



The
Chosen 
People

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GIVING THANKS
in the
Midst
of
Terror

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GIVING THANKS...

in the *Midst of* Terror

Dear Friends,

Shalom from New York City. On behalf of the Chosen People Ministries staff based in New York City, I want to thank you again, dear friends, prayer partners and supporters, for the deluge of letters, notes, and e-mails over the last few months.

I am especially grateful for your prayers. I know that many of you stood with us before the Throne of Grace asking the Lord to give the

Yes, we can be thankful . . .

New York Chosen People Ministries family safety and strength through a difficult time.

Our staff was gathering for our regular Tuesday morning time of prayer and devotions when the attacks at the World Trade Center began.

Like you, we had no idea this was an attack until we saw the second plane hit Tower Two and explode in a fireball. Our staff watched in shock and horror. Later on, many of us watched as first Tower Two and then Tower One imploded. By this point we were all checking with family and friends to see if we knew anyone who may have been in the buildings. One staff member's brother worked in

one of the offices, and we had a number of tense hours before he called his wife letting her know that he was safe.

Others of us had people we were very concerned about but by 4 p.m. we had heard from most of our family and friends and knew that they had escaped without harm.

Over the next few weeks, so much transpired that it is difficult for me even to describe it to you. All I can say is THANKYOU for being patient with your receipts and lack of returned notes and phone calls. Quite frankly, I did not have a "normal" day for more than a month after the attacks on New York City.

By the end of the first day our staff were on the streets looking to help. We tried volunteering at the hospitals, but there were not enough survivors for doctors and nurses to need assistance. It was at that point we realized the horrendous extent of the damage and the suffering that would be produced by the attack.

We distributed 300 bagged lunches containing fruit, juice, power bars, nuts, raisins, crackers and cookies—along with Gospel tracts.

Our staff went to the various piers where families were waiting for word and rescue workers were mourning the loss of their fellow firemen, policemen and emergency workers.

Dear friends—there was not a dry eye in New York City for days!

Doug P., one of our associate staff members, was trying to comfort and share the Gospel with some of the families gathered at the bereavement center. He was one of the only people there who had a cell phone that worked, and he began sharing it with people who were waiting. Doug's kindness became a genuine opportunity to share the Good News with many people.

The City then began the process of mourning the dead. It took a long time for us to realize who perished in the World Trade Center terror attack. Soon, our entire staff

Be thankful for hearts now open to the Gospel

realized that every one of us knew someone. On my block alone in Brooklyn, four men died, leaving children, young widows, and a grieving mother.

One of the Jewish believers that I discipled is having a hard time living in his house because it faced the Trade Center. On the morning of the terror attack he was looking out of his window and saw the plane smash into the Towers—and people

jumping from the buildings. He can hardly sleep because of the continued visions of this horrendous sight.

We also began meeting those who had been spared.

One of our dear and close friends worked in the World Trade Center. She has a vital interest in Jewish evangelism and has done a marvelous job of sharing the Lord with her Jewish friends. The day of

Be thankful that Americans are persuaded that evil does exist

the attack she was late for work and was spared.

We heard about another Christian who, at the last moment, decided to attend a men's Bible study before work. Instead of getting to his office at 8:30 a.m., he got there at 9:00. His life was spared.

I could list dozens of stories of believers whose lives were spared and gave glory to God—and of unbelievers whose lives were miraculously saved by one means or another and who have now opened their hearts to the Lord.

Chosen People Ministries' New York staff family continues to minister to the grieving. We are mourning with those who mourn and are trying to reach many whose lives were devastated by the events of that day.

Yet, upon reflection, I can find many reasons to be thankful in the midst of terror.

I am genuinely grateful for hearts now open to the Gospel.

Posted throughout our City were one-page sheets with Psalm 23 written in bold letters. I have never seen God's Word posted in so many extraordinary places—from grocery

stores to laundromats to hardware stores. Psalm 23, along with pictures of the missing, were posted juxtaposed next to one another as if people—many of whom are not believers—were hoping against hope that the Good Shepherd would find the sheep that were still missing.

