

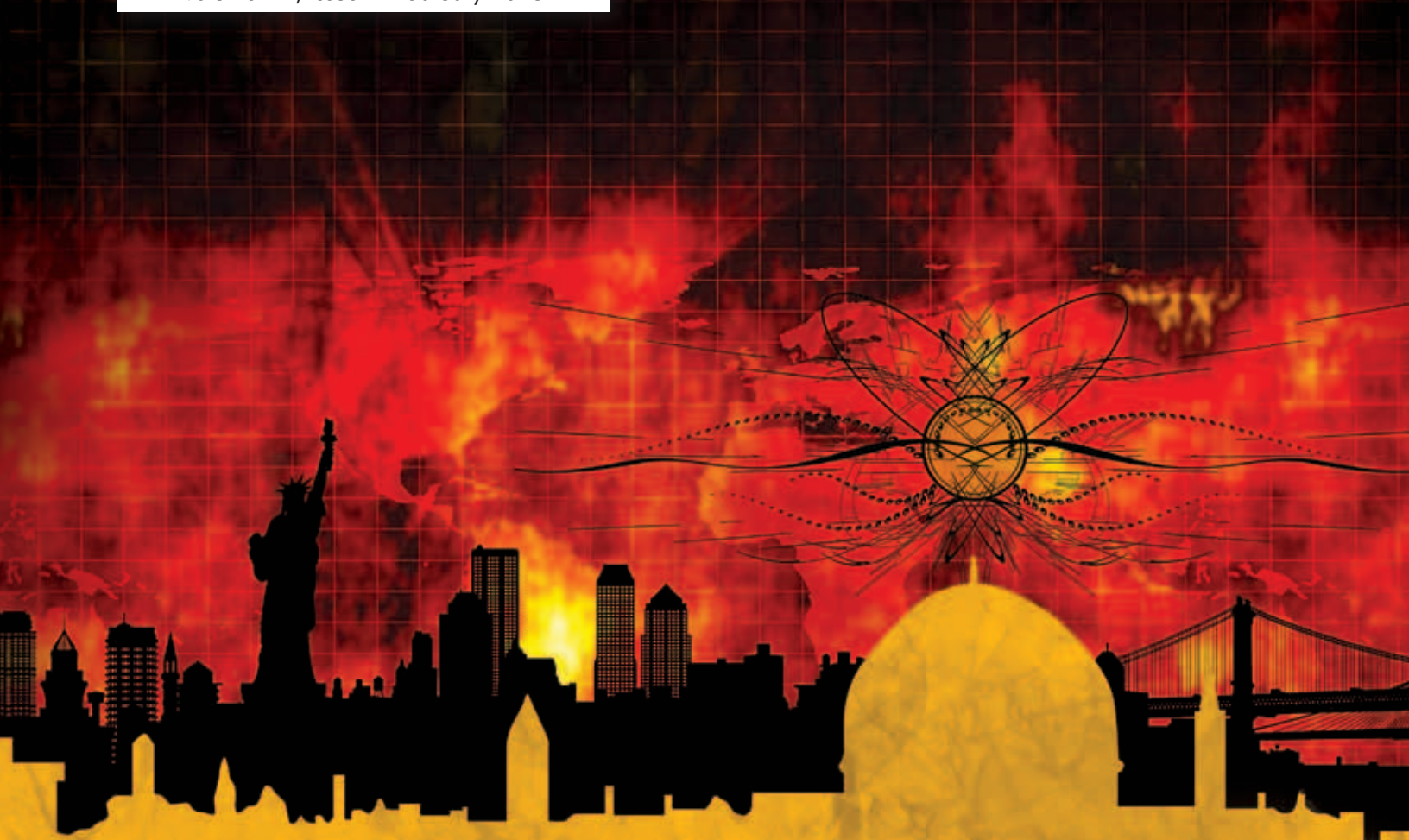
The Chosen People



Volume XIX, Issue 1 February 2013

SAVE THE DATE

BIBLE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 3-5, 2013
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:**

The Spiritual Restoration of Israel • Testimonies from the Land of Israel • Bible Study: The King's Son Risen from the Dead

The Spiritual Restoration of Israel

Dear friend in the Messiah,

In 1859, Charles Dickens penned the famous words, “It was the best of times—it was the worst of times” in his renowned novel about the French revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities*. He might just as well be describing the current condition of Israel among the nations in 2013, for Israel is emerging both as an increasingly powerful yet increasingly besieged nation.

