


**The  
Chosen  
People** 

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*The* CHARLES L.  
FEINBERG  
MESSIANIC  
JEWISH CENTER



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Special Brooklyn Center Edition

Dear friend,

Shalom from Brooklyn!

I will never forget the words of a dear friend of Chosen People Ministries who gave a very large gift to the establishment of our Jerusalem Messianic Center almost ten years ago. She said, “Mitch, I know that this is a dream come true for you and I hope that you will have great joy as you dedicate the center.”

I feel the same way about the upcoming dedication of the Brooklyn Center—let me tell you why!

I was born in Brooklyn—one of the five boroughs of New York City—as were my father and mother. Both sets of my grandparents had left the old country, along with millions of other European Jews who were seeking to build a better life for their families, and come to the United States, which they called “The Golden Land.”

In this same era, another Jewish family—the Cohn family—came to the United States, eventually moving to Brooklyn as well. They were a different sort of Jewish family, though, for Rabbi Leopold Cohn had received Jesus as his Messiah and sensed God’s call to reach his own people with the Good News of salvation. I do not know if my grandparents ever met Rabbi Cohn, or if they ever heard about Jesus from anyone other than me. But I do know that we will now have the opportunity to reach thousands like my grandparents, as well as a new generation of Jewish people, for the Messiah.

I suppose Brooklyn blood flows through my veins  
as well as through this great 119-year-old  
ministry to the Jewish people that  
I am privileged to lead.

## Back to Brooklyn

I became a follower of Jesus the Messiah in 1970. After receiving my theological training and marrying my wife, we served the Lord on the West Coast and then returned east in the summer of 1990. We moved back to Brooklyn about that time, where we raised our kids and have served the Lord in this borough of almost a million Jewish people.

My dream for ministry was simple: I wanted to reach my own Jewish people for Jesus. As part of this, I hoped to establish a work for the Lord in New York City—and especially in Brooklyn.

As you will read, the Lord has given us a new ministry center, located in the heart of Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn. It is 14,000 square feet of opportunity to serve the Jewish people in a variety of ways: through worship services, Bible studies, training new staff, serving the Jewish community by providing food for the poor and other types of practical help.

This month, we will dedicate the center, which is named after Dr. Charles Feinberg, the first Dean of the Talbot School of Theology—who came to faith through Chosen People Ministries in 1930.

## The Center Dedication

The dedication events will take place over a week’s time, and a special banquet will be held on Friday night, September 20. I am really looking forward to sharing my heart and vision for the Lord’s work among the Jewish people at the banquet. I hope you might have time to register and join us! Visit [www.chosenpeople.com/dedicationbanquet](http://www.chosenpeople.com/dedicationbanquet) to find out more, or call 212-223-2252.

This week of celebration is quite special, as it is the week of the Jewish holiday of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*). It was during this week, many years ago, that King Solomon dedicated the first Temple in Jerusalem, and the place was filled with the Shekinah glory! We pray that God’s holy presence will likewise fill our small tabernacle in Brooklyn and that all who enter would sense His presence and power.

Please pray for us—and please see the following note that describes what is needed to complete the dream!

Your brother in the Messiah,

  
Dr. Mitch Glaser  
President



# TRAINING A NEW GENERATION

Chosen People Ministries, established in 1894, exists to evangelize, disciple, serve and pray for the Jewish people, and to help fellow Christians do the same. Our ministry began in Brooklyn, New York through the efforts of Rabbi Leopold Cohn, a Hungarian-Jewish immigrant whose life was radically transformed when he discovered that Jesus is the Messiah. Over the last 119 years, our ministry has expanded into the cities all over the world with the highest Jewish populations. Currently, we minister in seventeen countries, with over 200 staff members consisting of administrators and support-raising missionaries.

One of the ways that we are fulfilling our mission is by raising up and training new leaders in Jewish ministry through our seminary program—**The Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies**. Several years ago, we recognized that there is a great need in Jewish missions for more seminary-trained leadership. Through a partnership with the Talbot School of Theology of Biola University in La Mirada, California, we received our accreditation through the New York Board of Regents and the Association of Theological Schools, and began classes in summer 2007. We currently

have twenty-six students enrolled and have graduated eleven thus far.

