

The Chosen People



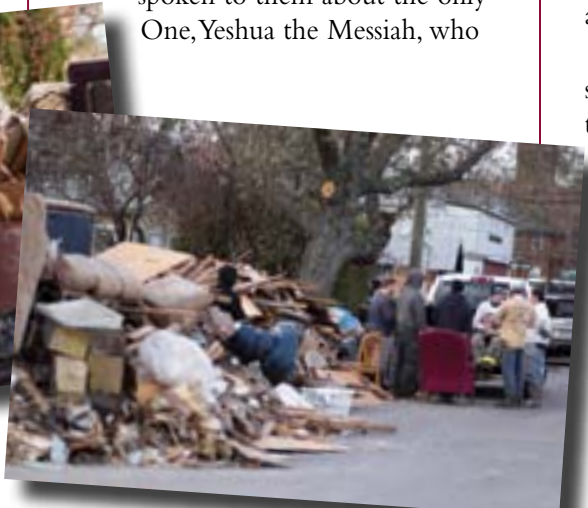
Volume XVIII, Issue 10 December 2012

WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO LOST EVERYTHING?

***"The LORD sat enthroned at the flood,
and the LORD sits as King forever."
Psalm 29:10***

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Our Sorrow into Joy! • Stories of Redemption • Three Great Arguments Substantiate the Divinity of the King's Son

HE TURNS OUR SORROW INTO JOY!



Dear friend,

Shalom from New York City. On behalf of the entire Chosen People Ministries staff, now serving in more than a dozen cities in the United States and Canada and another fifteen countries around the globe—Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

I am grateful for the many friends of Chosen People Ministries who have called and written to ask how we were doing during the terrible destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath. I can tell you this—although it was not as bad as 9/11, there were moments when it felt like I was reliving the nightmare.

Flooded Homes, Broken Hearts

Some of our staff members spent weeks without electricity. Subways, buses and trains came to a standstill, and it was almost impossible to open our offices. The city ran out of gas for almost two weeks and many waited in line for hours to fill their tanks. Still, after a few days we opened our doors anyway for those who could find a way to get to our offices...and I praise God for our dedicated staff members who were willing and able to go the extra mile for the Lord!

It took us almost a week after the storm to get our relief efforts started, as we first had to make sure our families and homes were secured. Eventually we received some funding from our brothers and sisters around the country allowing us to reach out with food, financial aid for home repair, prayer and spiritual counsel. At this very moment, we are still helping those whose lives are not yet back to normal.

A Personal Note

I am sorry to say that the homes of one of our beloved staff members and her daughter were virtually destroyed. My wife wrote this note describing the impact that “Superstorm” Sandy had on these dear friends:

It's been pretty rough out here. We took a team of 16 staff members and Feinberg students to Staten Island to Klaudia's house. All of us working together for five hours were able to clear out everything from her first floor. The water had come up to my waist, and everything had a layer of mud on it. We cleaned what we could—but we

had to throw so much away...it was really heartbreaking. One of our girls took it upon herself to take all of Klaudia's photographs home and dry them out and clean them; there were hundreds of them, and we hated to see Klaudia lose those memories. Then we sent our team over to Klaudia's daughter's house a few blocks down. The water had come all the way to the ceiling of the first floor, and stayed there for at least two to three days before it receded.

You can imagine what things looked like there. An additional problem was that raw sewage had backed up into their first floor and mixed with the flood waters and the mud. We went back again the next day to clean, but a federal agent advised us that it should be done by people with hazmat suits, otherwise it wasn't safe. I used up the last of my gasoline going out there those two times, so now our car is out of gas. That's not a big deal, but when I read about people in public housing who are still without power, my heart is broken. Today we sent a team to Coney Island and Sheepshead Bay to volunteer and minister there.

Hope in the Midst of the Storm

I prayed about whether to share what I have just mentioned with you, because I know that the Christmas and Hanukkah season is a time of joy and celebration. I did not want to “rain on your parade” because of the hardships

we have experienced—but I would be dishonest to do otherwise. Our worldwide mission to the Jewish people is based in New York City, because this area is home to the largest concentration of Jewish people outside of Israel. I also know that you love us, pray for us and support us and would want to know how we are really doing!

As believers in Jesus, we know that the story does not end with devastation and pain. *We follow a Savior who turns sorrow into joy and takes our most difficult hardships and uses them for blessing.* We know that no matter how difficult our lives might seem at the moment, the Lord uses these tough times for our good and His glory.

My favorite rabbi, the Apostle Paul, understood this, as expressed in these words:

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

As followers of Jesus, we can have hope in the midst of hardship as we are never beyond the reach of His love and power.

