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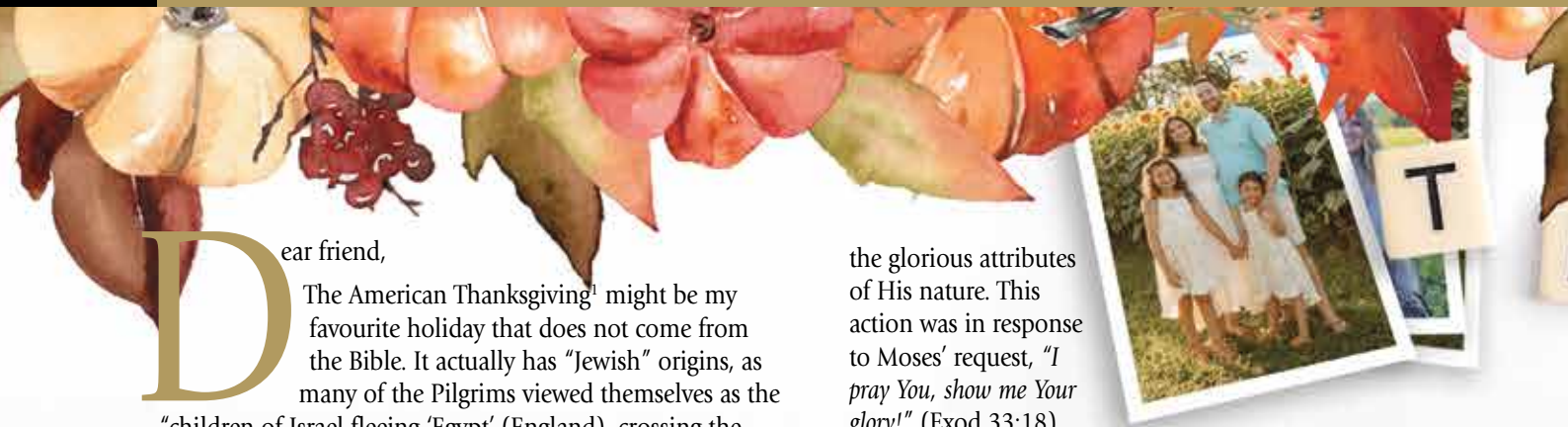
# The Chosen People

SERVING THE JEWISH PEOPLE SINCE 1894



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Dear friend,  
 The American Thanksgiving<sup>1</sup> might be my favourite holiday that does not come from the Bible. It actually has “Jewish” origins, as many of the Pilgrims viewed themselves as the “children of Israel fleeing ‘Egypt’ (England), crossing the ‘Red Sea’ (the Atlantic Ocean), and emerging from this ‘Exodus’ to their own ‘promised land’ (New England).”<sup>2</sup>



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
 International  
 Director  
 Chosen People  
 Ministries

The Pilgrims believed their role in God’s plan was similar to the purpose God gave to Abraham and his descendants: to be a blessing to the nations. These religious refugees to the New World eventually led to the Puritan movement, which profoundly influenced the growth of the gospel in what would become the United States of America.

One of the great Puritan preachers, Cotton Mather, published a well-known sermon about thanksgiving in 1689. I especially appreciate his comment:

To praise God, is to Acknowledge in Him something *Excellent*, as ‘tis said in Psal. 148.13. *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His Name alone is Excellent*; thus, when we Acknowledge an *Excellency* in all those Manifestations which God maketh of Himself; then ‘tis that we *praise* Him. Now the *Praises* owing to the God of Heaven from us, are obliged not only by what He *Is*, but also by what He *Does*: indeed by what He *Does* it is that we come to Learn what He *is*. We ought to Acknowledge an *Excellency* in the *Nature* of God; which is to Ascribe *Glory* to Him.<sup>3</sup>

Ever since I came to faith in Jesus at age nineteen, I have believed that it was better to focus on who God is rather than what He does for us. One great temptation in giving thanks is to focus on what He has done rather than who He is. God’s character and glorious nature never change, but His works can change daily as the Lord is intimately involved in all aspects of our daily lives.

We understand God’s character through the Bible. One of my favourite passages in the Hebrew Scriptures that describes the character of God is in Exodus chapters 33 and 34. If you recall, God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, then hid him in the *cleft of a rock*, passing by him while declaring

the glorious attributes of His nature. This action was in response to Moses’ request, “*I pray You, show me Your glory!*” (Exod 33:18).

God answered,

*“You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” Then the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.”* (Exod 33:20–23)

It is well worth reflecting on the following passage where His attributes are listed:

*Then the Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”* (Exod 34:6–7)

This monumental event on Mount Sinai—the manifestation of God’s attributes—became an important prayer within Judaism known as the Thirteen Attributes of God.

