



CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



BY HIS GRACE AND POWER



TO HONOR HIM!

The following is a report on what the Lord has done through the missionaries and staff you pray for and support. We are grateful to Him for allowing us the privilege of spreading the good news among Jewish people in a few dozen cities across the United States and in twenty countries around the globe. We understand because of Him and for Him we do this great and historic work of reaching Jewish people for the Messiah. One of my favorite verses in Scripture is Romans 11:33–36, where Paul writes:

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

With this in mind, we offer the following report for your information and reflection and as a way to say thank you for standing with us in our ministry.

Ukraine War Relief



Between one and one-and-a-half million Jewish people lived in the Soviet Union when it fell in the early 1990s.¹ Chosen People Ministries was active there, especially in Ukraine where we planted numerous Messianic congregations and led hundreds of Ukrainian Jewish people to the Lord over decades of ministry. When the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022, we saw it as our responsibility to help care for our children in the faith whom we had served for so many years.

The war gave us the opportunity to show God's love in many new ways! We comforted those who fled their homes, and we cared for moms and children because their husbands and sons were called to military duty. We instantly began distributing food and other essentials to our congregants and others deeply affected by the war.

We created a "Winter Project" in 2023–2024, which was dedicated to helping Ukrainians prepare for the harsh cold season. Our missionaries

Since the war began, we have had staff in Germany, England, and Israel working on behalf of Russian and Ukrainian refugees.

and the local pastors we trained in Ukraine were our boots on the ground, working day and night to provide large quantities of food, clothing, medicine, sleeping bags, flashlights, heaters, wood for stoves, generators, and other needed items. It is no exaggeration to say many Ukrainians would not have made it through the bone-chilling winter without the aid we provided.

¹ "A Half-Century of Jewish Emigration from the Former Soviet Union: Demographic Aspects," Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, accessed May 14, 2024, <https://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/events/half-century-jewish-emigration-former-soviet-union-demographic-aspects#:~:text=Data%20shows%20pronounced%20selectivity%20of,by%20the%20beginning%20of%202019..>



We are especially grateful for the work of Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical aid organization who provided our teams coming from Poland to Ukraine with food for people on the front lines of eastern Ukraine. We also restored people's homes with new windows, doors, and other needed materials to repair houses and build new residences.

Heavy fighting forced a Messianic congregation we worked with for decades in the city of Mariupol to relocate. The congregants lost their homes, jobs, and means of livelihood. By God's grace and your prayers, Chosen People Ministries stepped in with financial support to rent apartments and housing while also providing shoes, clothing, food, gas stoves, and more! "All our needs have been covered," said the leader of this community.

One of our most memorable projects took place in the spring of 2023 when we purchased about 1,100 pounds of *matzah* (unleavened bread) for Passover in Germany and trucked it into Ukraine. We became a main source to the Ukrainian Jewish community for this essential item for the celebration of Passover, which endeared our workers to the not-yet-believing Jewish community we hoped to reach with the love of Jesus.

Since the war began, our staff in Germany, England, and Israel also worked to evacuate and relocate Ukrainian refugees. Today, we still provide financial and spiritual support to those who fled to the western part of Ukraine and to many of the hundreds of thousands who relocated to Poland and Germany in 2022.

We have shown special concern for the more than 30,000 Jewish Ukrainian refugees who emigrated

to Israel. Our team is serving these new immigrant families in Israel at this very moment through our "Project Promised Land," helping with basic needs for refugee families by providing practical assistance and creating community events, family retreats, and children's camps. These occasions are times for them to encounter the hope and peace offered through the gospel and escape from the daily tensions new immigrants experience. These gatherings, attended by hundreds of new Israelis, provided a refreshing oasis in the middle of the scorching desert of war—until October 7, 2023.

We have shown special concern for the more than 30,000 Jewish Ukrainian refugees who emigrated to Israel—and have found themselves still in the middle of a war.

We then turned to help these new Israelis in the aftermath of October 7. You can only imagine what it must have been like for these Jewish Ukrainians to leave their home to flee from daily bombings and a brutal war only to end up in another situation where they faced hostilities from a new set of neighbors— Hamas in Gaza! Your Mission to the Jewish People was there for them, offering the compassion and love of the Savior.



Ministry in Israel



WAR RELIEF

Since October 7, our staff has worked with other ministry partners in Israel to bring food, clothing, hygiene items, and various necessities to Israelis evacuated from their homes near the northern and southern borders and to soldiers. Some of our staff met with believers at different army bases and distributed essential items. We partnered with those in the Messianic community who could deliver resources to the 500–600 Israeli believers scattered among the various army bases. In the early days of the war, we hosted BBQs for soldiers. They really appreciated these events and understood we were Messianic Jewish believers who loved and supported them in their efforts to defend Israel.

