelism will always be blessed.

Thank you for sharing the burden and the joy of bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people. I know you will be greatly encouraged by the reports in this newsletter!

Your brother in the Messiah,

Daniel Nessim

Daniel

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE



Argentina - Ricardo Chemi

Our Centre is in the heart of the traditional Jewish community in Buenos Aires, home to the largest Jewish population in South America. Director Ricardo Chemi studied at both a traditional rabbinical seminary and a Baptist seminary. This gives him some unique insights into the Scriptures and opportunities to do evangelism and discipleship.

Australia - Lawrence Hirsch

Celebrate Messiah, led by Lawrence Hirsch, operates in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. They have planted Messianic congregations and fellowships, done direct evangelism and recently begun an amazing ministry in Far East Russia. Our workers in Australia also help people with practical needs, distributing food and clothing for the sake of the Gospel. Dozens of Jewish people come to the Lord each year through these ministries.

Canada - Jorge Sedaca

Our new leader in Canada is Jorge Sedaca - brother of David, one of our senior staff members in the United States, and son of Victor Sedaca, who led the work of Chosen People Ministries in Argentina for more than two decades. Our ministry in Canada is focused on evangelism, planting Messianic congregations and equipping the Church to reach their local Jewish communities, friends and families. We are also renovating a new Messianic Centre in Toronto, a great city with almost 300,000 Jewish inhabitants.

France - Guy Athia

Guy travels extensively, reaching out to Jewish people throughout France and Switzerland. He also produces *The Shepherd of Israel*, a quarterly publication that is both evangelistic and designed to help Christians understand the Jewish roots of their faith. We are currently praying that God would allow us to start a ministry in Paris, which has the largest concentration of Jewish people in France.

Germany - Vladimir Pikman

The work in Germany is primarily focused on reaching the almost 300,000 Russian Jews who have immigrated to Germany in the last two decades. We have planted fellowships or Messianic congregations in ten cities across Germany and established a Messianic Centre in Berlin. Vladimir Pikman, executive director of Beit Sar Shalom, is also actively involved in building up our ministry in Russia and Holland, and Berlin has become one of our bases for ministry to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish people still living in the former Soviet Union.

Netherlands - Renaldo van de Schuur

Renaldo is beginning the work of Chosen People Ministries among the Jewish people in the Netherlands. This is a unique ministry field because many Dutch Gentile Christians love the Jewish people and pray for the salvation of Israel. We hope that many will pray for us, support our work, and join us in reaching the Jewish people of the Netherlands for Messiah.

Hong Kong - Mark Lam

Hong Kong is a centre for praying, sending and giving to support our ministries across the globe. The ministry in Hong Kong has sent a missionary couple to Israel, a young woman to New York City and another young woman to Australia. We look forward to many years of exciting ministry partnership with our branch in Hong Kong.

Israel - Michael Z.

Through our staff members in Israel and our Centres in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, we are reaching Israelis for the Lord, planting congregations, and ministering to those with practical needs, such as Holocaust survivors. Our staff have had a fruitful ministry helping these elderly Eastern European immigrants, and we are able to touch many lives for the Lord. We also have a dynamic youth ministry that utilizes camping and concerts to reach children and young adults.



UK



JERUSALEM

There are about 150,000 Jewish believers world wide and approximately 5,000 in Israel.



United Kingdom - Daniel Nessim

The work in the United Kingdom continues to grow. Daniel, Deborah and Fiona, supported by Ramona in the office, have been able to continue and expand outreach and ministry to the Jewish community of north London. Regular Bible studies and meetings are supplemented by special events, classes, and occasional outreach programmes. It is a blessing to see how Jewish lives have been touched with the Gospel. Opening the Messianic Centre in Golders Green was a great step forward for the ministry and we look forward to it becoming an increasingly busy place. Already, there is something happening there almost every day of the week. Our support of our partner ministry in Israel is a great source of satisfaction as we see how effective our Israeli staff are at meeting the needs of lost souls in that country.

There are over 400 Messianic congregations around the world.

New Zealand - Scott Brown

In New Zealand, we aim to reach the tens of thousands of Israelis who backpack through the country every year. Many are looking for the deeper meaning of life—what great opportunities we have to witness to them! Scott Brown lives on the South Island and is busy sharing the Gospel with Israelis and training Christians to reach these young seekers.

Russia - Kirill Polonsky

Kirill leads a Messianic congregation in Moscow and is conducting evangelistic campaigns among Jewish people throughout the former Soviet Union. He also trains young Messianic missionaries and Christians who want to reach their Jewish friends. At this time, there are 400,000 Jewish people in Moscow; it has become the 'Jewish capital' of the former Soviet Union.



Messianic Jewish organizations include: The Messianic Jewish Alliance of America, the Association of Messianic Congregations, the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations, and the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues.



Ukraine - Alexander Sereda

Alexander leads a Messianic congregation in the city of Kharkov, which was one of the great Jewish centres of Ukraine. Many of its inhabitants have left for Israel, and those who have stayed are usually old and unable to leave. Alex has had a tremendous ministry to them and is a true example of a shepherd caring for his sheep.

