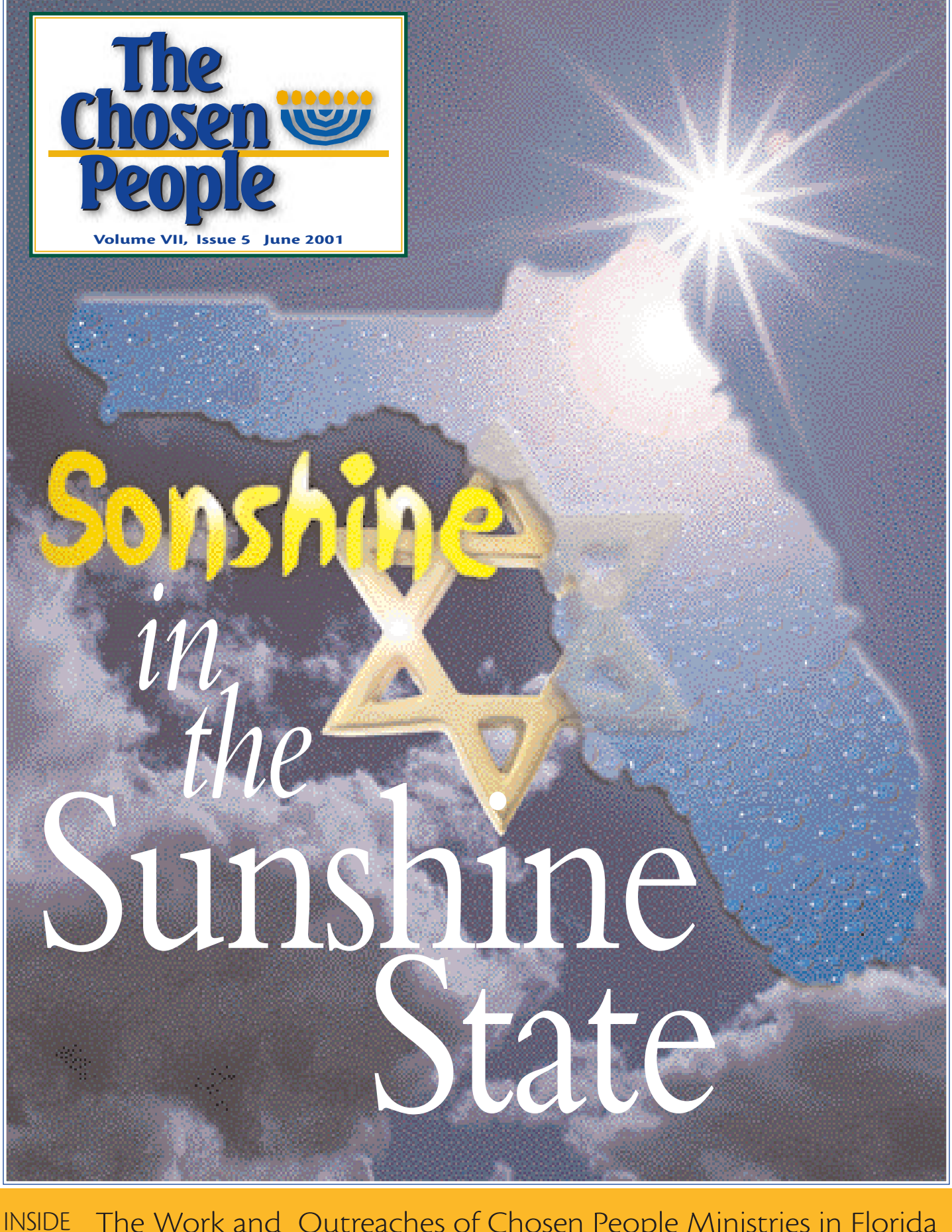


The Chosen People



Volume VII, Issue 5 June 2001



Sunshine *in the* Sunshine State

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ISSUE:

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Chosen People Ministries: Sonshine in the Sunshine State

**I have a personal
burden for the Jewish
people of Florida.
Many of my own
family members have
moved there from
New York City.
My own century-old
grandmother
lives there!**

Dear friend of the Jewish people,
Shalom from New York City! This morning, I was reading the words of the prophet Jeremiah, who wrote, *“At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts”* (Jeremiah 3:17).