Turning Sorrow to Joy

As I write, our missionaries in Brooklyn are reaching out to poor and elderly Russian Jewish immigrants and others whose lives were shattered by the recent storms, offering food, practical help, comfort and the love of Messiah! We have helped hundreds with our relief efforts in Brooklyn, and we have also spoken to them about the only One, Yeshua the Messiah, who

can transform their lives and provide all they need for a fruitful life.

I do not want to minimize the difficulties that many families have experienced because of Sandy, but I can tell you one good thing that has emerged from this tragedy. The storm got people's attention—whether rich or poor, Jewish or Gentile. It helped many on the Eastern Seaboard of our great country realize that we are clearly not in control of our own lives, and we need the Lord.

Hope Has Come! Jesus, the Light of the World

This will be a most memorable holiday season for New Yorkers. Please pray for us as we continue to bring the Gospel, as well as practical relief, to those who have suffered from the storm. Your help and support will enable us to do more in His name than we could ever do without your partnership.

This is a time of the year when we know that God wants us to be especially generous. My dear brothers and sisters—the needs are overwhelming. Your generosity is needed now more than ever to help Jewish and Gentile New Yorkers hear the Gospel and to experience God's love through Your Mission to the Jewish People at this very difficult time.

Let's face it—trouble causes men and women to open their hearts to God, and this tragedy is no different. We continue to have many wonderful opportunities to bring the gift of salvation to those desperate for the gift of His love during this Hanukkah and Christmas season.

I hope and pray that your holiday season will be filled with joy and thanksgiving!

Your brother
in the Messiah
Jesus,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President

Stories of Redemption

As is the case with so many Jewish people who have newly come to faith in Yeshua (Jesus) as Messiah and Savior, I struggled inwardly with my identity in light of the decision I had made. Was I still a Jew? Were my relatives right in saying that I had relinquished my Jewishness in order to follow “that man”? One day, as I was flipping through a Bible dictionary, I was shocked to see the word “Passover” on one of the pages. I thought, “Why would Passover be of any interest to Christians?” Then I proceeded to read a simple sentence that exploded with meaning in my heart and mind: “A Jewish memorial instituted in Exodus 12:3-14, prophetic of the redemption supplied by the shed blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.” Suddenly, my entire heritage as a Jew took on new richness and relevance! Far from “relinquishing my Jewishness,” I knew for the first time that in surrendering to Jesus, I had finally come home.

Scott Brown



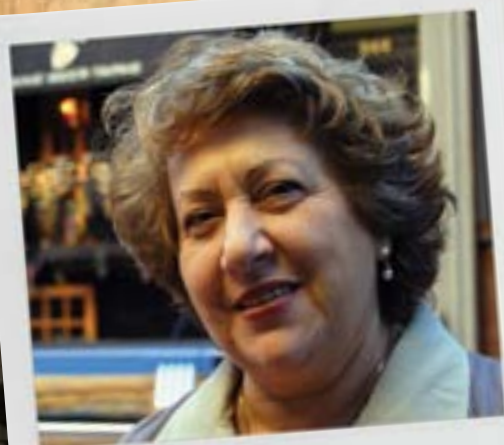
When I came to faith in 1987, I had mainly read the New Testament and not the Hebrew Bible — what Christians called the “Old Testament.” In my early time as a believer, a few people asked me about Isaiah 53, and I had no idea what they were talking about. When I finally read Isaiah 53, I was shocked. I had no idea this chapter was in the Hebrew Bible. This one passage confirmed in my heart that Jesus was indeed the Jewish Messiah who is the Lamb of God.

Mitch Forman



I would say that two prophecies were very important in my decision to believe in Jesus and to follow Him as Lord. One is Deuteronomy 28:64, where we read about the scattering of the Jewish people all around the world as a result of rebellion against Him. I realized that it has come to pass, just as Lord has said; we Jewish people seem to be everywhere! The other place would be in Isaiah 42:1-8, when we read about a special person, called by the Lord to be a covenant for the Jewish people and the light for the Gentiles! It became very clear to me that the covenant cannot be built around someone who is only a man; the Messiah must surely be God Himself.

Klaudia



I first came to live in Israel in 2001 in the midst of the Intifada, the uprising against Israel orchestrated by Yasser Arafat. Since then, bombs have dropped from Lebanon and now we face danger from Iran. We live in a time of war and rumors of war, as foretold by the prophets. How my heart, mind and spirit cry out for the day when the Messiah will reign on David's throne in everlasting peace! The verses in Isaiah 9:6-7 comfort me and assure me that the Lord holds everything in His hands.

Stacey



Michael's Story

A Lengthy Journey to Messiah's Truth

Michael was born into a Jewish family in the Ukrainian city of Lvov. He poured his efforts into education, earning a Master's Degree in Construction Engineering. In 1988, he met his wife, Natalie. Like Michael, Natalie sought truth in many places, and together they searched for answers through the arts, culture and literature—but found none.