United States - Mitch Glaser

We continue to serve the Lord in most of the major Jewish population centres throughout the United States. We have started Messianic Outreach Centres and planted Messianic congregations across the country. Recently we conducted an evangelistic campaign focusing on Isaiah chapter 53, and hundreds of Jewish people responded. Most recently, we have purchased a building for a Centre in New York, which is currently being renovated and hopefully will be ready in the spring.



THE BROOKLYN MESSIANIC CENTER

Currently under renovation

Sources:

www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3939336,00.html

www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2010/tables/10s0077.xls

www1.cbs.gov.il/publications/isr_in_n09e.pdf

BORN IN 1914, BORN AGAIN IN 2010!

Southern California worker Olivier Melnick met with Irv,* a witty 96-year-old Jewish gentleman who has many stories to tell about his colourful and eventful life. Still, Irv told Olivier that he was tired of living, yet frightened of the alternative. Olivier was able to offer Irv the hope of Messiah. Although uncertain at first, Irv decided to invite Jesus into his heart. Pray for Irv's growth as Olivier meets with him for discipleship.

FRUIT FROM ISAIAH 53 CAMPAIGN

Robynne reports that a Jewish woman phoned her whilst reading the *Isaiah 53 Explained* book. Betty* had sought truth in Kabbalah and New Age teaching, but still longed for something deeper and more complete. She asked what Isaiah 53 meant to Robynne, and Robynne shared how God gave her the ability to forgive others. Betty literally gasped, saying that was exactly what she was searching for, as her anger was keeping her prisoner. Robynne explained how she learned to forgive once she understood how God had forgiven her. Robynne writes, 'Betty nearly rushed off the phone to finish the book, and we are looking forward to talking more once she is done.'



CAR ACCIDENT LEADS TO GOSPEL DECISION

Ricardo Chemi, who leads our work in Argentina, reports that the mission's new ministry in Cordoba City is bearing its first fruit: Carlos, a Jewish man, received the Lord after a car accident that nearly claimed his life. While lying alone in his bed in the hospital, Carlos came face to face with his own mortality and the knowledge that he was not ready to meet his Creator. In that moment of distress, Jesus' image appeared to him, giving him peace and the conviction that he needed to receive the Lord's reconciliation. The realization that Jesus is the Messiah filled Carlos with the desire to tell that truth to other Jewish people, but he did not know where to begin. One of his doctors put him in touch with our ministry in Cordoba City, where he is now being discipled.

MINISTRY TO THE POOR IN SDEROT, ISRAEL

Chosen People Ministries is expanding its ministry in the town of Sderot in Israel, which has been the target of repeated rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. We are opening a distribution centre right in the town, which will offer practical aid to the needy residents. Under the leadership of staff member Eugene, we are also planning to organize a weekly Bible study, which we pray will develop into a new Messianic congregation. Please pray that this project will bring the light of our Lord to Sderot.



NEW LIFE FOR JEWISH MAN IN FLORIDA

While ministering in a Baptist church in Florida, Israel Cohen met Ernie*, a Jewish man in his thirties who attended the meeting. After the teaching, Ernie had many questions, and the discussion continued over lunch with the pastor and his wife. Ernie said he had been seeking the truth about Jesus as Messiah for eighteen years. Israel asked

what was holding him back, and told him that he could make the decision for himself, that day. The pastor then presented the Gospel to Ernie and asked him if he wanted to pray. Ernie said, 'Yes,' and prayed to receive the Lord right then and there!

ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH: A COMMON HERITAGE AND AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Those of us who work to reach Jewish people with the Gospel are passionate to let the Church know how important this mission is. Our conference in October focused on the Gospel, the Church, and the Jewish people. There was broad agreement that the Jewish people are still an essential part of God's plan to reach the Nations of the world, and therefore outreach to the Jewish people is still important for the Church. Our speakers were dynamic, informative and engaging. Our musician Marty Goetz at times brought us to tears before God's Throne. Attendance was all that we expected and more. In fact, there was no room for any more people! Thank you for your prayers, which we believe made this event such a success.

**names have been changed*



IN MEMORIAM

Dan Rigney, a dear friend and former staff member of Chosen People Ministries, went to be with the Lord on September 28, 2010, after suffering a massive heart attack. He leaves behind his wife of many years, Arlene. After graduating from The Moody Bible Institute, Dan and Arlene served with Chosen People Ministries for a time in New York City and then in Baltimore. Dr. Mitch Glaser was close to Dan: 'I first met Dan only a few months after I became a believer, and he was one of my fathers in the Lord. He was a constant reminder to me of why I've followed the Lord's call into full-time Jewish ministry. His love and commitment to people and his passion for God and for His Word have been a constant and shining example for me and my family.'



Chosen People Ministries' work in Golders Green, London, has been growing since 2005, when it was established.

Evangelistic Outreaches

Since the beginning, outreach to individuals and through outreach programmes has been a part of our London ministry. Sometimes giving out literature on the street, sometimes meeting up with people in cafés, our work is both widespread and one-to-one. In the last two years we have hosted debates between a Rabbi and a Jewish believer in Yeshua, and held a concert and an art exhibition as well as various holiday events seeking to reach out to Jewish people who do not know Yeshua as their Messiah.

