

# The Chosen People



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# REACHING JEWISH STUDENTS

INSIDE: Five ways to connect with Jewish students • Antisemitism on Campus • Introduction to a Study of Hebrews



## Dear friend in the Messiah,

There is no doubt in my mind that the college campus is one of the best places there is to engage Jewish students with the Gospel. According to the recent Pew Report, 60% of the Jewish population in the United States are college graduates, which is twice the number of our general population.<sup>1</sup> We know that students are more open to new ideas as they are often away from their parents and other types of community support. Since Jewish young adults are generally taught not to believe in Jesus, this fresh openness to new viewpoints in general is a great time to introduce Jewish students to the Jewish Messiah.

We of course must be careful to be sensitive to the vulnerability of many young adults and respect the way they have been raised. We need to meet the students in the marketplace of ideas and make sure these Jewish students want to hear the Gospel. We need to offer the Good News and make Jesus so attractive that Jewish students will want to hear more and more!

We usually encourage campus evangelism to be primarily done student-to-student if possible, though of course, campus ministries, local churches and Messianic congregations near campuses can be supportive of believing students reaching out to Jewish young adults and provide wisdom, warm fellowship, a home-cooked meal and lots of love!

There are many challenges to reaching Jewish students on campus. Any significant effort will likely be opposed by the campus rabbi, Hillel (the largest national Jewish campus group) and an Orthodox (*Chasidic*) group called Chabad, which is active on many campuses.

Additionally, antisemitism is on the rise on many college campuses in the United States. More than 50% of Jewish college students said they have experienced some type of antisemitism during this past year.<sup>2</sup> This is terrible, but it gives Christians the opportunity to show support and solidarity with the Jewish students, letting them know that true Christians love the Jewish people and oppose antisemitism. This is a great testimony to Jewish students.

Meanwhile, in spite of the challenges, our ministries on campus are going well. May I share some wonderful reports with you?

Michael Cohen, our Los Angeles director, writes,

*Our ministry is now fully involved and has partners in outreach on three college campuses in the Los Angeles area. One of the keys to having a ministry to Jewish students on campus is to gather a group of volunteers! At Pierce College, in the very Jewish San Fernando Valley, I met a young student, a Jewish believer, who also comes out and witnesses with me.*

*We also have great opportunities to share the Gospel with Jewish students from other countries. At the University of Southern California, I spoke with a Jewish student from Australia. As we spoke, he shared that he was once Orthodox but is now more secular. I asked how that happened. He told me that over time he simply stopped participating in religious activity until he finally decided that he was no longer Orthodox. Interestingly, he also has some Messianic Jewish friends back in Australia.*

1 <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/chapter-2-intermarriage-and-other-demographics/>  
2 <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/02/24/bias-reported-survey-jewish-college-students>





*As I shared the Gospel with him, I told him that Jesus wanted to set him free and to give him the gift of new life. All of this was very appealing to him, as clearly he had been searching for God. Please pray for Jacob,\* as I know that God wants him to know the truth.*

*I have had the privilege recently to work with YWAM's School of Prayer and Mission. For a week in November I helped equip a ten-person team on Jewish Evangelism and Apologetics, including hands-on training at Cal State Northridge. Together, we have shared the Gospel with many students on campus. Please pray for our continued partnership with them.*

Ari Hauben, one of our new staff members serving in Philadelphia, describes the following:

*Last week, I attended a citywide event in Philadelphia sponsored by one of the Christian student groups. The leaders of this group found out I was a Messianic Jew, working with Chosen People Ministries, and they were excited. I found out why when they introduced me to a very special female student!*

*This young woman is a believer and is Jewish and both her parents are rabbis! She wanted to hear my testimony and had lots of questions about how my family responded when I told them I was a believer in Jesus.*

*She told me she once tried explaining her faith in Jesus to her mom and that her mom started crying and was very upset. Her mom told her not to spend any more time with the Christian groups, which is a usual response because our Jewish parents view Jesus as a threat. She has not tried talking to her mom about Jesus since—and has never spoken to her dad.*

*She was especially interested in how I continue to identify as a Jew who believes*

*in Yeshua and how I incorporate some Jewish practices, such as Passover, as part of my walk and identity with Jesus. I am looking forward to following up with her!*

