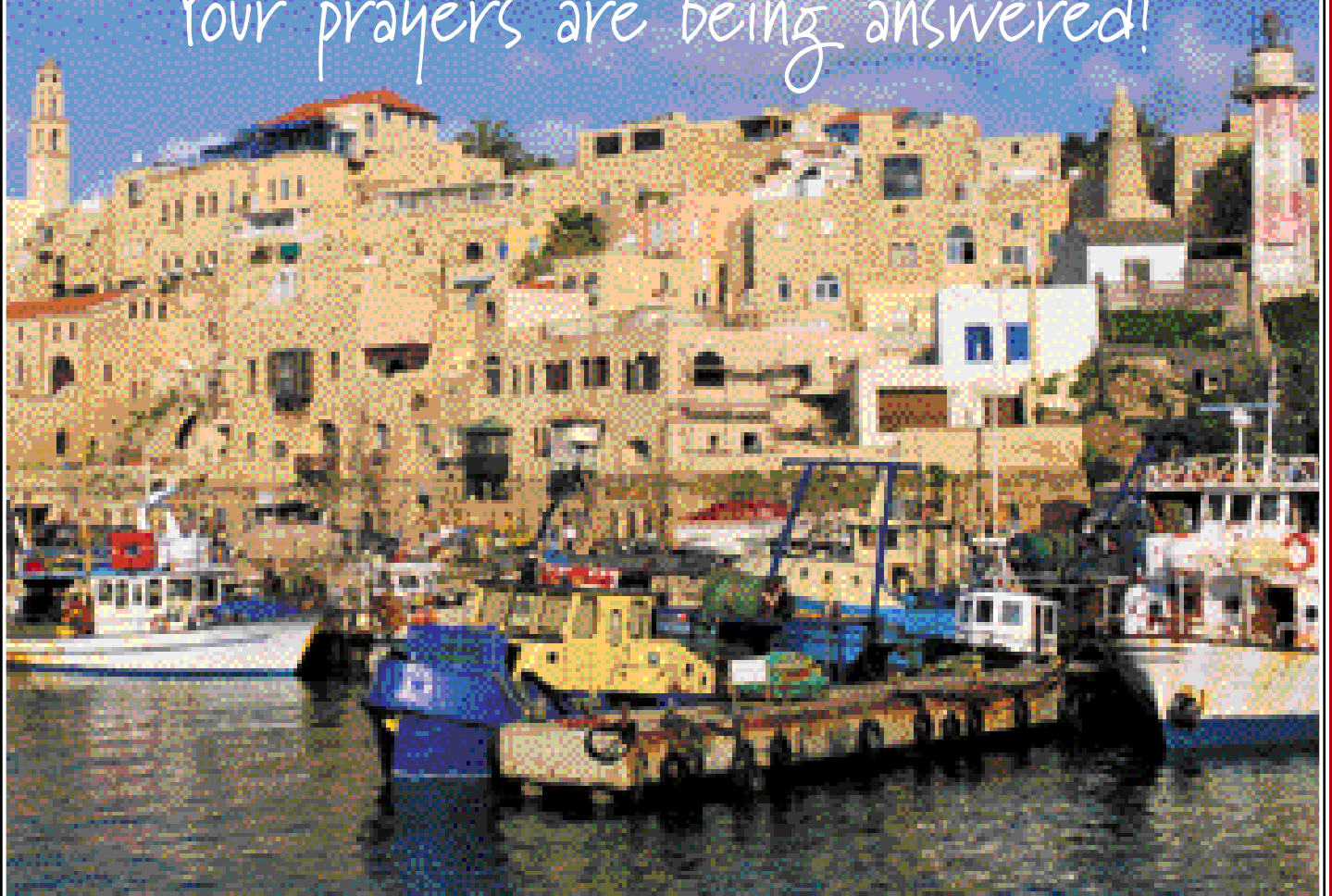


The Chosen People



Volume X, Issue 10 December 2004

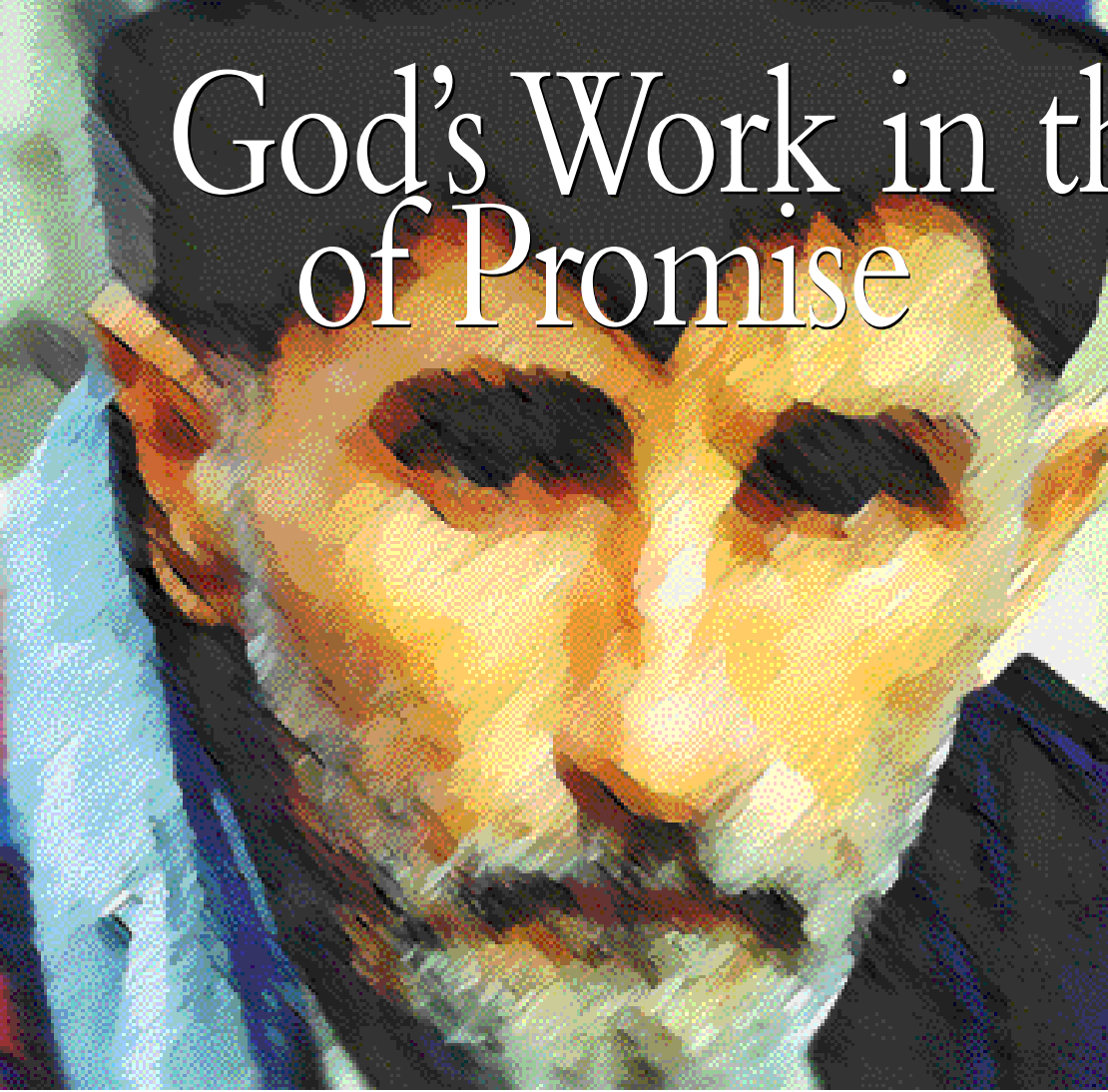
God's work in
TEL AVIV
Your prayers are being answered!



**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

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New Life • Snapshots of Evangelism • Revelation Chapter 14

God's Work in the Land of Promise



THIS HOLIDAY ISSUE OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE IS ALL ABOUT THE WONDERFUL WORK GOD IS DOING TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSES. HE IS USING YOUR MISSION TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF TEL AVIV. AND HE IS USING YOU, AS YOU PLAY YOUR PART THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS AND PARTNERSHIP.

