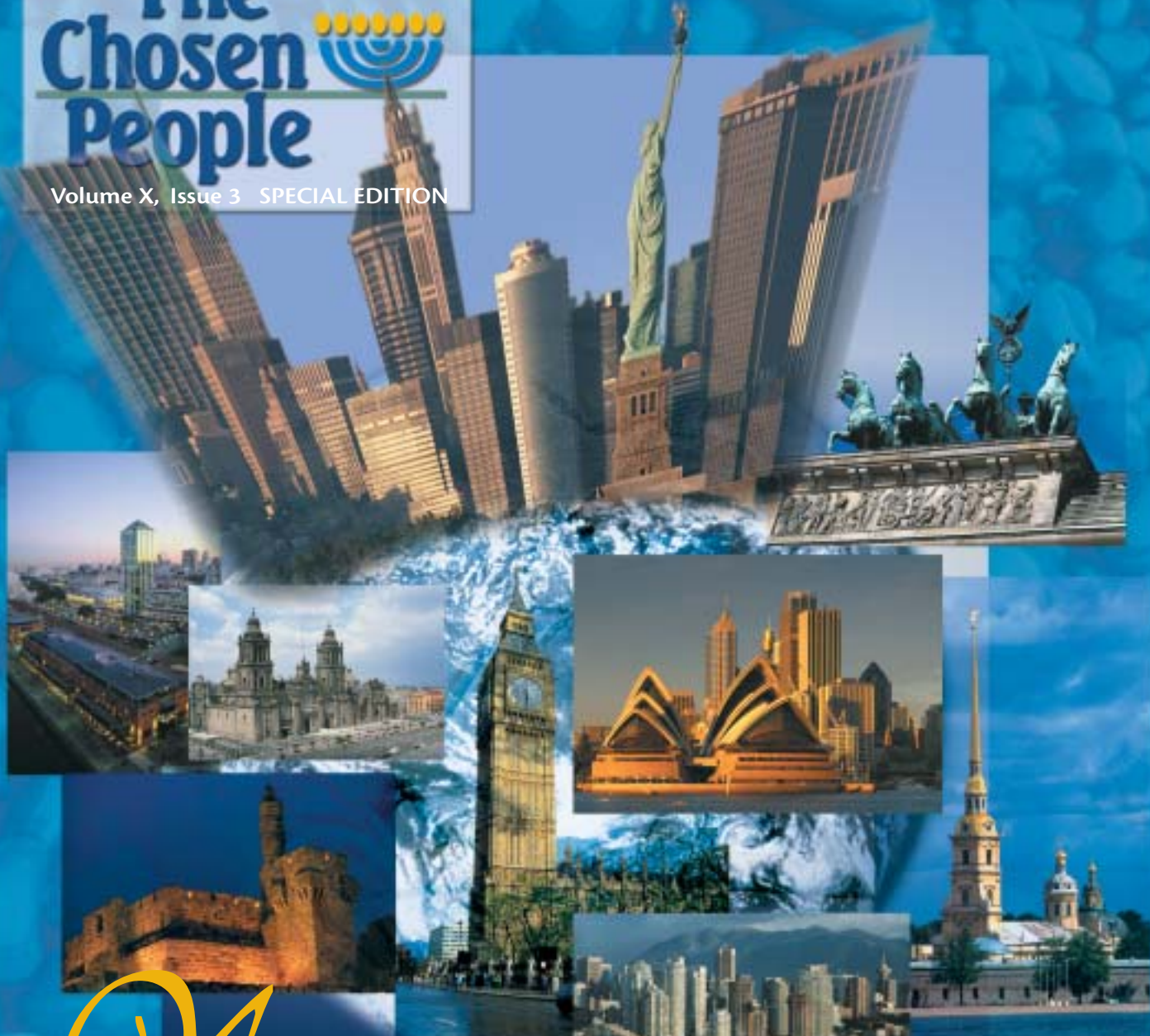


# The Chosen People



Volume X, Issue 3 SPECIAL EDITION



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

# Your Mission to the Jewish People

# Evangelism and the Jewish People – Our Biblical Mandate

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek”

(Romans 1:16).

“Go therefore and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19) is still a scriptural imperative. Throughout the world, Chosen People Ministries proclaims the Gospel and nurtures both new and mature believers so that they will grow in the Lord and use their gifts for His glory.

“To the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16) is our watchword. Wherever there are large communities of Jewish people, Chosen People Ministries will have an impact. Our presence extends to Jewish communities in the United States, Canada, Central and South America, the former Soviet Union, Europe, Israel, and Australia, which together make up about 94% of the world’s Jewish population.

Jewish evangelism is not an easy task. While every unreached people group has its own particular challenge, Jewish evangelism carries the additional burden of reaching

## A Note from Mission President Dr. Mitch Glaser

Chosen People Ministries is a century-old mission that combines a commitment to Jesus and the evangelization of Jewish people with cutting-edge, 21st century creativity. We know the Lord is “not willing that anyone should perish”—and that includes His chosen people, the Jewish people. The words of our Messiah inspire our worldwide staff to bring the timeless message of the Gospel in a timely way.

Throughout the decades, we have sought to remain true to two basic principles:

The first is an unwavering commitment to the essentials of the Gospel—humanity’s need for forgiveness of sin and God’s provision for our reconciliation through faith in the atoning and regenerating work of Jesus the Messiah.

The second is to bring the Good News to the Jewish people around the world and to encourage and equip others to do the same.

Many of our staff are Jewish believers, like myself, and know the joy of receiving Jesus first-hand. There is nothing more important to our staff than giving our fellow Jewish people and families the opportunity to know Him. Like Paul, it is our heart’s desire and prayer to God that Israel might be saved (Romans 10:1).

By holding on to these fundamental guiding precepts, we keep faith with our God and with the faithful servants who have gone before us. We warmly welcome your prayers and your partnership.

Yours in Messiah,

*Mitch*  
Mitch



a group that has understandable reasons to be suspicious of the Gospel—or to be more accurate, of some of its messengers. Jewish people have been taught that Jewish identity and faith in Jesus are not compatible. It is our mission to show that this concept is false, and that belief in Jesus the Messiah is the culmination and fulfillment of Jewish identity.

