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The Chosen People

SERVING THE JEWISH PEOPLE SINCE 1894



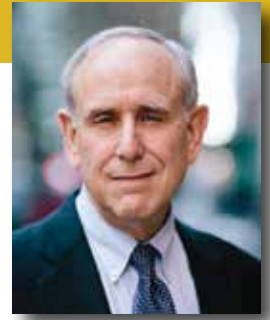
tel aviv

GATEWAY TO ISRAEL

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Tel Aviv Is Filled with Israelis Open to the Gospel

Dr. Mitch Glaser
International
Director
Chosen People
Ministries



Shalom in His grace. I do not know about you, but I have this incredible sense of forward motion these days in many areas of life. I find myself filled with hope, excitement, and expectation in the Lord. I am so encouraged—especially by the many young adults who are standing strong for the Lord in the United States and Israel!

Do you have a few moments for some inspiration from the Word of God?

I love the time-tested passage in Philippians 1:6, where Paul wrote,

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

This is one of my favourite future-oriented verses. I also appreciate the well-known passage found in Lamentations 3:22–23:

The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

I enjoy pairing this passage with verses 31–33,

For the Lord will not reject forever, for if He causes grief, then He will have compassion according to His abundant lovingkindness. For He does not afflict willingly or grieve the sons of men.

Jeremiah, the “weeping prophet,” understood both suffering and hardship yet still wrote these passages. Not only did he endure persecution from those Israelites who disliked his prophetic message, but he watched as the Babylonians devastated his dear Jerusalem and exiled his people. Yet, Jeremiah found ways to trust the Lord during life’s greatest difficulties.

The apostle John penned some of the most encouraging and comforting words in the Bible in Revelation chapter 21:

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or

crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”
(Rev 21:3–5, emphasis added)

We have a bright future—today and for all eternity. **Thankfully, the day is coming when all our suffering will vanish!** Can you imagine *one day* like this—never mind all *eternity!*?

Knowing the future prepared for those who love Him means we can rejoice in hope each day. The Lord enables us to approach every moment of our lives with joy in our hearts because of His finished work on Calvary.

Hope Abounds

May I sneak in one more verse? Paul wrote, “*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*” (Romans 15:13).

I hope you are hopeful!

May I explain why I am so excited these days about God’s work among the Jewish people and for the work of Chosen People Ministries? I pray this update will give you the opportunity to pray for me and for Your Mission to the Jewish People.

An Outpouring of the Spirit upon Young Israeli People

I am happy to report God is working powerfully today in Israel among young adults. I may have briefly mentioned this previously, but I want you to better understand why we have been looking for a new property in Tel Aviv.

I have not seen anything like this moving of the Spirit in Israel in all my years of ministry!

Let me give you a little bit of the historical background. My first trip to Israel as a believer was in 1976 while I was still in seminary. I traveled to the Holy Land that summer with a Messianic music team. We traveled throughout the country, meeting believers and singing at various venues, congregations, and a few *kibbutzim*—Israeli collective farms.



I may have met half the believers in Israel after three weeks of ministry! Our movement was *soooo* small!

The Messianic Jewish movement in Israel was certainly not flourishing as it had been years earlier in Eastern Europe before the Holocaust. I have research to demonstrate, throughout Eastern Europe, particularly between World War I and World War II, there was a powerful movement for the Lord up until the Holocaust. I would describe this as a massive movement of the Holy Spirit whereby thousands upon thousands of Jewish people came to faith during these three decades.

Then, tragically, the Nazi boot stomped out the entire movement.

But we worship an all-powerful Messiah who raises the dead! The Lord began doing a powerful work among Jewish people in the late 1960s, early 70s, and even into the 80s. I was one of those who came to faith in Jesus in those early days. Along with young Jewish people from the West and North America, quite a few Israelis traveling the globe after their service in the army also came to the Lord. Most returned to Israel and began sharing their faith with their fellow Israelis. Quite a few new Israeli congregations started as a result, and today in Israel, there are between 140 and 160 congregations scattered throughout the country.