I am happy to say our work at New York City area campuses is going well. One of our most experienced campus representatives, Doug P., writes,

*The Israel-Palestinian debate is a hot topic on campus and unfortunately questions about Israel are often combined with an underlying antisemitism that seems politically driven at first but is much more...and far more sinister! A recent experience at Columbia University highlights this concern and matter for prayer.*

*One large man on occasion stands at the main gate of the school and holds up a large sign that reads "Divest Israel" and spews antisemitic remarks. Another student stopped by our campus literature table there last Wednesday to tell us that many students at Columbia are against Israel.*

So, you can see that this is a real problem. But God is still blessing! Doug continues,

*An Israeli professor stopped by the table to say: "Keep up the important work!" and took a copy of the small prophecy booklet on Isaiah 53!*

*Our work at Queens College continues unabated, giving out booklets and many cards for the new ifoundshalom.com website. One Israeli girl especially stands out in my mind as she argued that the idea of a Son of God is not a part of Jewish thinking. When I showed her Psalm 2:7-8 in Hebrew, which speaks about God's Son, she was silent and told me she would have to look it up and study the text. She left me her email to contact her. We need and deeply appreciate your prayers for these many Jewish students who stop by our tables!*

Immediately before the Jewish festival of Hanukkah I stopped by our Charles Feinberg Center in Brooklyn and spent some time with our younger missionaries who were about to go out to witness on the Brooklyn College campus. They decided to try a new strategy—a potato pancake (or latkes for all of you Jewish-cooking aficionados) giveaway! The team made 300 latkes and handed them out to students at one of the most Jewish schools in the country. They had more conversations than they could handle, and besides...it was lots of fun! We have an ongoing ministry at this school, which is barely a mile from our Brooklyn Center!

There is so much more to say, and I know you will enjoy the rest of the newsletter. Most of all, I hope you will pray for Jewish students and encourage Christian young people to reach their Jewish friends. Perhaps your church has a student group and would like additional training in campus ministry among Jewish people. We would love to help.

Let me know by checking the box on the card and we will get in touch with you!

May the Lord fill you with joy, vision and strength in the Holy Spirit!

Your brother,

Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President

P.S. For your gift of \$50 or more we will send you a copy of a terrific 100-page book on how to witness to college students! Just check the box on the card.

\*name changed





# 5 Things You Need to Know to Reach Jewish Students on Campus

We have found that Jewish college students are especially open to receive the love and attention of Christians and local churches. Most universities have a number of Jewish students. Many of these students are not especially religious and do not affiliate with Jewish campus groups. There are also many Israelis coming to the United States to attend our universities as well. You will find these students eager to enjoy a home-cooked meal and the opportunity to meet friendly young people in a new city. So, here are five suggestions for reaching out to Jewish students on your local campus.

*These five suggestions are a great way to get you started reaching the under-reached Jewish student populations near you. You can also find out about the Jewish population of your local college or university by searching for the school on Hillel.org.*

## #1 Christian Students Are the Key

Christian students have the greatest opportunity to engage their fellow Jewish students. This means that if your church has many college students, or you know students who are involved in Christian student groups, they are in the best possible position to share the love of Jesus with Jewish students! This can be done by encouraging the student groups to particularly befriend Jewish students—especially if they come from out of town. You might also host a home meeting of students that would be attractive to Jewish students, such as a Friday night Sabbath meal. It could be a fun night for the students and especially for the Jewish young people who would sense the love and interest of your family and fellow students.

## #2 Engage Students Around the Jewish Holidays

Holidays provide unprecedented occasions to engage spiritually with Jewish students because many think more about God at those times. For example, Passover beautifully foreshadows Jesus through the Lamb of God! You might host a Messianic Passover in your home. Your Mission to the Jewish People can help you with programs, recipes and prayer. We join hands with Christian campus groups to celebrate Passover, emphasizing the fulfillment in Jesus. This spring semester event is also a great way to educate Christian students about Jewish life and the rich Old Testament heritage we have through the Messiah.

## #3 Show Up – On Campus

As with all students, the Jewish young people struggle with studies, time management and social life and some are often reluctant to leave the library! Jewish students might be open to attend a more formal campus Bible study, but probably would be more willing to join an informal and friendly group of fellow students studying the Bible over lunch. This means we need to be intentional about inviting Jewish students to join us. If you have a regular ministry on a campus, then try and find out where Jewish students congregate and try to mingle and get to know them as people. Once you show you are interested in them as a person they might be more open to hear about what you believe.