## Chosen People Ministries' Outreach Programs Today

### Messianic Centers

One of the most effective ways to interest Jewish people in the Gospel is through Messianic Centers. Our Messianic Centers are focal points for ministry of all types. In addition to evangelism and discipleship, they provide a setting for worship, Bible studies, spiritual counseling and practical help. Seekers find a welcome at our Messianic Centers that can lead to new life through the power of the Gospel.

### Messianic Congregations

Jewish believers sometimes face rejection by their families and especially need the fellowship of those with a similar story. Messianic congregations satisfy this need. By offering Jewish seekers a familiar style of worship combined with clear Gospel teaching, Messianic congregations encourage Jewish people to discover that they *can* believe in Jesus and “still be Jewish.” Messianic congregations also lift up a witness in the community that Jesus is Lord, and are magnets of interest to which loving Christians can direct their Jewish friends.

### Equipping the Local Church

Chosen People Ministries has a wide variety of special presentations, such as “Messiah in the Passover,” that are designed to help the Church gain a greater appreciation of its Jewish roots. We also organize conferences that offer churches and learning institutions a chance to co-sponsor well-publicized, major outreach programs designed to impact Jews and Gentiles alike.

### Chosen People Ministries around the World

The worldwide Jewish population has undergone dramatic change in recent decades, and Chosen People Ministries has responded in a number of significant ways. One major shift in Jewish population has been the exodus of the Jewish people

from the former Soviet Union. Over two million Jewish immigrants have left Russia and its satellite countries, and the majority of these have moved either to the United States or Israel. It is also noteworthy that over 100,000 have immigrated to Germany, which has made an attempt to reconstitute a virtually non-existent Jewish presence there.

The Russian Jewish people have proven to be remarkably open to the Gospel. Chosen People Ministries has been ministering to them for over ten years through Messianic Centers in Brooklyn, Berlin, the Ukraine and Tel Aviv—and has continued to expand in those and other countries through Messianic Centers, congregations, and Bible studies. In doing so, we have taken a page from our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, who discovered that by meeting the needs of people and forming true friendships, the Gospel would find a home in seeking hearts.

It is not only Russian immigrants, however, who have come under the nurturing care of our committed staff. Throughout the world, Chosen People Ministries reaches out across the spectrum of Jewish belief and culture, from the secular to the Orthodox. Another growing population consists of intermarried couples. When Jewish and non-Jewish spouses come to grips with spiritual issues, Chosen People Ministries reaches out with the reconciling Gospel of Messiah that encompasses both worlds.

Chosen People Ministries makes use of the latest media and telecommunications technology to carry forth its mission. However, our staff has not forsaken the tried and true: one-to-one fellowship, Bible studies, and above all, prayer for the salvation of our beloved Jewish people.

It is our hope that as you become familiar with us, a friendship in Messiah will develop.

## Join Hands with Us

In the following pages, you can read about many opportunities for involvement with Chosen People Ministries, and find some wonderful resources to help you discover the importance of Jewish evangelism and the rich heritage of your Jewish roots in the Messiah. It is our hope that as you become familiar with us, a friendship in Messiah will develop that will be fruitful to you and glorifying to Messiah's kingdom.

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# A Brief History of Chosen People Ministries

Chosen People Ministries was established to bring the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah to the Jewish people. In carrying out this purpose, we seek to inspire the Church to participate in and support the work of Jewish evangelism. Chosen People Ministries

serves the Church by equipping the saints to carry out this vital mission, according to the will of God.

## OUR ROOTS AS A MISSION

In 1894, Rabbi Leopold Cohn founded this ministry in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, New York, shortly after he received Jesus as his Messiah. It was known in its earliest days as the Brownsville Mission to the Jews.

From the start, Rabbi Cohn's calling was to reach out to his Jewish kinsmen by birth, and so he established an outreach that was headquartered in a renovated horse stable. The Mission offered a variety of services and classes

The early work was a real family ministry. Mothers would come to the mission to participate in women's activities and would bring their children. In turn, fathers would come. Many individuals and entire families came to believe in Jesus. Many Jewish believers' family spiritual roots began through the outreach of Chosen People Ministries. Some of them are our own staff.

for the growing population of Jewish immigrants. Rabbi Cohn's wife, Rose, was instrumental in organizing some of the outreach programs.

The proclamation of the Gospel to the Jewish people encountered resistance from some in the Jewish community. Yet there were also Jewish people who welcomed the message that Jews could receive Messiah's gift of eternal life and continue in a Jewish identity.



## THE MISSION GROWS

The Mission moved its headquarters to Williamsburg (Brooklyn), and then to Manhattan. The name changed to the American Board of Missions to the Jews, and missionaries were sent throughout North and South America, Europe and Israel. Eventually, the name of the Mission was changed to Chosen People Ministries, and after a number of years in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Mission headquarters was brought back to New York, the city with the largest Jewish population in the world, and the birthplace of our work.

The Mission has sought to meet the needs of each generation with both spiritual and material assistance. The first issue of *The Chosen People*, our monthly newsletter, was published in October, 1895. The rich tradition of the Mission's continuity has developed throughout its existence. At his death in 1937, Rabbi Cohn was succeeded as Mission leader by his son, Joseph Hoffman Cohn, who served until his death in 1953.

Chosen People Ministries has been blessed with a long line of godly and effective leaders. Harold Pretlove, Dr. Daniel Fuchs, Harold Sevens and Sam Nadler have each left an indelible mark on the character of our century-old Mission. Now, under the leadership of Dr. Mitch Glaser, Chosen People Ministries is experiencing an exciting time of renewal and expansion.

To this day, Chosen People Ministries offers English/Bible classes to Jewish immigrants, even as it did over one hundred years ago. Yet at the same time, we utilize new means of communication to reach the Jewish people of this new millennium with the unchanging message of God's love in Jesus the Messiah.

Chosen People Ministries is ready, with God's help and your prayers and support, to reach out to the Jewish people of the 21st century. Yes, the world and the Jewish community have experienced enormous changes. However, humanity's need for reconciliation to God is still the same. Chosen People Ministries continues to follow its calling to proclaim the same glorious message of the Gospel to meet that need.