I genuinely believe the best way to thank God is to show our gratitude for His unchanging character. This lesson is what God taught Moses on top of Mount Sinai. Likewise, the Puritan leader Cotton Mather discovered this same truth.

Therefore, we, too, should begin our prayers of thanksgiving by first acknowledging His glorious character and the magnificence of His attributes. Then, we should continue praising and thanking Him for all He has done.

His good works proceed from His good character, and I believe this order in our prayers of thanksgiving is also critical.

### *We Are Grateful*

At this time Your Mission to the Jewish People has so much to be thankful for as a ministry among the Jewish people. Below are a few points of praise for your encouragement. Our hearts are overflowing with the simple joy of knowing a good and benevolent God who created, loved, and redeemed us through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

1 The USA celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday 24th November this year.  
 2 Marvin R. Wilson, *Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990), 127.  
 3 Cotton Mather, “A Sermon Preached to the Honourable Convention of the Governour, Council, and Representatives of the Massachuset-Colony in New-England on May 23, 1689,” <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A50176.0001.001/1:5?rgn=div1;view=fulltext>.



## ***An Increase in Congregations and Jewish Believers in Israel***

When I first traveled to Israel as a believer in 1976, fewer than 500 Messianic Jews may have lived in the land. Some Jewish believers had survived the Holocaust, and a few had moved from North Africa to Israel. Most were not native Israelis and had come to Israel as believers from other parts of the globe. Some came to be part of the great Israel experiment, and others came to serve the Lord in the land. Now, more than seventy years later, there are probably between 20,000 and 30,000 Messianic Jews in the Holy Land, most of whom came to faith in Israel.

I believe we are now in a second-generation and even third-generation outpouring of the Spirit, transforming the national Israeli Messianic body.

This movement of the Spirit has also transformed our ministry as we continue to reach younger generations of Israelis along with the hundreds of elderly Holocaust survivors who we have been serving these past twenty-plus years. We now have our first generation of Jewish believers born in Israel, speaking Hebrew as their native language, attending Israeli schools, and serving in the Israeli army.

### **These Israeli believers are young, bold, and willing to give their all for Jesus the Messiah!**

That is why we have rented a facility in the greater Tel Aviv neighbourhood of Ramat Gan where we organize Sabbath outreach dinners, concerts, café nights, Bible studies, reading groups for moms and children, and so much more each month. We can do this because the Lord is working within a new generation of Israelis.

We are in the thick of this outpouring of the Spirit—discipling and nurturing new believers and this new generation of young Israeli leaders! The future of the Messianic Jewish movement in Israel is bright, and I hope you will want to participate in this work of the Spirit through Your Mission to the Jewish People. We do need more worship space!

## ***New Ministry Opportunities with Traveling Israelis***

We are reaching Israelis by meeting adventurous post-army young adults in places like the Upper West Side of New York City, the South Island of New Zealand, India, Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China. We are also about to open up ministry stations in Brazil and Japan to reach these wandering Israelis. Our short-term and permanent teams are

sharing the gospel with them as they enjoy hikes, BBQs, hummus nights, or a lovely meal of traditional Chinese food!

The Israeli traveller community is a cultural phenomenon and a growing trend that enables us to speak to young Israelis in areas where there is less pressure to conform. In these contexts, they allow themselves to search outside of their usual choices for ways to have happy and meaningful lives and are open to new ways to have a relationship with the God of Israel.

In addition, we are creating a hosting network within the United States, and if you would like to host young Israeli people just out of the army in your home, please let us know! We are now beginning to look for American hosts for the new year.

## ***An Increase in Pro-Jesus Sentiment among Younger Generations of Jewish People***

We are surprised by the large number of young Jewish people from all over the world responding to our social media, Facebook ads, our new campus outreaches, and the congregations we plant. A recent Barna survey has revealed that Jewish millennials are more open than their parents to the gospel and even to the possibility that Jesus is both Messiah and God in the flesh. We find this astounding! In addition, young people are the majority of the more than 10,000 Jewish non-believers we have met online through our digital outreach campaigns over the last few years, including our *Isaiah 53 Explained* eBook offer and our “I Found Shalom” video testimonies.

I am also very excited about resuming our residential outreach ministry (House of Living Waters) at New York University (NYU), which has the largest concentration of Jewish students in the United States. We have two young men living in an apartment across the street from the NYU campus and a young woman living in Brooklyn. They are all actively engaged in sharing the gospel with Jewish students.

Again, these opportunities and the openheartedness of the younger generations give me incredible hope for the future of God’s work in bringing the Jewish remnant to Himself in these last days (Romans 11:25–29).

Please enjoy reading our latest missionary news from the UK, this is all possible because of your continued support—we are so Thankful!

