

The Chosen People



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CANADA

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:

A Rich Ministry in Canada • Toronto: Echoes of a Fruitful Ministry •
Montreal: A Witness for Yeshua • The Book of Revelation Unveiled

A Rich Ministry in Canada



Larry and Jan Rich,
Canadian Director, Chosen People Ministries

Larry Rich, Chosen People Ministries' Director of North American Ministries, has a background well in keeping with his name. His story is a wonderful testimony of how God can take the mustard seed of Gospel faith and make it increasingly fruitful over the course of generations. I asked Larry to write the lead article for this month's The Chosen People newsletter. I hope you will enjoy it and pray for our dynamic, growing work in Canada.
In Him,

Mitch Glaser
President

“I was interested in what I was reading until I came to the name ‘Jesus.’ You know, we Jews don’t believe in Jesus.” So spoke my mother, who was residing in Chicago, to a housekeeper she hired through the Moody Bible Institute. The young woman had offered to bring my mother to a Bible study taught by David and Esther Bronstein, a Jewish couple who believed in Jesus and had a long and fruitful ministry to Jewish people. After a few weeks of attending, my mother came to faith.

My father was a much harder case, but after about a year he also took the step of faith. So a short time later, I was born into a believing family.

I grew up in a Jewish neighborhood and went to a school that was 90% Jewish. I concluded that the whole world was Jewish, believed in Jesus and attended a Messianic congregation. Later I learned differently.

A Life of Service

I praise God for being raised in a believing home and the opportunities for education and service I have been given. However, I am humbled by the Lord’s words, “*For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required*” (Luke 12:48). Yet, I also receive comfort from God’s words to Paul, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness*” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

My ministry has presented me with different roles, such as mission director, pastor and college instructor. All of these were forerunners to these past 11 years working with Chosen People Ministries in Canada. I had not anticipated living in Canada, but my Canadian wife, Jan, had her own call to Jewish ministry even before we met. God was always preparing me for this work. She and I gained a burden for the Jewish people of Canada.

As Canada’s first director, I have been developing a vision for all of Canada. Chosen People Ministries has had a long history in Montreal and Toronto. In Montreal, Percy Johnson has led the work almost since I came to Canada.

He is uniquely qualified to serve in this city of cultural diversity because of his own varied background and experience in ministry.

In Toronto, Don Meecha has been leading the work since the summer of 2002. Don was part of my vision for Toronto ever since he led a Chosen People Ministries evangelistic campaign here eight years ago. He is greatly gifted for this work, which is already bearing fruit.

“Come Over and Help Us!”

The city of Winnipeg also has been on my radar screen almost from the time I began serving with Chosen People Ministries in 1991. This past August, by God’s grace, we began a ministry in this city, fueled by a recent merger with *International Ministries to Israel* (IMI). We have been blessed by our new associations, including Elvin Ensign (long time IMI director, now semi-retired and serving with us) and Don Edel (IMI Board member now on the Chosen People Ministries Canada Board).

We all agreed that a young missionary would be needed, and after much prayer,

Each September (the weekend after Labor Day), Chosen People Ministries in Canada holds a Messianic Bible Conference in Guelph, Ontario, about 45 minutes west of Toronto. It has been a special time for many Jewish and Gentile believers to come together in fellowship around Scriptural teaching related to God’s purpose for the Jewish people. The conference is called Haverim (Friends). You can learn more by contacting our office in Toronto at 1-888-4-HALLEL.

we decided to send Erle and Jeannette Snobel from Montreal to Winnipeg. This brings to mind the story in Acts of Paul hearing a voice from Macedonia saying, “*Come over...and help us*” (Acts 16:9).

Echoes of a Fruitful Ministry

Paul was prepared to return east, but now he turned westward, and the Gospel was spread far and wide.

The Scriptures tell us that the Lord will provide, and I believe He will. We are now praying for a missionary family to serve on the west coast of Canada.

At this time, we have two wonderful representatives from Washington State (Daniel Nessim and Alan Shore), who witness to Jewish people and speak in Canadian churches regularly. In October of 2002, we had a conference on Jewish evangelism in Abbotsford, near Vancouver, and the Lord blessed in many ways.

Trial By Fire

Many of our readers are aware of a longstanding court battle in which Chosen People Ministries has been



Our Canadian staff

denied legal protection for our logo—the seven-branched candle holder from the book of Exodus. We are appealing the judge's decision and are confident that God will be glorified, whatever may happen. As a result of this controversy, the message of the Jewish Messiah is being proclaimed to more and more people.

