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The Chosen People

SERVING THE JEWISH PEOPLE

SINCE 1894



LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

| SUKKOT: GOD DESIRES TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE | SUMMER
OUTREACH IN RIGA | INTERNATIONAL NEWS |



Dr. Mitch Glaser
International Director
Chosen People Ministries

"Let the Children Come to Me"

Dear friends,
Shalom in His grace. Thank you for taking a few moments to read and reflect on the ministry and concerns of Chosen People Ministries—Your Mission to the Jewish People.

Our mission statement reflects the teaching of Scripture: "Chosen People Ministries exists to pray for, evangelize, disciple, and serve Jewish people everywhere and to help fellow believers do the same."

I am grateful for your prayers and support! Without you, we could not continue this great and historic work among Jewish people!

The Biblical Foundation for Jewish Evangelism

The Bible builds a powerful case for the importance and urgency of Jewish evangelism. We are all, hopefully, familiar with verses like Romans 1:16, 11:11, and the words of encouragement from the Saviour Himself who told us, "Salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22). We can also learn from Paul's strategy in the book of Acts, where he consistently went to the synagogue to reach his fellow Jewish people even as he exercised his calling as the apostle to the Gentiles.

Paul passionately expresses his broken heart for his own Jewish people in his letter to the Romans (Rom 9:1–3, Rom 9–11):

I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh. (Rom 9:1–3)

I deeply identify with Paul's sentiments. Passages like these from Romans and others form the biblical foundation for Chosen People Ministries, which has not changed in 129 years. Chosen People Ministries' history is important to understand as our past helps shape our future!

The History of Chosen People Ministries

Chosen People Ministries' founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, left his home in Hungary and immigrated to the United States in 1892. Soon after he arrived, the rabbi heard the good news about the Messiah from a young Polish Presbyterian missionary to the Jewish people. After receiving the Lord, Rabbi Cohn

studied theology in Scotland and returned to Brooklyn in 1894 to begin what is now known as Chosen People Ministries.

God called Rabbi Cohn to reach out to his fellow Jewish people immigrating to the United States. At that time, the Mission served the material and spiritual needs of the growing population of Jewish immigrants.

Several decades later, our staff served the survivors of the Holocaust—a tragedy of astronomic proportions. Today, we still assist elderly Holocaust survivors. Most are in their nineties and living in Israel!

Our staff love God's chosen people, and we do whatever it takes to support their needs and present the gospel message at the same time.

Our focus has always been on a people, not a particular country. In the 1990s, when millions of Russian-speaking Jewish people left the former Soviet Union for America, Germany, Canada, Australia, and, of course, Israel, we were there to help and show the love of Jesus the Messiah to our people.

With God's help, Chosen People Ministries is eager to reach Jewish people of the twenty-first century. Our strategies, methods, and materials have changed with the times and will continue to adapt—which is part of our DNA. Yet, the gospel we proclaim remains the same: We preach an unchanging message of God's power to save, "to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). We preach this message in Hebrew, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, French, English, and as many languages as it takes to reach our people!

We began as a global ministry, and by His grace, we will continue this way until the great day when, as Paul writes, "all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26). Only then will our work be done.

"Helping Others Do the Same"

Chosen People Ministries relies on the help and partnership of our brothers and sisters in the Messiah to help us reach the 15 million-plus Jewish people in the world today. Our mission statement affirms we not only



reach Jewish people with the gospel but also help the church do the same.

To understand how evangelicals perceive the Jewish people, we decided to study Christian involvement in Jewish evangelism by sponsoring a survey of more than 2,000 evangelicals.¹

This survey discovered approximately 70 percent of evangelicals look favourably toward Israel, and 86 percent agree proclaiming the gospel among Jewish people is important. We found this fact very encouraging. However, we also learned age makes a big difference! According to the survey, evangelicals age 65 or older are 10 percent more likely to agree “sharing the gospel with Jewish people is important” than evangelicals ages 18 to 34.²

We looked at other organizations’ surveys to see if this interest in Israel and the Jewish people among younger Christians was waning and how it might impact their willingness to be active in reaching their Jewish friends for the Lord.

A survey by the Brookings Institution in 2021 found support for Israel among young evangelicals dropped all the way to 34 percent from 75 percent in 2018. Within just three years, support for Israel plummeted 41 percent!³ So, our research and the results of others confirms younger evangelicals are becoming less favourable to Israel and are likely growing cooler toward Jewish evangelism as well.

We suspect support of Jewish missions increases when those engaged have a favourable view of Jewish people and the nation of Israel. Since this favourability is lessening among younger evangelicals, we should be concerned about Jewish evangelism decreasing among this group as well.

Inspiring a New Generation of Jewish Evangelists

How do we pass the baton to a new generation who might not necessarily embrace the full package of evangelical views and values cherished by previous generations? Though generations and cultures change, God’s character and Word do not. We believe affirming the ongoing role of the land and people of Israel in God’s plan is part of being faithful to Scripture. So, we should care about helping younger evangelicals appreciate this key theme in the Bible.