I cannot tell you how many people are now interested in spiritual things since the attack. You can read some reports from our staff on the next pages and see how the Lord has used the terrorists' attack to turn the eyes and hearts of New Yorkers—both Jews and Gentiles—to Himself. This was made abundantly clear to me the night of one of our High Holiday outreach services.

We had rented a hall for this service around the corner from the Empire State Building. The date of the service was September 18th, just a week after the incident.

After the service that evening, I spoke with a Jewish couple who were simply beaming with the joy of the Lord. I asked them how long they had been believers and they told me, "Just a few days." A number of believers had been witnessing to them over some months. After they found out that their daughter, who worked in the World Trade Center, was spared, they accepted Jesus as their Messiah. It was an emotional moment for me to hear how God reached down from heaven in His grace and, in the midst of tragedy, drew one precious Jewish couple to Himself.

Americans have finally come face to face with the reality of evil.

I believe that one of the reasons people are more open to the Lord at this time—especially here in New York—is because they are now persuaded that evil exists. There is not a single person in New York City that does not believe that this tragic and terrible act of terrorism was evidence of man's capacity to be evil.

Not many in our generation confronted Nazism and, although a few more have faced the evil of Totalitarianism and Communism, most of us have not. Americans have lost their innocence and have now been awfully persuaded that true evil exists. This makes it a lot easier to speak to people about the existence and reality of God.

I am so grateful for the unity of the Body of Messiah.

I cannot tell you how many notes, e-mails and letters—far more than a thousand—we received in the days after the event took place. Believers in New York City rallied together and through evangelistic efforts, prayer services, and genuine concern, helped one another through the aftermath of the tragedy.

Christians like you from across the United States and around the world reached out to New Yorkers—and especially to our Chosen People Ministries family—to let us know that you were praying and you cared.

We also appreciate the extra gifts that Christians provided to help us

Be thankful for the unity of the Body of Messiah

through the crunch of having an unsteady mail flow for a number of weeks. God demonstrated His love towards us through the love and prayers of believers.

We truly do love you and appreciate you.

Your brother in Him,

Mitch

Mitch



Mitch Glaser
President

SEPTEMBER 11TH

Bringing

"Oh, give thanks to

God's

the Lord, for He is

Comfort

good! For His mercy

to a

city that endures forever"

Devastated

(Psalm 107:1)

City

This Thanksgiving

month, believers in Messiah have a special reason to cling to the promises of God. The terrorist attacks that have plunged our nation into grief have understandably hit those closest to Ground Zero hardest. The New York City staff members of Chosen People Ministries have cried tears of anguish along with everyone else. Yet, armed with the hope of the Gospel, we went to offer what spiritual and practical aid we could. These are the testimonies of some of those who ministered "on the front lines" in the hours and days that followed:

I was with the staff at the office when we heard. We turned on the television and saw the second plane hit. We knew immediately it was a terrorist attack. Doug and I went to the hospital and volunteered. I am a nurse and can also translate in Russian and English.

Luda



The following day, we went to one of the relief centers and gave out food and literature. We spoke with two men who had lost 14 co-workers. It has been so difficult—we see so many people crying. In the midst of it all, we shared the hope of the Gospel or else just comforted people in their grief. As the days passed, we continued to go out in full force, with specially written tracts, to Columbia University and into Jewish neighborhoods. Many people have accepted our literature—far more than usual.

Doug



After Luda and I stopped by the hospital to volunteer, I went to one of the piers where they had a triage center set up and gave out food and tracts. I also helped out at the Javits Center, where there were long lines of people who had lost loved ones and were waiting for information. It was so quiet there—a sad, grief-stricken hush. I let people use my cell phone.

At one point, we met some students from New York University, and I had a chance to share the Gospel with two Orthodox Jewish students in that group. Later on, I handed out tracts and books on the Upper West Side. That day, I was able to share the Gospel with some young Israelis and a number of Jewish residents in that neighborhood.