It is a great blessing for Jan and me to be involved in this work among the Jewish people. May God open the hearts of many, and may we all continue to grow in Him.

Larry Rich

Larry Rich
Canadian Director
Chosen People Ministries

God has used many committed men and women in the course of Chosen People Ministries' illustrious history in the Toronto area. As Chosen People Ministries' staff members traveled north from the States in the 1930s, they developed many relationships and found numerous opportunities to share the Gospel. A Canadian Board was formed in the early 1940s, and the Mission headquarters was established in Hamilton, Ontario.

One early pioneer in the work was Rachmiel Frydland, a Jewish believer who narrowly escaped death in the gas chambers in his native Poland. He

ministered in the early 1970s, as did Leslie Jacobs, another Jewish believer, who developed a campus ministry at York University. Another valuable staff

member was Tom Walker, who coordinated conferences for the Mission from 1974 to 1987.

The Mission Grows

Outreach to Toronto's Russian Jewish people during the years from 1986 to 1994 brought about the birth of Olive Tree Congregation in 1986, which was founded by Roy Schwarcz and Galen Banashak.

As the work progressed, Janice Beurling, who now serves as Communications Manager, joined the Toronto staff in 1988. Lyle Brown, who began in 1994, is now Canadian administrator, and Marilou Wilson, who began in 1996, handles the telephone and secretarial duties.

In 1991, Larry Rich became the first Canadian Director. He orchestrated the move of the Canadian Headquarters from Hamilton to North York, a key Jewish area of Toronto. In 1991 a new congregation was formed—*Beth Sar Shalom* (House of the Prince of Peace), under the leadership of Rob Styler. The work reached out to the whole Jewish community, and the Russian Jewish believers continued to have a significant presence.

In 1994, Gideon Levytam, a Jewish believer originally from Jerusalem, became the congregational leader. That year, Carole Bahm also joined as a missionary. She has worked tirelessly in the Toronto area bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people and others, visiting and discipling them in the congregation and in home groups.

The life of the congregation continues to expand. The year 1999 brought Joy G., a young woman whose musical gifts and devotion to the Lord have added immeasurably to the Mission's outreach.

Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century

This new century has brought more changes. In 2000, Joseph Gray joined the staff as Toronto Branch Director and became Associate Canadian Director in 2002. Joe has now moved on to pastor a church. We will miss his faithful service.

Most recently, in 2002, Don Meecha, along with his family, relocated from Southern California to serve as a Toronto-based missionary, congregational leader of *Beth Sar Shalom* and Toronto branch director. Under his leadership, the congregation has growing adult, youth, and children's programs.

Chosen People Ministries' presence in greater Toronto has proven to be rich and fruitful indeed, and its story is still being written through God's grace and the power of the Gospel.

A Witness for Yeshua

Montreal is a city steeped in history and is the home of a well-established Jewish community of about 100,000 people that dates from 1759. It is not surprising, therefore, that this important Canadian city has been a focus for Chosen People Ministries' outreach for the past 60 years.

The Montreal branch opened in 1942 with Karl Goldberg as our first missionary. From the start, the work proved to be particularly challenging. Montreal's Jewish community has a significant proportion of Orthodox and Sephardic Jews, some of whom have, at times, been active in their opposition of our ministry.

Early, faithful staff workers included Mrs. Karl Goldberg, Martha Singer, Gladys Midgley, Rev. G. Vanderlip, Rev. Ashton Holden, Margaret Seidler and Winnie Marriner. As always, the Mission has tried to be of service, opening its doors to those in need. Early outreach efforts included English/Bible classes for Jewish refugees after World War II.



The Montreal Branch incorporated as *Beth Sar Shalom Mission* (House of the Prince of Peace) in 1967.

A Renewed Work

For a time, the work in Montreal appeared to languish. However, when God's people pray, things begin to happen. In 1989, a small Bible study began meeting regularly in a Salvation Army building in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, a Montreal suburb with a substantial Jewish population. The building was located across the street from a large Orthodox synagogue, some of whose members attempted to disrupt meetings. However, despite the opposition, the vision for a Messianic congregation began to form.

In 1992, this vision took a step forward when Percy Johnson arrived in Montreal to become the spiritual leader of the now emerging Messianic congregation, *She'ar Yashuv* ("The Remnant Shall Return"). Percy brought the qualities of community-builder, teacher and discipler to his leadership role—an ideal mix of what the congregation needed to grow. The group continues to thrive, with many

Jewish people and others coming to faith. Its outreach employs the Mission's tried and true methods of person-to-person and door-to-door evangelism, literature distribution and special services, combined with the unfeigned love of Messiah to all.

