THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

125 YEARS

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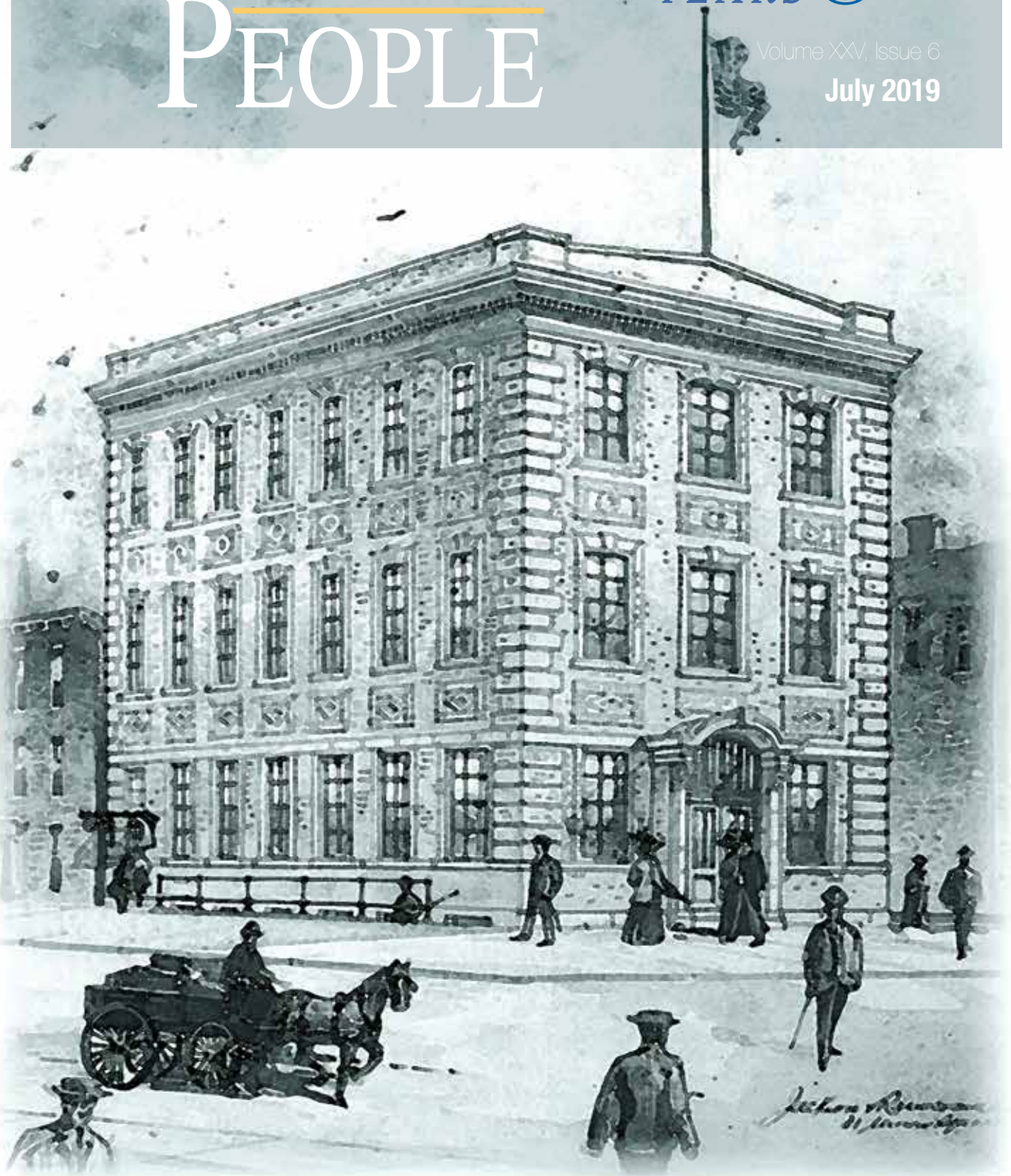
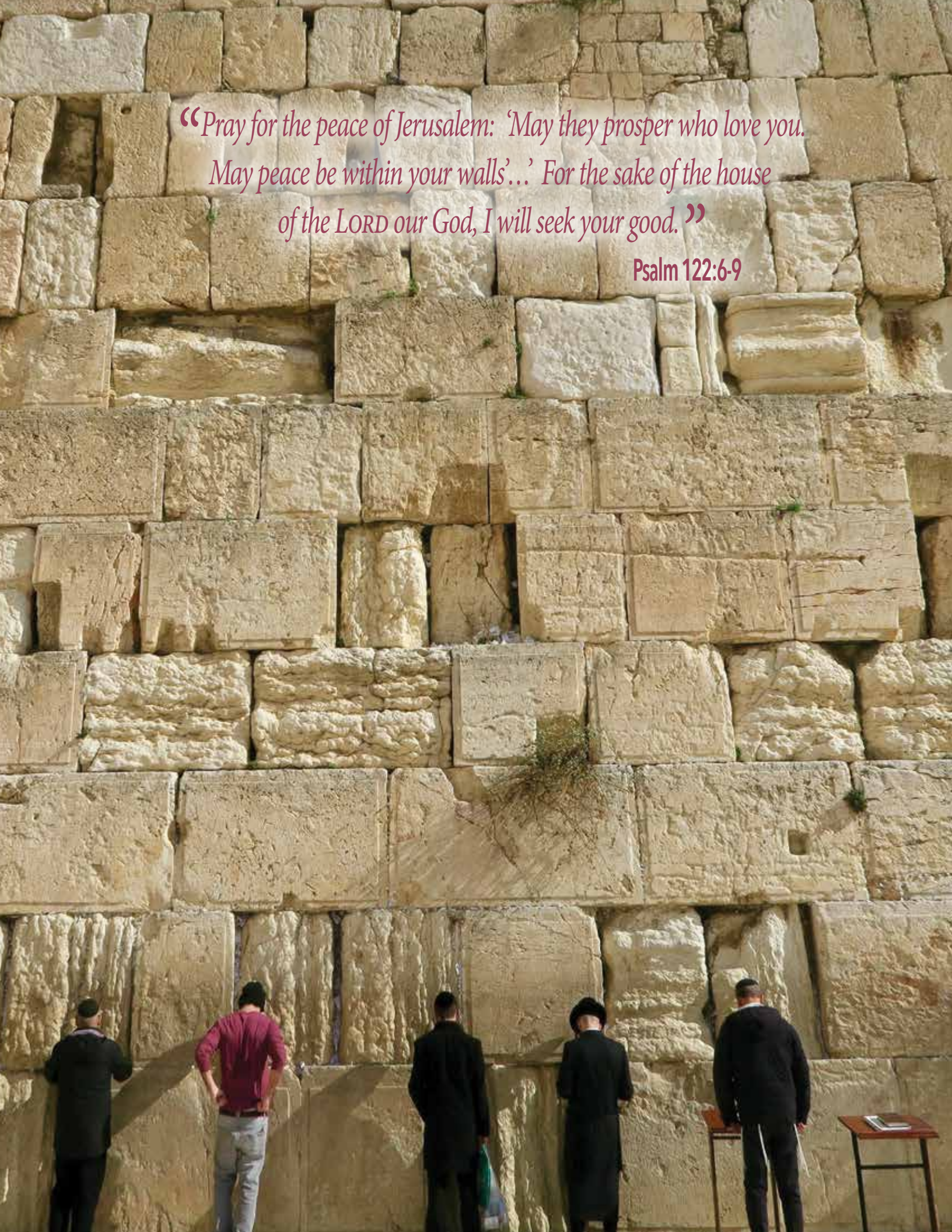
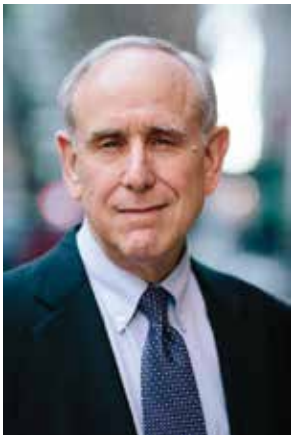