The Feinberg Center degree program is 98 credits, and awards a Master of Divinity in Messianic Jewish Studies from the Talbot School of Theology. Our program is still the only one of its kind in the world; we offer a unique course of study that prepares leaders to enter Jewish ministry as missionaries, Messianic pastors, Messianic leaders, and educators. We also offer reduced tuition rates and housing subsidies for our students, with the goal that they have the opportunity to graduate debt-free and go directly into full-time Jewish missions.

## A New Opportunity

From the beginning, we knew that if this program were to be successful, we would eventually have the challenge of finding a larger and more

suitable space to house the seminary. For the past five years, we have been able to host the classes in the international headquarters building of Chosen People Ministries in Manhattan, and rent office space for the library only a few blocks away. Yet a few years ago, as we saw the Lord continue to bless and grow the seminary, we began to search for a new facility to house the program, and the Lord miraculously provided an incredible opportunity in the heart of the Jewish community in the borough of Brooklyn.

Brooklyn is home to more than 750,000 Jewish people, which means this one borough of New York City contains the highest concentration of Jewish people in the entire United States. We came across a building that had functioned as a Jewish funeral home. A rare, three-lot-wide, 14,000 square foot facility with three floors and a basement, a sanctuary on the first floor, located in the heart of a more “religious” Jewish neighborhood, seemed too good to be true.

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“Talbot School of Theology is thrilled to partner with Chosen People Ministries to equip a new generation of Christian leaders for the Messianic movement. There is no better place to do this than Brooklyn. Our heart is to provide solid biblical and theological training along with the skills for ministering in a contextually sensitive way.”

– Dr. Clint Arnold,  
Dean / Professor of New Testament  
Talbot School of Theology  
Biola University



## KLAUDIA Z.— CPM STAFF MEMBER

Klaudia Z. has been an integral part of our Brooklyn ministries for years. Coming from the Former Soviet Union, she knows exactly the needs and issues of these residents of Brooklyn. Many have come to know the Lord through her ministry. She writes,

*“There are two Russian congregations that were started in Brooklyn. We will now be meeting in the Brooklyn Center, which is a huge blessing, since most landlords don’t like us because we are Messianic believers. Recently, we baptized twelve people and already, four more people are asking for such a public covenant with our Messiah Yeshua! With our move to the Brooklyn Center, we will be even more visible for people to stop in, ask questions and come to be a part of the congregation. Praise the Lord for this new facility!”*

## 1ST FLOOR –

### Sanctuary, warming kitchen and multipurpose room

This street-level first floor will be the heart of our ministry presence in the neighborhood. We know that many Jewish people will have their curiosity sparked by our signs on the exterior of the building, which will include Messianic Scriptures written in Hebrew and English. We want to make sure our building is inviting and provides an excellent first impression for those the Lord leads to enter.

For this reason, our first floor is designed to be completely ministry focused. Not only will it accommodate a 170-person Messianic congregation, but it will allow us to have a soup kitchen ministry, a Gospel café outreach for young people, and a reading area for those curious about our faith.

A dynamic ministry opportunity exists in our new neighborhood, as a community of over 750,000 Jewish people reside in the areas surrounding the Feinberg Center

Ministries planned through the Feinberg Center include:

- ESL Classes
- Addiction Care
- Counseling
- Bible Studies
- Messianic Congregations
- Evangelism
- Café Outreach
- Feeding the Poor
- Elderly Care

We hope you are as excited as we are about these ministry opportunities the Lord is providing!

## 2ND FLOOR –

### Classroom, study area, and offices

The second floor of our Brooklyn Center will serve as the new home of our seminary program, the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies. Through our unique partnership with the Talbot School of Theology, we offer a fully-accredited Master of Divinity degree in Messianic Jewish Studies. We began offering classes in 2007 and currently have 26 students and 11 graduates—and we continue to grow!