Percy notes, "Jewish seekers and believers find that they feel comfortable. They can relate to the liturgy and many of the traditional elements to which they have been accustomed. We do, however, emphasize a personal relationship with God and consider Gentiles as part of the 'commonwealth of Israel' (Ephesians 2). Both Jews and Gentiles feel welcome and at home in our congregation."

Chosen People Ministries continues its vital outreach in Montreal with well-attended Passover banquets and other special services for Jewish holidays, and with home visits and outreaches.

It remains a beacon of hope for the "returning remnant" of Jewish believers and others who are finding Messiah's light and life in its welcoming and nurturing community of Messianic believers. ✨

"I Finally Found a Spiritual Home"

by Lee Fingold

I was raised in a Jewish home in Toronto. We attended a Reform temple; and unlike some of my peers, I really studied our Hebrew Scriptures. There was a burning truth in them that profoundly affected me. In fact, in 1964 I represented my temple in a Jewish Bible knowledge contest for all North America that was held in New York City—and I won!

But, as a teenager, I drifted away from Judaism. I went on to study Law at York University in Toronto. I passed the bar exam in 1975 and went to work at a



Erle Snobel:
"Searching the Scriptures"

I was raised in a conservative Jewish home,

where we went to synagogue every Sabbath and celebrated all the festivals. My siblings and I went to religious school, and it was all very meaningful to me.

After studying in university for one year, I quit to make money as a taxi driver. I met a fellow cab driver, a believer, who witnessed

to me and challenged me to read the New Testament. I accepted his challenge. As I read, I came across verses that spoke specifically of Jesus as the Messiah. I also searched my own Jewish Scriptures and soon saw I had to make a choice.

One day, while visiting my mother in Montreal, we attended the Chosen People Ministries congregation. About a month later, we both came to faith. From the start, I felt the Lord had placed a calling upon my life to share the Gospel with my Jewish brothers and sisters.

continued on page 7

“The Remnant Shall Return”

Kehilat She’ar Yashuv Messianic Congregation (“The Remnant Shall Return”) was founded ten years ago when Chosen People Ministries sent Percy Johnson to plant a Messianic congregation in Montreal. Spiritually speaking, Montreal is one of the most difficult cities in the world. But thanks to the Lord, our work there is now thriving and blossoming.

For years our Jewish members have told us that they feel more at home in a Messianic setting, and they tell how their lives are changed since they have come to know Jesus and worship at our congregation.

God has also blessed us with many new Gentile families who are involved with us in reaching the Jewish people of Montreal. These families have a love for Israel and a desire to learn about how to make our people jealous, fulfilling the Scriptures as in Romans 11:11.

Here are a few stories about these precious co-laborers:

“Like a Jewish Person”

Craig* is an accountant and works for a Jewish man, Larry.* Larry knows that Craig is a Gentile believer in Jesus and has told him that he sees the difference in Craig’s life. One day,

Craig came into work and said “Shabbat Shalom” (“Sabbath Peace,” the customary Sabbath greeting) to him.

Surprised, Larry asked, “How do you know that?”

Craig told him that he has been attending a Messianic congregation and is now learning about all the Jewish festivals. Suddenly, Larry became interested in hearing more, and this has led to many wonderful conversations about God, the Bible and prophecy. Craig told us that his boss now considers him “like a Jewish person” and trusts him implicitly.

“She Knows More than Me!”

Eleanor,* a Gentile member, recently had her brother-in-law, Sid,*

move in with her and her husband, who is Jewish. She has been a faithful believer now for many years, and Sid watches everything she does. She leaves tracts, our congregational bulletin, and other literature on the table for him to read—and he does! Eleanor’s Gentile granddaughter visits her regularly. At Hanukkah, she sang all the songs as she shared the Hanukkah story with Sid.

He responded, with a jealous tone in his voice, “She knows more than me!” ☆

*not their real names



Darryl Weinberg: “He Wanted My Attention”

I was raised in a secular Jewish home, and I was the only one who believed in God; however, I knew that “Jews didn’t believe in Jesus.” When I was 25, though, I began to ask why this was so. My cousin witnessed to me and, although the idea wasn’t too uncomfortable, I didn’t really see the need for Him.

I moved to Mexico for my business, became engaged and “had the world by the tail.” Then, God took away the business, life savings, fiancée—everything—

and sent me home completely broken. He wanted my attention and removed all distractions from me.

