

## Connect with Your Jewish Friends



For decades, *Jesus was a Jew* has proven to be a powerful tool for witnessing to Jewish people. Written for Jewish people who are skeptical of Messianic faith,

it is also an excellent resource for believers who want to learn more about the Jewishness of Jesus.

Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum discusses Jewish objections to Jesus and gives testimonies by Jewish men and women who have become believers in Yeshua the Messiah.

Who was Jesus of Nazareth? Was He a good teacher? Was He a well-meaning but confused religionist? Was He a disciple of another teacher? Regardless of your answer, Jesus was a Jew.

**Jesus Was a Jew £6.00**

plus £1.00 for postage and packing

continued from page 1

delivered from idolaters who had sacrificed pigs on its holy altar. In the other, a Child was born Who was destined to raise up "...a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David" (Luke 1:69). One deliverance was physical in nature, the other spiritual.

There is another connection that is even more astounding. Without Hanukkah, there would be no Christmas! The empire that then controlled the area was on a campaign to make the Jews just like any other nation in the world. What's more, some of the Jewish leadership was also encouraging assimilation into the dominant culture. If those in power had succeeded, by the time of Yeshua's birth some 150 years later, there would no longer have been a Jewish community for Him to be born into.

God's deliverance, celebrated at Hanukkah, enabled the Jewish people to survive and thrive. Yeshua was able to preach a message of repentance to His people, Jewish people who understood the God of the Bible and their own need for forgiveness.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and thank you very much for a year in which we have seen some great advances in our work among the Jewish people. We have moved beyond the preparation stage of our ministry into a time of active engagement. Thank you for your partnership with us as we seek to reach the lost.

Yours in our Saviour,

  
Daniel Nessim



UK Director, Daniel Nessim

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

Greetings in our Saviour's Name.

As we come to the close of 2005, we joyously celebrate the birth of our Saviour in Bethlehem. He is the Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16). As a Man among men, He was uniquely Jewish, in that He was the epitome of everything that true Jewishness should be. He was the One who fulfilled God's law in His own life and loved the Father with all His heart, soul, and strength.

At this same time of year, Jewish people celebrate the Feast of Dedication. *Hanukkah*, as it is usually called, commemorates a day when the Temple was delivered from pagan forces and rededicated to God's service. Usually Hanukkah occurs close to Christmas time, though this year the holidays actually occur simultaneously!

No matter how close the two holidays are on the calendar, there is a sharp contrast between them. This is one time of year that the difference between Jews and their Gentile neighbours is painfully obvious. No Christmas trees decorate Jewish homes; only a simple candlestick in a window. Christmas carols are everywhere, as are shop displays, gift aisles, and Christmas postage stamps. Jewish people are acutely aware of these differences, probably more than one realizes.

Though these festivals are different, there is a wonderful, underlying harmony between them. Both celebrate events that changed the destiny of the Jewish people. Both resulted in great deliverances by God. In one, the Temple was

continued on back

# The Chosen People

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## Prayer & Praise from Around the World

### ☆ Jerusalem Messianic Center Update

Though the new Jerusalem Messianic Center was only dedicated last month, our workers have already begun new outreach projects, with exciting results. A seekers' Bible study has been meeting there regularly, with new people joining frequently and asking many questions about the Lord. In addition, there is a burgeoning "Video Club" which meets in a comfortable room at the Center to watch films of a spiritual nature in English, Russian or Hebrew. This sort of group provides ample opportunities to share the Gospel with Israelis. Please pray for the continued growth of these and other outreach efforts based out of the Center.

### ☆ New Congregations Planted in Europe

We are excited to report on how our European ministries are growing. In Germany, a new work is being started in Frankfurt that should be officially open early next year. Avi Y., who is the director of the work in Russia, is in the process of planting two new Messianic congregations in cities outside of Moscow, in addition to the three that are already flourishing within Moscow! Alexander Sereda, who works in Ukraine, recently returned from an outreach trip to Donetsk. Donetsk is one of the largest cities in eastern Ukraine, and he hopes to plant a congregation there soon. Please pray for the leaders of these new works, and for wisdom and blessing as we expand.



## The Chosen People Newsletter

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

*Chosen People Ministries UK Board of Directors:* • Mr. Tim Bath • Mrs. Yvonne Bath • Dr. Mitch Glaser • Mr. Simon Hawthorne • Rev. Caroline Hewlett (advisor to board) • Ms. Elizabeth Hockenhuil • Rev. Kenneth Jefferson • Dr. John Pretlove, Chair • Mr. Peter Pretlove, Treasurer

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# Season of Miracles



The holiday season is full of light for both Jews and Christians. As believers in the Messiah, we celebrate Christmas because it signifies His birth, the time when the Light of Life entered the world in physical form to bring spiritual salvation.

Hanukkah, an eight-day festival celebrated by Jewish people at the same time of year, is similarly known as the "Festival of Lights." After the victory against their Seleucid oppressors (160 BC), the Jewish people re-entered their now desecrated Temple. Only enough oil remained in the Temple lamp to provide light for one day. It would take another week to prepare more oil to keep the lamp burning continuously. Miraculously, once lit, the lamp burned for seven days and eight nights—just long enough to replenish the oil. These eight nights are recalled by the eight candles of the menorah.