## #4 Be Intentional

There are many ways to engage Jewish students, but having a plan can be a great help in guiding your conversations. You can watch the testimonies of younger people or those who became believers in college found on our outreach website, [ifoundshalom.com](http://ifoundshalom.com). We also have a book available that will train you in reaching Jewish students that was written by one of our experienced campus ministers. We have a number of tracts, booklets and specifically a book entitled *Isaiah 53 Explained* which are appropriate for Jewish students. When and if they show a deeper spiritual interest, you can give them these wonderful materials.

## #5 Listen and Learn

Sometimes we are asked what Judaism teaches about a given topic such as faith, belief in an afterlife, forgiveness of sin and more! Our Chosen People Ministries website provides many of these answers, but so many Jewish young people do not know a lot about their own faith, and so, their beliefs might be somewhat untraditional. Jewish students may be agnostics or atheists or into eastern religions. It is best to respond to the student's specific views and questions about God, Jesus and religion because each person is different. This is why listening uncritically is so important. Allow the Jewish students to tell you their beliefs, which might very well be quite a variation on what traditional Judaism teaches. *Listening is the way you earn the right to speak!*

Ask a lot of questions and dialogue with Jewish students so that they know you care and are willing to learn from them. Your knowing what they think about spiritual truths will help you have conversations about spiritual matters that engage them.





# THE RISE OF ANTISEMITISM ON NORTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

Who would expect antisemitism to be present on American college and university campuses, especially in our post-modern world driven by social justice and multiculturalism?

After all, one place where Jewish emancipation should reign is on American campuses. But once we understand that antisemitism is totally irrational, it actually makes sense to expect it to rear its ugly head in the most unexpected places and most unexpected ways. The fact of the matter is that the new antisemitism knows no boundaries and is an equal-opportunities recruiter. And so it roams around on American campuses where it is currently growing exponentially.

College and university campuses are places of learning where a younger generation has a chance to develop their knowledge base, as well as their own way to think and process information. Groups and clubs abound, and as a result provide a platform for dialogue and mutual enrichment—unless of course you are Jewish and/or support Israel’s right to exist.

More than anywhere else in the United States (but not exclusively), the West Coast is a fertile ground for antisemitism on university and college campuses. Where a true diversity seems to exist, it seems that a Jewish voice is never welcome.

University of California, Irvine (UCI) is known for organizing a week-long conference in the spring each year—a gathering nicknamed “Hate Fest.” The yearly theme is always connected to the

Middle East but always completely biased against Jews and Israel. Year after year, guests such as Amir Abdel Malik Ali have been invited to speak on campus.<sup>1</sup> The UCI *Muslim Student Union* even disrupted former Israel Ambassador Michael Oren in a concerted effort in 2010 (11 students were arrested and 10 charged as a result.)

In 2015, the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) was in the news repeatedly for allowing antisemitic graffiti, slurs and defamations, almost always coming from people connected with *Students for Justice in Palestine* or *American Muslims for Palestine*.<sup>2</sup> In an online survey, 70% of the respondents reported having experienced or witnessed antisemitism. Statements such as “Hitler was right” or “Jews burn better” have become common currency.

Similar incidents have been reported from UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, Northwestern University and University of Michigan to name just a few. When a pro-Palestinian rally takes place, it is either to provide a one-sided platform for antisemitic speakers or to promote another growing source of antisemitism: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions known as BDS.

BDS was started by the Palestinian Authority in 2005 and has been very successful on American campuses and even in some evangelical circles ever since. Its goal is to delegitimize and even demonize Israel by promoting an ever increasing boycott of Israeli products and companies. Israel is always painted as the “colonizer,” “occupier” or “apartheid nation.”<sup>3</sup>

The tension is real on American campuses where Jewish students are advised to wear a hat over their *yarmulkes* (Jewish skullcap). Jewish students actually feel at risk on campuses where radical anti-Jewish propaganda is allowed. It comes from those who have been taught falsehoods against Israel and creates a very unsafe

environment for Jewish students to participate in any activity, let alone Jewish or pro-Israel events.