## Something to Celebrate at "Celebrate Messiah"

Lawrence Hirsch, the Director of "Celebrate Messiah," Chosen People Ministries' affiliate in Australia, was wondering how the Lord would answer his prayers. Over December and January, finances had dipped so low that they almost had to stop paying the staff. Then the Lord moved a regular donor, an 80-year-old friend of the mission, to make out a check to the ministry for \$260,000.

Lawrence called to make sure she hadn't done this in error, but she told him that she had sold her home, had moved in with her daughter and wanted to bless the Jewish people.

Lawrence writes, "We are praying that God would show us what to do with this generous gift. We will literally be able to continue the work because of this dear saint."

Churches that are missions-minded frequently support missionaries across the globe. Often, there is great emphasis placed on reaching “unreached peoples.” Yet, just about the most unreached people in the world are living, in many instances, in our very own communities. Who are they? They are the Jewish people.

Should this be the case? Does not the Scripture expressly describe the Gospel as being offered “to the Jew first, and to the Greek” (Romans 1:16)? Yet often, outreach to the Jewish people has become the Great Omission of the Great Commission. Less than 1% of the worldwide Jewish population accepts Jesus as the promised Messiah of the Scripture. What is the Church’s role in bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people?

## A Challenge to the Church

In a society that is more and more secularized, Biblical faith is becoming increasingly unpopular. The idea that people “need” the Gospel is frowned upon as being “old fashioned” or “politically incorrect.” The relativistic standards championed today value “sincerity” more than truth. We are being taught to think that sharing the life-changing Gospel is somehow insulting or disrespectful to those whom Scripture tells us stand in such desperate need of it.

This attitude has led many to believe that the Church ought to “leave the Jews alone” or that they “don’t really need the Gospel.” Bible-believing churches must find the courage to stand against this trend.

Chosen People Ministries firmly asserts that Gospel outreach is an integral part of God’s plan—not merely because Scripture describes the Jews as God’s “Chosen People” (Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2), but also because, in a very real sense, Jewish missions is integrally bound up with the return of the Messiah, the fullness of the Kingdom and the restoration of creation itself.

## The Jewish People and the Gospel

One of the most important truths of Scripture declares that the present rejection on the part of most Jewish people will one day turn to recognition of Jesus as the Messiah. The prophet Zechariah declares, “*And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a first-born*” (Zechariah 12:10).

# The Gospel, the Church & the Jewish People

Moreover, the Apostle Paul interprets present Jewish rejection of the Gospel as a prelude to repentance: “*I say then, has God cast away His people?*” Paul’s resounding answer to his own question, “*Certainly not!*” ought to be our answer also (Romans 11:1).

Paul goes on to say that “*through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles*” (Romans 11:11).

Therefore, the temporary blindness of the Jewish people has opened the door for the Gentiles to be included in God’s promise. But with that promise comes a charge: the Church must now bring the Gospel to the Jewish people, who are still loved by God.

## The Jewish People and the Church

These Biblical truths are as valid today as they were when they were first revealed. The Church—your church—has a vital role to play in bringing the Gospel to the Jewish people. We at Chosen People Ministries invite you

to play a part in this blessed and redemptive work—through your prayers, through your support and through your participation.

What will be the result? We trust you will find that one of the great blessings in placing Jewish missions “front and center” is that this priority cannot but help to heighten your overall awareness and commitment to the Great Commission. As the Church brings the Gospel “to the Jew first,” it will also find itself even more eager to bring it “to the Gentile” as well.

Chosen People Ministries has wonderful resources for your Missions program and Christian education department. We would be delighted to schedule a speaker in your area to teach a workshop on Jewish evangelism or on the Jewish roots of the Christian faith, including our fascinating “Messiah in the Passover” presentation.

## Partnership in Prayer

▶ **Nothing worthwhile in ministry is accomplished without prayer, and our staff in Israel has joined in prayer partnership with a number of churches. If you are interested in having your church join in spiritual partnership with Chosen People Ministries in Israel, please let us know.**

▶ **For more information or to schedule a speaker, call Julia Freeman, our Church Ministries Coordinator, at 1-888-405-5874.**

# Why “To the Jew First”?

The Great Commission gives those who believe in Messiah two primary goals: witnessing to the lost and discipling the saved. This was the ministry of Yeshua (Jesus) here on earth, and it is the ministry He has entrusted to us.

As Romans 1:16 shows, the command to share the Gospel with God’s chosen people is both universal (“for everyone”) and particular (“for the Jew first”). Therefore, our obligation to share our faith with Jewish people is part of our inherent duty as believers to give a witness to all the hope that is within us (I Peter 3:15).

But there are additional reasons why all believers should make a special effort to witness to Jewish people.

## God’s Love for the Jewish People

God’s love for Israel is a dominant theme throughout the Bible, from the initiation of His covenant with Abraham

(Genesis 12) to Paul’s fervent prayers on behalf of the Jewish people (Romans 9-11).

All believers are indebted to the Jewish people for their rich spiritual heritage. The Bible was written by Jewish authors inspired by the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Scriptures, God reveals Himself as the God of Israel. Yeshua (Jesus) Himself was born a Jew to fulfill Scriptural prophecies (Genesis 49:10, Psalm 132:11, Micah 5:2). All the early disciples and church leaders were Jewish believers.

God chose Israel to bless the nations, but today, the tables are turned, as Gentile believers are called to make Israel jealous.

It is God’s expressed plan that Gentile believers should, by their exemplary lives and faith, provoke the Jewish people to jealousy—and ultimately, faith in Messiah (Romans 11:11-15).

Believers have an obligation and a command to share the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), the assurance that the Gospel is powerful (Romans 1:16), and the promise that Jewish people will respond to it (Romans 11:5).

Therefore, we should eagerly embrace every opportunity to reach out to God’s chosen people with the truth of Messiah. As we pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with our Jewish friends, we also find that our desire to share the Gospel with everyone is intensified.

## Why Preach the Gospel to the Jewish People in Particular?

In a world where relative values have crept even into churches, it becomes necessary to restate the urgency of preaching the Gospel—and to the Jewish people particularly. The words of Peter are apt—“*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*” (John 6:68).

The Gospel is the key. Any theological case for preaching the Gospel must be, first and foremost, biblically based. It is from this perspective that we boldly declare that “*to the Jew first and also to the Greek*” (Romans 1:16) continues to be valid even today.

