





Dr. Mitch Glaser  
International  
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Ministries



# ISRAEL TURNS 70!

**D**ear friend in the Messiah,  
Shalom from New York City! We are celebrating Israel's 70th birthday this month. The State of Israel was founded on May 14, 1948, and President Harry Truman recognized the creation of the modern State of Israel that very day! I genuinely believe that one of the reasons God has blessed the United States is because of our support for Israel.

This blessing harkens back to the day God called Abram out of the land of the Chaldees. The Lord promised Abram that one day he would be the father of multitudes and that the people God would miraculously create would be granted a land and a mission to bring blessings to the nations of the world.

*Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. **And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**" (Genesis 12:1-3)*

This passage of Scripture is often entitled the Abrahamic Covenant. But, it is also a prophecy, as these verses span the course of human history! It is as if the story of Scripture is embedded in this short passage.

The promise presumes that the world needs blessing and that God Himself must take the initiative to bring these blessings about. Nine chapters earlier in the book of Genesis, Moses records the fall of humanity, almost immediately after the creation of Adam and Eve. The perfect existence of this first couple was destroyed when they responded in disobedience to God after being tempted by the serpent. God promises in Genesis 3:15 that this serpent would one day be destroyed by the "son of the woman."

The Lord also predicted in this passage that there would be enmity between the seed of the woman—all humanity—and the serpent. The Hebrew word *evah* (עֵוָה) for enmity, which may also be translated as "hostility," is used to describe the ongoing relationship through the ages between humanity and the "evil one." The hostility would end when the promised descendant of the woman would crush the head of the devil, destroying his power in the one climatic event that took place at the cross.

## *The Jewish People and the Plan of God*

The story of the Jewish people is the story of redemption. God chose Abram and his descendants to one day produce this glorious seed of the woman who would die for the sins of humanity, rise from the dead, and at the same time destroy the works of the devil. The remainder of human history is the unfolding of the results of this one sacrificial act of redeeming love on God's part.

The Jewish people were called by God to play a critical role in the working out of this unfolding story of redemption. God chose the Jewish people to be His bridge of redemption to a dark world broken by sin and death.

Mark Yarbrough, the Dean of Students at Dallas Theological Seminary, wrote a chapter for our new book, *Israel, the Church and the Middle East: A Biblical Response to the Current Conflict*. He writes,

*The major character in the grand story of Scripture is a people, the nation of Israel. The story of scripture is thoroughly Jewish. To de-emphasize or omit this part of the story is to misunderstand the covenants and the manner in which God*



*blesses all people through his Messiah. He does this by promises to the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Just think about it. How can the grand story of the Bible be presented without its Jewish context? The entirety of the Old Testament is centered around this unfolding story.*

We have worked together with Kregel Publications to produce this new book in honor of Israel's 70th anniversary! This new volume of more than a dozen essays will enrich your faith, teach you more about God's plan for Israel in the Bible, and will equip you to better evaluate current events in the Middle East. To order your copy please contact us in the office on NatalieC@chosenpeople.org.uk or by calling 0208 455 7911.

*Back to our story!* God promised Abram a people, a land, a mission, and the promise of an ongoing relationship with the Creator. Unfortunately, the same devil who tried to ruin what God created has also attempted to prevent this story of redemption from coming to pass. *Jewish history is the story of the devil's efforts to use the Gentile nations to destroy the Jewish people.*

Yet, the Lord used the Jewish people to compose and transmit the Scriptures to the world and in the fullness of time to bring the Savior to His creation through a Jewish family! The devil again tried to prevent the birth of the Messiah as Pharaoh attempted to kill baby Moses. Yet, God protected Moses and His Son and, in the same way, has faithfully preserved the Jewish people. Against all odds, the Jewish people have survived Crusades, Pogroms, the Holocaust, incessant attacks by hostile Middle Eastern neighbors, as well as the rise of modern antisemitism.

### *Israel: A Modern Miracle*

Now we have the privilege of observing a modern miracle and testimony to God's faithfulness — the creation of the modern State of Israel. The Lord has brought back the captives of Zion from the four corners of the earth, overturning all efforts to prevent the Jewish people from returning to the Promised Land.

The Abrahamic Covenant is in fact a prophecy that speaks of God's enduring love for the people He created and called! The Jewish people and the modern State of Israel bear witness to the faithfulness of God. And if this is true today, just think of what is going to happen tomorrow! The Messiah will return in His glory to take back the world He created and restore the planet and the people He so loved.

Israel still has a role to play in preparing the way for the second coming of Jesus. The Apostle Paul promises that the Lord will one day turn His chosen people to Himself:

*Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, HE will*

*remove ungodliness from Jacob."* (Romans 11:12,15, 25-26)

These words of Paul should not surprise us, as Ezekiel predicted these events hundreds of year before.