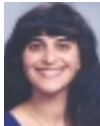
Boris

I was outside when the first plane hit, on my way to speak at a Teen Challenge meeting. I looked up and saw the smoke. I didn't realize what was happening. I was at the meeting when the second plane crashed. I told them that they now knew the bitter fruit of terrorism that Israel has lived with for five decades.

We have been going out time and again with food, water and spiritual comfort. People's hearts are very heavy. One thing I have seen is that people have either become more hardened or more open to our message. As I give out tracts, I have been both blessed and cursed at the same intersection by passers-by.



Lauren



I was meeting with an Orthodox Jewish woman in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. After the second tower was struck, we were evacuated from the park. My friend was so **frightened**. While I drove the car, she asked to hear a Messianic Gospel tape I had with me and when we parted, she asked to take it with her. Since then, we have continued to keep in touch.

That day, my husband Jay and I stood on a pier in Brooklyn, transfixed by the smoldering ruins. People from all walks of life were there and we gave out hundreds of **tracts and Bibles** that were eagerly **accepted**.

Later that week, we set up a table downtown at a memorial that was held at Union Square Park. Many Jewish people stopped by to get our material and information about our **Day of Atonement** services. As sad as this all has been, it has been a moment to seize for **God's glory** and we are continuing to **seize it**.

Report From Israel

Michael and Natalie Z, our ministry leaders in Israel, have moved to Jerusalem. While apartment hunting there, they stopped for lunch at a pizza restaurant. The next day, dozens of people were killed or injured by a suicide bomb that went off right where they had eaten just twenty-four hours earlier.

Israelis have now been warned not to leave their West Bank cities because of sniper attacks. This means that staff members Henry and Irina N. cannot leave their town. Pray for them—they need the fellowship and encouragement of others.



Thankful for Two Heart Transplants



The Rubin family, serving in San Francisco

In 1979, at the age of 22, Scott was serving his annual two-week stint with the Army Reserves. A fellow officer expressed interest in Scott's Jewish background and encouraged him to read the Messianic prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Scott was so intrigued by them that he also read the New Testament, and soon came to faith through prayer, Bible study and the fellowship of committed believers.

"In 1985, our lives were changed in an instant when my doctor said, 'It's not your lungs, it's your heart,'" shares Scott Rubin.

Then in their 20s, Scott and his wife, Janice, were faced with the reality of life's uncertainties. At age 28, Scott received a heart transplant. Then, in 1998, their teenaged son, Joshua, also needed a transplant and Josh's identical twin, Michael, was diagnosed as being in heart failure. The Rubins know suffering. They also know the power of God's comfort and seek to share what they have.

"We are ambassadors for Messiah," is a perspective that Scott keeps. "We are here to show believers and unbelievers that having Messiah in our lives makes a difference."

Janice also depends upon the grace of God. She reflects, "I know that my husband and sons could be called home by the Lord at any moment, but that only serves to keep me close to God and to enjoy the time He has given us to be together."

The Rubins visit the ICU at Children's Hospital at Stanford to comfort families experiencing the trauma of having their own child in heart failure. Their living testimony to the Ultimate Comforter is noted by the medical staff. Scott has observed, "They aren't accustomed to families returning to the place that houses such difficult memories. In sharing the purpose for our visits, we bear testimony to the living hope that we have."

Scott and Janice serve with Chosen People Ministries in the San Francisco Bay Area, where they pastor Congregation Tiferet Israel, a Messianic congregation located in San Francisco.

See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Dr. Daniel Goldberg



HABAKKUK Testimony to God's Faithfulness

Minor prophets are sometimes the source of major doctrines. For example, one of the great cornerstones of Christian doctrine, "The just shall live by faith," is first found in Habakkuk 2:4.