The Lord is on the Move in the Holy Land

I love these young Israelis—mostly second-generation believers growing up in godly homes, attending Israeli schools, serving in the military, and well-disciplined because of the excellent work of the congregations, camping programs, and young adult Bible conferences sponsored by Israeli leaders.

We sponsor four public meetings in Tel Aviv each month, and the most recent one I attended had twice as many young adults as could fit into the space! So, we have sadly begun turning people away and even limiting our invitations.

These young, on-fire believers are bringing their *not-yet-believing friends*. Many come in their army uniforms, and I cannot tell you how exhilarating it is to speak to a group of twenty-somethings who are desperately hungry for the Word of God.

Let the Children Come to Me

In our current rented center, we are also inadvertently neglecting another group in the greater Tel Aviv area due to lack of space—the children. We will now not only be able to create an auditorium seating 125–140 people in the new facility, but we will also have children's classrooms on the second floor as the new space is a two-story property, allowing us to simultaneously hold the main adult service and children's classes!

Can you see why I am hopeful? God is doing a new and wonderful work in Israel, and we can be part of this movement through our prayers, support, and enthusiasm.

Allow me to give you a few specific prayer points you can share with your family, Bible study, and church:

- Pray for the **growth of the Messianic community** in Israel. May God continue to raise up strong disciples and leaders for the harvest.
- Pray for the many faithful **leaders and full-time workers** of missions like Chosen People Ministries and others who are so faithful and dedicated to working with these young people—we need more help!
- Pray God will provide the **resources** for us to complete this center by the end of 2023. Our goal is to have the funds and available supplies (a genuine concern and need for prayer), so we can dedicate the facility in December 2023.
- Pray for the **Chosen People Ministries staff** at our current Tel Aviv center. We are now nine families and individuals strong, and the Lord keeps adding to our team. Eventually, we will need the resources to support these younger believers and provide for their theological training as well. We are growing!
- Pray especially for the **Chosen People Ministries leadership** in Israel. Please pray God will give our leaders health, strength, energy, and joy in the midst of this movement of the Holy Spirit.

We have dedicated this entire newsletter to telling you all about Tel Aviv so you can be an informed and knowledgeable prayer partner. I cannot thank you enough for your generous support and interest in reaching Jewish people here in the UK and overseas.

Please be sure to join us for our Conferences in London or Manchester -or both! On Saturday 18th March (London), and Sunday 19th March, (Manchester). Speakers are, Dr Michael Brown, Dr Darrell Bock, and others. Details on the back page. Be sure to book your slot at either one and we look forward to seeing you there!"

Blessings in our Messiah,

Mitch
Mitch

We have already begun renovating the new building we purchased in Tel Aviv.



Tel Aviv in the Bible

Tel Aviv is a major metropolitan and economic city in Israel. Although the city will often place second to Jerusalem in the hearts and minds of Israelis, its economic importance will always be far more significant. When Israel was reborn as the national homeland of the Jewish people on May 14, 1948, Tel Aviv was the capital. It was the center of Jewish economic life while Jerusalem was the center of Jewish spiritual life. The city itself began as a suburb of the ancient town of Joppa, which is called “Jaffa” in modern English. Its Hebrew name is *Yafo*, and the root of the word means “beautiful.” The modern city of Tel Aviv is officially called “Tel Aviv—Yafo” because, as the modern suburb grew, it eventually swallowed up the ancient city. When we see the names Joppa or Jaffa in the Bible, it is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Yafo*, and we should think of the area now known as Tel Aviv.