Beit Sar Shalom

Beit Sar Shalom (Hebrew for 'The House of the Prince of Peace') is a small fellowship of Jewish and Gentile believers in Yeshua that meets every Friday and Saturday at our Messianic Centre in Golders Green. Many Jewish people would never darken the door of a church, but Beit Sar Shalom is a Jewish place where a Jewish person can become a disciple of the Master without compromising any of his or her Jewish identity. For that reason we work hard to keep the membership of the group mostly Jewish, so that a Jewish person can walk in and know right away that they are in a 'Jewish space'. God has greatly blessed us in this and provided many opportunities to 'make disciples' as our Lord commanded us (Matthew 28:19).

Mercaz

Our central location in Golders Green gives rise to the name of our outreach centre: Mercaz. Mercaz in Hebrew simply means 'Centre' and that is what we are aiming to be – a centre for Messianic Jewish life, where a community of Jewish followers of the Master can thrive and become a lasting part of the Jewish community in London. Our vision is that long after our staff move on and are replaced by others, a community of believers will remain as a light to the local Jewish community.

A Vision for the Future

As did the Apostles, and as do missions around the world, we desire to establish communities of believers that will be self-supporting and self-propagating, bringing the Gospel to their own people without the need for outside help. The Apostle Paul reminded the Roman Christians, 'For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?' (Romans 11:15). The Jewish people have indeed been sidelined for a time in God's grand plan to bring salvation to the whole world, but at Chosen People Ministries we believe the time has come for the acceptance of the Jewish people – and even greater blessing for the Nations of this globe whom God loves so much!

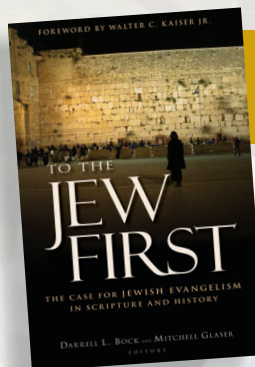
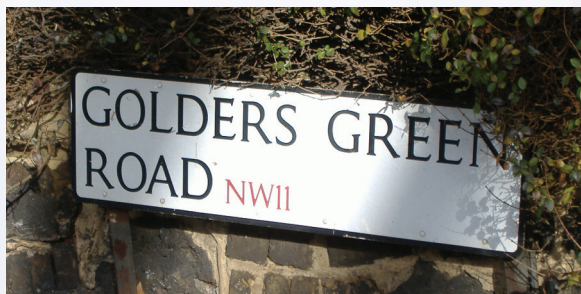
A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES IN THE UK

Chosen People Ministries was established in 1894 by a Rabbi who had come to believe that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah. Rabbi Leopold Cohn, looking for the Messiah, had left his family in Europe and gone to the New World – because that is where he had been told the Messiah had been found!

As our Lord said, 'seek and you shall find'. In New York, young Leopold found his Messiah, and much to his surprise his Messiah was Jesus! Filled with joy, Leopold wrote home, only to receive an icy response. Not discouraged however, Rabbi Cohn travelled to Edinburgh to enrol in New College and study the Bible from the Christian perspective. It was there that his wife and children met him, and after a little persuasion agreed to travel back to America with him.

In New York, Rabbi Cohn began ministering in what was and is to this day the heart of the Jewish community. Over his lifetime hundreds – some say a thousand or more – Jewish men and women came to faith in Yeshua their Messiah.

Rabbi Cohn's vision was not limited to New York however, and his son Joseph perpetuated his vision, establishing a humanitarian outreach in London to Jewish refugees from Europe during the Second World War and afterwards. Despite a decades-long hiatus in ministry in the United Kingdom, Chosen People Ministries is once again active in London's Jewish community – now for over a decade. We rejoice in the opportunity to reach out to one of the world's great Jewish populations!



To the Jew First

£10 plus £2 p&p

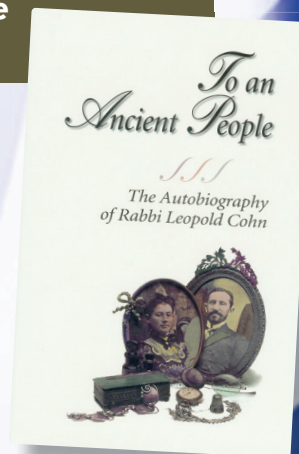
Based upon the biblical mandate to take the Gospel 'to the Jew first,' this comprehensive resource looks at the historical, theological, and biblical context for

Jewish evangelism, and provides encouragement for those engaged in this task.

To an Ancient People

£5 plus £2 p&p

Rabbi Leopold Cohn's classic autobiography retells the story of the trials and triumphs of the young but venerated rabbi in his native rural Hungary - and his quest for truth. Travelling the world he eventually finds his Messiah - and founds what would become Chosen People Ministries.



FOR MORE MESSIANIC JEWISH PRODUCTS, VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.CHOSENPEOPLE.ORG.UK



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

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The Chosen People UK Edition newsletter is published bimonthly by Chosen People Ministries (UK).

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