Perhaps this is especially so as the events leading up to the “end of the age” continue to unfold.

We at Chosen People Ministries recognize that much of the counsel of God is hidden from even the most searching eyes. It is unwise to say more than we are given to know. However, we also know that it is equally unwise to close our eyes to what the Scripture clearly states. And the Scripture clearly states that God is not yet finished with the Jewish people.

The case for sharing the Gospel with the Jewish people may be made in many ways. However, the most concise argument comes from the pen of the Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Romans—particularly in chapters 9-11. The position he sets forth in Scripture is this: the Jewish people are, as a whole, temporarily blind to the reality of the Gospel. This circumstance has opened the door to the rest of the world to enter the Kingdom of Messiah. Now it is incumbent upon the Gentiles to be the instruments of blessing to the Jewish people, through whom the Gentiles have been so richly blessed (Romans 11:11-16).

Moreover, there is an awe-inspiring, overarching plan under which all of this is occurring. The time of completeness is approaching, when “*the full number of Gentiles has come in*” and then “*all Israel*

*will be saved*” (Romans 11:25-26) according to the covenants God has already created with Israel, as they are fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah.

For, as Paul is careful to remind his readers, “*the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*” (Romans 11:29).

From this, it is evident that the preaching of the Gospel to the Jewish people remains a key element in the fulfillment of God’s prophetic timetable. And Chosen People Ministries seeks to carry out this mandate by fulfilling this vital aspect of the Great Commission and assisting our brothers and sisters in the churches in doing so.



# How to witness

What is the most effective way to witness to Jewish people? Being aware of the issues that may create resistance is essential. Jewish people have reason to be wary of a “Christian” environment, and many Jewish people have ambivalent feelings about Jesus. However, these factors need not deflect us from seeking to carry out the Scriptural mandate to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people.

Jewish evangelism challenges us to be articulate, effective witnesses. To reach Jewish people, we must be ready to help them overcome some obstacles. The single greatest difficulty that many Jewish people encounter is thinking that one “cannot be Jewish and believe in Jesus.” Jewish identity is precious and most Jewish people would not even consider any teaching or faith that would require them to abandon it.

## How We Can Help

Chosen People Ministries wants to help you witness to your Jewish friend. We have a catalog of materials to equip you. We have missionaries in different parts of the world who can visit your Jewish friend, or we can refer you to local believers or congregations.

Our web page also has a section where interested Jewish people can find out more about believing in Jesus. Please let us help you however we can.

Be encouraged! A remnant of Jewish people *will* accept the Gospel. Serve the Lord faithfully in your witness, and He will bring forth the fruit!

If your friend becomes a believer, be sure to help him or her grow in faith, with Bible reading and prayer. Help your friend to find a local group of believers where he or she can feel comfortable and be able to grow in the grace of the Lord.

We would like to offer you *Presenting Messiah to your Jewish Friend*, an excellent guide to sharing the Gospel in an appropriate and effective way. Call 888-2-YESHUA to ask for your copy.



## PRACTICAL TIPS

- **Ask questions.** As a general rule, Jewish people are intellectually active and like to articulate their views and experiences. This will get the ball rolling. Affirm your friend’s Jewish identity. Avoid “Christian terminology” when possible. Your Jewish friend may not understand what you mean. **Use your own life** and testimony.
- Become knowledgeable about **Jewish holidays**—especially those that are mentioned in the New Testament. Your Jewish friend will be intrigued that your belief in Jesus gives you an appreciation of Jewish heritage.
- Look for an **area of need** in his or her life. Do not use the friendship as a means to an end. People see through this rather quickly. Remember it is God “who gives the increase.”
- Get your church involved in sponsoring “Jewish Roots” **events and speakers**. Then invite your Jewish friend to them.
- Get to know a **Jewish believer** and introduce your Jewish friend to him or her.
- Present the Gospel from the **Hebrew Scriptures**.
- Last but not least, **pray, pray, pray**—every step along the way.

The following “tips” are offered to help you reach out to your Jewish friend, co-worker or relative.

## A New Generation of Messianic Faith

Rachel G is a “missionary kid” from a Messianic Jewish family. From an early age, her parents helped instill the importance of telling Jewish people about their Messiah. She remembers going on visits, handing out pamphlets on the street and gathering around the dining room table for a meal with people with whom her parents were sharing the Gospel or discipling. Their example helped guide Rachel to accept Jesus as her Savior and gave her a desire to reach the Jewish people.

In the middle of her teenage years, a crisis caused Rachel to trust the Lord in a new way. She rededicated her life to the Lord and later graduated from Moody Bible Institute. Rachel raised

the level of excitement at Moody for Jewish outreach. Her vision for ministry is teaching and training people in Jewish evangelism and culture, to encourage a deeper walk with the Lord and a greater confidence in spreading the Gospel.

Rachel is our Coordinator of Short-Term Missions, based out of New York City. She organizes STEP (Summer Training and Evangelism Program), college outreaches and conferences. Her desire is to tell Jewish people that the Messiah has come and to equip others to do the same!



# Jewish Population of the World

There are approximately between 13 and 14 million Jewish people in the world today. However, this figure is an educated guess. One reason for this lack of precision is that there is disagreement as to what constitutes Jewish identity.

Prof. Sergio Della Pergola, head of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University, identifies four basic groupings within this population:

**“Traditional”** Jews who consistently perform Jewish traditional ritual practices—two million.

**“Ethnic”** Jews who, while not necessarily religious, forge their bonds through Jewish religious and social institutions—six million.

**“Cultural”** Jews who acknowledge some kind of identification with the Jewish people, although their way of life does not seem to reflect this—four million.

The rest of those counted among the 13 to 14 million may be termed **“Non-Identifying”**—those who have a Jewish background of some kind, but for all intents and purposes do nothing to identify as Jewish.<sup>1</sup>



**ARGENTINA**



## Branches of Jewish Faith

Just as there are many different traditions within the Christian faith, Judaism also encompasses different faith perspectives. Some of them arise out of religious-historical movements; others are formed in response to different cultural and social climates. Here is a short guide to the rich spectrum of “colors” in Jewish faith.