What a promise! When I balance the far-reaching impact of this promise against a recent phone call to our Israel field director, the contrast is overwhelming.

I spoke with Michael after a terrorist bomb exploded within blocks of his home. I called to encourage him and to see if there was anything I or the Mission could do to help him and his family. He asked for prayer for his family and the congregation—and also for our missionaries in the town of Ariel.

Michael then said something about a recent phone conversation with our missionaries in Ariel (on the West Bank) that I will never forget. It was simple, but profound: “Henry and Irena told me that they are getting used to hearing gunfire throughout the day.”

Can you imagine? And Henry and Irena have two small children, both under the age of five.

My heart broke—not only for Henry and Irena and their children, but also because the Word of God paints such a completely different picture of what life *should* be like in Israel. Jeremiah goes on to describe the Land of Israel as a *pleasant land* and a *beautiful inheritance* (3:19). How I long to see this promise fulfilled!

Why, then, am I writing about bullets rather than beauty and about war instead of peace? It is because Israel must be right with God before it can be right with its neighbors. This is true for every nation and individual!

Bringing the message of the Gospel of peace is what Michael, Henry and the rest of the Chosen People Ministries Israel staff are doing, each and every day, in a hostile, dangerous environment.

Please join me in praying for the peace of Jerusalem and for the safety of our precious Chosen People Ministries staff serving in this land that should be—and one day *will* be—a beautiful inheritance!

Israel—An Example for the Faithful

We also need to remember that Paul presents Israel as an example for the Church: *“Now these things became our examples...”* (1 Corinthians 10:6). This means we cannot have peace in our lives or with our neighbors without first having peace with God. He sent His Son, the Prince of Peace,

to reign in our hearts with a promised peace that this world cannot possibly provide.

The proclamation of this message is what Chosen People Ministries is all about. Our staff, now serving in nine different countries around the world containing more than three quarters of the world's Jewish population, is busy telling God's ancient people, day by day, person by person, that Yeshua—Jesus—is the promised Messiah.

The Sixth Borough of New York City!

I hope you will enjoy reading about our work in Florida in this issue of *The Chosen People* Newsletter. You may have noticed that every few months we try to feature our efforts in a particular city or country. I hope this will enable you to know our workers better so that you can pray for them and for the Jewish people in these various cities and nations.

We sometimes jokingly call South Florida "the Sixth Borough of New York City!" There are approximately 750,000 Jewish people who live in the Sunshine State, concentrated mostly in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

I have a personal burden for the Jewish people of Florida. Many of my own family members have moved from New York City to Florida...including my century-old grandmother! When I was asked to lead this great Mission, I knew that one of my priorities had to be establishing a dynamic ministry to

the Jewish people of Southern Florida. As a result, we have placed four missionary families in Southern Florida in the last three years. We also have another couple in Orlando.

As you read, I hope you will see that the Lord is doing a great work among our missionaries in Florida! And we are really just getting started—again!

A Faithful Fireman

Chosen People Ministries has had a work in Florida for many years. In fact, one of the first Messianic Bible studies I ever attended (in the early 1970s) was led by Martin Klayman, an ex-New York City fireman serving in Florida with Chosen People Ministries.

I remember that Bible study as though it were yesterday. I had just become a believer and was in Florida visiting my grandparents, who did not yet know I was a believer. In those days, I still thought that maybe I was the only Jewish person in the world who believed in Jesus—except for a few friends!

And I was sure that the only Jewish people who believed in Jesus were all younger people, as I was at the time! I would never have dreamed that I could walk into a full room of dozens of "older" Jewish people who believed in the Messiah! Many of them were Holocaust survivors or the children of survivors. Much of the conversation that evening was in Yiddish. These were Jewish people who were not supposed to believe in Jesus—at least that was what I had been taught!

But there they were—at a Chosen People Ministries (at that time, American Board of Missions to the Jews) Bible study.

I cannot tell you how encouraged I was by that experience. God used Martin Klayman and his wife, Pauline, now a Chosen People Ministries retiree, to show me that Jewish people like my parents and my grandparents could come to know Jesus as their Messiah.

I will forever be grateful for godly missionaries like the Klaymans and others I met who were with the Mission at that time.

Sonshine in the Sunshine State

I wish I could tell you that my grandparents accepted the Lord. They never did. In fact, when I came back to Southern Florida and visited my grandparents' home, they literally shut the door in my face.