Beyond that atmosphere of tension and even hatred, we can fear the indoctrination of yet another gullible section of the student body, as in the name of social justice, the incoming flux of new students are buying into the lies of BDS and groups such as *American Muslims for Palestine*. As it turns out, very few people are interested in the facts, especially when they end up vindicating Israel.

Yet, we should not simply give up with a shrug of resignation. After all, American campuses are where our next generation of leaders are being educated and prepared for the future... our future.

Soviet-born Israeli human rights activist Nathan Sharansky describes antisemitism with three Ds: Demonization, Double-Standard and Delegitimization. While he has identified the problem, we can all become part of the solution with three more Ds:

**Demystify, Disseminate and Defend.**

We can *demystify* the myths about Israel by taking opportunities to teach the biblical truth about the Land of Israel and the chosen people through campus Bible studies, lectures and literature tables. We can *disseminate* that truth through blogging and social networks. Finally, we can *speak up against* the xenophobic agenda on various campuses anytime it shows its ugly head. This is not the time to be shy or politically correct but the time to stand for the truth—biblical truth!

- 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx1299EPVaQ>
- 2 <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/israel--middle-east/campus-anti-israel-activity-report-2015-11-04.pdf>
- 3 <http://www.campus-watch.org/>



# 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 BOOK OF HEBREWS: AN INTRODUCTION

This remarkable letter addressed to a community of early Jewish followers of Jesus has many marvelous and unique attributes. The book offers the most comprehensive presentation of Jesus the Messiah as the faithful and merciful High Priest (Heb. 2:17).

Hebrews contains a masterful and systematic demonstration of how the Temple sacrificial system in ancient Israel culminates with the arrival of the Messiah. The author emphasizes the uniqueness of Messiah's person and work.

This letter unwraps three great mysteries. First, it reveals a heavenly sanctuary in which Jesus' followers enter and encounter the very presence of God. Second, believers are now able to approach God in this sanctuary through "a new and living way" (Heb. 10:20). This "way" to God is superior to all other paths, because Jesus entered heaven to be our "Great High Priest" (Heb. 4:14). Third, knowledge of Messiah's eternal character, in both his person and his work, produces kingdom-centered believers who, in the midst of all the temptations and trials of life, live victoriously.

The letter has two main sections. The first involves doctrinal issues (Heb. 1:1-10:18) and the second addresses practical concerns involving a life lived in the power and person of Jesus, the Messiah (Heb. 10:19-13:25).

Hebrews emphasizes the supreme glory of the Messiah. In this epistle the reader encounters the Messiah, who intercedes for His people at the Father's right hand as the great High Priest.

Hebrews is the grand epistle of God's grace. The book begins with the name of God, and concludes with the term grace. This letter, written to God's ancient people, the Jewish people, magnifies God as "The God of all Grace."

To fully comprehend the Book of Hebrews, one must recognize the repeated allusions within the letter to elements of Leviticus. Hebrews is the only book to highlight the High Priestly office of the Messiah, who is both priest and sacrifice, in the New Testament. In this letter we see the Messiah, not so much "in us" as an abiding presence, but rather "standing for us" at the Father's right hand, interceding on our behalf.

The author of Hebrews is anonymous, prompting us to center our attention on Messiah, our great High Priest who is "without beginning of days or end of years," abiding as our High Priest forever (a).

The first believers were Hebrew Christians (Acts 2) and to know the development of the early Christian movement within its Jewish constituency is to understand the very beginnings of the New Testament Church.

Irving Jensen in his volume on *Hebrews and the Pastoral Epistles* offers a brief outline on Hebrews: Hebrews: Consider Jesus, Our Great High Priest.

- A. Greetings, 1:1-3
- B. Superior Person, 1:4-7:28
- C. Superior Institutions, 8:1-10:18
- D. Superior Life, 10:19-13:21
- E. Farewell, 13:22-25

**This article begins a new series of studies on the only book of the New Testament of special interest addressed to professing Hebrew believers.**

# NEWS BRIEFS



## ISRAELIS SEARCHING FOR AND FINDING MESSIAH

In Israel, Jewish seekers keep coming to Chosen People Ministries' events. Recently, Robynne, a staff member in Tel Aviv, met Haim\*, who showed up for a Bible study. He is not yet a believer but has very consciously begun a journey to find his spiritual side. He said he was amazed that right in the heart of a most secular city, a city that usually isn't spiritual at all, he found a group of people thinking and dialoguing about God and how to have a relationship with Him. He enjoyed the openness of the discussion and said he will return. Pray that Haim comes to know Jesus in a very real way. While people like Haim are searching, others have found their Messiah. Our Israel director, Michael Z., reports that seven people were baptized this year!