CELEBRATING 125 YEARS!



"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls'… For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good."

Psalm 122:6-9



Dr. Mitch Glaser

From the President

Dear friend,

Shalom in His goodness. I hope you will enjoy this special edition of *The Chosen People,* commemorating our 125th year of ministry to the Jewish people!

A Vision for our 125th Year

This year is our 125th anniversary and we, at Chosen People Ministries, have been thinking about this special milestone for some time. In many different ways, including events, booklets, and evangelistic campaigns, we are celebrating His faithfulness and thinking about the multiple thousands of Jews and Gentiles who will be in heaven because God led Leopold Cohn to begin this ministry. What a privilege to be part of this ongoing work of God!

I would like to share with you several values, priorities, and biblical principles that I believe have carried us for 125 years and are some of the reasons why God has blessed our ministry.

It goes without saying that what matters most to us is our relationship to God, through Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah, and living our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. This relationship is our primary calling and the foundation for all we do with our lives, both personally and professionally. So, understanding that the Lord is our all in all, then what is it that we really value?

The Word of God

We value the Bible—it informs all we do! We take the Scriptures as literally as possible, and by His grace, try and conform our lives to the Bible. We study the Word of God, preach its truths, and encourage others to meditate and feast on the Word of God—both the Old and New Testaments. We submit our ideas of right and wrong, personal and professional goals, strategies for life, work, and family to the word of the Holy One found in the Bible! According to our doctrinal statement, we believe the Bible to be inerrant in its original autographs, and though this understanding has often been challenged during the past 125 years, by His grace, we as a ministry have never wavered—it is my prayer that we never do!

