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The Chosen People

# A RENEWED FOCUS ON PERSONAL EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP



BACK TO BASICS | UK MISSIONARY & EZRA FOUNDATION NEWS | REACHING THE HARD TO REACH: THE HAREDIM | UK PURIM CONFERENCE!

# Announcing the Foundations '22 Campaign

Dr. Mitch Glaser International Director Chosen People Ministries





#### ear Friends,

Chosen People Ministries, now in our 128th year of ministry, will continue to build on the solid foundation laid by our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, and the hundreds of missionaries and servants of the Lord who preceded today's staff family.

Jesus emphasized this need for a firm foundation when speaking to His disciples after giving the Sermon on the Mount: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt 7:24).

Jesus is the foundation and cornerstone of our faith!

The psalmist pointed to the One who, though rejected, would be the cornerstone of the kingdom: *"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes"* (Ps 118:22–23).

Chosen People Ministries is built upon the foundation of Jesus the Messiah and the Bible—the word of God. Paul wrote to believers in Ephesus about this foundation:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, **Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a *dwelling of God in the Spirit.* (Eph 2:19–22, emphasis added)

We learn a lot from the Apostle Paul about building a solid foundation for the Lord's work. He was an experienced ministry builder and wrote quite a bit about the importance of a solid foundation.

Wherever Chosen People Ministries staff have gone and whatever we have done throughout the years to build the Lord's work among the Jewish people, the foundation is always the same—the Lord Himself and the Bible. We make Jesus known for all He is and what He did, and we teach and preach the Bible to those with genuine spiritual hunger.

The Great Commission also never changes. We are called to proclaim the gospel, lead others to faith in the Messiah, and make disciples of all who believe (Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 1:8). This foundation includes the importance and priority God places on Jewish evangelism (Romans 1:16), if one takes the words of Paul literally!

## The Goal of the Foundations '22 Campaign

Our goal for the Foundations '22 campaign is to build Chosen People Ministries for the future—until the Lord returns! To do this, we need to return to and embrace the very foundation of our ministry and reaffirm the basic elements of our work.

This clarion call to evangelize, disciple, and train others to do the same grows out of the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20, emphasis added).

The task never changes!

The opportunities and circumstances of the day might influence how we carry out the commission and the tools we use. But our message and work is always the same!

For example, Chosen People Ministries has confronted two world wars, various global economic disasters, the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel, and the multiple wars in the aftermath of 1948 (i.e., 1967, 1973, its Lebanon Wars, and two intifadas). These challenges impacted the ways in which we carried out our Jewish gospel mandate and led to creating new tools to reach and serve the Jewish people. God used our staff, particularly in the aftermath of the Holocaust, to help Jewish people who survived the Holocaust re-settle in Europe and Israel and feed the poor survivors as they returned home to their European communities.

We have helped immigrants from the former Soviet Union, many of whom were Holocaust survivors as children, but today, of course, are elderly and have so many needs. The greatest of these needs is hearing about Jesus, and over the last two decades, we have served these dear people and have shared the message of hope through Jesus with hundreds. By God's grace, many Holocaust survivors have given their hearts to the Lord.

The recent pandemic also required us to shift strategies as so much of our effort was focused online, which was the best way for Chosen People Ministries to enter the homes and lives of Jewish nonbelievers and believers alike. We needed to limit our usual method of meeting with people in person during the pandemic, but we were still able to carry out our ministry goals.

Now, it is time to get back to in-person meetings and to even greater involvement in the lives of those we serve.

This year, we will strengthen our ministry in three areas, which should come as no surprise. First, we will emphasize direct personal evangelism as we are able. We will also disciple those who come to faith and help them grow in their faith and become part of congregations. Additionally, we will train the next generation of Jewish and Gentile believers to serve the Lord with greater depth and expertise.

# Your Partnership in the Foundations '22 Campaign

You can partner with Chosen People Ministries through prayer, giving and personal involvement.

#### Prayer

Please pray that Chosen People Ministries missionaries in the UK remain faithful and effective in proclaiming the gospel of the Jewish Messiah in and out of season—through pandemic and political turmoil as this world is in desperate need of His Shalom today.

Pray that the seeds of the gospel land on good soil and produce much fruit in London, Manchester, Leeds and throughout the major Jewish communities across our country.

Finally, pray the Lord raises up a new generation of believers to reach Jewish not-yet believers with the message of Jesus!

## Your Partnership

We plan to get back to basics and do more personal work—one to one, heart to heart ministry among our Jewish people...the fog is lifting and we are ready!