This hurt me more than any other experience I have had as a believer.

Yet I know that God is faithful. My grandmother is still alive and perhaps she will come to know the Savior! I hope and pray so, although she still will not see me.

Our staff in Florida is reaching older Jewish people and also many younger families. It is my dream some day to open a Messianic Center in Southern Florida—a place where Jewish people of all ages can go to learn more about the Messiah.

Right now, we have an office and a number of hard-working and faithful missionaries who are telling the Jewish people of Southern Florida about the Lord. I hope this issue of our newsletter will remind you to pray for them...and for my grandmother, too!

May the Lord fill you with His joy. Thank you for praying for the peace of Jerusalem!

Your brother in the Messiah,


Mitch



Mitch Glaser
President

Land of Opportunity for Jewish Evangelism

Although the state of Florida is famous for its oranges, Chosen People Ministries has a different kind of fruit in mind for the Sunshine State. The housing developments, condominiums and senior centers of America's Jewish retirement capital are fields ripe for a harvest of Jewish souls that for sheer numbers rivals any in the world.

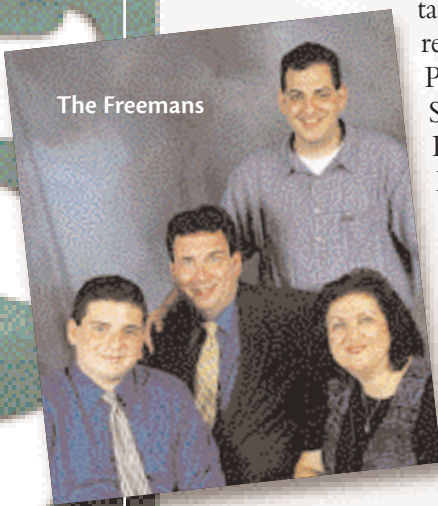
Jewish Retirement Capital of the World

Rich Freeman, Vice President of Church Ministries and Conferences, has recently

taken on yet another key responsibility as Chosen People Ministries' Southeast Regional Director. Based in Palm Beach County, Rich is well placed to oversee this vitally important arm of Chosen People Ministries' worldwide outreach. Also in the Florida office is Eileen Baehr, who is an invaluable assistant to Rich Freeman.

There are about 750,000 Jewish people in Florida, making it one of the largest Jewish communities in the world; 500,000 Jewish people live in South Florida, with 250,000 in Palm Beach County alone. About 75% of the Jewish people living there are senior citizens.

Rich shares, "The recent 'To the Jew First' conference in West Palm Beach was a tremendous encouragement. Church members are now much more aware of their Jewish neighbors and the Biblical mandate to



The Freemans

share the Gospel with them. The opportunities are vast."

Not Weary in Well Doing

Key to Chosen People Ministries' hopes is the establishment and growth of a "beachhead" in this land of beaches. For over three years, **Ken Alpren**, Chosen People Ministries worker in Boynton Beach, has been busy doing just that.

He does not underestimate the challenge. He says, "The work is difficult and the obstacles are great. However, we are gradually building a core of committed believers around whom we can form a variety of consistent and effective outreach ministries to the Jewish community. Slowly but surely, the work is growing. People



The Alprens

Stewart Weinisch's ministry takes him to many different settings, and the Gospel sometimes takes root in wonderful ways.

Something About Jesus

"While visiting a prison, I met Richard,* a Jewish inmate who went to the Jewish services on Saturday and the Christian services on Sunday. He said, there was 'something about Jesus' he had to figure out.

"When I met with him privately in the chapel, I presented the Gospel to him. Richard prayed to receive the Messiah that day. Later, at a service for the inmates to give testimony, Richard stood up and declared, 'I have been set free. I accepted Jesus as my Savior. Hallelujah!'"

He Died for My Sins

"Rita* is a Sephardic Jew who regularly attends one of my nursing home Bible studies. One day, after I gave the Gospel presentation and an invitation, Rita raised her hand and repeated the prayer of salvation. Afterwards, I spoke with her. I praise God that she fully understood the message and had truly made a decision to place her trust in Yeshua. Amid tears, she repeated several times, 'He died for my sins!'"

are visiting our meetings and some of them eventually come to faith.”

