



All new for 2008—the Chosen People Ministries Messianic Jewish Art Calendar is filled with breathtaking photographs of the Land of Israel. 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. This is the perfect gift to give your Jewish friend, and also makes a beautiful decoration for your own home. This 16-month calendar goes from September 2007 through December 2008.

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### *From Rehab Centre to Congregation*

A few months ago, our Tel Aviv congregation baptised eleven people. Among them was Roman, a man who had been an alcoholic but had become a believer two months earlier. Before he came to the rehabilitation centre, Roman was deeply troubled. In addition to his alcoholism, he was under deep spiritual oppression and actually attempted suicide twice. The first time, he was saved as a man and woman stopped him from jumping off a bridge. The second time, he attempted to hurl himself in front of a speeding car, but amazingly emerged from that experience unharmed. Roman was then committed to a mental hospital. Following his release, he found his way to our rehabilitation centre where he received care from the believers and eventually came to faith in Messiah. He still lives at the centre, but now devotes himself to helping others.

Chosen People Ministries exists to take the Good News of Yeshua the Messiah to Jewish people everywhere. Toward this end, we evangelise seekers, and care for and disciple believers. We also plant new Messianic communities and strive to be advocates for the Jewish people. How exciting it is to be part of what God is doing in this way, not just here in the United Kingdom, but also in Israel. Thank you for your prayers and financial support that enable our work to proceed.

Yours for the sake of the Gospel,

  
Daniel



**UK Director Daniel Nessim**

Dear Friend,

While we are quite busy in ministry here in the United Kingdom, it is a pleasure to be also part of our ministry in Israel. This month, I would like to tell you about a new type of ministry in the Holy Land. As you know, direct evangelism is the very heart of Chosen People Ministries. But, as we become more involved in people's lives and circumstances, we gain a greater awareness of the obstacles many Israelis now face that require a new approach to outreach. As you may know, Chosen People Ministries has carried out an active ministry in Tel Aviv for the last ten years. During this time, we have set down deep roots in the Land and our staff and congregation have become a part of Israeli life. Therefore, we are more keenly aware of modern Israel's pressing social problems. For example, there is an increased number of homeless people and drug abusers in Israel—



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especially in Tel Aviv—and this problem is becoming impossible to ignore. And that is one place where we, through our Tel Aviv congregation, are developing ministries to minister to serve these desperate Israelis.

### *From Soup Kitchen to Rehabilitation Centre*

Our work with this specific group began with the simple mandate from our Messiah to feed the hungry. Chosen People Ministries' Messianic congregation, which serves as the hub for much of our evangelistic effort in the Tel Aviv area, became involved in a soup kitchen that serves as many as 150 homeless people every week. The soup kitchen has become the basis for an expanded vision that now includes a rehabilitation centre. We are seeing the fruit of this ministry as some of the people have begun to attend services. Of course, the greatest joys are the testimonies of those who have made decisions for Messiah.

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## **The Chosen People Newsletter**

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

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## **Prayer & Praise from around the World**



### ☆ **WITNESSING AT ISRAELI NEW AGE FESTIVAL**

The prophets of Baal seem to be making a comeback in the Promised Land if Shantipi ("Tranquil Tent") is any indication. This annual New Age festival, which takes place around the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), features yoga, tarot cards, palm reading, magicians and a number of other dubious spiritual practices designed to appeal to the thousands of Israeli youth that flock to the shore of the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) to sample its wares. But the Lord was also present through the witness of some of our

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# Messiah's Comforters to the Addicted in Israel



*Sergey K. – From Atheist and Addict to Messiah's Servant and Shepherd*  
Sergey was born into an atheistic Jewish family in St. Petersburg, Russia. Like many Jewish people from the former Soviet Union,

he was barely aware of his Jewish identity. As a result, his upbringing was far away from the values and heritage of Judaism. He also spent years in darkness, in bondage to gambling. While in the grip of his addiction, Sergey did many things of which he was ashamed, but he seemed powerless to stop them.

However, something had changed in his family. His father came to faith in the Messiah in 1989 and began witnessing to him. In 1992, Sergey came to the realization that God did indeed exist. The following year, through a search of the Scriptures, Sergey made his own faith decision and was delivered from his gambling addiction.