Dear friend of the Jewish people,

I have just returned from Israel. I cannot adequately express the atmosphere of hope I found there—mixed together with anxiety about the present situation. While there, I was powerfully reminded of how the Lord so often works His heavenly will through the earthly decisions of human beings.

Let me illustrate this with a great story I heard at the funeral of John, a beloved Board member. His daughter told it. I trust it will warm your heart and encourage you in this wonderful season of the year.

John worked himself up from being a “runner” at a large bank in New York City to a Vice President’s position—all without a college education. He loved the Lord and the Jewish people and eventually served on our Board of Directors and on the Board of the International Bible Society. His love for the people of

God grew out of his love for the Word of God.

John was responsible for loaning funds to other countries at his bank and was one day approached by a delegation of Israelis for a loan—just before the Six Day War. If there were any war the Israelis should not have won based upon the sheer size of the opposing armies, it would have been this one.

It was a dark moment for Israel. The delegation had been denied this essential loan by many other banks. This dear brother in the Lord met with the Israeli delegation and, to their surprise, he loaned them a large sum of money to purchase planes and other armaments. It came out during the discussions with the Israelis that John was a lover of the Jewish people. He believed that the land of Israel belonged to the Jewish people, based upon what is written in the Word of God.

He also believed that Gentiles who “blessed” the Jewish people would be blessed, and he wanted this blessing for his family, his bank and his country. John believed this to be true based upon God’s promise to Abraham: “*I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you...*” (Genesis 12:3).

The Lord Uses People to Fulfill His Purposes

I am sure you know the outcome. The Israelis won an impossible war because God keeps His word as He promised to keep His people from destruction (Jeremiah 31:35-37).

I smiled at the conclusion of the story when his daughter added, "...and the Israelis paid back the money in full!"

Why the story? To illustrate a point—that the Lord used a person to accomplish His holy purposes. God used John, an obedient Gentile believer, in a way that he could not have possibly expected. I am sure that John never dreamed that as a banker, he would become a part of world history. But the Lord knew!

This holiday issue of *The Chosen People* is all about the wonderful work God is doing in the Land of Israel to fulfill His purposes. He is using your Mission to the Jewish people in the city of Tel Aviv. And He is using you, as you play your part through your prayers and partnership.

God's Gift to the World

We think about gifts at this time of year, whether we celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah or both. Like you, I do not enjoy the rampant materialism of our day nor those who utilize the birth of the Savior for profit. Some of what goes on is distasteful. But I'm sure you'd also agree that there is nothing inherently wrong about giving and being generous at this time of the year.

It is always good to be generous. It is always better to give than to receive. And most importantly for me, this is a season of the year when I am reminded that God gave the Light of the World, our Messiah Jesus, as His greatest gift to mankind. He was wrapped in flesh, as foretold by the prophets of Israel (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7) and sent to earth to pay for our redemption with the price of His life. This was God's greatest gift!

But He also gave many other gifts. I view His giving the land of Israel to the Jewish people as a gift.

And it is more than this. Israel is God's gift to the world! This gift was given in much the same way as He gave us the Savior. He promised this gift of the Gospel of Messiah "to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). He gave the Land of Israel to the Jewish people, so that His promises to the world would also be fulfilled! And today, we see the fulfillment of these promises.

A Lesson in Grace

While I was in Tel Aviv, reading the Word, I was reminded that the Jewish people now dwell in the Land because God is powerful and faithful—and not because of the might of our armies. It came home to me, dear friend, that if not for the faithfulness of God, there would be no Tel Aviv to talk about in this issue!

The Land of Israel, war-torn and in complete disruption, is still a gift from God. The fact that Jewish people from all across the globe have immigrated to Israel—more than 5 million according to the latest statistics—is a modern-day miracle.

As wonderful as it is to see the Jewish people back in the Land of Promise, we know that this is only part of God's plan. One day, Israel will dwell in the land in safety. Just navigating through Israeli airport security is evidence enough to prove that we have not yet seen the full realization of God's will!

But one day we shall! He will be faithful.

Only Through Messiah

Most importantly, His chosen people must come to know the One Who chose them from all the nations of the earth. This can only happen when Israel comes to know her Messiah. Therefore, we are

burdened for the salvation of Jewish people in Israel, Tel Aviv, and across the globe.