*For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.* (Ezekiel 36:24-27)

The prophet adds what has become one of my favorite promises of Scripture,

*"They will say, This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited."* (Ezekiel 36:35)

### *Until Then?*

We know what is ahead because God always keeps His promises. Therefore, how should we approach our relationships to our Jewish friends and family? The Apostle Paul again provides us with divine wisdom and charts a path for every believer worldwide to focus upon until we see Him face to face. We are to preach the gospel — to the Jew first and also to the Gentile! The conclusion to the story is yet ahead, but we too have a role to play. As Paul writes,

*How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"* (Romans 10:14-15)

Our piece of the puzzle is to tell this glorious story of redemption to all, especially to the Jewish people who play such a critical role in the story. Would you join us in proclaiming the Good News to the Jewish people? There is a lot more in the newsletter about what God is doing here in the UK through Simon, Fiona, and Emily. We also include an update on our ministry among young Israelis in Israel who travel abroad to beautiful New Zealand, Germany, and North America. I know you will enjoy this issue!

Thanks for joining me in thanking God for His faithfulness to His promises in wishing Israel a Happy 70th!

Your brother in the Messiah,



Mitch Glaser  
International Director

<> Mark M. Yarbrough, "Israel and the Story of the Bible," *Israel, the Church and the Middle East* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2018), p.54



My last trip to Latvia was remarkable and we saw the fruit of faithfully taking the Gospel there. It is such a privilege to see what the Lord can do. My first visit in 2014 was a challenge - how do we get the Jewish community not only to welcome the small gifts that we bring but, more importantly, to welcome the Word of God?



**FIONA SORBALA  
REPORTS**

So last month, just after Purim, we offered a Bible seminar for the local church that was hosting us and a Purim celebration for the Jewish community. Our seminar was well attended - not by the church but by the Jewish community! As I stood up to speak I was looking at twenty unsaved Jewish people, who listened intently to all I had to say. Now that was the first miracle of the day.

During the lunch break I started chatting with an elderly lady who had been smiling all the way through my talk. She told me that she had read every book that we had ever brought, and believed it all. So I asked her what she thought of Jesus and she answered, 'Oh, He is the Saviour and Messiah whom God sent and He is the Son of God'. We had just found a secret believer. Although maybe not so secret, as she had been encouraging her friends to come to our meeting.

In the afternoon meeting we had a wonderful time, with youngsters from the church singing and doing a piece of drama. Our joy was complete when another lady opened her heart to receive Jesus as her Messiah.

Here in London our Passover meal was perhaps the best we have ever held. A Jewish friend who hasn't yet accepted Jesus, when asked if he enjoyed it, answered it was 'awesome'. It was wonderful to see how many people helped in both the prep and the clean-up. What I have realised is that the Lord is teaching us how to be a community who serve one another in love.

I am so grateful for your prayers and support, without which we at CPM would be unable to take the Gospel to Jewish people.

### **SIMON LISSAK WRITES**

Last month I asked you to pray for evangelistic opportunities to be fitted in with my far too busy schedule! I promised to write and tell you the results, but I could not have dreamed the LORD would respond like this:

On the way to our weekly staff meeting I stopped at a Jewish bookshop to browse in their 'Religious' books section. As I did, a lady asked what kind of books I was looking for. 'Books that would help me understand the Tanakh better because I am at Bible College', I replied, and as an illustration I reached for a nearby book called 'The Rhetorical Function of the Book of Ezekiel'. To our amazement, the author was a lecturer at my college! We then had a long whispered conversation about Passover, Easter and what it means to believe Jesus is the Messiah! Afterwards she happily took my card and an 'I Found Shalom' testimony book. Please pray she would call or email me.

On the way out of the church where we have started our monthly prayer meetings, a woman approached me and asked if I was the vicar. We talked and she then explained she was an Israeli who had researched the Christian faith and become a believer in Jesus. Then, through tears, she explained that she had never met another Jewish believer in Jesus. We are now in contact and I hope to help her work out what this means to her in practice.

On the way home from an evening evangelistic meeting, I saw two Jewish men ahead of me on the escalator. As we reached the platform we all ran for the train, but I got there first and held the



Isn't it amazing what happens when you step out of your comfort zone and say yes to God despite your fears and insecurities! My comfort zone is staying away from any sort of microphone and stage - however, last month I said yes to the invitation to share my testimony and also to lead Messiah in the Passover talks in four Californian churches. Although quite daunting at first, I started to really enjoy teaching and encouraging the churches about the Jewish roots of their faith and also the complexities and best practices of how to share the Gospel with their Jewish friends.