We are praying for the Lord to provide the funding so that we may focus on and increase our work of evangelism, discipleship, and training in the days ahead. Some of the funds we raise in the UK will go to operate our centres and to support missionaries in Israel, Russia and other places where they cannot raise their basic funding needs. *We want to help them*! Please designate your gift to 'overseas support' if this is your preference for support.

We especially need funds for people hoping to join our staff as missionaries. These dedicated souls are so precious as these are the members of the Lord's special forces who are on the front lines bringing the Gospel to God's chosen people

Allow me to describe some of the ways you can get involved:

### Personal Involvement

#### 1. Introduce us to your not-yet-believing Jewish friend.

We need your help identifying Jewish people we can talk to about Jesus. We will be happy to send your friend a free copy of my book, *Isaiah 53 Explained*, and ask if they would like a personal contact with one of our UK Missionaries.

#### 2. Connect us to Jewish believers you know.

We would like to reach out to Jewish believers you know and encourage them with the various growth and service opportunities available to them through Chosen People Ministries. We have materials, mentors and so much more to help Jewish believers grown in their faith.

3. Join us in training for Jewish ministry.

We have many training and teaching opportunities available that you can be part of and also promote these to your fellowship, church or Bible study groups. For example, you may want one of our missionaries to come and speak at your fellowship gathering, they are gifted in delivering a number of topics concerning God's heart for the Jewish People and the land of Israel, and expanding further on how Messiah is revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures. Please also join our weekly online bible study, contact info@chosenpeople.org.uk for details on how to join. We have had no end of feedback to say how much people are enjoying it and that they are learning so much! We would love for you to join us.

We will describe more of the specifics of our Foundations '22 campaign in the months ahead. *I will begin by sharing vital information and fuel for your prayer life in this newsletter, about some of the hard-to-reach Jewish communities* with whom we are already engaged with and hope to serve even more in 2022.

Thanks for caring, praying getting more involved and supporting our ministry among the Jewish people, in the UK and beyond.

Yours in our Messiah,

Mitch

P.S. Your gift of £25.00 or more at this time will help us move towards our goal of £220,000 in 2022!



I met a Jewish lady a few weeks ago and had the joy of being able to share my faith with her and the hope that we have because of Messiah. She like many Jewish people struggled to grasp the love of God. So, we are thankful for all of you who make our work possible.



**FIONA SORBALA** 

We restarted our monthly Friday evening meetings in the Café in Golders Green celebrating the Jewish Shabbat. We light the sabbath candles, share *challah* (the sabbath loaf), sing and teach God's Word. We want to show that faith in Jesus is not incompatible with being Jewish.

What we hope is that our presence provides an opportunity to engage with Jewish people, especially as the evenings lengthen and more people are out and about, we want people in the café and passers-by hear our singing as we praise the Lord. I remember last summer the Rabbi who stopped in his tracks as he heard us sing a traditional Jewish melody in Hebrew and the Jewish musician who stopped at the door to listen and then sat down and heard the message. We want to see more of this!

The congregation is enjoying its new venue in North Finchley, and we have a renewed sense of unity and purpose. Our hybrid services have become our norm and are working well, enabling the online participants to interact with the people who are physically present in the venue.

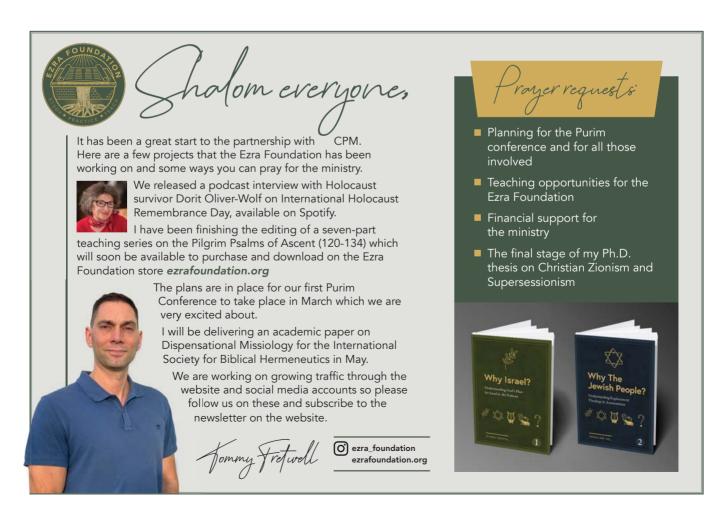
Despite losing a few members during the pandemic for various reasons, the Lord has blessed us with more Jewish believers who join our services via our online presence, as well as in person. This is very encouraging, especially when we are able to support people as they reconnect with their Jewish background in the Messiah.