We asked our staff and friends to suggest some ways we can help a new generation of Christians care about the Jewish people.

To most effectively spur the next generation to support Israel and passionately proclaim the gospel among the Jewish people, we need to start educating at a young age. Childhood

and adolescence are key times to learn about the world and form opinions about complex topics. We should reach children at home, through kid’s programs at local churches, and at Christian camps. As kids mature, we can cultivate conversations about Israel and the Jewish people through youth groups and student ministries.

For this reason, we are producing new materials to help children learn about and love the Jewish people. We are excited about our new animated video and teaching materials for children on the Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*). This video is available now, and I hope you will

watch it
and pass
it along



to your children, grandchildren, children’s pastors, and home-schooling groups. Watch the video by going to www.chosenpeople.org.uk/the-olive-treehouse-sukkot.

The video is by no means our only strategy for reaching younger generations! For years, we have run summer camps and winter weekend retreats for children and adolescents. These programs have shaped hundreds of young people’s relationships with the Messiah and have influenced their understanding of Israel in the Bible. These camps are only growing!

Another way to inspire younger generations toward Jewish outreach is through our new Host Israelis ministry. We are currently recruiting host families for this new ministry where you can have young Israelis stay in your home. This will not only be good for the Israelis who will see your love for the Lord through your hospitality, but it will also help your kids or grandchildren who might be meeting Israelis for the first time. You can then follow up by teaching these children about God’s plan for Israel and the Jewish people!

We believe one way we can influence a new generation of Christian young people for the Lord is to foster from a young age their interest in Israel and in outreach to their Jewish friends.

I am sure you will enjoy this newsletter, and please join us in praying for the next generation of young people who will carry the banner of the Messiah and Jewish outreach to a future day . . . until He returns!

Your brother,

Mitch Glaser
International Director

¹ LifeWay Research conducted the “Evangelical Attitudes Toward Israel and the Peace Process” study September 20–28, 2017. The survey asked 2,002 Americans with evangelical beliefs about a wide range of issues involving Israel—from its place in the Bible to its treatment of Palestinians. The survey focused on Americans with evangelical beliefs rather than self-identified evangelicals (“Evangelical Attitudes toward Israel Research Study,” Lifeway Research, accessed August 4, 2023, https://allianceforthepeaceofjerusalem.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Evangelical-Attitudes-Toward-Israel-Narrative-Report-Part-2-2_21_181.pdf).

² Ibid.

³ Shibley Telhami, “As Israel Increasingly Relies on US Evangelicals for Support, Younger Ones Are Walking away: What Polls Show,” The Brookings Institution, May 26, 2021, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/as-israel-increasingly-relies-on-us-evangelicals-for-support-younger-ones-are-walking-away-what-polls-show/>.

SUMMER OUTREACH IN RIGA

This summer Fiona Sorbala joined the first Chosen People Ministries 'Riga Summer Outreach' which was held in the capital of Latvia. It was organised and led by Toivo Maki of Chosen People Ministries Finland. Wonderfully a local church lent their building for team meetings and training, which was given on Jewish evangelism and how to engage Jewish people by our own Fiona Sorbala. The leaders of one of the Riga Messianic Congregations were key participants.

Themed t-shirts one of which was 'Stop the Hate' carried our message and attracted plenty of attention, allowing the team to engage with Jewish people. They were fascinated why those whom they consider Christians would come out and make such a wonderful statement of support for the Jewish community. This gave us an opening to begin talking about the Gospel and explain that it's because they love the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that they love and support the Jewish community. And to then share how, in this troubled world to find true Shalom.

Fiona and our UK volunteer missionary led the book table which people's attention and led to some great conversations including one young lady who was excited to discover that God gives peace personally.

As a result of the outreach 5 people decided to accept the Messiah as their personal Saviour. Two people came to church on the Sunday following the outreach as a result of receiving our materials. They came forward after the service to commit their lives to following Jesus.

At one of the special meetings that were held, an elderly Jewish gentleman chose to believe in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. It is wonderful to know that his eternal destiny has been placed into in God's hands. These elderly Jewish people carry with them the scars of the Holocaust. Some of them were born during or just after WW2 when the nation's Jewish community was still reeling from horrors that they had experienced. This pain is still felt within the community today and in the hearts of the Jewish people we spoke to.

It was small but significant start, a seed from which we want to grow. So, the Lord willing, we plan to hold another outreach in Riga next summer and take the lessons we have learned from this year and build it into next year's programme. Join us in praying that the Lord will already be preparing hearts to receive the Gospel and touching the hearts of more local Christians to participate in reaching Jewish people with the Gospel. ★



A SUMMER OF CONFERENCES

It's been such a busy summer. I have been so conscious of the Lord's protection in all of it. It began with the Chosen People Global Ministries conference in Israel, where we got to not only hear what staff in other countries are doing, we got to meet them. It really was a time of refreshing!