**Hasidic Judaism** – the ultra-Orthodox Jewish sects, such as the Lubavitch Hasidim which began in the 18th century, often seem “a world unto themselves.” Like the Orthodox Jews, they live according to a strict interpretation of the Written Law (the Torah) and Oral Law (the Talmud). However, unlike the Orthodox, they also adhere to an additional body of mystical rabbinic teachings. They are fiercely loyal to their leaders, and often think of them as “wonder-workers”—or in the case of the Lubavitch, even as the Messiah.

**Orthodox Judaism** – Orthodox Judaism acknowledges the authority of the Torah and the Talmud. However, Orthodox Jews are less closed to contact with the “outer world” and are less closely tied to a particular religious

leader. Like the ultra-Orthodox, they keep the kosher dietary laws.

**Reform Judaism** – Reform Judaism originated in the 19th century in Germany and England. Its principle is that religious life is permitted to “move with the times” and adapt itself to contemporary life. Much less “traditional” than the other branches, Reform Judaism has abandoned Hebrew to some extent in its services and has made other liturgical and theological concessions to the spirit of the modern age, such as making the kosher laws optional. One of the more liturgical “reforms” it put into place in its early development was to delete references to the hope of Messiah in its prayer book.

**Conservative Judaism** – Conservative Judaism developed after Reform Judaism as a backlash against what some Jews objected to as “going too far” in Reform Judaism. Not willing, however, to journey all the way back to the Orthodox, Conservative Judaism attempts to stake out a middle ground between the two. Conservative Jews may or may not keep kosher, and tend to marry out of the Jewish faith more frequently than the Orthodox do.



### Countries with the largest Jewish Population<sup>2</sup>

United States	5,700,000
Israel	5,000,000
France	600,000
Canada	365,000
Russia	300,000
United Kingdom	280,000
Argentina	200,000
Ukraine	180,000
Brazil	110,000
Australia	100,000
Germany	100,000
South Africa	80,000
Hungary	60,000
Mexico	41,000
Belgium	33,000
Belarus	30,000
Italy	30,000

### Cities\* with the largest Jewish Population outside of Israel

New York, USA	1,900,000
Los Angeles, USA	585,000
Miami, USA	535,000
Paris, France	350,000
Philadelphia, USA	315,000
Chicago, USA	250,000
Boston, USA	225,000
San Francisco, USA	210,000
London, UK	200,000
Moscow, Russia	180,000
Toronto, Canada	175,000
Buenos Aires, Argentina	170,000
Washington DC, USA	165,000
Baltimore, USA	100,000
Kiev, Ukraine	100,000
Montreal, Canada	100,000
St. Petersburg, Russia	80,000

\*statistics refer to the actual city and not the larger metropolitan area



### AUSTRALIA

### The Jewish Population in the United States<sup>3</sup>

Relative to the total U.S. population, the Jewish population—adults and children combined—remains over-represented in the Northeast (43% for Jews and 19% for the total U.S. population), proportionally represented in the West (22% vs. 23%) and under-represented in both the Midwest (13% vs. 23%) and South (23% vs. 35%).

Sources consulted:

<sup>1</sup>DellaPergola, S., *World Jewry Beyond 2000: The Demographic Prospects* (UK: Oxford Centre for Jewish Studies, 1999), quoted in Harvey, Richard, “What Shapes Jewish Identity?” ([homepage.ntlworld.com/richard.harvey5/WSJI.html](http://homepage.ntlworld.com/richard.harvey5/WSJI.html))

<sup>2</sup>Population Survey by the World Jewish Congress ([www.wjc.org.il](http://www.wjc.org.il))

<sup>3</sup>United Jewish Communities ([www.ujc.org](http://www.ujc.org))

# Seven Messianic

God's work through the history of the Jewish people is an integral part of His plan for all creation. This Bible study will strengthen your faith and could also serve to inspire your small group fellowship to pray for Chosen People Ministries' staff members and volunteers as they carry out the Biblical mandate for Jewish evangelism. We pray that you too will be inspired to share the Gospel with Jewish people in your own sphere of influence.

The life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah are the fulfillment of a series of covenant promises that the Lord made to the Jewish people—and to the whole world through Him.

	Prophecy	Fulfillment
<b>The origin &amp; birthplace of the Messiah</b>	Micah 5:2 (5:1 in the Jewish Bible) "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."	Matthew 2:1 "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem..."
<b>A descendant of Abraham</b>	Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"	Matthew 1:1 "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham."
<b>From the house of David</b>	2 Samuel 7:12-13 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."	Luke 3:31 "...the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David."
<b>Born of a virgin</b>	Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."	Matthew 1:18, 22-23 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"
<b>God in the flesh</b>	Isaiah 9:6-7 (9:5-6 in the Jewish Bible) "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."	Matthew 1:1; John 1:14 "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham."  "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
<b>The humility of Messiah</b>	Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."	John 12:12-14 "...a great multitude...when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: 'Hosanna! "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" The King of Israel!' Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written."
<b>The Suffering Servant</b>	Isaiah 53 When he reads this passage, your Jewish friend might think that he is reading from the New Testament. He may be surprised to see this in his own Bible!	John 1:1; Matthew 8:16-17; 26:62-63; 27:12-14, 38, 57-60; Mark 15:27-28; Luke 23:33; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3

# Bible Study: God's Promise & Jesus the Messiah

## *The Gospel in a Single Verse*

*"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,  
the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." Matthew 1:1*

**C**hrist is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah," which means "Anointed One." Anointing was quite familiar to the Jewish people, as was the concept of the special authority from God that anointing conveyed.

The Messiah –  
Who Is He?

Israelite kings were "anointed" with God's power as they ruled. In Jesus' day, the hopes of Israel centered on a figure who would restore Israel to its former glory, as in the kingdom of David.

How would the Jewish people be able to recognize the Anointed One that God would send to restore them? There are many Messianic prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. Two of the better-known Messianic prophecies are Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 9:6-7. See the chart on the left.

**M**atthew 1:1 places the life and ministry of Jesus the Messiah squarely in the context of two of the most important figures of the Hebrew

Jesus the  
Messiah, the  
Son of David

Scriptures with whom God established His covenant promises. The first is King David. The genealogies in Matthew and Luke place Jesus in the line of David—a tremendously important credential for the "Messianic resumé."