In this issue, you will read some amazing reports of what God is doing through our workers in Israel. Enjoy the newsletter, and rejoice with us in His faithfulness. Please continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and that the Prince of Peace will reign in the hearts of individual Jewish people...today!



Our Tel Aviv congregation baptizes at the Jordan River

We could not continue in this great ministry without your prayers and generous support. Would you please pray about giving a generous end-of-the-year gift to Chosen People Ministries? Our entire staff family joins me in thanking you for your loving support and prayers.

Remember, He will bless those who bless the Jewish people. What greater blessing can we bring to the Jewish people but Jesus?!

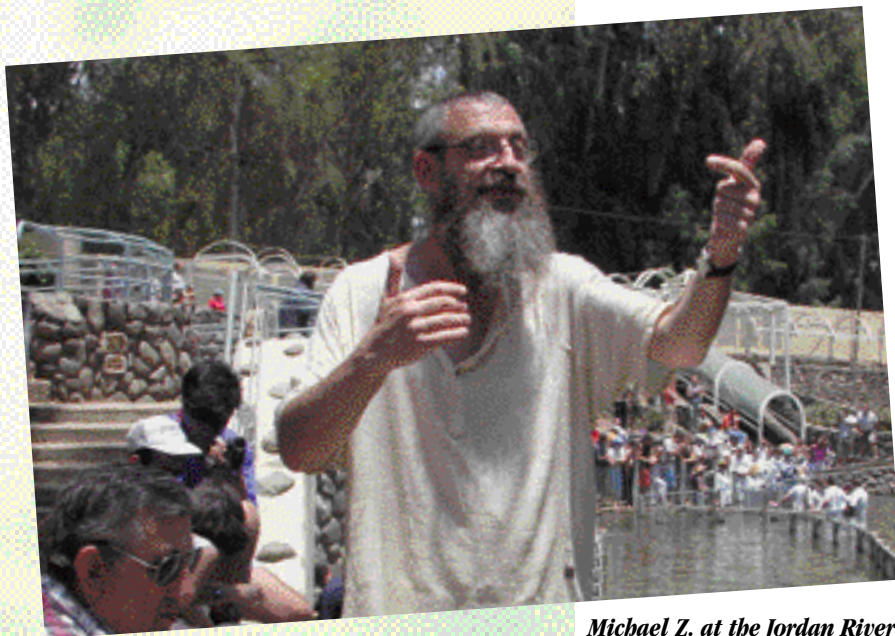
Happy holidays, and may our Messiah fill your home with His joy.



Your brother in the Messiah,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitch".

Mitch
(for the worldwide Chosen People Ministries family)



Michael Z. at the Jordan River

Chosen People *Ministries in Tel Aviv* **Brimming** **with New Life**

If you can picture a congregation where Russian immigrants are worshipping in Hebrew and it seems that barely a week goes by without a new faith decision for Messiah, then you must be in Tel Aviv! Every Saturday morning, starting at 10:00 AM with a special prayer meeting, the beautiful facility

the congregation rents from a Christian landlord begins to hum with activity.

The services begin at eleven o'clock. Most of the members are new Russian Jewish immigrants, the majority of whom came to faith in the Lord after arriving in Israel. They come from all age groups—from older people trying to find their place in unfamiliar circumstances to children who can barely, if at all, remember another way of life. In the middle are working families—breadwinners and homemakers.

Sometimes there are special services and many baptisms. Not long ago, thirteen people followed the Lord in baptism at a single service. In the ten years that the congregation has been in existence, literally hundreds have been baptized through its ministry. Some stay, but most move on from Tel Aviv for economic or other reasons.

Evangelism and Discipleship

In Israel, evangelism and discipleship go hand in hand—and creativity is the key in both cases. One of the congregation's most innovative new outreach efforts is the "Open Heart" ministry, a discussion group that focuses on Gospel video material. Advertising locally and through word-of-mouth, this ministry is meeting the needs of seekers who want more information about the Gospel.

There are also numerous Bible studies that meet in Tel Aviv and its environs. One recent addition is a Hebrew-speaking group of young Israelis from Tel Aviv. Many of these are new believers, and some have come out of New Age teaching.

There are also numerous opportunities for street evangelism and door-to-door visitation.