After this, Sergey served for many years as a pastor in the Baptist church in Russia and was also a director of the Russian division of "Light in the East" Christian Mission. A growing awareness of his Jewish identity led him to work with the Jewish people in St. Petersburg. After he immigrated to Israel, Sergey became the leader of Congregation Simchat Yeshua (Joy of Jesus)—the congregation planted by Chosen People Ministries more than ten years ago in Tel Aviv. Sergey also directs the rehabilitation centre where he serves as both a teacher and counsellor.

of 18, Brian came to know his Messiah in a powerful revelation through the godly witness and love of a Christian man who showed deep care and concern for Brian's emotional and spiritual needs. Through the Lord, Brian has found the wholeness he had always searched for.

Brian deeply desired to help others with a similar background, and this led him to seek professional education and become a certified drug and alcohol counsellor. He began working in hospitals with patients being treated for drug and alcohol abuse, psychiatric disorders and other life controlling issues. He then went on to get his nursing license. In 1996, when Brian was 26, God called him to leave the comforts of home to emigrate to Israel. On one of Brian's many visits there, he served for four months as a volunteer at a Messianic rehabilitation centre in Haifa.

This centre helped Israelis and Arabs with drug and alcohol addiction issues. In 1997, Brian married Racheli, an Israeli believer. They and their young children live in a suburb of Tel Aviv and are excited to be part of the Chosen People Ministries family working on the front lines of Jewish evangelism and bringing the healing ministry of Jesus the Messiah to the lost and addicted.

There are many roads to the Lord's service, and very often a person's past experiences are transformed into mighty instruments of ministry. This is especially true in ministry to the addicted. It is a beautiful testimony of hope to see the life-changing power of Messiah in someone who was formally enslaved but is now living a victorious life. The team that the Lord has assembled to work with the newly established rehabilitation centre in Israel has two workers who know what it is like to struggle against the immense challenge of overcoming addiction.

## *Brian S. – Finding Wholeness in Messiah*

Brian S. was born in 1969 and was raised in a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood. Though non-religious, his Jewish parents always celebrated the holidays with family. Before coming to the Lord, Brian encountered a series of difficult and stressful times in his life. As a troubled teenager, he fell into drug and alcohol abuse, seeking to satisfy a deep need for fulfilment and attention. His lowest point came after being arrested for possession of



narcotics at the age of 16. However, the Lord got Brian's attention and put him on a path of recovery and spiritual discovery. In the spring of 1987, at the age

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faithful staff members. Here are two testimonies to encourage us to remember that spiritual seekers may find their Messiah in the unlikelyst of places.

## ☆ **NERIYAH A. – SHOWING THE DIFFERENCE**

For the last three years, I did not participate in outreach at Shantipi because of my kidney disease. But, praise God: dialysis and my operation are behind me, and I went to preach the Gospel at Shantipi. The most amazing thing that I learned is that about 70 young Israeli believers preached the Gospel with great zeal! Moreover, they were such a testimony of unity, hospitality and purity. There were about 3,000 people, and there was trash everywhere except the place where the believers were. At one point, I gave a ride to a news reporter and he testified to me that, "You guys are special, for you are so different from other religious groups." We met a lot of young Israelis who asked so many questions about Yeshua (Jesus). One young man prayed to receive the Lord on the first day of the festival! He had participated in all our meetings, and each of us had a chance to share our faith with him in the light of the Scriptures. On the last day, he asked us to baptise him, which we did with great rejoicing.

## ☆ **HENRY AND DARLENE M. – MINISTERING IN UNITY WITH THE BODY OF MESSIAH**

My wife Darlene and I had a team of twelve people at Shantipi and we shared the Gospel during the three days of the event. Hundreds heard the message and many of them received Bibles in Hebrew. After much planting of God's seed, we prayed to Jesus for a harvest also. On the last night, the Lord did a miracle. I asked all the leaders from the different groups to come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper as one Body of Messiah. It was powerful to worship God in the midst of the spiritual darkness of this New Age festival. After communion, our team returned to our tent to share the Gospel with the many people who stopped to visit. One was a woman who was terribly worried about her sons who were going into the army. After much sharing, she understood how only Jesus can remove the fear she was living with and why we need to trust in Him. We explained the Gospel and the peace that only Jesus gives, and then this dear woman prayed to receive the Lord by the Sea of Galilee. What a joy and privilege to be a part of her decision!