One of the great sections of Scripture that speaks about the future of Israel is found in the writings of the prophet Ezekiel, particularly in chapters 36-39. Chapter 37 is the jewel in the crown—the centerpiece of this section of Ezekiel. The passage about the “dry bones” has become a deeply embedded part of our history and culture as a potent and poetic sign of hope.

The description of Israel is true at this very moment, as swirling political events and the intensification of hostilities make the future look bleak. Yet the hope we have based on the promises of God in the Bible reminds us that God’s purposes for Israel are being fulfilled even at this time. I want to highlight a few passages, and then tell you about something that Chosen People Ministries is planning which I know you will find incredibly exciting.

The Future of Israel According to Ezekiel Chapter 36

In chapter 36, verse 24, the prophet prophesies to the people of Israel about the nation’s future restoration to the Land of Promise. He writes,

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

This verse tells us that the nation of Israel will be gathered from the nations around the world where they were scattered and brought back to the Land of Israel *in unbelief*. In other words, the Jewish people will physically return to the Land of Israel before being spiritually restored to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through Jesus the Messiah.

This prophecy is being miraculously realized in our day. After many centuries, the Jewish people are back in the Land of Israel—six million strong. Staff members there can testify how blessed they feel, despite the danger and the hardships, to be a part of this scriptural fulfillment. There are, praise God, almost 15,000 Jewish believers in Israel today—but this is only a small percentage of the Holy Land’s Jewish population.

We understand that the full measure of fulfillment will occur only when the *end-time remnant* of Israel (Rom. 11:25-29) cries out to the One whom they have pierced and He returns to the Mount of Olives, conquers the enemies of Israel and initiates His reign on His rightful throne in Jerusalem (Zech. 12:10, 13:1-2, 14:8-10).

I am especially thrilled by the conditions described in Ezekiel 36:28-37. Why not open your Bible along with me and read the amazing description of what Israel’s glorious future holds?

The nation is physically restored. The enemies are conquered. The curse of Adam is lifted and most wonderful of all, the Prince of Peace—Jesus the Messiah—rules on His rightful throne in Jerusalem. This is the magnificent fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant given to our forefather Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3) and passed along to Isaac and Jacob and to Jewish people as well as all others who have been bound to God through Messiah’s gracious gift of atonement and reconciliation.

I find these scriptural truths both comforting and exhilarating! They help me to remember to put my hope for the glorious future of the Jewish people in God—not in world opinion or even in the continued favor of the United States of America—though of course I hope this continues. In the end, the restoration of Israel is not accomplished only as a blessing to God’s chosen people, but also as a testimony of His love for the world and His desire that all mankind witness His faithfulness, justice and grace!

Unfortunately, so many in the Church today are unaware of these portions of Scripture and do not study them seriously! We believe it is important for God’s people to understand His plan for Israel and the Jewish people.

In order to promote better understanding of biblical prophecy and teaching regarding the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, we have planned another Bible conference that I believe will be one of the most important events of 2013.

The People, the Land and the Future of Israel: October 3-5, 2013

Location: New York City

This event will take place in New York City—the center of Jewish life outside of Israel. It will be held in the middle of Manhattan, which has more synagogues, Jewish seminaries and better bagels than any other city in the United States.

Conference Theme: The People, the Land and the Future of Israel

The conference will address this topic from the perspective of both Old and New Testament Scriptures. This is not a conference about politics! Rather, it will seek to bring together some of our best Old and New Testament scholars to teach us what the Bible says about Israel and the Jewish people.

Venue: Calvary Baptist Church in Manhattan

Calvary Baptist is a large, historic church in the middle of Manhattan. Chosen People Ministries has a long history of relationship with Calvary Baptist, and some of our earliest prophecy conferences took place at this church—even some during the years of the Holocaust! The church can hold 1,000 people and we hope that this will be enough room.

Speakers: Too Many to Name!

Some of the finest Bible scholars in our country will be presenting messages on topics related to Israel and the Jewish people. These include Dr. Walter Kaiser, Dr. John Feinberg, Dr. Darrell Bock, Dr. Michael Brown, Dr. David Epstein, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church and our host, and many others, including me, who will speak on these critical issues.