The Lord has been so faithful in developing this program. For the past four years we have housed the seminary in our Manhattan headquarters, but we have now outgrown that space. Included on the second floor will be classrooms, offices,



Through the grace of God and through our generous ministry partners, we were able to purchase the Brooklyn building debt-free in June of 2010. This new Brooklyn Center provides us with enough space to house not only our new ministry programs and congregations, but also our entire seminary program!



Renovations began in Fall 2010. A gut renovation was needed to maximize our ministry and seminary space.

# THE BUILDING

and study and meeting areas. The Feinberg library, which has over 12,000 volumes, will reside in the basement.

The Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies program includes courses in:

- Biblical leadership
- Rabbinic Literature
- Hebrew / Greek
- Pastoral Care
- Jewish History
- Apologetics
- Rabbinic Theology
- Evangelism
- Biblical Preaching
- Theology of Siddur

Training the next generation of leaders for Messianic Jewish ministry is the goal of this program.

Though primarily used for the seminary, the second floor will also be available for ministry purposes when classes are not in session.

## 3RD FLOOR – Student, missionary and guest housing

The third floor of the new Brooklyn Center will serve as student living space. The floor plan neatly separates the women's and men's living quarters, and has a guest room for visiting ministry workers and professors. We will also use these rooms to house summer interns and other staff while school is not in session.



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Messianic congregation, benevolence ministries, ESL classes, and addiction care and recovery programs.

We will expand our ministry in the new facility by launching a brand new English-speaking Messianic

congregation. We will also take advantage of the warming kitchen and multipurpose room to begin offering a “soup kitchen” style ministry to the needy in the community during the week, and a “Gospel café”-style outreach for the youth in the evenings. Our missionaries and Feinberg students will also hold various outreach events throughout the school year in fulfillment of their field education requirements for the seminary.

We are amazed at how the Lord has provided, and we know He has called us to expand our work in this important Jewish neighborhood. We are confident that the Lord will help us finish what He started, turning over a new page in our outreach efforts in the middle of Jewish Brooklyn.

We were offered a generous two-part matching gift by a Chosen People Ministries donor who had a burden for training a new generation of leaders for

the field of Jewish evangelism. As only God could provide, we were able to negotiate the purchase price of the building to the exact amounts of the matching grants!

We prayerfully initiated a capital campaign in the late spring of 2010, and by God’s grace were able to raise the needed funds, closing on the building without debt in June 2010.

The opportunities this facility gives us for expanding our ministries are numerous. The location alone, situated on the borders of Orthodox Jewish, secular Jewish and Israeli communities, and an even larger neighborhood of Russian Jewish immigrants, will provide opportunities for evangelism and Christian benevolence that are unprecedented, as there is no other Jewish ministry in the area. It is clear the Lord wants us right in the middle of this key location.

After an extensive renovation, which is almost complete, the building will allow the following functionality:

- 1st Floor – Chapel/Sanctuary for 170 people, greeting lounge, multipurpose ministry room, warming kitchen
- 2nd Floor – Three Classrooms, study areas with computers, professor and missionary offices
- 3rd Floor – Living space for eleven single students, and a studio apartment for a professor or guest
- Basement – Feinberg Center Library, with more than 12,000 volumes

In addition to housing the seminary, the facility will also give us increased ministry space. We plan to not only house the Feinberg Center in the building, but also our current Brooklyn Messianic Center, which is currently operating out of a rental space a few miles away. The ministries supported by the current Brooklyn Center include a Russian-speaking



## ROBERT W. — FEINBERG GRADUATE

*“I recently had the opportunity to give a tour of the new Feinberg Center to a church group of about ten Christians who were visiting the area. While we prayed together in front of the building, a Jewish woman approached us and asked who we were and what we were doing. It turns out that she owns a store just a few doors down from our center. I explained to her that we were a group of believers in Jesus who love the Jewish people and Israel, and I told her that we were praying for the new center which would house our ministry and school. She was a bit skeptical at first (hey, it’s Brooklyn!), but she relaxed a bit after chatting with us and seeing that we weren’t crazy. Before we parted ways, a gentleman from the church asked her if we could pray for her business. This took her by surprise, but she gratefully agreed. She walked us to her business and after we prayed she was very appreciative. It was a unique opportunity and what stood out to her the most was the devotion of the prayer offered and how genuine our group’s love was.”*

# 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 DIVINE NATURE OF THE VIRGIN-BORN MESSIAH ISAIAH 7:10-16

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14).