In addition to leading the services at Chosen People Ministries’ Messianic congregation, Ken leads Bible studies and has begun a radio ministry that may be heard at 8:00AM on WCNO 89.9. Ken says, “I give short messages that stress the themes of the Jewishness of Jesus and how He fulfilled the Messianic prophecies. It’s only a five-minute spot, but you can say a lot in five minutes!”

Although the obstacles can be daunting, Ken knows it is a work of faith. “Paul’s exhortation, ‘Be not weary in well doing,’ has become a personal encouragement to me. These are words I try to live by.”

A Ministry Walk of Faith

However, not all ministries have the same possibilities—and different ministries require different strengths. What if your ministry opportunity was limited to only a few weeks, or days—or even a single visit? What if you knew that death was hovering in the wings virtually each and every time?

Chosen People Ministries’ missionary **Stewart Weinsich** works with elderly members of the Jewish community. His outreach is an evangelistic walk of faith to which few can lay claim. It is all the more so because of how God has brought it about.

Stewart says, “God has opened the doors for my three regular nursing home ministries. All of them came into existence because I was invited to come and minister. Without a doubt, it has all been orchestrated by God.”



The Weinsichs

Living Water!

After a recent service, Ken Alpren spoke with Rhoda*, a Jewish woman in her thirties.

“I have a few questions,” said Rhoda, “You’re Jewish, but you believe in Christ? How do you know He is real?”

Pointing to the bottle of spring water in her hand, Ken asked, “How do you know that water quenches your thirst?”

She replied, “I know, because it does when I drink it!”

Ken said, “Jesus spoke of water which becomes a fountain in us—springing up into everlasting life.”

They turned to Isaiah 53 and other Messianic passages. Ken finally asked, “Do you believe Jesus is the Messiah? Would you like to receive Him?”

“Yes, I do...and I would,” she answered. Together they prayed for her salvation.

The challenges are considerable. It is sometimes difficult to gauge how much some of these precious older souls are actually understanding. Also, sadly, the turnover in Stewart’s Bible studies is rapid because of illness and death. It is also

heartbreaking to see how many older people have been utterly abandoned by their families.

In spite of these difficulties, Stewart is unflagging in his outreach. He recently shared, “I have to exercise a lot of faith, because I don’t always know the outcome of my work. However, I trust that God is in control and as long as I make myself available, I will continue in His will. And there is encouragement along the way. I have prayed with dozens of people to receive the Lord.”

Israel and Judy Cohen travel widely sharing the Good News of Jesus the Messiah in churches and in evangelistic outreach programs. Israel is particularly active in the Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) and our children’s camp, *Simchat Yeladim*. He is also in charge of responding to the many e-mail queries that come through Chosen People Ministries’ web site (www.chosenpeople.com). Israel and Judy make their home near Orlando, Florida.



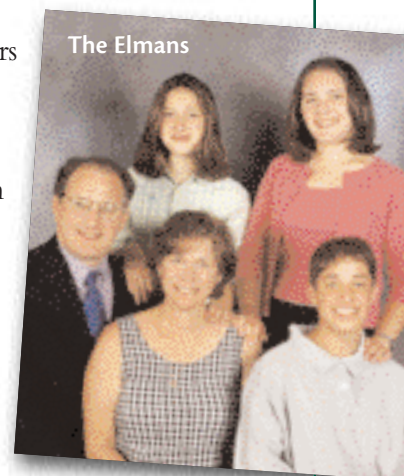
The Cohens

A Growing Vision

The arrival of Chosen People Ministries’ **Bruce and Suzi Elman**, who have recently relocated to Delray Beach from Maryland, will be a tremendous boost to our Florida staff. One of Bruce’s areas of ministry will be South Florida’s college campuses, which have a large population of Jewish students.

Rich Freeman envisions an expanding, exciting work in this epicenter of the Jewish world: “We are seeing increasing openness to our message. Our goal is to establish a Messianic Center to minister to Jewish and Gentile seekers of all ages.”

The work of Jewish evangelism in Florida has been fruitful. With God’s help, it will be brought to completion for the glory of Messiah’s Kingdom.



The Elmans

*names have been changed

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



MEMORIALS OF MICAH

One of the ways by which we measure the impact of someone's words is how often they are quoted. Although there are books in the Bible far longer than Micah's, some

of the most famous passages of the Bible belong to him.