Today, Jewish families place their menorahs in a window because the light given by the menorah on Hanukkah is to be directed outward, to the whole world, and not kept inside the home (like Sabbath candles, for example). In this way, the celebration of Messiah's birth and the lighting of the menorah are not as different as they seem. In both cases, the Light has come for those in darkness: Messiah came to both the Gentiles and the Jews, even as the candles of the menorah are kindled for all to see.

Earlier this year, God worked another miracle worthy of commemoration, shining His light into an otherwise dark situation and demonstrating His plan to bless Jews and gentiles alike. Early last spring, Neriyah, one of our most

promising young workers in Israel and father of two young children, began to lose his battle against chronic kidney disease. Twenty-eight years old and already on the transplant list, his need for a new kidney became dire. The wait for a suitable organ had the potential to last for years—a luxury Neriyah did not have, particularly since his brother had died of the same kidney ailment.

Chosen People Ministries began to include Neriyah's plight in its donor correspondence, asking supporters for prayer on Neriyah's behalf. Thousands of miles away, in the United States, a pastor's wife and mother of six children was alone in her kitchen, opening mail. Though Cyndi is not Jewish, she loves Israel and the Jewish people, and had been following Neriyah's story closely.

Cyndi read that Neriyah's kidneys had stopped functioning; he was on dialysis nine to ten hours every day. Cyndi's heart sank and she began praying. She didn't know how to ask God to help Neriyah, but she soon knew what God was saying to her in response. She recalls, "My heart was skipping beats and I didn't feel like I was breathing. I had never, ever considered donating an organ (before). . ." Suddenly, she sensed that God was asking her to do so.

Cyndi could not shake the thought of donating her kidney to Neriyah, and she soon brought the idea to her family . . . at the dinner table! They were shocked, of course, but her husband agreed that they should pray about it. Soon thereafter, Cyndi wrote to Chosen People Ministries' president in the United States, Mitch Glaser, to ask about Neriyah's blood type.



Neriyah, a promising young worker in Israel, is the father of two young children.



In Michigan, Cyndi and her husband were praying for the Jewish people.



In Israel, Neriyah began to lose his battle against kidney disease.



God has been glorified in the amazing story of Neriyah and Cyndi.



Neriyah is back ministering in Tel Aviv with his wife Anna.

Shalom Mitch,

*My name is Cyndi. I am sure you would not remember me, but my husband and I met you a few years ago while we were in New York... When I received your recent letter, I felt moved to try to at least see if it is possible to donate a kidney... I have been researching about it and it seems almost impossible—there are so many obstacles! But if it were God's will, then all those things are nothing... I feel I must at least try by inquiring; it is so heavy on my heart...*

*Humbled by His great mercy,*

Cyndi

Mitch was in Israel, checking into Neriyah's situation when he received Cyndi's email. He soon wrote back to Cyndi that her blood type was identical to Neriyah's, and the process of testing for compatibility was underway shortly thereafter.

Neriyah remembers, "When Mitch told me about Cyndi in March, quite honestly, I could not believe it. It seemed too good to be true! And then there were all the obstacles to overcome. But Cyndi went through the tests one at a time, and the barriers just seemed to fall away."

The transplant surgery was scheduled for July 18, and Cyndi traveled to Israel for last-minute compatibility tests before the big day. Cyndi was in surgery for three and a half hours. A friend who was at the hospital recalls, "When Neriyah's mother walked into [Cyndi's] room, she just stood there with tears in her eyes, looking with love and confusion at this strange woman who had made this unbelievable sacrifice for her son. I went over and just held her and she wept under the weight of it all."

Much later in the evening, the doctor emerged from Neriyah's operating room. The transplant had been a success! God had truly worked a miracle.

Today, both Neriyah and Cyndi have recovered and returned to their daily lives. Cyndi is living in Michigan with her family, and Neriyah is ministering in Tel Aviv.

For him, though, life has changed dramatically. He says, "Already the transplant has made such a difference in my health. I have so much energy!

And this is very important—my body has accepted the kidney so well that the doctors want to take me off the anti-rejection steroids...

"Everyone who in any way was involved in this transplant has heard Cyndi's amazing story. People in the bureaucracy, in taxicabs, in chance meetings, in churches and Messianic congregations—in all these and other places that we don't even know about—the story of Cyndi's

love for God and her willingness to answer His call has become known. How can people deny that God is real when He has moved a complete stranger, an American woman who didn't even know me, to sacrifice a part of herself so that I might have life? She was truly a follower of the Messiah, who said, 'Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends' " (John 15:13).

This month, we celebrate the miraculous birth of the Messiah, who is mighty to save. How appropriate to also celebrate this miracle, a story of physical salvation orchestrated by God between two of His chosen ones—Neriyah and

Cyndi. May He, our God of miracles, be praised not only during this season, but throughout the year.