What's next? The work is growing in Israel at such a pace that additional staff will soon be the most pressing need. As Natalie Z. recently confided, "Who will feed these new sheep?"



Tel Aviv at night

Tel Aviv – **The “Hill of Spring”**

First settled in 1909, Tel Aviv (Hill of Spring) is built upon the land originally allotted to the tribe of Dan. To this day, metropolitan Tel Aviv (pop. 350,000) and some of its surrounding suburbs are known as “Gush Dan”—the Dan Area.

But however ancient its origins, Tel Aviv today is bustling with all of the features of modern life. It has something for every age and taste. Renowned as it is for its culture and architecture, Tel Aviv is perhaps best known for the nightclubs and beaches that appeal so strongly to the younger set. In a country beset with dangers, Tel Aviv is where people go to forget themselves for a while.

But the desire to party often conceals true spiritual hunger. The Chosen People Ministries Israel staff members in Tel Aviv are always ready to reach out to those who are trying to hide their hurt behind the façade of a fast life.

A significant part of Tel Aviv's growth over the past few years is from Russian immigrants. These new Israelis sometimes have a difficult time adjusting to their new life and are often open to the Gospel. They find a warm welcome in our Messianic congregation, where many are coming to faith in the Messiah.

HOW do Jewish people in Israel come to faith? Just as they do anywhere! Sometimes, it is through a sudden, life-changing encounter with the Spirit of God. But most frequently, people come to Messiah through the faithful, patient love of believers who take the time to cultivate their trust and friendships. Here are a few “snapshots of evangelism” from our workers in Israel.

Maxim L. – I want to share good news from my home group: a lady gave her life to Yeshua through our ministry. Hallelujah! In the last few weeks, I have had plenty of opportunities to share the Gospel. I met many people who were



Maxim L.

very interested in the Lord, and I continue to be in contact with them. Please pray for these people.

Neriyah A. – First, we are happy to tell you that my wife Anna and I are leading two more groups that started this month. It is amazing that almost every night we are teaching different groups. The congregation is growing and we need more leaders. Please pray about this situation.

Michael Z. – Just yesterday, I experienced joy when L. came to the Lord in our Tel Aviv congregation. Another woman who has been away for five years came to faith also and



Michael & Natalie Z.

showed up at the congregation with eyes full of tears and joy. It is really wonderful to be together; it is twice as wonderful to be together within the growing body of believers in our country.

Maxim L. – Thank you so much for your prayers and support for our ministry. First of all, I would share with you the good things that have happened with me. Praise God, two people came to faith in my small group Bible study. As you might know, I am running two home groups—one is for believers and another for non-believers.

Neriyah A. – Recently, a lady came to our congregation; she had a baby girl the same age as our little boy, Baruch. We learned that she was in Israel illegally and that the baby was born of an immoral relationship with an Israeli man who left her immediately after she became pregnant. She repented before God and before the congregation, but she couldn't forgive the man; she had thought that he would marry her.



Neriyah A.

Then the doctors discovered that she had lung cancer. We prayed with her, and she was healed. The doctors say that this is a miracle. Her little daughter said in Hebrew, “*Ima chai*,” which means “Mom is alive.” Praise God for this wonderful testimony that helped many to turn to the Lord!

Maxim L. – Worthy Servant of Messiah

In 1976, I was born in Siberia, Russia, into a normal, Soviet family. Due to a problem at birth, I was unable to walk until I was nine years old, which made my childhood very difficult, especially trying to make friends with other children.

In adulthood, I was very attracted to the world, and money became more and more the goal of my life, as I thought that through it, I could gain true worth.

At a point, I understood that I would no longer be able to continue as before, and so I decided to make a new life in a new country and immigrated to Israel as a Jew. I came to Eilat in the south of Israel with other immigrants from Siberia. Instead of finding a new life, I quickly found myself with the same kinds of friends as before.

God was looking for me, however, when I didn't know He existed. Through “The Shelter,” a ministry in Eilat, I heard that there was a God who loved me. I decided to pray and ask for God's help, since by myself I was going nowhere.

Life became more difficult, however, and I ended up on the streets. There, I remembered my prayer and knew God alone could help. I returned to The Shelter, where I grew in the Lord, and was called to serve Him full-time. For one year, I have been working in Jerusalem with Chosen People Ministries, sharing the good news of Messiah with those with ears to hear.