Being in LA also provided me with time to spend with my dad and my Jewish friends. I felt the Lord really tug on my heartstrings for the Jewish people living in LA, and I am excited to serve there at the end of the year with CPM. I also made friends with a Jewish girl who went to school in a convent growing up. She didn't enjoy it but somehow the person of Jesus always stuck with her. She is currently opening her heart again to learning more about the Christian faith and is reading all of the New Testament. I invited her to a Messianic Jewish Passover meal, which she ended up going to and thoroughly enjoyed. I am hoping we will stay in contact so that I will get to encourage her in her journey towards Jesus.

In the beginning of May I spent the day at a Catholic youth retreat centre in a very Jewish area in London. I shared my testimony and showed



**EMILY EMANUEL  
SHARES**

## SIMON CONTINUES

doors open for them. Once on board, one of them thought he recognised me and asked if we had met! We then talked about my work teaching the Bible in Hassidic communities like Stamford Hill, where he lives. We discussed the Jewishness of Jesus and I managed to tell them that I believe Jesus is the Messiah. As they went to leave the train they both took my card. Please pray they would get back in touch.

It's difficult to explain how much these encounters mean to me, but I hope you understand. This has been the most wonderful answer to your prayers. Thank you.

If you would like more details or the names of these people so that you can pray for them more personally then please let me know.

## EMILY CONTINUES

them clips from 'I Found Shalom'. We had great conversations afterwards and it really opened their minds to understanding more about the Jewish people. I also shared a quote by the previous Archbishop of Paris, who was a Jewish convert to Catholicism but kept his Jewish identity – he said, *'I was born Jewish and so I remain, even if that is unacceptable for many. For me, the vocation of Israel is bringing light to the gentiles. That is my hope and I believe that Christianity is the means for achieving it.'*

Currently I am raising money to take 18 young Christians to Israel in June. Please pray for the finances and for the Lord to bless this trip. I will also be staying out in Israel in June and July to serve with CPM.

## STAYING FAITHFUL TO JESUS IN RUSSIA

Mira, our staff worker in Russia, vividly remembers the repentance of a Jewish woman on the streets of Dnipropetrovsk. Anti-missionaries tried to prevent Mira from talking to Bella\* and threatened her by saying that she would be deprived of any help from the synagogue if she believed in Jesus. Bella turned her back to them and prayed the sinner's prayer, calling Jesus her Messiah! When Mira told this story to her "dear children" (her group of elderly Jewish believers), she asked: "If renouncing Jesus means losing the help of the synagogue, would you do it?" All of them said without hesitation that they would stay faithful to Jesus!

## DIVINE APPOINTMENT AT THE COFFEE SHOP

Every Monday, Anna and Vladimir, staff members in Toronto, meet with two friends at a local coffee shop to spend a couple of hours in prayer, Bible reading, and ministry planning. As the four of them sat sipping coffee and strategizing, suddenly Anna said: "I feel that there is a person in this coffee shop who is waiting for us to share Jesus. Let us pray that the Lord shows us this person." In a few minutes Kari\*, the barista who had made them coffee, came to check on them. Not knowing how or where to start, suddenly Anna asked, "Are you a believer in Jesus?" Kari answered, "I am Jewish! I only read the Old Testament." Anna shared prophecies with her, especially from the Book of Isaiah. Kari was touched and said: "Oh, you know the Scriptures!" Anna and the group shared how they love the Scriptures, love the Jewish people, and pray for peace in Jerusalem. They also gave her a salvation tract which she promised to read! Pray for Kari to find her Jewish Messiah!

## TUESDAYS WITH JOSEPH

While leading ministry work among the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community last summer, staff member Rich met Joseph,\* a young Orthodox Jewish man in his early 30s. Joseph wants to make Rich into a good Jew (i.e., Orthodox). Rich, in turn wants to make Joseph into a good Jew (i.e., a Messianic Jew). They get

together periodically to discuss spiritual matters, but Joseph does not yet seem open to considering the Messianic claims of Jesus. Recently, Joseph reached out and they met up again. Rich prayed that this time it would be more relational and the Lord heard his prayer. Rich and Joseph shared their lives and became more open and transparent with each other. They parted warmly with the intention to meet again. Joseph is helping Rich understand the fast growing ultra-Orthodox community and is providing him with a window into a world that he would not otherwise have. The future of Jewish missions is among these unreached people!



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# Israelis on the

Israelis are some of the most traveled young people in the world. Every Israeli citizen is required to do two to three years of army service after they turn eighteen. After this time, many take an extended vacation for six months to one year to travel around the world before starting university or settling into a career. Meeting Israelis while traveling is a perfect way to connect with them, as they are often already thinking about the deeper meaning of life and are temporarily free from their normal, everyday responsibilities. Currently, Chosen People Ministries serves in Israel and has a thriving backpacker ministry in New Zealand, where Scott and Margie B. lead the ministry. Robin from Israel and Shmuley from the United States usually travel to New Zealand during the high tourist season so they can reach more people.

