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The Chosen People

SERVING THE JEWISH PEOPLE

SINCE 1894



LOVING JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF YESHUA



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friend,
Shalom, and Happy New Year!

'Shalom' refers not only to peace, but wholeness in all of life. It is the greeting with which Jewish people, and similarly Arabs ('Salaam'), greet one another. There is no greater 'Shalom' than that brought by a relationship with the Father, through the Son – our Messiah! It is this message of Good News that we bring to the Jewish people, remembering the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16:

For I am not ashamed of the good news of Messiah, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.



DANIEL
NESSIM

God's Word never changes. We know that the Lord stands behind these inspired words as much today as in Paul's day. But what an exciting world we live in, and what exciting times! The Good News certainly is powerful for salvation to the millions who are coming to faith around the world. I am thrilled when I learn what God is doing around the globe!

In all of that, I am equally thrilled that God has given us such a clear indication of His heart for the Jewish people. The Good News is for 'the Jew first' as much today as ever. In our passion to reach a lost world with the Gospel, we echo our Saviour's mandate to make disciples from all nations. We reflect His heart when we care about the world. We also reflect His heart when we echo His love for the Jewish people. God does not forget those whom He has called. His love is an everlasting love. He still loves the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and will one day send His Son to rule over His people once again. As He promised, David's throne and his dynasty are established for ever, like the sun. (Psalm 89:34-36).

When I was a child, my parents, both Jewish believers in Yeshua, were passionate about reaching Jewish people with the Good News that our Messiah has come, and that He can provide God's forgiveness for our sins. I fondly remember the trips to my father's office in Shoreditch, where he worked in a 'medical mission' to the many impoverished Jewish people there. Time marched on. Most of the community moved out to North West London. The large Hanukkah outreaches began to dwindle and new ways of reaching Jewish people in London had to be found.

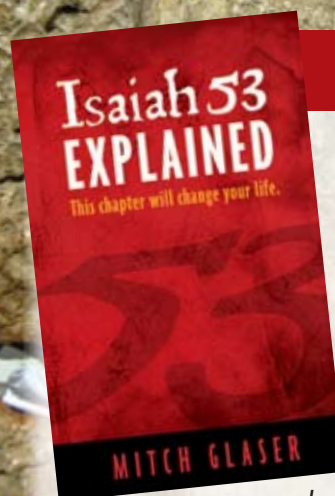


By 1969 the medical mission was closed, and the Nessim family was in the wet climes of Vancouver, Canada. When we arrived, out of 12,000 Jews then living there, only one was a believer in Yeshua! Things have changed there (and also here) as the Lord has worked, but by 2004 the Lord was making it clear to me that it was time for the younger Nessim family to return to London to serve in reaching the growing Jewish community here. With a calling from the Lord (and our UK Trustees!) and with prayer, it became clear where the latest venture in Chosen People Ministries' long history of ministry to Jewish people in the UK should be based. Starting afresh, Golders Green was the place.

Today, Golders Green is clearly the geographic and demographic centre of British Jewry. Of the 300,000 Jewish people who inhabit the United Kingdom, over 200,000 live within 45 minutes' reach of the Golders Green Tube station. A few streets both north and west of the Underground, Jewish shops are proliferating and signs of growth are everywhere. Bakeries and kosher restaurants vie with bookshops and kosher grocers. Jewish charity shops complement the many institutions discreetly tucked away here and there.

On the streets, religiously orthodox Jewish people are clearly visible everywhere with their black coats and hats. Even more numerous are those who do not wear anything to distinguish themselves as Jewish. In some

continued on back page



Isaiah 53 Explained

£8 + £2 p&p

Do you have Jewish friends who have questions about the meaning of life and spirituality? Maybe it is time for them to go right to the source and rethink their relationship with the Creator.

Isaiah 53 Explained will help kick-start your friends' personal pilgrimage and introduce them to a chapter in the Scriptures that has the potential to revolutionize their lives!

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Loving Jewish People in Yeshua's Name

New Year's Eve in Golders Green

A few weeks ago, on New Year's eve, we wondered whether people would want to attend our regular Friday night meeting in Golders Green. For us, though, it is a keystone to our outreach. Imagine how pleased we were to find not only that attendance was as usual, but also that fully a third of those present were not (yet) believers in Yeshua! First of all, we love our people whatever their position might be on Yeshua as the Messiah. Secondly, what a wonderful opportunity we had to share His love!

Food for Body and Soul

Every Tuesday at our Tel Aviv Messianic Centre, about 150 needy people receive a hot, delicious meal and clothing and food packages to take home—as well as spiritual nourishment. Staff members Brian S., Rachel G., Neriyah A. and Jason R. run the soup kitchen along with teams of volunteers.

Why do we do this type of ministry? First of all, it is commanded in Scripture: verses like Isaiah 58:7 and James 2:16 exhort us to meet the physical needs of those who lack food and clothing. Also, meeting a person's practical needs is often a great gateway to sharing about the Messiah, who meets our spiritual needs. Staff member Rachel G. observes, 'Sometimes people can't listen to the Good News until their basic needs are met. Many of the people we serve have been responding more to the Lord by giving Him thanks, praying and reading the evangelistic books we provide. Months ago, they did not do this!'

Brian, who also manages a soup kitchen and distribution centre in the neighbouring city of Netanya, shares one recent story from the field: 'We always offer support through prayer for the people, and make it known that we would love to stand with them in their time of need.'