See the THROUGH JEWISH EYES Bible

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

ANGELS PREACHING THE GOSPEL (Revelation 14)

God ordains and seals 144,000 Jewish believers to proclaim the Gospel and, as a result, the greatest revival of all time climaxes with the salvation of



Gentiles: "...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations..." (Revelation 7:9).

In Revelation 14:1, we view these 144,000 standing with the Lamb of God on Mt. Zion—no doubt a reference to the return of the Messiah (Acts 1:11; Zechariah 14:4). We assume that the 144,000 Jewish evangelists will continue their Gospel preaching ministry throughout the Kingdom Age (see Isaiah 2:2-4). However, in Revelation 14, three angels are proclaiming "...the everlasting Gospel..." (14:6).

The Angels' "Great Commission"

Why would God commission angels to preach, since Jesus commanded people to proclaim the Good News to every nation (Acts 1:8;

Matthew 28:18-20)? We suggest three reasons: First, the true Church will be removed at the Rapture when the Messiah returns for His own (I Thessalonians 4:14-18; Revelation 3:10); second, a deep apostasy will develop after the removal of the Church and with the appearance of the Antichrist (II Thessalonians 2:1-9); third, the Gospel must be preached to all humankind, since Jesus the Messiah died for everyone (Hebrews 2:9). It is then "the everlasting Gospel" (14:6).

Let us examine the text of the messages that the three angels are to deliver to humankind during the darkest days of the Tribulation.

The Gospel: Essence, Corrective and Warning

If angels are preaching the Gospel, they will proclaim that Jesus the

Messiah died for our sins and arose again for our justification. This is the essence of the Gospel, since there is no Gospel apart from these great truths (I Corinthians 15:3,4).

The Gospel also acts as a corrective. The first angel corrects the erroneous thinking of men who deny the judgment to come and God as the Creator of the universe. "...the hour of His judgment has come...who made heaven and earth ..." (Revelation 14:7). The two great truths people most vehemently deny at the end of the age are judgment and creation. With no Creator and no coming judgment, people feel free to do as they please.

The Gospel also includes a warning (Revelation 14:8-11). The second angel pronounces the doom of Babylon, anticipating the events of Revelation chapter 18; while the third angel (14:9-13) cautions humankind against worshipping the Beast and his image and against receiving his mark.

The Consequences of Disobedience

From the very beginning of time, in warning Adam of the consequences of disobedience, God has been gracious. Now, through angels, the solemn declaration is issued that rejecting the everlasting Gospel will result in the full strength of His indignation. The text teaches that for those who refuse this angelic exhortation, nothing is left but to be tormented "...in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb" (14:10).

What a fearful fate for those who will reject an angelic offer to receive the "everlasting Gospel!" Yet Revelation also has a message of encouragement to those who are obedient: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them" (Revelation 14:13). ☆

LOCATION...LOCATION...LOCATION

In New York City, location is everything. This is especially true for Chosen People Ministries' International Headquarters, which is just a few doors down from a well-known synagogue. After a special service, Chosen People Ministries' President Dr. Mitch Glaser and some other staff members stood outside our headquarters. Quite a few of the synagogue attendees stopped to talk in front of the office. Mitch said, "We were witnessing to so many people, it reminded me of the Book of Acts." Mitch spoke with one woman who was searching, who said that she would come to the Mission's Tuesday night Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew. Please pray that she will!

A READY HARVEST

Staff member Klaudia Zhelezny, who teaches English/Bible classes at the Russian Community Life Center in Brooklyn, loves to share the Gospel with her students. Sometimes a single seed is planted—and other times, the harvest comes in bunches. In one new class, she began to witness to the twelve people who were present. She writes, "They didn't want me to go back to the Bible lesson until I had fully explained to them how to meet God and invite Jesus into their lives! So finally, I led them in a prayer for salvation. I know that most of them really prayed!"

SUICIDE BLAST NARROWLY MISSES MISSION MEETING PLACE

Last month, four people were killed in a suicide bombing at an open-air market in Tel Aviv, just across from where our congregation meets and maintains its offices. No one from the congregation or staff was injured. Please pray for those who survived the attack but were severely wounded, for the relatives of the victims, and for all the people of Israel. Pray also that this grim reminder of how suddenly and unexpectedly death can come will turn many hearts to the Lord.