## TWO JEWISH FAITH DECISIONS IN FLORIDA

Greg Savitt who serves in South Florida, shares this exciting report: "This was not the first time I had visited the Boynton Beach Rehabilitation Center. I have shared previously about a Jewish woman, Fran,\* who seemed very interested in knowing about Jesus. Sadly, after one recent visit, she seemed no longer open to the Gospel.

I had asked for people to pray for my opportunities in the center, sensing that I was to go back. I was able to return during the Hanukkah/Christmas season and shared a message called 'Without Hanukkah There Would Be No Christmas.' Before I started, I asked if Fran was coming, but one of the volunteers said she did not think so. However, as the service began Fran came in and sat in the front row! I gave the invitation and Fran and one other Jewish woman, Kim,\* accepted the Lord! It was a

good reminder to always be sensitive to when the Holy Spirit asks you to do something."

## REACHING ISRAELIS THROUGH BACKPACKER MINISTRY

We have so many different types of Israelis coming through our ministry to backpackers in Argentina. Our dedicated staff there reported on some special conversations that took place recently. Adi\* is very religious. She didn't grow up in a religious home, but she chose to become Orthodox when she graduated from high school. Yaniv\* on the other hand isn't religious at all. He grew up learning all the stories in the Old Testament, but to him, they are just myths passed down for generations. Even though Israelis can be so different, there's one thing that most seem to have in common and that's their search for truth. Yaniv was so curious about Jesus that he stayed up late one night talking with our staff member for over two hours about God, the Gospel, and end-time prophecy. Adi also was intrigued; she was so thirsty to know more that after hearing the Gospel, the next day she started inquiring about the Holy Spirit.



*\*names changed*

# ISRAEL'S GLORIOUS FUTURE

ACCORDING TO THE PROPHET ISAIAH

## MAY 13-15, 2016

Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, Florida

EVENTS.CHOSENPEOPLE.COM

Call 888.405.5874 or email ebaehr@chosenpeople.com

## Speakers



Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President of Chosen People Ministries



Dr. Michael Rydelnik  
Professor of Jewish Studies, Moody Bible  
Institute, Chicago, IL



Dr. Erwin Lutzer - Senior Pastor, The Moody  
Church, Chicago, IL



Dr. Rich Freeman  
Vice President of Church Ministries and  
Conferences, Chosen People Ministries



Raphael and Aly Giglio  
Associate Pastor and Worship Leaders,  
Zarephath Christian Church, Zarephath, NJ

Conference registration is only \$150 (\$125 before Feb 15) and includes a Friday night Shabbat dinner, special musical guests and testimonies, as well as fellowship time with speakers & conference attendees.

# MESSIANIC RESOURCES

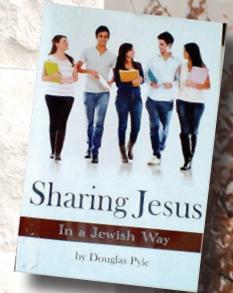
## Sharing Jesus in a Jewish Way

*Sharing Jesus in a Jewish Way* is an indispensable tool to learn all about the Messianic prophecies that point to Jesus. You'll read what the rabbis had to say about the coming Messiah and get answers to possible questions or objections your Jewish friend might raise. You'll find all the advice you need to share your testimony with your Jewish friends. Learn how to break the ice and talk about spiritual things. Know the right and the wrong things to say in order not to be offensive.

Price: \$12.95

Item: 3129

For phone orders call 800-333-4936 in the U.S.  
Or for even more resources, visit us online at  
[chosenpeople.com/store](http://chosenpeople.com/store).



# Simcha

MAY 27-30, 2016

Join us for what will certainly be a wonderful weekend of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun. Our special speaker this year will be Scott Brown and worship will be led by Micah & Abby Mahoney. For additional information visit: [events.chosenpeople.com](http://events.chosenpeople.com)

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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)



A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.