Micah, who prophesied from the middle of the eighth century to the early seventh century BC, is unique among the prophets. Micah was the only prophet sent to both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. He was also God's final prophet to the Northern Kingdom, whose ten tribes were deported to Assyria in 721 BC.

Famous Quotations in Scripture that Memorialize Micah

"Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest" (3:12).

One century after Micah's own time, his stirring words were

instrumental in saving the life of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 26:1-24). When Jeremiah was close to being sentenced to death for prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem, the elders pointed out that no one took Micah's life for his similar pronouncement. Jeremiah's life was spared. What an example of the continuing impact of God's Word!

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (5:2).

Well known among Messianic prophecies is Micah's pronouncement of the village of Messiah's birth. Six miles southwest of Jerusalem, Bethlehem Ephrathah was the birthplace of David mentioned in

Ruth 4:11. An insignificant village, it was not even mentioned among the cities of Judah in Joshua 15. It was truly ***"little among the thousands of Judah"*** (5:2).

"For son dishonors father, daughter rises against her mother...A man's enemies are the men of his own household" (7:6).

The moral climate in Micah's day was so decadent that a man could trust neither friend nor relative. Sacred ties meant nothing. As He commissioned the twelve disciples, the Lord cited Micah's text to illustrate the loyalty He expected from them (Matthew 10:35,36).

Micah in Modern Times

To this day, Micah's words are pronounced during the services on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement: ***"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity...You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which you have sworn to our fathers from days of old"*** (7:18-20). These words of hope have sustained the Jewish people for centuries, sometimes in the midst of terrible hardship.

Even the secular world holds Micah in esteem. If you visit the reading room of the Congressional Library in Washington, D.C., you will find his words inscribed there. They remind us of our nation's accountability to our Creator: ***"And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"*** (6:8).

The words of Micah, quoted so often in so many different places, are indeed a testimony to the power of God's revelation. Like all of God's truth, Micah's words will endure forever. ✨

Mid-East Peace Pact on Maui, Hawaii

Henry and Darlene M., former missionaries in Hawaii, report that Sarah,* a Jewish woman from upstate New York, recently came to visit her son, Larry,* on Maui. Larry and his wife, who is from Jerusalem, are believers who came to faith in Jesus this past year. While visiting them, Sarah read a Gospel book that Darlene had given them.

After Sarah read the book, she opened her heart to receive the Lord Jesus and was baptized.

That same week, Ali,* a Palestinian Arab living on Maui, gave his heart to Jesus and was also baptized. Now these two new believers are being disciplined together. Darlene writes, "It is so beautiful to see Jews and Arabs being born again and worshipping together."

Israel Update

Henry N., pastor of the Chosen People Ministries congregation in the West Bank town of Ariel, writes, "Our congregation is growing spiritually. However, the people of Ariel are still afraid of the present dangers and of terrorism. Their anxiety makes it very difficult to get them to listen to Messiah's message of spiritual salvation. Right now, physical safety is the most important thing to them." Pray for Henry, his congregation and also for the people in Israel who need the assurance of God's peace that only the Gospel can bring.

Also, the two street bombs that were recently set off in a suburb of Tel Aviv were detonated on the street where Chosen People Ministries' Israel Director Michael Z. lives. The bombs went off next to the square his children walk by regularly.

Orthodox Jewish Young Ladies Receive Jesus

When Chosen People Ministries staff member Cathy Wilson received a request from a woman for help in witnessing to her Orthodox Jewish neighbors, she didn't hesitate. When Cathy shared that the Messiah had already come, the young ladies were amazed. They wanted proof from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Cathy presented the Gospel with verses from the Bible, and both ladies eagerly prayed to receive Jesus, the Jewish Messiah. Now they are both boldly proclaiming their new faith and their families are asking for information!

Passover Dinner – "To Go!"

While on a ministry tour in Oregon, Chosen People Ministries' Jay and Lauren Bockisch were pleasantly surprised to find Esther,* a Jewish woman to whom they had witnessed last June, cooking the Passover meal. Esther had received the Lord shortly after Jay and Lauren's visit with her.

What was surprising, however, was that although Esther had since moved out of state, she flew all the way back to Oregon to keep the commitment she had made to cook her first "Messiah in the Passover" banquet for the church! Jay and Lauren spoke with her afterwards and discovered that Esther's cousin is also a new believer in Messiah.