Then it was off to the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism in Poland, where one of our Israeli staff was elected to the committee. Again, while it was about fellowship but also training with lots on offer to challenge our thinking and help us be both effective and productive in the work of reaching Jewish people with the Gospel.

I was also invited to the Russian speaking Messianic Leaders conference. And I got to meet some leaders who had flown in from Ukraine. In the midst of the horrors and pain of war God is at work. It was an opportunity not only to hear what the Lord is doing but also to share our own experiences.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Another Ministry Helps Our Host Israelis Network!

Unbeknownst to our Host Israelis team, an evangelistic mission organization heard about the Isaiah 62 fast, a global prayer initiative of praying for the land and people of Israel for twenty-one days.¹ The goal of the prayer initiative was to get 100 million Christians praying for the salvation of Israel leading up to the harvest holiday of Shavuot (Pentecost) back in May. In response, this other ministry orchestrated prayer specifically for Israeli backpackers! With that focused prayer, there was also a call to action. Somehow, they knew about us and promoted our Host Israelis network as a way to minister to traveling Israelis. As a result, we added a Christian family in Uganda to our hosting network. So far, we have hosts in five countries—the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Uganda! It is thrilling to see what God has done. Please pray for us as we wake this “sleeping giant” in Jewish evangelism—hosting Israelis!

Our Largest Children's Camp Yet!

This summer, Chosen People Ministries ran our annual East and West Coast camps for children and teens between the ages of eight and sixteen. On the West Coast, fifty-six kids participated, and our East Coast camp hosted eighty-six campers and forty-five staff members—our largest groups yet! It is encouraging to see how many of the children who have attended these camps in the past have grown up to serve eagerly as counselors, activities directors, and small group leaders! As believers, it is critical to pass down biblical teaching by providing essential leadership opportunities for the next generation.

Besides the daily recreational activities, children met every morning to review Bible lessons while memorizing verses. The focus for the week at the West Coast camp was the first six chapters of the book of Daniel because he represents what a young person can do for God and others in a foreign and hostile culture. We wanted to encourage the campers to remain faithful to God despite the temptations and difficulties they will face daily. Our staff challenged campers to be like Daniel, loving God and surrendering their lives to Him. On the East Coast, the week focused on Jesus' parables. Our studies helped the kids understand the gospel, salvation, God's love, and what it means to follow Him in every area of their lives.

¹ “The Isaiah 62 Global 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting (May 7–28, 2023),” *Isaiah 62 Fast: Global 21 Days of Prayer for Israel*, accessed July 24, 2023, <https://isaiah62fast.com/>.

As I look back over this summer, I feel we that while we should be encouraged by what the Lord is doing around the world; we should be challenged to pray that the Lord would move in a greater way here in the UK.

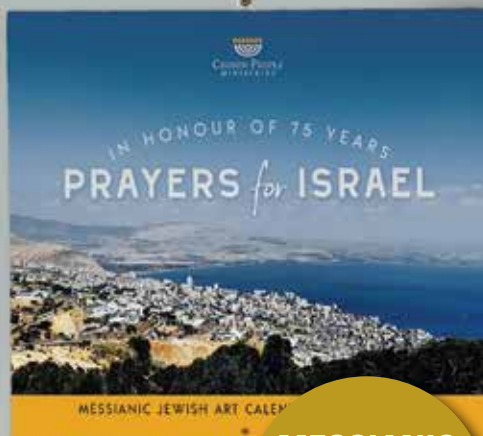
So, I want to both thank you and challenge you. We are so grateful for your support in giving and in praying. But, my prayer for us all is that the Lord challenge us to pray more earnestly and fervently for the Jewish people; that they might come to know the Messiah as their Saviour.

May the words of the Apostle resonate in our hearts.

Rom 10:1 *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.*

Fiona
Fiona Sorbala
UK Co-Director





Miqedem debut album is a genre-melding collection of songs taken from the Hebrew Scriptures. "Miqedem" in Hebrew means "from the east" or in poetic significance, "from eternity." This young band, mentioned in this newsletter, is based out of Tel Aviv and their music reflects the culture of a city caught between worlds.

Band Members: Jamie Hilsden, Shai Sol, Yaron Cherniak, Vadym Sokolyk, Gabriel Elbaz.

Order via shop.
chosenpeople.org.uk or
contact 020 8455 7911.

This Year's Messianic Jewish Calendar! "In Honour of 75 Years, Prayers for Israel"

This year be blessed by the photography, which includes scenes of Jerusalem, with its people and varied scenes of the land. Use the calendar as a personal prayer guide, and learn more about our ministry among God's chosen people. This calendar is special as it marks the seventy-fifth birthday of Israel as a modern nation! Israel has come far since 1948 and stands as an amazing testimony to God's faithfulness and the fulfilment of biblical prophecy. 18-month calendar features September 2023 to December 2024.

View our latest teaching resource for kids!
www.chosenpeople.org.uk/the-olive-treehouse-sukkot

Watch this space for more kids
teaching resources - coming soon!



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

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