I attended the Chosen People Ministries Messianic congregation in Toronto, where I sat under the ministry of an Israeli man who preached about Jesus. I eventually ran out of excuses. I gave my life to the Lord and am now being called to full-time Jewish ministry to tell Jewish people and everyone that the Messiah has come.



Joy G.: “Swimming Against the Current”

Although both of my Jewish parents are believers in Messiah, following Yeshua has really been a go-against-the-flow journey for me. When God reached me at the age of 12, I realized how opposed my extended family and the Jewish community were to this decision.

My relationship with the Lord was incredibly real to me, and I knew the Bible fairly well. But I also wanted to have solid reasoning for my faith and answers to the many challenging questions that came

my way. As I continue to examine my faith, I know there is solid ground for what I believe.

It isn’t easy being Jewish and believing in Yeshua, but there is no other life I would rather live. I know God has called me to pray for my people and tell them about our Messiah. I might be swimming against the current, but there is nothing more rewarding than having a relationship with my Messiah and seeing my people come to know their God.



See the Through Jewish Eyes Bible

by Daniel Goldberg, Th.D., D.D.



The Book of Revelation Unveiled

Each book of the Bible is important, but the last book is the climax and consummation of God's revelation to man. The Book of Revelation is the only major prophetic book of the New Testament, and those who read it are promised a special blessing (Rev. 1:3).

The Old Testament Connection

Revelation is rooted in the Old Testament, where, as we compare Scripture with Scripture, we find helpful information to interpret its meaning. There are nearly 300 references to the Old Testament in its pages. In fact, a marvelous comparison exists between Genesis and Revelation. In Revelation, we see a new heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 21:1); the last Adam with his wife, the Church (Gen. 1:27; Rev. 21:9); the reappearance of the Tree of Life (Gen. 3:22; Rev. 22:2) and the lifting of the curse (Gen. 3:17; Rev. 22:3).

Interpreting the Book of Revelation

Agnostics view the Book of Revelation as pure fiction, while

liberals treat it as pure allegory. But as serious biblical scholars, we choose to view it as prophetic from chapter four onward. While the Book of Revelation combines many prophecies in symbolic and figurative language, this does not mean that the interpretation of such figures is left to the reader's imagination. We recommend the advice of Dr. David L. Cooper: "When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense."

Authorship and Audience

The Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation. He had already written four other books: the Gospel of John and First, Second and Third John. Tradition says that John settled in Ephesus. There he was later arrested under the

Emperor Domitian and banished to Patmos (a small island in the Aegean Sea) to work in the mines. Irenaeus and other Church Fathers confirmed that John wrote the Book of Revelation while on Patmos.

The original destination of this letter was the seven churches of Asia Minor. The descriptions given in chapters two and three indicated characteristics and problems similar to those facing the Church in every age, making the messages applicable to the Church today.

Messiah in the Book of Revelation

The exact title of the book is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." Christ, or the Messiah, is its central theme. He is its chief subject. The book begins with a vision of His glory and concludes with the unveiling of the King of all kings. A natural outline is set forth in 1:19, "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

"The things which you have seen" are described in 1:1-20, "the things which are" may be found in 2:1-3:22 and "the things which will take place after this" are shown in 4:1-22:21.

We invite you to come along and receive the spiritual blessing God promises by studying the Book of Revelation. We look forward to your company as we continue this new series, "The Book of Revelation Unveiled," which will appear in the upcoming issues of *The Chosen People* newsletter. ☆

HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT BRINGS GOSPEL TO RUSSIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

The 1500-seat Millennium Theater in Brooklyn was the scene of a memorable afternoon in December when Handel's *Messiah* was performed there for the first time, conducted by Delta David Gier of the New York Philharmonic. Although well known to Western audiences, *Messiah* had been banned in the former Soviet Union and was a new experience for the mostly Russian audience. Although anti-missionaries worked hard to keep people from coming, the theater was filled almost to capacity. Many Chosen People Ministries staff members were present, some of whom even sang in the chorus! One staff member commented, "It went beyond our highest expectations. As the concert unfolded, I could see people opening their hearts. Some wept." A Gospel presentation was included in the program, and as a result, a number of Russian Jewish seekers have received the Lord.