The full roster of speakers as well as details, including the cost of tickets for the event, is now available on our website at www.chosenpeople.com/conference.

Schedule

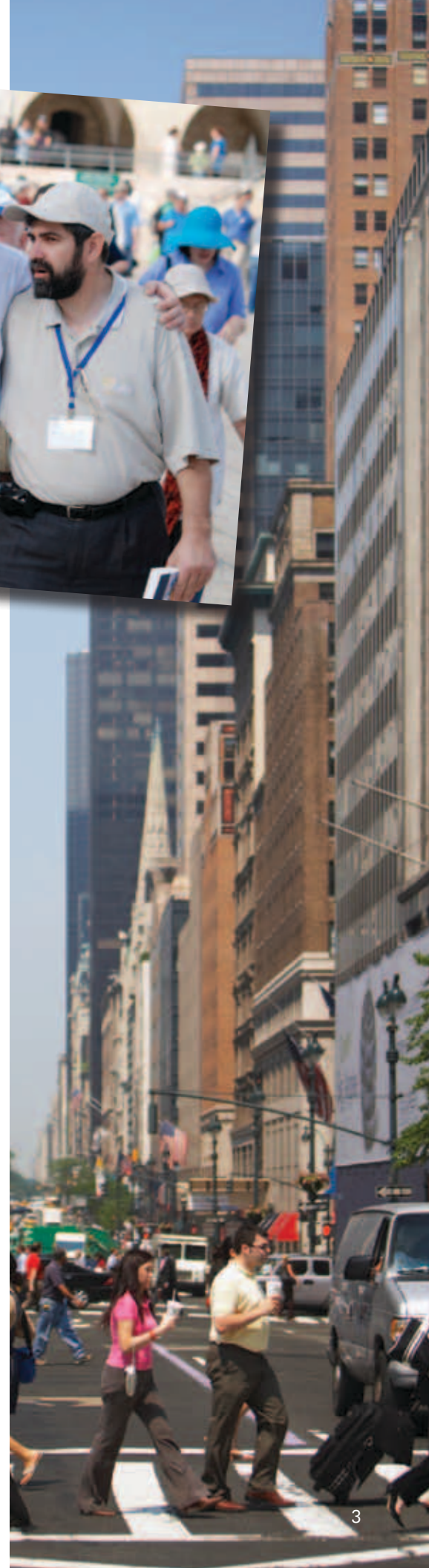
The conference will begin on Thursday evening, October 3 and continue all day Friday and Saturday—concluding with a large public event on Saturday night, the capstone of the conference, featuring our dear friend and brother Joel Rosenberg.

I hope that you will want to attend the conference and at least visit the webpage to see what we are planning. Please remember to **pray for the peace of Jerusalem, even as we await the return of the Prince of Peace!**

Thank you so much for your prayers and faithful support of our ministry among Jewish people in Israel, New York City and fifteen other countries around the world. We could not do this ministry without you.

Yours in hope,

Mitch





BRION

Hanukkah at the Netanya Dry Food Distribution Center

We are serving over 300 people with six tons of food every month at our distribution center in the Open Market of Netanya. This is a huge task that takes many hours and many volunteers to get the job done.

Jewish biblical holidays are especially fun for us as a family and in front-line ministry to our Israeli people. The holidays give us the opportunity to point to our Messiah Yeshua. For example, when we lit the Hanukkah candles and had the *menorah* on our desk for everyone to see, we praised the Lord for sending His Eternal Light into the world to give us salvation in Yeshua. I sit with each person who comes, offering a caring ear to listen as many of them share their difficult situations. As we serve the Lord Yeshua with all our hearts, we do not even have to look for opportunities to share His love, as they come to us automatically—hundreds of them every month.

People often ask us for prayer for their health conditions, their family members, or their financial difficulties. They always leave with a sense that we care for them and love them unconditionally. Most of the time, they also go with a smile on their face, thanking us and thanking God for the bags of food they receive, which cost roughly twenty-five dollars apiece. Recently, several people have also asked us to visit them in their homes. Please pray for all these wonderful opportunities. God is good and always provides for His perfect purposes.