Your brother,

Dr. Mitch Glaser  
International Director







**FIONA SORBALA**

**S**halom. This autumn season sees some real changes in my ministry. I have been made the Co-Director of Chosen People Ministries UK, working alongside Dr Mitch Glaser, who is the International President of Chosen People Ministries. I count it a real privilege not only to be given this

role but to have the opportunity, with God's grace, to be part of God's plan for our ministry. Reaching Jewish people with the Good News that Jesus is their Saviour and Messiah is at the heart of what we do.

Recently I attended a conference run by Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism. We came away challenged and encouraged by the emphasis on doing evangelism where Jesus really is the main point!

I plan to visit Latvia at Chanukkah. This will be my third visit this year and it is always such a joy. On my last visit we had a group of 16 Jewish people attend and we are praying for more, especially as it will be a Jewish festival.

In our group we have three believers in Yeshua, and I love being there and preaching the Gospel and encouraging them in their walk.



**FIONA TEACHING ABOUT ROSH HASHANAH AT A CHURCH MEETING IN LATVIA**

At the end of November, I will once again be in Berlin to lead a women's conference for Ukrainian refugees at the congregation led by Beit Sar Shalom. Our plan is to not only teach and disciple them but provide a safe space for them to express the pain and loss they are dealing with as a result of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Our Messianic congregation in London is looking for ways to reach out into the Jewish community and to make Yeshua known. I would like to start some door-to-door ministry in Jewish areas— something I haven't done for many years but would like to restart. And we are looking forward to our Chanukkah celebration.

As we head towards Chanukkah we pray that we will reflect the light of Messiah, as individual missionaries and as a Mission. Your partnership in prayer and financial support are what make our ministry possible and we are so grateful to God for each one of you. And therefore, we ask our heavenly Father to bless and care for you during this economic crisis.

With blessings,

*Fiona*  
Fiona Sorbala

**O**n our Tuesday night Bible study we have recently reached Hebrews Chapter 11. This famous chapter is often titled something like "Heroes of Faith", but as we examine the lives of these individuals we find imperfect people who have put their hope in the eternal promises of the perfect God. Seen like this, the list becomes more personal and encouraging, giving us that same hope as we look ahead to the great reward that the Messiah has prepared for us (Heb. 11:16).

Michael needs this hope. He is a secular Jewish man who was married, has two children and had a seemingly good life. Then he threw it all away in an affair. He lost his wife, children and family home. He is very positive about rebuilding his life but again he is doing it without God, and he reminds me of the man who builds his house on

the sand in Matthew 7. Please pray that he would open his heart and mind to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and that he would realise that unless the LORD builds the house the labourer works in vain (Psalm 127).

Ruth's story is very different. She grew up in a religious home but it was not a loving one and her parents treated her very badly. Like many Holocaust survivors, they had been so damaged by their experiences that they struggled to fit into "normal" life, and Ruth took the brunt of that. In her isolation she found her Messiah and has been a faithful disciple for many years, but the damage has been done and she needs our prayers, support and encouragement.

Abraham became a believer in Messiah and spent many years in church but could never find somewhere he could call home. This is a common experience for many Jewish people, who struggle to settle in a "normal" church community without having to shed their Jewish identity. Please pray for Jewish people who are exploring the Gospel to feel welcomed and loved in the church and to see that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah.

Michael, Ruth and Abraham are real people whose names have been changed to protect their identity. Like the people in Hebrews 11 they stand as examples of many Jewish people who desperately need the love of God and community in their lives. Please join me in praying for them and the people they represent.

Blessings,  
*Simon Lissak*  
Simon Lissak



**SIMON IN DISCUSSION ON THE STREETS OF NORTH LONDON**



**SIMON LISSAK**

**C.H., OUR MISSIONARY BASED IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND WRITES:**

I am thankful that God has opened doors for me to reach out to Jewish people in two northern England cities. Our small team recently spent time prayer-walking and then doing door-to-door visits in a Jewish neighbourhood.

We had many spiritual conversations both at the door and inside the houses, and offered prayer to the broken-hearted.

In another city, I have the privilege at a special platform to constantly meet with old and new Jewish friends to discuss the Bible together, as well as Jesus, faith and life.

The opportunities that God granted are truly beyond my own thoughts. So, your prayers are so needed and cherished. Thank you so much!



**RUSSIAN FAMILY SERVES HUNDREDS OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN ONE MONTH**

One of our missionary families from Russia devoted one month of their summer vacation to helping people in need from Ukraine. They served several times at the border between Ukraine and Russia, bringing food, medicine, and clothes. They met one Ukrainian Pentecostal family who had to flee their home in Ukraine. Our staff found them a place to sleep at the local Pentecostal church. They brought a paralyzed elderly woman to the border; she suffered from large bedsores on her body. Our missionary family bought a special anti-bedsores mattress for her. During this month, our missionary family was able to provide assistance to many Ukrainian families. They also brought several tons of food and drinking water. Our missionary family expressed the hardships they witness frequently, "In general, this year was very difficult. But we put our trust in the Lord and His might and continue to pray for peace between the nations."