Pray for our summer outreach programs

From June 10-July 8, **STEP** is training in Chicago and then two weeks of team ministry and outreach to Jewish people in New York City.

Then in **TeenSTEP** from July 7-15, a group of teenagers will participate in a week of outreach and training in Jewish evangelism in New York City.

From July 15-29 a group of young adults will walk where Jesus walked and share the Gospel with both Jews and Arabs through **eXperience Israel**.

Simchat Yeladim, our summer camp for Messianic kids, will again be held in Pennsylvania from July 29-August 5. Pray that these young people will discover God in a whole new way!

*names have been changed



Chris & Joanna Schwarz - VIPs

Chris Schwarz served for eleven years as a police officer in New York City. But now, as part of Chosen People Ministries' *Volunteer Involvement Program* in Florida, he serves in another way.

"My pastor in Staten Island instilled a love of the Jewish people in me. When I saw Stewart Weinisch present 'Messiah in the Passover,' I got on the mailing list and then applied to work with the *Volunteer Involvement Program*. I was accepted shortly before I moved to Florida, after I retired from the police force."

When Rich and Julia Freeman opened the Florida office in Delray Beach, Chris started volunteering, scheduling meetings for missionaries, doing mailings and speaking with pastors about the work. He was also involved with media relations for the recent "To the Jew First" conference in West Palm Beach.

One staff member says of Chris, "He has a servant's heart and is truly a breath of fresh air." Chris himself reflects, "Volunteer involvement has helped me use my gifts in a variety of ways to serve in Jewish ministries. This has given me a real sense of fulfillment."

For more information about the Volunteer Involvement Program, whether you live in Florida, Toronto, or almost anywhere, please call 212-223-2252.

Israel Through Jewish Eyes

A Point of View You Won't Forget

Journey to Israel and retrace the footsteps of Jesus the Messiah. Dr. Ben Alpert, Chosen People Ministries' Israel guide and teacher, will open your eyes to the wonders of the Promised Land. You'll travel from the Sea of Galilee to the River Jordan, with stops in Jerusalem, Jericho and other Biblical sites along the way. Dr. Alpert's in-depth teaching brings Biblical events alive in the very location where they took place. Trips take place in November and March. For a full-color brochure, call **1-800-459-9402** now.

Is It Reasonable to Be Jewish and Believe in Jesus?

Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus

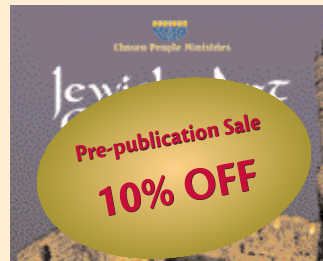
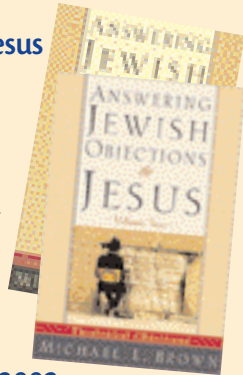
by Dr. Michael Brown

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2001-2002

Jewish Art Calendar

Order now to start the Jewish New Year off right in September with the Chosen People Ministries Calendar. Each month features a

beautiful picture of the Holy Land, highlighted by a Messianic prophecy. Order two or three—they make great gifts, especially for Jewish friends who need to hear about the Messiah.

#5005 price: ~~\$10.95~~^{US} SALE PRICE: ~~\$9.85~~^{US}



Is it Reasonable to be Jewish and Believe in Jesus?

Testimonies of fifteen Jewish believers in Jesus from all walks of life. Excellent to give to your Jewish friends!

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Up to Zion

Worshipful music led by Paul Wilbur, former lead singer of Israel's Hope. *Up to Zion* is a chorus of beautiful voices and great brass and instrumental sections backed by a praising, clapping congregation. Songs include *He Shall Reign*, *Worthy is the Lamb*, and *The Song of Moses*. A great tape to listen to while jogging or walking!



#4020 CD price: ~~\$15.95~~^{US}



The Chosen People Newsletter

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

The Chosen People Newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries
Editor: Zhava Glaser
Staff Writer: Alan Shore
Design: Lois Gable

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Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will.
"I will bless those who bless you."
(Genesis 12:3)

Visit us on the Web at
www.chosenpeople.com