Food Recipient at Soup Kitchen Looks Up to Heaven

Every week, over seventy people are treated like royalty at the Netanya Soup Kitchen. Each person is served a home-cooked, sit-down meal and receives packages of beautiful fruits, vegetables and high-quality bread to take home. Every seat is full, as we also bless them with live, comforting, Spirit-filled music during their meal.

We also give out cards with a Scripture verse printed that says either, “*That if you confess with your mouth Yeshua (Jesus) as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*” (Romans 10:9), or “*...whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Acts 2:21). These are written in Hebrew, Russian and English.

The Scripture cards also have numbers, and we put them into a hat. Our dear guests take turns picking them out, one at a time. The numbers determine the order in which the take-home packages are received. One week, a particular lady was about to put her hand into the hat to pick a number. She first looked up to heaven, said a prayer and pulled out the card with number one. With a huge smile, she said, “Thank you God! Thank you God!” I was able to tell her that God is real and that she should always turn to Him and He will hear her prayers. Many people sitting around her witnessed this simple yet powerful event.

Praise the Lord for using these simple tools and acts of love and kindness to open the eyes and hearts of our people to Yeshua and His eternal salvation. Please keep us and our guests at the soup kitchen in your prayers. If you want to take some further steps, come volunteer with us!



A Day Under Fire in Sderot



It is very scary to be under rocket attack. One particular day, when the siren sounded yet again, we had to drop everything and run for a shelter. Our apartment is not equipped with one, and we couldn't reach a safe place in time. One of the rockets fell not far from our house and the explosion was very powerful, but the Lord kept us safe. We all were very frightened, but we were blessed with the opportunity to witness about God's love to people.

We were able to bring three groups out of the city and away from the rocket attacks. The first group consisted of elderly Holocaust survivors from Sderot. The second was children from Ashkelon, for whom we arranged a vacation in Jerusalem. The third was a group of single mothers with their kids, for whom we organized a nice trip away from the constant sirens. It was a great time to share that God loves them very much. A few of them asked us to pray for them, and one of them made a commitment to read the Bible.

In Ashdod, we contacted the local municipality and offered to provide food packages for those in need. Several times, I have received calls from the deputy mayor's office with a request to deliver packages to needy people's homes. One was a woman with four children, pregnant with the fifth, whose husband had been called up to the army. She was scared to leave the house with the children, and she couldn't leave them with anybody else. Her food supplies ran out quickly and she turned to us—so I brought a food package to their home.

We are grateful to those who were praying and are still praying for us! Praise the Lord!

February 2013

Yoked Together in Messiah's Ministry

Eugene and Victoria L. were born in different parts of the former Soviet Union and raised in atheistic Jewish families. As a result, they considered Jesus to be nothing more than a Jewish teacher who lived long ago and then died. However, God had a plan for both of them. Eugene immigrated to Israel in the beginning of 1991. On the way to Israel somebody gave him a Bible, which he read to find out more about the history of the Jewish people, carefully avoiding reading from the New Testament. While in Jerusalem, he had a spiritual experience, after which he decided to read the "Christian" part of the Bible. He was surprised to find it was written almost in its entirety by Jews, for Jews, and about the Jewish Messiah. After a few more years of searching, he asked Yeshua to come into his life and guide him as a true disciple.

Victoria, who had lived in Israel since 1993, became a follower of Yeshua while visiting her family back in Belarus. She met and married Eugene after she returned to Israel, when she came to a congregation in Jaffa where Eugene was already serving.

In addition to personal evangelism and leading Bible studies, Eugene serves with Chosen People Ministries in Israel through a wide variety of ministries—including food distribution, congregational work, ministry among Holocaust survivors, and organizing and leading biblical tours for tourists from different churches from around the world. Victoria is not only a loving wife and mother to their three daughters, but is also a faithful ministry partner.



Victoria

Eugene & Victoria

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.

THE KING'S SON – RISEN FROM THE DEAD MATTHEW 28:1-17

What do Abraham, Buddha and Mohammed have in common? Each of them is said to be the founder of a great world religion. And each of them is acknowledged by their followers to have died, without any claim on their behalf of a resurrection. Yet, by contrast, Jesus repeatedly instructed His disciples that He would be raised from the dead.