**NEW GUESTHOUSE OPENS FOR TRAVELING ISRAELIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL!**

Recently, one of our staff families opened the doors of our new guesthouse in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to welcome traveling Israelis! It has been a long journey of waiting and much preparation. This month, a group of Israeli believers will be staying at the guesthouse so they can reach out to other Israelis who are also visiting Rio. Their

outreach strategy is to meet fellow Israelis, tell them about our guesthouse, and discuss their faith in Jesus with them. This evangelistic plan may sound a little simplistic, but our missionary invited Israelis to two other new guesthouse ministries in South America, and this is the method he used there. In Buenos Aires, our staff member went to the airport and waited to find Israelis arriving in the country. When he spotted three Israelis exiting customs, he introduced himself, told them about the guesthouse, and invited them to come stay. The Israelis eagerly jumped in the car with our missionary and stayed at the guesthouse for a week! For weeks after, more Israelis continued to contact them to reserve beds because the Israeli traveling community is so connected. Thank you for praying as our staff takes steps to begin inviting Israelis to stay at the guesthouse in Rio! So much of this ministry will be to gather people around common interests, create a friendly environment, and allow space for the Holy Spirit to stir the hearts of young Israelis to faith in the Messiah. Please pray that God will send many Israelis to our guesthouse so they can hear the gospel. Pray their hearts will be open to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah.

**AN ORTHODOX JEWISH COUPLE COMES TO FAITH IN JESUS!**

An Orthodox Jewish family visited a Messianic Jewish congregation some of our missionaries attend. After a clear message by one of our missionary-pastors and another presentation of the gospel by another staff member, the father and mother both accepted the Lord! Rejoice with us! Coming from Orthodox Jewish families, they will likely face persecution for their faith in Jesus. Please pray for this family!

**HASIDIC JEWISH MAN MEETS WITH MISSIONARY**

Another one of our staff has also been interacting with many Orthodox Jewish men. One day on the street, our missionary met Jacob\* and asked him a question about the book of Deuteronomy. To our staff person's amazement, Jacob suggested they go and talk in his apartment! He never received that kind of response before! A few minutes later, our missionary was in Jacob's studio with the Bible wide open. They had a full two-hour discussion on Deuteronomy and other texts. Although Jacob is a fully committed Hasidic Jewish man, he was open to looking at the Bible with our staff member. They exchanged numbers and arranged to meet again. The next time they met, they began a discussion about the origins and value of the Oral Law and then about how the five books of Moses were written and compiled! The two men now meet regularly and text questions and answers to each other! What an incredible breakthrough! Please pray that Jacob grows increasingly open to the Messiahship of Jesus through this new relationship and through the wrestling with shared texts.



# HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED THE STORY OF PASSOVER THROUGH "MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER"?

If you have, then you know why it is our most well-loved and requested presentation.

## IN THIS PRESENTATION, YOU WILL DISCOVER:



THE MESSAGE OF THE PASSOVER NARRATIVE



THE MEANING OF THE PASSOVER ELEMENTS



THE MESSIAH OF THE PASSOVER PROMISES

If you have not, then why not do something especially meaningful this coming spring? Simply invite a Chosen People Ministries missionary to come share this powerful message to bless you and your church family! When you do, you will understand why one pastor recently said,

*"'Messiah in the Passover' was a wonderful presentation that helped our congregation connect our Jewish roots to our faith in Jesus today. Our Chosen People Ministries representative preached Jesus Christ through the Passover feast. This was a wonderful experience."*

Book now: **EMAIL [NatalieC@chosenpeople.org.uk](mailto:NatalieC@chosenpeople.org.uk) / 0208 455 7911**



**HANUKKAH CARDS**  
£5 for pack of 8  
plus £2 p&p

### Hanukkah cards

With this bright and beautiful design by Sarah Clotney, what better way to send to your Jewish friends and neighbours. Wish them a Happy Hanukkah this year by sending one of these cards.

Words and pictures detail the Hanukkah story, including a reference to John 8:12. This is a great booklet to encourage you or give to your Jewish friends.

### The Gospel According to Hanukkah Booklet

Hanukkah is celebrated beginning on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev. While Christians traditionally give gifts on Christmas, many Jewish people give gifts on all eight nights of Hanukkah!

This Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.

*The Gospel According to Hanukkah* booklet is another opportunity to see and study the Gospel during God's appointed feasts and holidays.



**HANUKKAH BOOKLET**  
£2  
plus £2 p&p

Order via our webstore: **[shop.chosenpeople.org.uk](http://shop.chosenpeople.org.uk)** or via our office **020 8455 7911**.



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

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