'Recently, an elderly Russian Jewish lady and a couple with the wife in a wheelchair came to the soup kitchen, had a meal and received clothes. They approached us and asked for prayer for their children, who were addicted to drugs/alcohol. In the end of the conversation, they themselves realized they were hopeless and helpless and needed a Saviour. All three of these beautiful people received Messiah Yeshua as Lord! Hallelujah!'



Ministry to Holocaust Survivors

Do you know how many Holocaust survivors are now living in Israel? The number is around 250,000, about a third of whom live well below the poverty line. Many of these men and women who have suffered so much now consider themselves atheists or agnostics.

Maxim K. (see interview in sidebar) ministers to these elderly Jewish people by visiting them in their homes, organizing special excursions and concerts, offering food packages and practical help, and holding celebrations of Jewish holidays—all in the name of Messiah.

Not long ago, a group of Holocaust survivors accompanied Maxim on a trip to Poland, where many had spent time in concentration camps. They travelled for twelve days together, meeting every morning and evening to worship the God of Israel and study the Scriptures. Maxim reports (see our interview with Maxim above), 'To my great joy, this trip has changed many of them. Our programmes, God's Word and the love they saw in the Polish believers who invited us – all this made them consider God's existence and salvation. One woman said that she had never prayed or turned to God, but now she has started to pray together with her husband and they are truly happy!'

Interview with Maxim K., who ministers to Holocaust survivors now living in Israel

Why do you have a heart for this type of ministry?

Many Holocaust survivors have become increasingly open and are seeking the truth about God, but their days are numbered. My prayer is that they will receive Yeshua as their personal Saviour.

How do Gospel proclamation and practical aid work together?

I began ministry among elderly people with humanitarian and practical aid—but I always say who I am and what I believe. People were initially very closed, but eventually their hearts became more open. I believe that practical work is preaching the Gospel of Jesus through our lives.

Can you tell us a recent story from your ministry?

I see a big change in the people of Sderot, the town that has been subjected to so many rocket attacks from Gaza—the light of life has appeared in their eyes. After we shared the Gospel during our trip to Poland, an 86-year-old woman said: 'I'm so sorry I have not heard this before—I'm only now beginning to live!'



places on the streets not only English but also Yiddish (a European Jewish language) and Hebrew are often heard. Schools proliferate. According to a recent study of Jewish parents, 63% of those who send their children to Jewish day schools say, 'I feel extremely conscious of being Jewish and it is very important to me'.

Given that Jewish people believe you cannot be Jewish and believe that Yeshua is the Messiah – *that* is a problem! We are in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing – sharing Messiah's love with our people. Our people, however, whenever they think of Yeshua, think of someone who will take away something that is most important to them – their Jewish identity! A Jewish person may ask, 'how could the Messiah take away the very identity that God has given us?'

Maybe that is what was behind the words spoken to me a few years ago. 'You are worse than the Nazis!' were the words that came over the lovely meal I was being served. It might shock you, but these are perfectly understandable words to a Jewish person.

That is one of the reasons why reaching Jewish people with the Gospel requires patience, love and understanding. We know that the words of our Saviour are words of eternal life (John 6:68). More than we do, He wants to bless the Jewish people with a relationship with Him and with the Father. The Apostle Paul, though often prevented from reaching his own people with the Gospel, never gave up and never turned away from the task. Although called to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, he declared, 'my heart's desire and prayer to God is that Israel might be saved' (Romans 10:1).

At Chosen People Ministries we are thrilled at God's heart to reach the whole world, but like Paul our heart burns with desire to see more Jewish people come to faith in their Messiah.

I wish I could convey to you how wonderful it is when a Jewish person does come to faith in Him. I also wish I could convey our gratitude to those who have supported us in this work. It is not just financial, although we could not continue without financial support. Just as much, it is the moral and spiritual support we are given by fellow believers who understand the heart of the Lord for the Jewish people. The prayers of the saints have availed much. Thank you!

Could I ask you to begin this new year by taking Romans 1:16 to heart? Maybe you can pray. Maybe you have the capacity to give, in order that this work might move forward and reach more people for the Messiah. Thank you so much for caring about the salvation of Israel!

Yours in our Messiah,

Daniel Nessim

Daniel



NEWS AND PRAYER BRIEFS

ANTI-MISSIONARY ADS BACKFIRE



The ministry of Vladimir and Inna Pikman in Germany is very visible, making major Jewish publications in that country write to warn Jewish people about them. However, these articles bring the opposite result – God leads people to the Pikmans by using these 'warnings'. One Jewish lady, Anna,* found the congregation this way and became a believer – along with about fifteen of her relatives and friends!

A MEETING OF THE MOTHERS

A few weeks ago in the L.A. area, Dana N. met Sarah,* a young Orthodox mother who was at the park with her children. She and Dana began talking and discussing their religious beliefs. Sarah, who had not heard of Messianic Jews, responded by asking, 'I know Jesus was Jewish, but didn't he become Gentile?' Dana told her that Jesus always lived a Jewish life with a strong connection to the Jewish community. Sarah was surprised, but said that she is open to talking to people who believe differently. Dana exchanged contact information with her and discussed the possibility of meeting again in the near future. Please pray that God will help Dana build a relationship with this Jewish mother, who needs to know her Messiah.

*Names have been changed



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

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