## ORI

Ori\* was an Israeli guest at our Zula Lodge in New Zealand, one of our three facilities that host Israeli travelers for free. Like thousands before him, he attended one of our weekly evangelistic Sabbath celebrations, enjoyed a “Hummus Night” at the Zula, and connected relationally with our staff and volunteers. However, Ori was especially responsive to one of our Israeli volunteers, Yonatan, and a friendship began. Ori and Yonatan have continued to stay in touch and Ori has had many questions, moving past curiosity into sincere examination. In the midst of these digital conversations with Yonatan, Ori’s father passed away. Often we find that crises distract the seeker from his quest, but not so with Ori! Praise God, Scott is delighted to report that Ori has now yielded his life to Jesus and is now firmly planted in

the kingdom! Ori is currently meeting regularly for discipleship with an Israeli believer who formerly volunteered at the Zula, and he is growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

## TALI

Divine encounters like this are so common that Noam, a director of a cutting-edge discipleship ministry in Israel, announced that he was going to New Zealand to see firsthand if these things were true. By the time Scott connected with him, Noam had spent four days at the Zula Lodge. Here is Noam’s report:

*To be perfectly honest, I was skeptical; I was pretty sure the reports were exaggerated. Everybody told me, “You’ve got to see it to believe it... it’s indescribable!” And now I see what they mean. What’s happening here is entirely unique. I’ve worked with young Israelis for decades, and I’ve never seen this degree of openness and receptivity. And it’s not just because they’re away from home. It’s because your staff has created an environment where these guys feel safe and loved, and it’s cracking open their hearts.*

That very day, Noam struck up a gospel-focused conversation with one of the guests, Tali,\* a post-military Israeli woman, and one hour later they were both in tears as she bounded toward the Kingdom of God. “I don’t remember the last time I had a conversation like that in Israel,” he said, barely able to contain his excitement. “What’s going on here?”

## ELA

Another such incredible story comes from Shmuley during his time in New Zealand, where he met Ela,\* an Israeli girl who grew up in a religious family. After her army service, Ela no longer considered herself to be religious. She does, however, believe that there is a God even though she is unsure of who He is. During her time with Shmuley and the team members, they talked about faith and what it means for a Jewish person to believe in Jesus. She was so intrigued by the belief in Messiah that she decided to lengthen her stay!

## MAYA

Robin, one of our staff members in Israel, also had incredible experiences to share about her time in New Zealand. Maya\* sat next to Robin



# Move!



during a Shabbat dinner in New Zealand. Before they all began to eat, one of the young Israeli believers on the outreach team stood up and spoke about Jesus. Another Israeli guest at the table whispered a question and Maya answered him explaining about Jesus and the Gospel. Afterwards, Robin found out that she had spent a couple of days with others on the outreach team and had heard these things from them.

Then Maya asked Robin how she had come to believe in Jesus. Robin said, "This is the amazing thing about backpacker outreach: Because we are spending time traveling together and building relationships, someone like Maya gets to meet several believers...they have time to think, and ask deeper spiritual questions." Maya is looking forward to a New Zealand reunion when she gets back to Israel.

## SHIRA

In Israel, not only do Chosen People Ministries' staff have reunions for travelers we meet abroad, but we also hold coffee and music nights, as well as holiday programming and a Shabbat dinner for young adults that is open to believers and seekers. Our missionaries are also able to connect with individuals and families. Recently, a staff member, Rachel, was talking with Shira,\* another young mother. Shira had lived in New York City for an extensive amount of time and as the women were sharing memories, Shira brought up spiritual questions. Rachel was pleasantly surprised with the switch in conversation and was able to share the gospel with her. Rachel has a feeling the news will spread about her belief in Yeshua, as she is on the parents' committee at school — but she welcomes it! Please pray for more opportunities for Rachel to share with other parents at her son's school.

## RAMAT GAN CENTER

Another staff member, Jason, also shared about the ministry at the Ramat Gan Center:

*"We held a community meal for young adults that was extremely successful. Friday nights are typically a time for Shabbat family meals in Israel, but not everyone can get home to their family. So, in partnership with a local congregation, we invited some young adults to have a meal with us. We know that young adults need fellowship with other believers but they often don't have that opportunity. About forty people registered for the meal, although we think more than eighty came! Praise the Lord that we had enough food to feed them all. It reminded us of the loaves and fishes! We encouraged people to invite their non-believing friends, and several came. We hope to make this a monthly event, so we need your prayers."*

Chosen People Ministries is seeking more staff to be part of the local team as opportunities to share the gospel in Israel are growing. It's exciting to think of all the potential ahead as we work together to develop and grow programs at our centers to reach more people with God's love. We truly believe that the next revival of Jewish people coming to the Lord will begin in Israel, among Israelis. We are so excited to see this come to pass and look forward to what is ahead!



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