This city appears four times in the Old Testament. It sits upon a small hill overlooking the Mediterranean coast. With a natural port, its history dates back to the time of patriarchs.¹ The ancient Egyptians maintained a fortress to protect this important coastal highway and seaway. Joppa appears in the Bible for the first time in the book of Joshua as part of the territory assigned to the tribe of Dan (Joshua 19:40–48). The Danites failed to conquer Jaffa, instead conquering the territory near modern-day Lebanon.² Interestingly, it is the very last city listed in this distribution of the tribes’ territories.³

The second mention of Joppa is in the book of Jonah. When the prophet fled from his mission to offer the nation’s enemies a chance to repent, he ran to this port city. There, he found a ship traveling to the furthest known reaches of civilization, Tarshish. It is still possible to find a ship at the Jaffa port today, since it is one of the oldest ancient port cities still operating continuously on the Mediterranean. Joppa remained the area’s main port until 1938 when the Tel Aviv port replaced it. Later, modern deep-sea ports replaced the Tel Aviv port. The last two biblical references to Joppa mention its port as the transit point for supplies for building Solomon’s Temple and then rebuilding the Temple during the time of Ezra (2 Chronicles 2:16; Ezra 3:7). The ancient city of



Jaffa, looking south. Colored lithograph by Louis Haghe after David Roberts, 1843.

Joppa also appears in the New Testament on two occasions. First, it was where the apostle Peter prayed and raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36–42). The last instance was immediately afterward, when Peter had the vision of the sheet on the roof of Simon the Tanner’s house (Acts 10:9–16). A family in Joppa today claims their house was passed down to them from generation to generation from Simon the Tanner himself. The Israel Antiquities Society even placed a sign recognizing it as a historical building.

Peter later referred to this vision on the roof in Acts 11 as he explained its unexpected and controversial meaning—God wanted to grant salvation to non-Jewish people. “When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, ‘Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life’” (Acts 11:18). Tel Aviv was where God spoke to the apostolic leadership about sharing the gospel with the Gentile world! In that sense, Tel Aviv was the starting point for evangelism among the nations. As we now bring this controversial message back to the original hearers, our Jewish people, the gospel has truly come full circle.

¹ Jacob Neusner and William Scott Green, eds., *Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period: 450 B.C.E. to 600 C.E.* (Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 1999), s.v. “Joppa.”

² The tribe of Dan conquered the area of Leshem, which lies in the archaeological site of Tel Dan.

³ Neusner and Green, *Dictionary of Judaism in the Biblical Period*, “Joppa.”



FIONA SORBALA
CO-DIRECTOR



Fiona is an accomplished speaker who has spoken extensively in the Former Soviet Union where she worked in Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova, she is now based in London.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote: "You shall seek me and find me when you shall search for me with all your heart." (29:13)

We long to see Jewish people truly seeking the Messiah and we truly believe it is the heart of God for His people that they come to know Jesus the Messiah. This is the reason our staff are out there sharing the Gospel and why we planted a Messianic congregation. It is part of Chosen People Ministries' plan to reach Jewish people with the Gospel and be a safe space where they can explore the claims of the Gospel and discover that you can be Jewish and believe in Jesus.

This year we are seeing a renewed interest in the congregation and are praying that we will have more Jewish contacts to follow up. In fact, as you read our missionaries' reports you will see that we are all engaged in talking to more Jewish people. What is so interesting is that while we are using social media to reach Jewish people, we are still seeing and experiencing a lot of openness in door-to-door evangelism,

both in London and in the north of England.

It is our hope that many of you will come to our conference 'Finding Shalom in a Troubled World', on 18th March in London and 19th March in Manchester. We have some great speakers, including Dr Michael Brown and Dr Darrel Bock. Please contact NatalieC@chosenpeople.org.uk or visit our website for more information: www.chosenpeople.org.uk.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and support. Your love and faithfulness during these difficult times is a great blessing to all of us and is what enables us to help Jewish people find that Jesus is in fact their Messiah too. As you read our reports, know that you are a vital part of our work.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. *Fiona*



SIMON LISSAK
MISSIONARY

For the last few months I have been doing weekly door-to-door work with a pastor from a church that sits in the heart of a very Orthodox Jewish neighbourhood. This is a real privilege for me as that church not only loves Israel but also wants to see Jewish people meet their Messiah. We often explain that we know they won't come to us but that we want to come to them and let them know that the people they see every Sunday don't hate them and are not anti-Semitic - in fact, they love Jewish people because Jesus was Jewish

Simon has been working in the field of Jewish missions for more than ten years. He grew up in a Jewish family and his father survived the Holocaust.

and they only know their Messiah because of the Scriptures God entrusted to the Jewish people! It has been a very effective way to break down the significant barriers that exist between us without compromising our Christian identity and faith.