Our hearts were especially broken for the children who fled their homes and abandoned their normal routines after the attack on Israel. Most of these children lost a couple of months of school, which not only slowed down their education but added to their sense of instability. The need for someone to stay home with the kids interrupted parents' work schedules, while other households temporarily lost one parent as Israel mobilized much of its reserve force to fight Hamas. These sudden changes wreaked financial and mental strain on numerous Israeli families.

As a result, new opportunities arose to assist families and children impacted by the war, including providing

dozens of tablet devices for children to use for their online education. Our staff also bought and gave toys to the children as gifts, as well as baby supplies, pacifiers, baby food, and other resources to help people who had to flee their homes. Our staff have continually provided emotional, spiritual, and practical support for hundreds through counseling services and family retreats to help them develop coping skills for themselves and to train them to help others.

We provide counseling services and family retreats to help develop coping skills for war refugees and to train them to help others.

Additionally, our ministry organized food distribution for dozens of Holocaust survivors who were afraid to leave their houses, either because of the constant rocket attacks or because of the trauma of October 7. Most of the Holocaust survivors are in their nineties and are filled with anxiety and fear. Our gifts of practical aid often led to the opportunity to personally proclaim the gospel. Our team encouraged many Israelis during this harrowing time, and their practical help stimulated a lot of great conversations about the Lord. Grateful Israelis often asked us what motivated us to help, which gave us the opportunity to tell them why we were serving!

Israelis sought God after the attacks of October 7 and the ensuing war with Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran. During the hours just prior to Iran's assault on Israel on April 13 with more than 300 Iranian drones and





missiles, Israel's top Google search was for the book of Psalms. Many mostly secular Israelis turned to the Psalms for protection, comfort, and hope while waiting for the drones and missiles to arrive. Seeing how Israelis honor the Psalms, we decided to launch an online outreach we have called, "The Psalms of Hope," using the Psalms to turn the eyes of Israelis toward the Messiah of Israel.

With all the trouble in Israel, many Israelis are now searching and asking spiritual and biblical questions about the future of the Middle East. Our staff continues to use Bible prophecy to explain what is happening and God's plan for Jewish people and the world. By God's grace, our workers in Israel have discovered new ways to proclaim the good news to Israelis hungry for the Word of God. Many Jewish organizations are helping Israelis in need, but it is our privilege to bring what others do not bring—the message of eternal and abundant life in Jesus.

Our discipleship program prepares younger Israelis for the challenges of mandatory military life.

MINISTRY TO THE NEXT GENERATION IN ISRAEL

Our Mission has a special interest in training the next generation of leaders, in taking the gospel to young people, and in working alongside godly parents to prepare their children for the challenges of mandatory military service and the social and spiritual issues they face in the Holy Land today. This next generation of young Israeli leaders work in the secular world and

in full-time ministry, using their vocations to help their fellow Israelis come to know the Lord in their congregations, ministries, businesses, and the military. Without question, the present growth and maturing of the believing community in Israel is the work of God.

Ministry to children and youth has seeded the growth of the church in Israel today, and our children's camps have been instrumental in helping fuel the current movement of the Spirit. Some of our staff have a special heart to reach immigrant children who have come from war-torn Ukraine, and even from Russia. The testimonies from these camps are inspiring and encouraging, with many lives touched.

In addition to ministering to children, our staff in Israel dedicates their time to discipling young adults. Israel has many mature leaders, pastors, evangelists, and other servants of God who have done a marvelous job preparing younger Israelis for the challenges of military life and the importance of being a witness to their fellow Israeli soldiers. Many of these young soldiers attend Sabbath meals, concerts, and Bible studies at our current Tel Aviv area center.



We are seeing tremendous gospel fruit in Israel unlike anything seen since the days of the early church. There are many testimonies from individuals: One found Jesus when facing a dangerous medical condition, another found the Lord through the failures of modern philosophy, and another had his life changed after reading the Gospel of Matthew. Others came to the Lord because eastern religions left them spiritually empty. The Lord has used the Hebrew version of our book *Isaiah 53 Explained* to touch many lives as well! It is evident the Holy Spirit is still working in the Holy Land!



NEW TEL AVIV MESSIANIC CENTER

The Messianic community in Israel has a bright and vibrant future. One of our ministry's responses to this growing movement is the expansion of our ministry space in Tel Aviv—the city with the largest concentration of Israelis in the world. We recently purchased a commercial space to use as a Messianic gathering place and outreach center. It is two-and-a-half times larger than the center we currently rent, and it will be one of the few facilities owned by believers in Tel Aviv and the surrounding suburbs. It is another sign of God's favor on the growing Messianic community in the Holy Land!

Despite the war this past year, we continued renovating this new space. Admittedly, the work has gone slowly with the limited availability of labor. But we are making progress and need your prayers. We are only \$700,000 away from our capital campaign goal of \$6.5 million, and we are so grateful for your help. This center will foster the future of ministry in Israel!