Michael says, “As a Jew growing up in a Russian culture, I believed there was a God. I was even open to the idea of Jesus, but thought that perhaps Jesus was a prophet. I had read the Bible with an intellectual understanding, but had not yet been introduced to the true and living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Michael and Natalie never dreamed they would be able to leave the Soviet Union, but in 1989, the “Iron Curtain” fell. Disappointed with life in Ukraine, they thought an “escape” to Israel would give them the solution to fill the void in their lives. However, upon arrival in Israel, they found the same types of problems they left in Ukraine, with no apparent spiritual answers to the meaning of life.

One day, a pastor they met in their intensive Hebrew class explained the Gospel and helped them understand their need for Messiah's forgiveness. In 1990, Michael and his wife committed their lives to Yeshua (Jesus). God gave Michael a passion to see other Russian immigrants come to know Messiah. Michael joined Chosen People Ministries in 1994 and helped establish a congregation in the Tel Aviv area. He now serves as the director over the Mission's work in Israel.



Maxim's Story

Finding the Pearl of Great Price

In 1976, Maxim was born into a typical Jewish family in Siberia, Russia. Due to complications at birth, he was unable to walk until he was nine. This made his childhood difficult, especially when it came to making friends with other children. As an adult, Maxim became enthralled with luxury and the attractions of the physical world, and making money increasingly became the focus of his life.

Despite the allure of wealth, Maxim discovered he could not continue in that lifestyle. He decided to make a new life in a new country, and he immigrated to Israel. Maxim went to Eilat, which is located on the southernmost tip of Israel and known for its upscale resorts and active night life. However, instead of beginning a new life, he quickly began socializing with the same type of friends.

While Maxim was seemingly isolated in a remote corner of Israel, change was nonetheless on the way. Although he was unaware of God's existence, the same God who had led the children of Israel through the wilderness was already working in Maxim's life through godly believers he met in Eilat. Through these believers, Maxim heard for the first time that there is a God who loves him.

Maxim prayed for God's help, but life became more difficult. After a time, he even wound up living on the street. In the midst of this dark time, Maxim remembered his earlier prayer; he knew God alone could help him. Maxim committed his life to Yeshua. A group of wonderful believers gathered around him and helped him grow in his newfound faith.

Maxim now resides in Jerusalem and has served in Israel with Chosen People Ministries since 2002. He is always eager to share the Gospel with all who are willing to listen.

SEE THE BIBLE THROUGH JEWISH EYES

BY DANIEL GOLDBERG, TH.D., D.D.



Dr. Goldberg serves as International Ministries Representative for Chosen People Ministries and lives in Pineville, North Carolina with his wife, Madeline.

THREE GREAT "AFTER DEATH" EVENTS SUBSTANTIATE THE DIVINITY OF THE KING'S SON — Matthew 27:50-54

Matthew, an eyewitness of the death of Jesus, records three momentous events immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus—the rending of the Temple curtain, the quaking of the earth and the resurrection of the dead.

A TEARING OF THE TEMPLE CURTAIN

"The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom" (Mt. 27:51).

The innermost sanctuary of the Temple contained the Ark of the Covenant, where God's presence rested. On the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), only the High Priest could enter to officiate at this special service.

The room outside was called the "holy place," and between the two rooms hung a thick curtain. This curtain separated all of humanity, excepting the High Priest, from the presence of God. Matthew indicates that the curtain was torn "from top to bottom," indicating that it was accomplished at God's direction. It opened up a way for all to enter into the presence of God after the Messiah's death on Calvary.

According to Jewish scholars, the veil was 60 feet long, 20 feet wide and thicker than a man's hand. After the Messiah died, the way into the

Holy of Holies was open to both Jew and Gentile (Heb. 9:7-12; Eph. 2:14).

A QUAKING OF THE EARTH

"And the earth quaked and the rocks were split" (Mt. 27:51).

After the torn veil, there was a terrific earthquake. Even the rocks, drenched with the Messiah's blood, lifted up their voice in protest to the treatment of their Creator.

John, the Revelator, describes the final future earthquake in which *"every mountain and island was moved out of its place"* (Rev. 6:14), so that the surface of the earth will need to be re-mapped.

No doubt, the earthquake that accompanied Messiah's death on the Cross reflected the immensity of the earthshaking spiritual revolution when the Temple curtain was torn from top to bottom.

A RAISING OF DEAD PERSONS

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection..." (Mt. 27:52, 53).

Some tombs around Jerusalem were opened, perhaps by the

preceding earthquake. And the bodies of many holy people (saints) were raised to life. While the earthquake took place when Jesus died, the dead people arose from their graves after Messiah's resurrection (Mt. 27:53). This miracle was verified by their friends' and acquaintances' recognition of them (Mt. 27:53).