With great detail, our Lord stated that after He went up to Jerusalem, He would be put to death, but on the third day He would rise from the grave (Mt. 17:22, 23). Matthew presents us with two great pieces of evidence that Jesus the Messiah rose from the dead.

THE EMPTY TOMB

The first convincing piece of evidence is what was not discovered. Matthew's Gospel records that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb (Mt. 28:1). But instead of finding the body of the beaten and crucified Messiah, they were greeted by the joyful words of the Angel of the Lord, "*He is not here; for He is risen, as He said*" (Mt. 28:6b).

The Roman guards who were appointed to watch the tomb came into the city Sunday morning and reported that it was empty. The Sanhedrin did not question the

truthfulness of their report. Eager, however, to explain away the empty tomb, they concocted a story and commanded the soldiers to circulate it (Mt. 28:11-15).

THE RISEN LORD APPEARED TO MANY

The King's Son, the Messiah Jesus, appeared to many believers between the morning of His rising from the dead and His ascension forty days later.

The New Covenant records ten major appearances:

1. To the women returning to the sepulcher (Mt. 28:1-10).
2. To Mary Magdalene at the tomb (Jn. 20:11-18; Mk. 16:9-11).
3. To the Apostle Peter (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).
4. To Cleopas and his friend on the Road to Emmaus (Mk. 16:12,13; Lk. 24:13-35).
5. To all eleven Apostles on the eve of Easter day (Mk. 16:14-18).
6. To all eleven Apostles, one week later (Jn. 20:26-28).
7. To several disciples at the Sea of Galilee (Jn. 21:1-23).
8. To the Apostles and over 500 brethren (Mt. 28:16-20; 1 Cor. 15:6).

9. To James, His half-brother (1 Cor. 15:7).
10. To the Jerusalem Apostles on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:3-8).

The great variety of these appearances and the testimony thereof taken together prove that, "*The Lord is risen indeed...*" (Lk. 24:34).

CONCLUSION

The entire Messianic hope is based on the truthful foundation of a Risen Lord (Psa. 16:10; Acts 2:31). If Messiah is not risen, there is no message of hope for a sin-cursed, dying world (1 Cor. 15:14).

The preaching of the Jewish Apostles was simply the proclamation of His resurrection. Their primary purpose was to bear witness to a Risen Lord and Savior. If the Messiah is not risen from the dead, we are still in our sins and misery (1 Cor. 15:17-19).

Every believer is entitled to the "blessed hope" expressed by the Messiah Himself, who promised, "*Because I live, you will live also*" (Jn. 14:19b). The Apostle Paul stated, "*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).

NEW LIFE AT THE DEAD SEA

Our dedicated Israel staff member Maxim led a trip to the Dead Sea with a group of over 50 Holocaust survivors. They enjoyed ample time for rest and fellowship, and under Maxim's direction, there was a gentle sharing of the Gospel and prayer. However, the day the group was to return home to Sderot, which is near the border with Gaza, the town was under attack from rocket fire. Maxim called the Israeli Home Front Command, and they advised him to delay the group's return to Sderot. With God's help, they were able to stay for another three nights in the hotel by the Dead Sea—and during that time, an 88-year-old woman opened her heart to Messiah.

SANDY'S RIPPLES REACH EVEN TO ISRAEL

Staff member Justin Kron, who was leading a trip to Israel at the time Hurricane Sandy hit, had the opportunity to meet Deborah* while on a boat off the shores of Eilat in Southern Israel. Deborah had chosen to extend her stay in Israel because her high-rise building in lower Manhattan was without power. Justin writes, "She was alone, and was clearly interested in chatting to pass the time during our four-hour excursion. One topic led to another, and eventually spiritual issues came up. Deborah was very interested in knowing why I thought that Jesus is the Messiah. Before we parted, she asked for more information."

MESSIANIC JEWISH ISRAEL CONFERENCE IN GERMANY BLESSES HUNDREDS

Vladimir Pikman, our Germany Director, reports that the first Messianic Jewish Israel Conference that he and his co-workers organized was a huge blessing. He writes, "It was the first conference that united all the Messianic leaders of Germany in our outreach to German society. We experienced unprecedented unity in the Spirit. Hundreds of participants who joined us for this event were deeply impressed by the love of Yeshua (Jesus) visible there. The conference has not only strengthened the Messianic movement and Jewish outreach, but also was a great testimony of the Messiah."