The Davidic Covenant is given in 2 Samuel 7. Verse 16 promises: *"And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."* This promise has formed a basis of hope among the Jewish people that has endured even through repeated conquest, exile and persecution throughout the centuries.

By the time Jesus came among the children of Israel, the title "Son of

David" had become closely associated with that of "Messiah" (see Matthew 22:42).

**T**he second covenant figure Matthew refers to is Abraham. The book of Genesis records three key passages in which God's promise to Abraham is given—Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 15:9-21 and the whole of Genesis chapter 17.

Jesus the  
Messiah, the Son  
of Abraham

The promise God gave Abraham is threefold: it consists of (1) the Land of Israel, (2) a multitude of descendants and (3) his seed being a blessing to the world. From here, a trajectory is established that takes us through the patriarchs, Moses, the priests, the judges, the kings, and the prophets, and culminates in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the Lord of Lords.

**T**his promise to the nations is closely tied to another aspect of the ministry of the Messiah—that of Suffering Servant.

Although the religious establishment of Jesus' day did not see that the Messiah would also suffer as the atoning sacrifice through which our forgiveness would be bought, many Jewish people did believe. In Him, the words of Isaiah came to pass: *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:5).

Taken altogether, these different aspects of the "Messianic resumé" point to one person and one person alone who fulfills them all—Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

Jesus the  
Messiah,  
Suffering  
Servant

## Focus on Israel:

Israel is a focal point of Chosen People Ministries' worldwide outreach. Messiah's words in Acts 1:8 declared that we should proclaim the Gospel "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

*Jerusalem* Under the direction of Michael Z., we have begun a work in Jerusalem, which we hope will develop into a Messianic Outreach Center that will equip evangelists to share the Gospel with Israelis all over the country. Michael also oversees the work of evangelism and discipleship through our congregations in Ariel and Tel Aviv.

*Ariel* Henry N., our staff member in the West Bank town of Ariel, toils in an environment characterized by isolation and anxiety. Situated on the West Bank of the Jordan, Ariel has suffered intensely in the present political situation. Jobs are scarce, and the economic crisis has heightened the residents' sense of depression. Yet, despite the stress and pressure, our Ariel congregation continues to stand in faith and grow.

*Tel Aviv* Our Tel Aviv congregation is a stable faith community with 80 to 90 people attending vibrant worship services. Ministering mainly to Russian-Jewish immigrants, Michael reports a new decision for Messiah about every other week.



# Opportunities for Service

Jewish evangelism is a rapidly expanding field of ministry! Chosen People Ministries has a wide variety of service opportunities, including short- and long-term missionary

placements and other flexible volunteer positions. If you have a heart to minister to the Jewish people, our staff will work with you to help you find the “right fit.”



## Short-Term Missions

### Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) –

This four-week summer program provides in-depth training at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and exciting outreach evangelism in New York City. STEP Canada is also available.

**STEP-in-a-Week** – This one-week summer program is a combination of training, evangelistic outreach and immersion in the history and culture of “Jewish New York.”

► If you are interested in learning more about any of these service opportunities, call

1-888-2-YESHUA.

### eXperience Israel –

A two-week mission/tour to Israel. Experience the history of the Scriptures and share the Good News of Messiah with the Israelis of today. For ages 18-35.



## Internships

“Tell us your vision.” Student internships with Chosen People Ministries in New York City offer a variety of learning experiences to help you round out your college education.

We can help you customize the right internship for you—not only in the summer, but also throughout the year. Chosen People Ministries can also help you set up a one-year internship in Israel, where you will participate in campus ministry and outreach with our

congregations. You might even take a course at Tel Aviv University or the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

## VIP – Volunteer Involvement Program

Chosen People Ministries’ Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP) is designed for people who are grounded in ministry where they are living. We’ll help you start a prayer meeting, host missionaries or coordinate Jewish outreach events in your home town.



## Campus Ministries

Campus ministry is a great way to make disciples during the formative college years. Other than in childhood, the greatest number of decisions for Messiah are made during this time. If you are interested in becoming a part of campus outreach ministry through internship or other programs, please contact us.

There are a variety of other ways to serve with Chosen People Ministries and to receive further training.

## Is Full-Time Service For You?

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to full-time service in Jewish evangelism. Have you ever thought about becoming a full-time missionary with Chosen People Ministries? The Mission is now taking applications for full-time staff members around the globe. We are also accepting applications for administrative positions.

Although there are many ways to serve in the vineyard of the Lord, none is more challenging or fulfilling than the Biblical mandate to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people. *“Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”* (Romans 11:12,15)



## See Israel through Jewish Eyes

When is a good time to visit Israel? The answer is “Now!” There is no better time to see the land of the patriarchs and the Messiah! Make your plans now to join Dr. Ben Alpert, Chosen People

Ministries’ veteran Israel guide and gifted Bible teacher, for the trip of a lifetime. Tours are in the spring and fall. Make this the year that you walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles.

► For more information and a free, full-color brochure, call 1-800-459-9402.



My background as a Jewish American is common for those of my generation. I was born in Brooklyn to Jewish parents. My dad is from a non-religious but very Jewish home, and my mom, whose parents were from Russia, is from an Orthodox home. I grew up going to an Orthodox synagogue in the Queens section of New York City. At the age of thirteen, I became Bar Mitzvah. Then, like many other nice Jewish boys of my generation, I left the synagogue.

**Restless Years**

Later on, my family moved to New Jersey. Like many of my peers, I got involved with drugs and barely made it into college. I attended the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, but soon dropped out. My good friend, Efraim Goldstein, hitchhiked with me to California. By then, I was selling drugs.

One day, I was robbed at gunpoint. This shook me up so much that I stopped dealing drugs and began my own spiritual search. Looking back, I realize that it was God who delivered me and spared my life.

**An Unexpected Messenger**

Joan, a Jewish friend from the East Coast, came to California to visit us but didn't like what she saw. She left and while hitchhiking was picked up by two "on-fire" Gentile Christians. By the time they reached their destination in Oregon, they had led Joan to the Messiah.

Joan returned to share the Gospel with us. I was aghast. "Joan, you're Jewish!" I shouted. "Jews don't believe in Jesus."