Recently, I recorded another program for CPM USA's 'Our Hope' podcast. It was on the topic of what the Bible says about prayer and fasting and its understanding in Jewish thought and practice. It will be available on the CPM UK YouTube channel when it's been broadcast.

The weekly Tuesday zoom bible study has begun a new series on the Jewish background to the names and titles of Jesus in Isaiah 9, and how they are fulfilled in the New Testament. The studies are open to everyone, as are the online zoom services for the Messianic Congregation so please do invite your friends and contact us if you want to find out more.

We hope you will join us on the 15th March for our Purim Conference via Zoom with Tommy Fretwell and Brian Crawford as our main speakers. Please see the back page advert for more details.





#### ISAIAH 53 REVEALS THE LORD TO GERMAN ETHICS CLASS

A student said, "My dad hates Jews, but I'm glad he did not pass it on to me."

Recently, one of our missionaries in Germany was invited by a tenth grade teacher to speak on antisemitism and to share his experience and faith with the class. What an opportunity to impact students for the Messiah and against antisemitism!

Since this was an ethics class, which in Germany is offered to students who opt out of the Christian religion class, our staff expected there to be quite a few Muslims, atheists, and a few Jewish students. He was not disappointed.

Our missionary began with the words, "I'm a Jew who believes in Jesus" and went on to discuss Isaiah 53. "Does this Jewish prophecy ring a bell?" he asked the class.

"I think it describes Jesus, who was born in poverty, took the sins of the world upon himself, died, was buried in the grave of a rich man, and rose from the dead," a Muslim student responded—a brilliant kid who goes to pray at his mosque every Friday.

"Does it strike you all that it was written 700 years before the birth of Jesus?" The kids never considered Jesus from this perspective.

Our staff member also opened up about his own experiences of antisemitism, which were very informative to the students as he encouraged them to stand against an "us-them" mentality or that of "the other." In the end, the teacher asked if he would come again!

#### ISRAELI ENCOUNTERS THE LORD ON A BUS

A divine appointment! On the bus in Southern California, one of our missionaries overheard a passenger explaining to the bus driver why he did not have a physical ticket . . . the passenger spoke with an Israeli accent. It turned out that Onan\* was traveling as many Israelis do after they finish their military service.

Our staff member shared with him that he and his wife were getting married at the same time Israel was fighting for its existence in the 1967 war. He added that they decided to go to Israel immediately after getting married to volunteer on a kibbutz that a friend told him about.

Onan was so impressed by the story that he called his parents in Israel to introduce them to our missionary and to tell them that a non-Jewish couple helped Israel by volunteering to work on a kibbutz teaching English to the kibbutz members and children.

Our staff member then presented to Onan the wonderful Messianic Scriptures, Psalm 22:16–18 (a description of the crucifixion) and Isaiah 53. He also shared with Onan the website, "I Found Shalom."

# EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES DURING DUBAI TOUR

One of our missionaries received a call from a tour company asking for help with Hebrewspeaking Israeli groups, who were flooding into the great Arab city of Dubai. He and his wife led forty-one Israelis in Dubai. Many were very moved when he sang a Psalm in Hebrew over the group: "Some trust in chariots and some trust in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Ps 20:7). The short return flight was a true reality check, as the lights of Saudi Arabia twinkled below!



#### DIVINE MOMENTS ABOUND

One of our missionaries in Indiana works out three times a week at his local community center, where he often brings a gospel tract or a copy of the *Jesus Film* DVD to hand out.

As he was leaving the local gym, he encountered a Chinese woman who did not speak English well and gave her a copy of the *Jesus Film*. Since one of the available languages for the film was Mandarin, she was quite excited.

A moment later, a man approached the reception desk asking if they had found an Indiana University sweatshirt. In their conversation about the university, our worker discovered this man and his wife were Jewish and from New York City. Our staff shared with him our website *IFoundShalom.com*, where he would find many stories of Jewish people who encountered Jesus.

Minutes later, our staff met an African American man sitting in the lobby. After some brief casual conversation, our worker invited the man to visit their new church plant that meets in a local high school auditorium.

Three encounters with three very different people, cultures, and backgrounds all took place within about ten minutes! There are hurting people everywhere we turn, and the Lord always has divine encounters waiting if we allow ourselves to be led by Him!





ver the next few months, we will introduce you to the Jewish communities we hope to reach with the gospel message in the year ahead. Our goal is to help you learn about these various groups and to encourage you to pray for them as each one is precious in the sight of God. We are doing as much as we can to reach each and every group—from the religious to secular, young

Israelis, and so many others worldwide. This month, we will take a brief look at the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community.