We are certain God will powerfully use this facility through both war and peace. At the new center, we plan to plant a congregation with space for about 150 adults, plus children. With so many young Israelis called up to serve in the military during this crisis, ministering to young adults in Israel is more important than ever! We are building this new center to welcome all those who will seek the Lord in the aftermath of the tragedies of October 7.

We regularly receive numerous testimonies of believers in the Messianic community in Israel expressing their gratitude for the current rented Tel Aviv Messianic

Center and its impact on their lives. Many say they appreciate gathering with fellow believers in a safe, loving environment where they can explore and express their belief in Jesus through various community events. To many, it feels like home. It is especially meaningful and important for them to connect with other believers since Israel's believing community is much smaller than ours in the United States.

Our staff is doing all they can to bring the message of God's peace, love, and grace to Israelis—person-to-person and heart-to-heart.

Others have relayed how attending the Bible studies and other events at the center led them to grow in their knowledge of God and His Word. They are now able to experience God's power as they pray for and encourage one another, even through difficult times. The center offers worship nights, Sabbath meals, Bible studies, game nights, and many other opportunities for fellowship. The Tel Aviv Messianic Center is a tremendous blessing to the body of Messiah in Israel.

Our staff is doing all they can amid this intensifying conflict to bring the message of God's peace, love, and grace to Israelis—person-to-person and heart-to-heart. Israelis no longer trust in their military, intelligence, and government leaders as before. The death of so many young Israeli soldiers in combat is deeply affecting the people of Israel. It is particularly true among the younger generation, who we find are looking for answers beyond this world, many of whom have tender hearts toward the message of the gospel. It is astonishing how many people in Israel are now searching for God. We have the staff, and soon we will also have the additional space to gather Israelis to worship and serve the Messiah of Israel in the heart of one of Israel's largest city!



Antisemitism



Followers of the Jewish Messiah must stand with the Jewish community against antisemitism. This action is not only an expression of our love for the physical relatives of Jesus Himself, but we know it pleases the Lord who weeps for His chosen people. Over the course of the past year, we have focused on this issue more than ever before. Antisemitism has already been on the rise in the United States over the past several years following shootings and other attacks on synagogues. Since Hamas' massacre in Israel on October 7, 2023, however, the situation has become far worse than most of us have ever seen.

OUTREACH AND OPPOSING ANTISEMITISM

Being a voice for truth in this dark time is so important to our witness of the Messiah among the Jewish community. During an outreach, one religious woman told one of our staff, who expressed her heartbreak following October 7: "You are spreading so much light and love through this, you don't even know how it impacts us. Thank you."

Opposing antisemitism has become a common part of our outreaches. For instance, at our "Fun in the Son" week-long mission trip in South Florida in February, our staff gave out more than 4,500 tracts. The response was favorable, and our "Oppose Antisemitism" T-shirts attracted many Jewish people. The twenty-five staff and volunteers spoke to dozens of Jewish people over the course of the week!

Our "Stop the Hate" gospel tracts and "Oppose Antisemitism" T-shirts were also part of our Shalom New York outreach in the summer of 2023, and will likely be a large part of this summer's street evangelism. These tools and our heart of compassion for Jewish people open amazing opportunities to speak of our love for the God of Israel and the Messiah of Israel.

EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS TO OPPOSE ANTISEMITISM

College students are on the front lines of so much of antisemitic hate, which seems to flourish on campuses. In December, we held our *Muchan* (Hebrew for "ready") conference for young adults who are Jewish believers in Jesus or Gentile believers who are passionate about ministry among the Jewish community. Many of our attendees are students, and they noted their concerns about schools becoming increasingly hostile environments for Jewish and pro-Israel students. These young believers need our support.

Our events encourage people to be a voice for truth. Our heart of compassion for Jewish people opens amazing opportunities to speak of our love for the Messiah of Israel.

This August, shortly before colleges resume classes, we will hold a training conference in Chicago called "Courage" specifically for students. We will equip them to stand firm for truth and for the Messiah at their schools. This conference will hopefully be the start of a lasting student network so these young people can continue to support one another and know they are not alone!

It is not too late for you to recommend a college student—undergraduate or graduate—who is standing for the Lord and Jewish people on campus and is wondering how to handle the opposition of pro-Hamas protesters when they return to school. This conference will help them! **You can sponsor a**

**student for \$750 or take on part of their support.
Please see the attached card.**

We have two other major conferences planned as well. By the time you receive this report, we will hopefully have gathered more than a thousand Christians in New York City at an “Oppose Antisemitism” event. This gathering was an event to encourage Christians on the East Coast to stand against antisemitism. We plan to do the same for those in the Midwest and throughout our country.

**Check our website
www.chosenpeople.com/events
for more information.**

On November 8–9, 2024, we will partner with Moody Bible Institute in Chicago for a two-day conference to equip Christians to speak out against antisemitism. As followers of the Jewish Messiah, we must be a voice of truth in a world where the lies only seem to be getting louder. Thank you for your support in this endeavor!

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A higher purpose.*