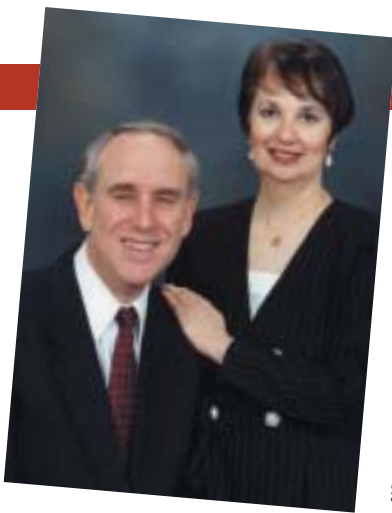
But Efraim fell for it! He and Joan went back to Oregon, moved into a Christian commune, and began to pray behind my back. I decided to go up there to "save" them. I was impressed by the people I met in Oregon—and by the blackberry pies they baked! Each time I tried to argue, they would say, "Mitch, why don't you read it in your Bible?"

So I picked up an Old Testament and found that I really wanted to know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I did not, however, read the New Testament.

**A New Life Begins**

One day, I prayed, "God, if you're there, show me how to get to you." That night, I found a copy of the New Testament glowing in the moonlight on the ledge of a phone booth. Was this my answer? I began reading that New Testament and was amazed by two things. The first was that Jesus was Jewish. The second was that He was God in the flesh—and the promised Messiah of Israel.

I devoured that New Testament, and it wasn't long before I received the Lord. That was over 30 years ago. To say that Jesus changed my life is an understatement. He is everything to me: life, joy, salvation...everything!



Dr. Glaser and his wife have served as missionaries for 30 years.

I was born and raised in Argentina, which has a large Jewish population. My father had been one of the founders of the synagogue in our suburb of Buenos Aires, and my family members were active in the local Jewish community center. If there was one thing I knew, it was that there were two kinds of people in the world—"us" and "them." "Us" were the Jews, and "them" was everybody else.

God was always part of my life. My father died when I was three years old, and when I was a little girl, my mom used to tell me that when it rained, it was my father in heaven watering God's garden, and when it thundered it was my father fixing God's car.

I always felt warm toward God, because I knew my father took good care of Him.

My family moved to the United States when I was nine years old. It took me a while to learn the language and customs of this new country, but by the time I was a teenager, I had become quite acculturated. I was a "nice Jewish girl." I didn't mess with drugs, I got straight A's in school, and had a great relationship with my family.

**Who Is the Messiah?**

When I was 14, I came across a book that captured my imagination—it was the Old Testament in story form. I read about my ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and others, who spoke with God as if He were right there with them; and better yet, God spoke back! I wanted a relationship with God like my ancestors enjoyed.

I checked out a Bible from the library, and the more I read and learned about God, the more I wanted to know Him. I began to follow the Old Testament laws so He would be pleased with me and tried my best to keep all the commandments I could.

Over the next two years, as I continued to read the Bible, I came across verses about a promised Messiah. The picture slowly became frightfully clear. This Messiah that I was reading about in my own Jewish Bible sounded like "you-know-who!" I didn't know much about Jesus, but I did know that I wasn't supposed to believe in Him.

Just at that time, I "happened" to meet a group of kids in my high school who had been especially trained by Chosen People Ministries to be sensitive in telling their Jewish friends about Yeshua (Jesus). These kids told me that it was OK to be Jewish and believe in Jesus. A few weeks later, after a lot more thought, I gave my life to Him.

The past 30 years serving by Mitch's side have been a real adventure! We both feel privileged to be able to tell our people that the Messiah has come!

In the years that have passed, I have come to see the importance of the Jewish people in God's unfolding plan for humankind. It is my prayer that you will share this vision with me (Romans 11:11-15).

— Dr. Mitch Glaser

# Testimonies of Messianic Faith

## Meet Some of Our Staff

Larry Feldman was born and raised in a conservative Jewish home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Larry came to faith in



Larry

1972 through the witness of his childhood friend, Mark Ellick—another Jewish believer who is on staff with the Mission. Larry attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois. He

**Feldman** also graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Th.M. in Semitic Languages and Old Testament Studies. Larry was elected to the National Dean's List (a national honors organization), and Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

From Philly  
to Faith

Since joining Chosen People Ministries in 1974, Larry has done evangelistic work in Brooklyn, New York, and planted a Messianic congregation in a very Jewish area of northern New Jersey. Larry also served as camp director for Chosen People Ministries' successful children's camp program.

"My greatest joy," says Larry, "is seeing Jewish people come to know the Lord and then grow in their faith!"

Larry and his family reside in Southern California, where he serves as our Southern California Director and leader of Congregation *Shuvah Yisrael* (Return, O Israel). It has been a long road from Larry's roots on the East Coast to the Messianic ministry in Southern California. But Larry and his family will tell you that the Lord has been there every step of the way.

He is married to Fran, also a Jewish believer. The Feldmans have two daughters, Rachel and Rebekah.

Luda Ford's life is a living witness to God's faithfulness and

**Luda Ford**

Flight into  
Freedom

leading. Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Luda's childhood in the 1970s was spent within a Jewish community that was rapidly disappearing. Jewish people were leaving Russia and its satellite countries by the thousands. Luda trained to be a nurse and midwife, and in 1979 she and her mother also left Uzbekistan.

The new immigrants settled temporarily in Ostia, Italy, where Luda met "real Christians." After eleven months, Luda went on to New Zealand. It was there, in 1982, that she became a believer through some Christians who invited her to

a home group. Growing as a Jewish believer, Luda began to form the vision that she would one day go to Israel. In seven years, that vision came to pass.



For the next ten years, Luda lived in Israel, taking part in Messianic congregations and working as a nurse. Then, through the encouragement of a friend, the Lord sent her in a new direction—to the Jewish Studies Program at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. At Moody, she met some of the Chosen People Ministries staff and joined the staff of Chosen People Ministries as a student outreach worker in 1998.

Luda is now a full-time missionary with Chosen People in New York City, where she ministers mainly to immigrants from the former Soviet Union with her husband, Randall, whom she met in Israel while he was studying Hebrew language and Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Randall and Luda have a daughter, Eliana.