JOINED TOGETHER VIDEO AIRED ON PAX TELEVISION

Chosen People Ministries' interfaith marriage video, *Joined Together*, was broadcast on December 1 on PAX television. It was carried by stations in Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland, and many were able to see the Gospel presentation in this powerful video that is geared to the needs of searching spouses in Jewish/non-Jewish marriages. *Joined Together* is already bearing fruit for God's Kingdom, and we trust that God will use it mightily. You can send for your own copy of *Joined Together* for a suggested donation of us\$20 plus us\$6 for shipping. Just call 1-800-333-4936, fill out the enclosed card, or visit us at www.chosenpeople.com/joinedtogether.

GOSPEL REACHES WORKERS IN ISRAEL

Recently, Neriyah A. and his wife, Anna, were delivering copies of the *Jesus* film in Israel and were surprised to find three families living in one house. They were Russian workers who had come to Israel two years ago. Neriyah and Anna shared the Gospel with them, and they were amazed to discover that there were Jewish people who follow Jesus. As Neriyah and Anna read them Isaiah 53, all of the women began to weep. Soon, they were all on their knees, worshipping God.

"ALL THIS TIME AND I NEVER KNEW!"

Chosen People Ministries' Stewart Weinisch recently conversed with Leah,* a Jewish woman, about Yeshua. Although Leah attended their Messianic congregation, she did not yet believe Yeshua's words, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). Stewart began to open the Scripture to her. When Leah heard the words, "If you confess with your mouth Yeshua as Lord," she exclaimed, "All this time and I never knew Yeshua is God." She went home and showed her two teenage sons what she had seen and they also believed! At the service that week, she stood up in front of the whole congregation and confessed her faith. Many in the congregation were crying tears of joy as Leah shared.

*name has been changed

continued from page 4

prestigious law firm that had sought after me because I was an outstanding student.

From Success to Shame to Salvation

Things were going well. I was on the fast track to success. But in 1992, I encountered financial difficulties, and I did some unethical things. My shady dealings eventually led to disgrace. I was disbarred in 1994, and in 1997 I was sentenced to a year in jail.

While in jail, I played piano at their worship service; there was nothing better to do. But through this experience, I was exposed to the message of the Messiah for the first time. After my release, I got to know Janet—a committed believer who later became my wife.

Janet challenged me to read the Gospel of John, and when I did, I discovered the same burning truth I had known while reading the Bible as a boy. Two weeks later, in November of 1999, I prayed to receive Jesus as my Messiah and Lord.

Growth and Discipleship

I came to Chosen People Ministries in 2002, and it has been through involvement with Toronto's Beth Sar Shalom Messianic congregation that I have finally found a spiritual home. Don Meecha has done so much to emphasize discipleship, Scripture reading, fellowship and prayer! I read the Word so much more now, and the Lord has been using my spiritual gifts to help with the worship.

Chosen People Ministries has the right idea. Don teaches us that Jews and Gentiles are united in Messiah. This attitude fosters unity and keeps the whole body strong. ☆



Simcha 2003



Friday, May 30 to Sunday, June 1

Schroon Lake, New York

Featured speakers:

Dr. Mitch Glaser

President, Chosen People Ministries

Dr. Michael Rydelnik

Professor of Jewish Studies, Moody Bible Institute

AND NOW ANNOUNCING SIMCHA SOUTH 2003



Friday, March 21 to Sunday, March 23

Word of Life Conference Center—Hudson, Florida

Featured speakers:

Rev. Rich Freeman, Chosen People Ministries

Dr. Ben Alpert, Chosen People Ministries

Guest speaker:

Stan Telchin

Best-selling author of *Betrayed!*



Plan now to accompany Chosen People Ministries' Dr. Ben Alpert on the trip of a lifetime — "SEE ISRAEL THROUGH JEWISH EYES"



Tours are scheduled for March and November every year.

Your visit will be filled with a variety of destinations all over Israel. You'll sail with us on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus taught the disciples and quieted the storm. You'll visit Jerusalem and retrace the steps of Jesus the Messiah.

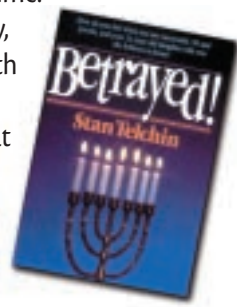
Call **1-800-459-9402** for a full-color brochure, or go to www.chosenpeople.com/tour for a full itinerary.

Betrayed!

How do you feel when you are successful, 50 and Jewish, and your 21-year-old daughter tells you she believes in Jesus? Responding to his daughter's touching plea, the author sets out on a search back through the pages of time.

Along the way, he is faced with personal challenges that demand a life-changing decision.

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Messiah in the Passover Kit

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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)