Habakkuk, whose name means, "embrace," comforted his people in the face of adversity. Ministering during the Neo-Babylonian Empire (c.625-610 BC), the prophet was perhaps a Levite (3:19). His words take the form of what Bible scholars call "theodicy."

A theodicy is essentially a "defense" of God. It probes such issues as why the wicked seem to prosper, while the righteous suffer. How can a just God permit these inequities?

Habakkuk is a book of deepest doubt and the prophet is sometimes dubbed the "doubting Thomas" of the Old Testament.

The Dilemmas of Faith

The dilemmas of faith are not easy to ignore. The first one that our

prophet mentions is in 1:1-4. Why does God permit evil? Will God punish Judah for all her oppression, bribery and injustice? To receive an answer from God, Habakkuk stationed himself in the city watchtower (2:1) where he could both watch and pray.

Swiftly, the Lord replied and instructed the prophet to write the answer for all the ages to ponder (2:2). The Lord will not permit evil to go unpunished! Moreover, the Lord's answer contains the clearest definition of faith in the Bible:

"Though it tarries, wait for it...it will surely come...but the just shall live by his faith" (2:3,4). Thus, the essence of true faith is to wait and rely upon God's faithfulness to perform all that He has promised.

This great faith text is quoted in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:37, 38. In each instance, faith rests on God's faithfulness. Faith is not believing because of evidence but obeying in spite of consequence.

The second dilemma Habakkuk mentions is in verses 1:12-2:20. How can God use evildoers to punish? How could God employ Babylon, a nation more wicked than Judah, as His instrument of judgment since, ***"You [God] are of purer eyes than to behold evil..."*** (1:13)? Will God punish the Babylonians also?

Yes indeed, God replies. In a series of five woes, God declares that the Babylonians will not escape His terrible judgment (2:5-20). Some 75 years later, Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians.

The Delights of Faith

But Habakkuk does not dwell in doubt forever. In his third chapter, the prophet lifts his voice in a psalm of praise! The problem of theodicy is solved through the eyes of faith. In faith, Habakkuk prayed for revival, ***"Oh LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years"*** (3:2) and by faith, the prophet views God's majesty and might, ***"His glory covered the heavens"*** (3:3).

Through faith in Jesus the Messiah, we too may trust God in times of adversity—***"Though the fig tree may not blossom...and the fields yield no food...yet will I rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength"*** (3:17-19). ✨

NEW Resources
**For Those Who Love
 the Jewish People**



Our Hands Are Stained with Blood by Dr. Michael Brown
 Dr. Michael Brown examines the history of anti-Semitism by those who have called themselves "Christians." A shocking book but a "must read" for all who believe in the Jewish Messiah and love the Jewish people.

#3078 Price: \$12.95^{US}

For Hitler's Cross by Erwin Lutzer
 The monstrosity of Adolph Hitler's "Third Reich" remains a stunning chapter in the pages of history. Although the power by which Hitler hypnotized an entire nation is legendary, one question in particular begs an answer: Where was the Church? Erwin Lutzer examines the lessons that may be learned from studying the deception of the church, giving us insight into today's dangerous trends.

#3079 Price: \$15.95^{US}

Hanukkah Menorah
 Beautiful Hanukkah Menorah from the land of Israel, comes with "Devotions for Hanukkah" booklet that will walk you through each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, the festival of lights, with teachings that honor Jesus, the Light of the world.
 Hanukkah Menorah (comes with devotional booklet) #5022 Price: \$24.95^{US}
 Devotions for Hanukkah (booklet only) #3041 Price: \$4.95^{US}



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Charitable Giving to God's Work

It's the season to give—to the people and ministries God has placed on your heart. We hope you will remember your mission to the Jewish people at this time. Stock transfers are an excellent way to make a special end-of-year gift.

In addition, Chosen People Ministries has resources for helping plan a financial future that will allow you to be faithful to your family and to Jewish evangelism. For more information on your charitable giving, please contact Amy at 1-212-223-2252 or indicate your interest on the enclosed response card.



The Chosen People Newsletter

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

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