# The Haredim

One group we hope to reach as part of Foundations '22 is those whom Jewish] people typically view as the most religious within the community. They are usually called *Haredim*. This common term includes all ultra-Orthodox Jewish people: the various Hasidic sects, old-style Orthodox, and even some Modern Orthodox Jewish people. Haredim is a transliteration of the Hebrew term that means "those who fear" or "the reverent ones." In other words, Haredim are those who fear God and are very traditional in their expression of faith and observance of the Jewish religion.

There are very few believers in Jesus among them, and we hope to focus on praying for and reaching these extraordinarily devoted members of the Jewish community. They remind us of the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote: "For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge" (Romans 10:2).

### Lifestyle

The Haredim dress differently so they can stay separate from the wider world. Women are very modest; they wear long dresses or skirts and cover their hair with scarves, wigs, or hats. The men usually wear black clothing and white shirts. On the Sabbath, they dress more formally and often wear elaborate fur hats—all these examples reflect the clothing worn by upper-class Eastern Europeans of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The children usually attend *yeshivas*—Haredi parochial schools. They live together within a wired boundary called an "eruv," and their synagogue is only a short walk away. The Haredim eat food that meets the highest kosher standards. Children are often well-behaved, marriages are usually arranged, and the roles of men and women are strictly defined. Men work but also spend much of their time studying the Torah. Many Haredi women work so that their husbands can study, but they also tend to the children and matters of the home.

The Haredim revere their rabbis, using the title "rebbe" to describe their leaders. The hope for the Messiah's coming and the establishment of His kingdom in Israel is a vital part of the religious beliefs of the Haredim. They believe the Messiah will come—once—to reign as king and do not believe in two comings of the Messiah, especially that He will come to die for the sins of the world. Passages like Isaiah 53 are not interpreted as referring to the Messiah but

rather to Israel, who is deemed as having suffered for or even because of the sins of the nations.

#### Haredi Population Numbers and Places of Residence

According to a survey by the Pew Foundation in May 2021, there are stark differences between Orthodox and secular Jews: "Orthodox Jews are more likely than the non-Orthodox to say that following Jewish law and being

part of a Jewish community are essential to what it means to them to be Jewish. Non-Orthodox Jews are more likely than the Orthodox to say that remembering the Holocaust, being intellectually curious and having a good sense of humour are essential."<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, from that same report, 83 percent of Orthodox Jews believe that keeping the Jewish law is essential to Jewish identity. Since keeping the Jewish law is essential to the Haredim, this percentage might be lowered by the inclusion of some with a nominally Orthodox upbringing.

Even though many Haredim reject secular Zionism and the modern State of Israel, many still live in Israel, mainly in Jerusalem neighbourhoods like Mea Shearim and east of Tel Aviv in B'nei Brak. Hundreds of thousands of Haredim also live in the New York City area—extending one hundred miles north of the city—and Lakewood, New Jersey. There are many other enclaves of Haredim in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and around the world in countries like England, France, and Argentina.

There are dozens of distinct groups that we might identify as Haredim, including Hasidic groups like the Chabad

1 "Jewish Identity and Belief," Pew Research Center, May 11, 2021, accessed January 17, 2021, https://www.pewforum.org/2021/05/11/jewish-identity-and-belief/.

Lubavitch, the Ger, and Satmar. We would also count old-style Orthodox living in Brooklyn's Borough Park, Williamsburg, and many other New York areas.

It is hard to estimate the total number of those who consider themselves Haredim. The Haredi population is also one of the fastest-growing groups in Israel and among the five-and-a-half million Jewish people living in the United States.

The *Times of Israel* reported Haredi population numbers and growth rate: "The ultra-Orthodox . . . population in Israel numbers around 1.175 million, showing an annual growth rate of 4.2 percent over the past decade, over twice the 1.9% shown by the rest of the Israeli population and over three times that of the rest of the Israeli Jewish population."<sup>2</sup>

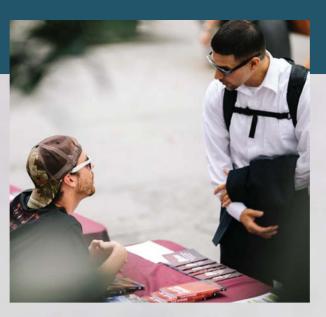
Regarding the future of the Haredi community in Israel, The *Times of Israel* also noted, "At those rates, the community will double in size every 16 years while the rest of the population is expected to double in size every 37 years. The non-Haredi Jewish population is predicted to double every 50 years at current rates."<sup>3</sup>

#### Worldview

Many Haredim have an *entirely* different worldview than your average Christian, Messianic Jewish believer, or even secular American Jew. The Haredim have a different prism through which they evaluate and understand how the world works—a different manner of thinking altogether.