Although this is a crucial prophecy in the Messiah’s birth story (Mt. 1:23), it has been the source of significant interpretive debate. The basic difficulty surrounds the two possible Hebrew words referring to a “virgin”—namely *betulah* and *almah*. In this verse Isaiah chooses *almah*, but some have argued the word in this verse only describes a young woman and not a virgin.

This leads to two questions. First, does *almah* simply mean “young woman”—or, strictly speaking, “virgin” in Isaiah 7:14? Second, if Isaiah wants to emphasize a virgin, would *betulah* be a better choice, meaning “virgin” and never anything else?

### SIFTING THE EVIDENCE

Respected scholars differ in this discussion. For example, A.B. Davidson’s classic lexicon indicates *almah* means “maiden”—virgin who is of marriageable age, but not married. But Wilhelm Gesenius, another classic Hebrew scholar, states the word describes a “youthful spouse, recently married.”

The following examples show how *almah* functions in other parts of the Scripture.

1. In Genesis 24:43-44 *almah* refers to Rebekah, a virgin.
2. In Exodus 2:8 the word describes Moses’s young sister, Miriam, a young girl, who is likely a virgin.

3. The context in Song of Solomon 1:3 is neutral.
4. Song of Solomon 6:8, on the other hand, gives significant insight for the meaning of the word. It classifies Solomon’s women into three categories: wives, concubines and virgins. If they were not virgins, they would be concubines, suggesting *almah* is neither a wife nor a concubine; therefore a virgin.

Even if *almah* means virgin, some suggest *betulah* would be a more clear option to describe a virgin. Yet, the evidence does not support this argument. While *betulah* typically indicates the virginity of the woman, it does not specify her age. Since *betulah* does not specify a woman’s age, some passages will add additional words to modify *betulah* to stipulate she is “young” (1 Kings 1:2). In some cases *betulah* may refer to a married woman (Joel 1:8). On the other hand, *almah* always describes a young woman, who is of marriageable age, although not yet married. In the ancient world, her virginity is implied.

### FOUR REASONS WHY ALMAH MUST BE TRANSLATED “VIRGIN” IN ISAIAH 7:14

After sifting through the available evidence, it is fair to conclude it is preferable to translate *almah* as

“virgin” in Isaiah 7:14. Here are four reasons for this:

1. *Almah*, in the biblical text never refers to a woman who has entered into a married state.
2. In ancient Jewish culture, a young, unmarried woman was presumed to be a virgin.
3. The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (The Septuagint), translates *almah* in Isaiah 7:14 as “virgin” by using the Greek word *parthenos*, which always means “virgin.” Since the Septuagint (LXX) was translated over a century prior to the birth of Jesus, the translation was not attempting to support a “Christian” interpretation to the verse.
4. The Greek of Matthew’s Gospel likewise indicates Jesus the Messiah was the virgin-born Immanuel. *Parthenos* is again used to translate the Hebrew *almah* of Isaiah 7:14 (see Mt. 1:22-23 and Lk. 1:27).

### CONCLUSION

This strong evidence suggests that “virgin” is the proper designation for the woman in Isaiah 7:14. This important text confirms the marvelous account of Messiah’s conception and birth in the New Testament. For this we give thanks and invite all with ears to hear to receive the glorious Gospel.

# THE PEOPLE, THE LAND AND THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL

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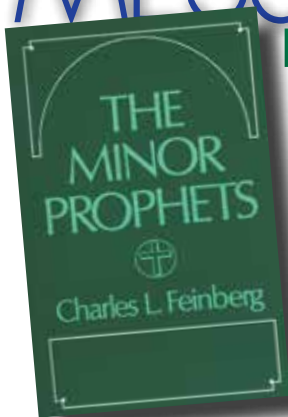
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### The Chosen People Newsletter

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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