Vladimir also reports that a Jewish man—a friend of a woman whom Vladimir had led to the Lord only weeks earlier—visited the Messianic congregation. He approached Vladimir after the service and said, "Svetlana,* my colleague, told me about Yeshua. She is so excited about Him. I need Him, too!" He then prayed with Vladimir to receive the Lord.

YOUNG LEADERS GET MUCHAN (READY)



Paris was site of the second Muchan (Hebrew: Ready) Conference for Messianic Young Adults from around the world. Over 160 young adults came from 16 countries to learn together, to praise the Lord and to take daring steps for Him. The speakers from Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Israel and the United States shared stories, Bible teaching and exhorted one another to step out in boldness for the Lord. We pray that the young adult leaders in their communities who came will become even more motivated to share the Gospel. Rachel, one of Chosen People Ministries' gifted young leaders, reflected afterward, "We ate some great croissants and baguettes but most of all, the sweet sound of young people praising the Lord in English, French, Russian and Hebrew will be a lasting memory."

PLEASE PRAY FOR PORTLAND OUTREACH WORKERS

Chosen People Ministries' volunteer outreach workers in the Portland, Oregon region have been experiencing difficulties bearing witness to the Gospel of Messiah. Security staff has been escorting them out of large events in public parks, even though there is a federal court injunction confirming the right of Chosen People Ministries and other religious speakers to attend such events and distribute literature. Please pray that First Amendment rights would be upheld in Portland and elsewhere, without the need for further litigation.

**names have been changed*

THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

Save the Dates!

Mark your calendars for October 3-5, 2013! *The People, the Land and the Future of Israel Conference* will be hosted by Calvary Baptist Church in New York City. This exciting conference will provide clear teaching on God's plan for the future of Israel as expressed in the Old and New Testaments, enabling Christians to confront the biblical issues that concern so many of us.

Internationally-known, well-respected scholars including Darrell Bock, Michael Brown, Walter Kaiser, Craig Blasing, Bob Chisholm, Craig Evans, Mike Wilkins and others will be offering their timely insights. The conference will conclude Saturday night, October 5 with Joel Rosenberg, *New York Times* best-selling author, as the main speaker.

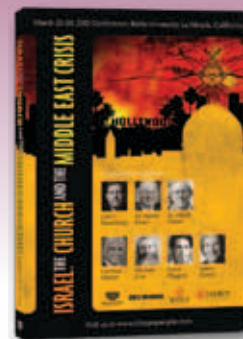
For more information, call 1-888-405-5874 or visit www.chosenpeople.com/conference.

MESSIANIC RESOURCES

In *Has the Church Replaced Israel?*, author Michael J. Vlach evaluates the doctrine of replacement theology (also known as supersessionism) down through history, ultimately arguing in favor of the nonsupersessionist position. Thoroughly vetting the most important hermeneutical and theological issues related to the Israel/church relationship, Vlach explains why "there are compelling scriptural reasons in both testaments to believe in a future salvation and restoration of the nation Israel."

Has the Church Replaced Israel?

Code: OB494 \$19.99US



Israel, the Church, and the Middle East Crisis (DVD) is the result of Chosen People Ministries' conference held at Biola University. It focuses on the current Middle East crisis, with special attention to what is happening in Iran, Syria, Egypt and Israel, helping you to understand current events from the perspective of Scripture.

DVD set

Code: 8041 \$19.95US

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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.

The *Chosen People* newsletter is published monthly by Chosen People Ministries. For more information or to receive *The Chosen People* newsletter, write to: Chosen People Ministries, International Headquarters, 241 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022. In Canada, write to: Box 58103 - 3089 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M6A 3C8 (www.chosenpeople.ca). In Great Britain, write to: P.O. Box 47871, Golders Green, London, NW11 1AL (www.chosenpeople.org.uk). In Australia, write to: Celebrate Messiah Australia, P.O. Box 304, Caulfield, South Vic 3162, Australia (www.celebratemesiah.com.au). Contributing Editors: R. Goldstein, S. McHugh, S. Nassau, N. Parramore, A. Shore; Designer: Lois Gable Ruedinger.

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