Though we may all be communicating in English, it is as if we are often speaking two different languages. Sometimes, this is literally true. The Haredim usually speak Yiddish, a language based on a combination of Hebrew, German, and Slavic languages, but written in Hebrew characters. To speak to the hearts of the Haredim, we are producing literature, videos, and books in Yiddish.

When we share the message of how a person can be saved and have a personal relationship with God, *we are providing an answer to a question that the Haredim are not usually asking*. Moreover, we tend to frame our response in completely foreign categories to their thinking, and understanding of who God is, and who we are as human beings. The Haredim do not think in terms of "saved" and "unsaved." They believe that every Jewish person already has a place in "the world to come," the afterlife. The Haredim try to keep the Law because this is what God commanded them to observe as part of their covenant



relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

#### Access

Reaching Haredim is also challenging as they live in tightknit communities, limited to specific geographical locations where there is very little need or desire to interact with outsiders. Like the Amish, the Haredim choose to live in self-sufficient communities to guard against

what they see as harmful secular influences. The collective memory of atrocities on the part of the nations and even by "Christians" has also contributed to the shaping of the Haredi communities and their views about Jesus.

Jewish history is filled with examples of persecution of Jewish people by so-called Christians. This has produced a built-in distrust and scepticism of those outside the community, especially those who are not Haredi.

The community is very well-organized and concerned for the ongoing well-being of its members. There are even directories with phone numbers to call if someone has a particu-

lar need. Having a party and need fifty folding chairs? Call the number, and someone will drop them off. Visiting a different city and need a place to stay? Not a problemmake a call, and someone will offer housing. For these reasons and others, it is very difficult to gain access to the Haredim and even to begin a conversation about the Messiah.

While it may be challenging to reach the Haredim for the Lord, we can never underestimate the mysterious ways in which God turns the hearts of seemingly hard-to-reach people to Himself! We have seen the Lord move by His Spirit in these communities in the past, and we praise Him for the work He is doing now and will do in the future!

Not all Orthodox Jews are Haredi but all Haredim are Orthodox.

- The strictly Orthodox Jews of Britain has a very young profile; 34% of Jews in Hackney are aged 14 and under, compared with 16% for Jews generally.
- Between 1990 and 2005, strictly Orthodox (essentially haredi) congregations increased by 51%.
- Jews account for about 0.5% of the national UK population.
- It is possible that 40% of all Jewish births annually are to strictly Orthodox couples, and the growth rate in the haredi community is estimated to be 4% per annum.<sup>4</sup>
- 4 "Key trends in the British Jewish community: A review of data on poverty, the elderly and children," Institute for Jewish Policy Research, April 2011, accessed February 17, 2022, jppi.org.il

Stuart Winer, "Haredi Population Growing Twice as Fast as Overall Israeli Population— Report," *The Times of Israel*, December 31, 2020, accessed January 18, 2022, https:// www.timesofisrael.com/haredi-population-growing-twice-as-fast-as-total-israelipopulation-report/
Ibid.



#### Walk with Yeshua Through the Year, Jewish Art Calendar 5782

Our calendar this year includes beautiful images and descriptions of the Holy Land. Your heart will be encouraged, and you will get to know the Jewish Jesus better than ever before.

The images of Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Jerusalem, and many other places where Jesus walked will invite you into a deeper fellowship with Him.

SALE Price £6 plus £2 p&p

### Order via our webstore: shop.chosenpeople.org.uk or via our office

020 8455 7911.



MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER





With Passover starting the evening of 15th April, what better way to understand the wonderful truth of our Lord in this incredibly important Jewish Feast.

*Messiah in the Passover,* covers a full range of topics including the biblical foundations for the Passover and the Lord's Supper, the Passover throughout Jewish and Church history, as well as how Jewish people celebrate Passover today.

The book, edited by Dr. Darrell Bock, (professor of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary), and Dr. Mitch Glaser, (president of Chosen People Ministries), provides all that is needed to conduct a Passover Seder in your home. Also included are crafts for the children, recipes so that you can make delicious Passover foods, and great detail on how to use the Passover as an evangelistic tool in reaching your Jewish friends.

*The Gospel in the Passover* is written for those who want to explore the traditions of the Passover and deepen their understanding of the links between Passover, the Last Supper, and Communion.



## MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 · 7PM

# Speakers

Thomas Fretwell Ezra Foundation Covenant, Promise & the Faithfulness of God

Brian Crawford Chosen People Ministries USA Restoration & Renewal in Prophecies of God

To register visit chosenpeople.org.uk/webinar







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

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