UKRAINIAN MINISTRY REACHES MILESTONE

The Chosen People Ministries Messianic congregation in the city of Kharkov, Ukraine is celebrating a decade of ministry. Ten years ago, it was only a small group of committed believers with the desire to bring the Gospel to the Jewish people. It is now a mature congregation deeply rooted in the Lord and has a variety of ministry programs. Recently Deborah,* a student from a Kiev university, came to faith and was baptized. When Deborah's mother learned of her baptism, she forbade her from attending the congregation's services or even having telephone contact. Please pray for this difficult situation, that the Lord will turn the hearts of Deborah's mother and brother to Himself.

GROWTH IN GERMANY

Kyrill Swiderski reports remarkable growth in the Mission's work in Düsseldorf. Earlier this year, they held a youth camp that was attended by 21 young people. There, two girls and one of their mothers came to faith in the Messiah. Work is also refocusing on the non-immigrant German Jewish population. Workers have begun to edit a Messianic periodical in the German language in order to reach the members of the German-speaking Jewish community. Elsewhere, in Berlin, workers report new visitors at every service and a weekly video home outreach to Jewish people in different Jewish homes helping believers to grow spiritually. There are also a growing number of participants at Bible studies.

FLORIDA UPDATE: THANK YOU FOR PRAYING

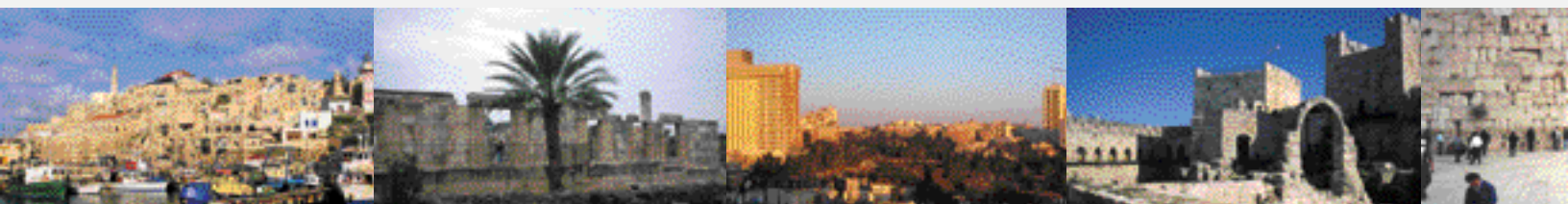
The Chosen People Ministries family wants to send along a special "thank you" for praying for our staff members in Florida during the particularly stressful and hazardous hurricane season. While some were hit with property damage, we are thankful that no one sustained physical injury. We praise the Lord for that and for our friends around the world who have expressed their concern.

* Name changed



OUTREACH: ISRAEL MAKES MINISTRY DEBUT

Chosen People Ministries is happy to announce "Outreach: Israel," a new program for those interested in an in-depth, short-term mission in the Promised Land. This six-week ministry adventure, which will take place in June and July, is geared for young adults and will include outreach, discipleship and even Hebrew language study. If you or someone you know would be interested in taking "the next step" in Jewish evangelism, call Rachel Goldstein at 1-888-293-7482.



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Thank you!

We are thankful for friends such as you who have enabled us to
carry out our work of bringing the Gospel "to the Jew first"
(Romans 1:16). Where would we be without you?

Did you know that your support for Jewish evangelism can
continue even when you are "present with the Lord"? It can, if you
include Chosen People Ministries among the beneficiaries of the
assets that the Lord has blessed you with in this life. It will certainly
be an investment in the Lord's work that is worth making!

Also, as you consider your end-of-year tax situation,
may we suggest a donation of highly appreciated
securities to Chosen People Ministries? There is a
significant tax advantage that allows you to deduct the
full current value of the security without incurring the
tax liability that comes with a capital gain.

Give Doug McEvoy a call at 212-223-2252 Ext 223 for more
information about these or other ways of supporting Chosen
People Ministries. He'll be glad to answer any of your questions.



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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remember
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your will. "I
will bless those
who bless you."
(Genesis 12:3)