Let me introduce you to Lauren, Leslie and Lawrence* - three real Jewish people we have met recently. All three have completely different worldviews. Lauren is a young Orthodox woman with five children from one to 16 years old. She lives a religious life and can't imagine

how she could believe Jesus is the Messiah: How would she relate to her husband? What would they teach the children? How would they connect to their community? Leslie is a retired businessman who is a traditional Jew. He believes in God and being Jewish but he doesn't take his God, the Bible or anybody else seriously! And Lawrence is a committed Israeli atheist who has two science degrees and a PhD in History. He lives in a religious community but believes in evolution and a scientific explanation for all life.

People often ask me what Jewish people believe - as if there was ever a single answer! Lauren doesn't want to explore the claims of Jesus to be her Messiah because it would shake everything she believes about who she is as a Jew, a wife and a mother. Leslie doesn't want to think seriously as it would require him to make a decision which he cannot face; and Lawrence has built his hope on the non-existence of God because he cannot make sense of the world he sees and still believe that God is real, good and loving.

So please continue to pray for these and other Jewish people who have a unique challenge in even considering Jesus' Messianic identity, and remember these three Jewish neighbours - all with completely different beliefs!

Thank you as always for your partnership in this wonderful work. Blessings *Russell*

* Names have been changed but the people are real.

OLIVER SIMS
MISSIONARY

Someone once said that believers are never 'off duty'. This was made more real to me recently as I boarded the train on my way back from a ministry church meeting. I just 'happened' to sit next to a man who just 'happened' to be really open to the Gospel. From a Jehovah's Witness background but now deeply indifferent to anything religious, he began to share with me about his life. Since then we have kept in contact (and it turns out that his wife is a believer who has been earnestly praying for him), and just yesterday we talked over the phone and during the conversation he knelt down and prayed to become a believer in Jesus! What a great God we serve. He had me in the right place at the right time.

I've also recently revisited a Jewish couple that I met doing door-to-door outreach last year and I was able to pray for him and his wife a blessing in the name of Jesus. And at a Holocaust memorial event at a synagogue recently, I met a Jewish man and we got talking about Hebrew (I mentioned that I have been studying this as part of my Master's course). As it turns out, he's Swedish and I explained that that's where my mum is now living. So there was lots to talk about and we exchanged numbers.

Do continue to pray that these precious souls would be drawn nearer to the Saviour and please also pray for my mum, Kathy, who doesn't know the Lord. I hope to have further opportunities to share more of the Gospel with each one (Isaiah 65:24).

Shalom, *Oliver*



Oliver's faith journey began at 16 when a school friend invited him to a church meeting. There he heard a couple sharing their testimony and soon afterwards he gave his life to Messiah.

YOU MUST PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE: BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE

FINDING
SHALOM
IN A TROUBLED WORLD



Saturday 18 March 2023

Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, London SW1P 3DW

Eventbrite link: findingshalom.eventbrite.co.uk

SPEAKERS

Michael Brown, Darrell Bock, Brian Crawford,
Thomas Fretwell, Mitch Glaser, Calvin Smith & Fiona Sorbala

Sunday 19 March 2023

Ivy Church, 97 Barlow Moor Rd, Didsbury, Manchester M20 2GP

Eventbrite link: FindingShalom_Manchester.eventbrite.co.uk

SPEAKERS

Michael Brown, Darrell Bock, Brian Crawford,
Thomas Fretwell & Fiona Sorbala

CHOSENPEOPLE.ORG.UK



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



King's Evangelical
DIVINITY SCHOOL
ACCREDITED ONLINE THEOLOGICAL STUDIES



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

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