We are reminded that one day soon, *"the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed"* (1 Cor. 15:52). Unlike those who arose at the time of Messiah's resurrection, who presumably died later, we shall never-more know the bitter taste of death.

A CONCLUDING CONFESSION

The Roman centurion and others standing with him at Messiah's death witnessed both the earthquake and the dead rising. They were convinced and testified: *"Truly this was the Son of God"* (Mt. 27:54).

The record is true, as is the testimony of Scripture that states, *"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Rom. 10:9).

NEWS BRIEFS

ON TIME FOR DIVINE APPOINTMENT

Guillermo Katz, who serves with Chosen People Ministries in Buenos Aires, was approached by an elderly gentleman as he and his fiancée, Alejandra, hurried to enter their Presbyterian church for worship services. Although they were already late, they stopped to talk with him. The man asked them, "What is a Presbyterian church?" Sensing something, Guillermo responded, "In order to explain it better, can I ask you your spiritual background?" The man answered, "I am Jewish." He was quite surprised when Guillermo answered, "What a coincidence—I am, too." After a brief explanation, the man said, "Can I go in?" Guillermo helped the man to a seat. During the service, he even asked for prayer. Guillermo writes, "Although he was gone by the time the service ended, he got to hear the Gospel!"

EVEN PASTORS WANT TO KNOW

Dennis Karp, who serves with Chosen People Ministries in Maryland, was the guest speaker at a church. After the service, the pastor approached him with a big smile on his face and said, "I am so glad that you came. I was never taught this in seminary, and both I and my church needed to hear your message. It brings the Scriptures alive for me in a way that it never did before. Thank you!" They then had more discussion and a time of fellowship after the meeting.



OPEN HOME LEADS TO OPEN HEART

Hospitality is a gift as old as the Scriptures. It led to a soul's decision to follow Messiah when Olivier and Ellen Melnick opened their home to a troubled young Jewish man who is a close friend of the Melnicks' son. David* had just returned from the East Coast and was looking for work. Then his life started to fall apart financially, legally and emotionally. The Melnicks took him in and stuck by him, even after the lowest point, when he was arrested. After his release from custody, the Melnicks' son asked David to tell him honestly if he saw the hand of God in all his trials. David briefly pondered and after a few moments of discussion decided to receive the Lord.

HELPING HANDS IN MESSIAH'S NAME

Henry N., who faithfully ministers in the West Bank, has an active ministry of practical aid to the needy Holocaust survivors who are his neighbors. Together with believers from other Messianic congregations, he helped distribute over sixty food packages among the Holocaust survivors in his home city of Ariel. Every one who received food also received a Bible and was able to hear believers' testimonies about Messiah. Henry writes, "We know that it is not enough simply to speak with them and to give them the Bible. We ask you to continue to pray that we can begin an 'open house' for these people, where they can drink tea or coffee, have fellowship and sing their songs which they so love. Perhaps that will lead to a Bible study they would be willing to attend."

*names have been changed



TRACT IN BACKPACK LEADS TO FAITH IN MESSIAH

Allen Abrahamson, who ministers in Oregon, is praising God that a tract distributed last summer in Portland journeyed to the Denver area in someone's backpack. The tract ended up in the hands of Morris*, a young Jewish man who called Allen with many questions about it. Allen and Morris went on to have Bible studies by phone for three or four weeks, concentrating on Messianic prophecy—particularly in the book of Isaiah. Morris also read several chapters in John, and it started to become clear to him who Jesus really is. When Allen presented the Gospel to him, Morris eagerly received the Lord. Please pray that he grows spiritually.



Chosen People Ministries

We are halfway towards raising \$400,000 for the renovation of the Brooklyn Messianic Center.

Once this amount is raised, a generous donor will give us an additional \$100,000. Your special gift to reach Jewish people in Brooklyn — the very place where Chosen People Ministries began — will be deeply appreciated. Please indicate this on the enclosed card and mail it back to Your Mission to the Jewish People.



You can also give online at www.chosenpeople.com/Brooklyn or by calling us at 888-2-YESHUA



MESSIANIC

RESOURCES

for the holidays

Another winner from Marty Goetz. They're all here—traditional Hanukkah tunes for the Festival of Lights as well as favorites celebrating the Light of the World. Hanukkah blessings are sung by Marty's daughter, Misha.

Festivals of Light • OC136 • \$16.99us

The flickering lights of the Hanukkah menorah remind us that God is mighty to save and that Yeshua is truly the Light of the World. This item is manufactured in Israel.

Hanukkah Menorah • 5023 • \$24.95us



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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)



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