Dr. Rich Freeman was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, and received religious training in a conservative synagogue. Following his Bar Mitzvah at age 13, he drifted away from the synagogue and attended only on the special Jewish holidays.

In 1973 he married Julia, and it was primarily through her spiritual pilgrimage that God reached him. In August 1982, Julia received Jesus as her Lord and Savior and began praying for her husband's salvation. In January 1983, God answered that prayer. Through Chosen People Ministries, Rich heard and responded to the Gospel message.



Rich

Rich attended Dallas Theological Seminary and then answered a call to pastor the Messianic congregation where he came to the Lord. He has also pastored at Dunwoodie Baptist Church in Yonkers, New York.

In 1999, Rich assumed his position as Director of Church Ministries and Conferences for Chosen People Ministries. As Director, he works with churches throughout the country and abroad, helping to equip God's people to share the Gospel with their Jewish neighbors, friends and co-workers and grow in their understanding of the Scriptures.

Rich has earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Conservative Baptist Seminary of the East and a Doctor of Ministries degree at Gordon-Conwell Seminary, working with Dr. Haddon Robinson.

Rich and Julia have three children, Heather (Mrs. Cody Forbes), Brian and Joel; and two grandchildren.

**Freeman**

A Fruitful  
Life in  
Jesus the  
Messiah

# Stewardship Programs with Chosen People Ministries

Chosen People Ministries' role in the Great Commission continues because of your generous support. The financial gifts we receive keep our missionaries on the field and fund our outreach throughout the world. Would you consider sharing our burden to reach Jewish people for the Messiah? We have a number of options to assist you in giving.

## ► Donations Through the Mail

You can send a gift to: Chosen People Ministries, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022 or in Canada, Box 897, Station B, North York, ON, M2K 2R1. We will be glad to send you our monthly newsletter, which will provide you with information, prayer requests, witnessing tips and much more.

## ► Watchmen for Jerusalem

"Watchmen for Jerusalem" is a monthly giving program that allows you to have regular donations automatically deducted from your bank account or credit card.

## ► Online Donations

You may prefer to send your support as an online gift. Go to [www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com) and click on "Donate." The rest is easy.

## ► Gifts of Securities

Transfer stocks, bonds and mutual funds to provide advantages both for the ministry and for you.

## ► Planned Giving

Your continuing support for Chosen People Ministries will create an enduring partnership that can also prove to be a sound investment for yourself or your family—including providing tax benefits and income for life. Planned giving can include:

*Charitable Gift Annuities* - Provide long-term support to the ministry and receive a charitable deduction and a guaranteed yearly income as a result of the gift.

*Real Estate Gifts* - Give to Jewish evangelism while avoiding capital gains tax. You can secure personal income and even retain use of the property.

*Life Income Plans* - support Chosen People Ministries and secure the future through a variety of trusts.

*Life Insurance, Retirement & Savings Accounts* - Support Jewish evangelism and reduce the tax burden on you now and also on your estate.

► **Memorial Giving** Memorial gifts are one of the most touching ways you can honor the spiritual legacy left behind at the passing of a loved one.

*Wills and Memorials – Creating a Legacy* - You can also arrange for your support for Chosen People Ministries to continue even after your days on earth are complete. Your bequest helps ensure that your wishes for the future of Jewish evangelism will be honored. Bequests can be arranged in the following ways: wills, endowment, memorials and/or designated gifts.

Is there a specific aspect of Jewish evangelism toward which you sense the Lord leading you to contribute? Perhaps our ministry in Israel or our outreach to the Russian Jewish community engages you in a special way. Or maybe there is a particular missionary whom you would like to support. Chosen People Ministries can help you designate your gift to support a wide range of projects and people.

We are here to assist you gratefully. Please contact Doug McEvoy at 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. You can e-mail him at [giving@chosenpeople.com](mailto:giving@chosenpeople.com) and also reach him by phone at 1-888-293-7482.



I have been privileged to be a part of many heartwarming stories. For instance, one man in his nineties with whom I had worked to help plan his estate called to say he had changed his mind—he wanted the mission to have the money now. He told me, "I want to have the pleasure of seeing the money working for God's kingdom while I'm still alive." Another individual, who had benefited from setting up an annuity, decided to turn it over to us for the same reason—this person also wanted to see his gift at work for the Lord.

Doug McEvoy  
Vice President of Stewardship

# Chosen People Ministries Publications and Resources

Chosen People Ministries has a variety of valuable resources to edify your faith and equip you to be able to witness to your Jewish friends.



Our monthly **newsletter**, *The Chosen People*, is filled with faith-building articles that will keep you up to date regarding the various prayer concerns and developments in the Mission's work around the world. The newsletter also emphasizes the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and demonstrates the relationship between the Jewish holidays and their fulfillment in Messiah. Special evangelistic issues make wonderful witnessing tools!

Receive our **monthly e-letter**, which concentrates on various aspects of life in Israel, current events in the Land and also prayer concerns and praise reports from our staff in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ariel.

Chosen People Ministries offers a variety of **books** through our printed or online catalog, dealing with topics such as Biblical prophecy, inspiring personal stories, the Middle East, Jewish faith and history, the Church—and of course, excellent material on discipleship and evangelism.

Videotapes and DVDs – We have a variety of **Visual** presentations that your whole family will enjoy—including those about the Jewish Feasts of Passover, Pentecost (Shavuot) and Dedication (Hanukkah). Our new DVD, *Joined Together*, is a witnessing tool designed for interfaith Jewish and non-Jewish spouses and comes with a study guide for stimulating, in-depth discussion.

Messianic **Music** – Nothing makes the soul rejoice in worship like music! Chosen People Ministries has a large selection of CDs and cassettes of noted Messianic musicians such as Marty Goetz and Paul Wilbur.

Messianic Art Calendar – Follow the rhythm of the Jewish Year beginning each autumn with the Chosen People Ministries Messianic Art **Calendar**. Each month has a pertinent Scripture and a brief devotional to go along with the stunning artwork. These calendars make great gifts!

We are delighted to send a **letter of testimony** to your Jewish friend. Just give us your friend's name and address, and we will be happy to send a personal letter with Dr. Glaser's testimony and literature about the Messiah.

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