Witness

We believe that we exist to make disciples of all people, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. In order to do this we must take up the mantle of gospel proclamation, letting family, friends, and community know that in Yeshua, and through His perfect life, death, and resurrection, new and everlasting life is available by putting our faith in Him. This message is still simple, unchanging, and as powerful today as it was when Jesus walked the earth and when the Apostle Paul wrote Romans 1:16: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* This principle has driven our ministry for 125 years, and, assuming we remain faithful to it, I believe the Lord will continue to bless our global ministry for many years to come—until we see Him face to face!

The Church and Messianic Community

We are committed to community in the Messiah, whether expressed through a local church, Messianic congregation, small group, or any other expression that is the most viable for the location and people who love the Lord and one another. We do not choose between structures but rather affirm all efforts to create a wholesome, biblical, Jesus-centered fellowship where adults and children can grow in their faith. Like Yeshua, we love the *ekklesia,* the community of those called out to serve the Lord. We hope to work with fellow believers, local churches and congregations, and with all who want to advance His kingdom. We enjoy and need the fellowship and partnership we have in the gospel with our brothers and sisters. We have encouraged the family of God to join together for worship, fellowship, and service in the same way we have since 1894, and we will continue to do so until the Lord gathers us to Himself.

Family

Since 1894, Chosen People Ministries has valued families. We have created fellowship groups for families of all ages. We started camps, Shabbat and Sunday schools, and holiday celebrations so that husbands and wives, and adults and children, can worship the Lord together. We have always been an intergenerational ministry and plan to continue this focus until the Lord returns. We hope to encourage good and wholesome family life among our staff and those whom we serve.

Israel

We love Israel! We support the nation and the Jewish people in any way we can. We speak in churches encouraging Christians to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, visit the Holy Land on our Bible tours, and join our volunteer mission teams to share the good news of Messiah with Israelis. We

Photo © Ranj Hameed | Shutterstock.com

Opposite page: Prayer at the Western Wall in Jerusalem

pour considerable effort and money into our ministry in Israel and see this increasing in the days and years ahead. We affirm and advance those theological positions that give Israel a place in the plan of God. Through conferences, books, tracts, videos, and digital presentations, we help deepen this commitment to Israel in the hearts and lives of both Jews and Gentiles. Chosen People Ministries began during the early days of modern Zionism and before Israel was formed as a modern nation. The hope of Zion has always been part of our Mission, and it burned brightly in the heart of our founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, and among our early pioneers. Our magazine has always promoted a view of Scripture that looks forward to the fulfillment of all promises to the Jewish people found in the various biblical covenants. We believe that these promises will be literally fulfilled. We believe that what God has done in bringing the Jewish people back to the Land of Israel in unbelief is just the beginning of His work of spiritual and national redemption that will unfold in the last days.

New Technology

Our Mission has always valued technology. Leopold Cohn brought over the most modern sewing machines from Europe to use in teaching Jewish immigrants how to sew as professionals and thereby find a way to earn a living in the "new world" of North America. Our missionaries used cars, and quickly took to travel by train and plane. They utilized the most modern means of printing and producing books and literature of their day. Radio, television, the newspapers, and now the internet and social media have been used by Chosen People Ministries to make the gospel known among the Jewish people and the masses. This continues today through our Facebook campaigns, video testimonies, and use of social media on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Learning how to use and adapt technology for the sake of the gospel is something that is part of the fiber of Chosen People Ministries, and has been and will be until He returns.

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Education and Training

Chosen People Ministries has appreciated and encouraged training from the very beginning of our ministry. In fact, it was expected at the turn of the 20th century that missionaries to the Jews would be exceptionally educated, understanding that the people we reach are a very educated community. Immediately after receiving the Lord, Leopold Cohn went to seminary in Scotland. He was encouraged to do so by those who led him to faith in New York City.

From the onset of our ministry, we have provided scholarships to Bible schools like Moody College, Philadelphia College of the Bible, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Biola University. This wonderful part of our culture continues today in many ways, including through the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies. Dr. Feinberg himself is one of the great examples of how our ministry invested in the life of a Jewish believer who went on to make a significant contribution to both the Messianic Jewish community and the Church at large. This is a value that undergirds all we do and one we will continue to nurture and cultivate as we serve the Lord and the Jewish people in the 21st century.

The Next Generation

I hope you share our concern with preparing our next generation for service among our Jewish people. To this end, Chosen People Ministries has created a new University Outreach project designed to both mentor young people and to reach Jewish students for the Messiah.

We are calling this new outreach *The House of Living Waters (Beit Mayim Chayim)*. Essentially, we hope to create a house of Messianic ministry and fellowship near New York University, as this is the largest concentration of Jewish university students in the greater New York area.

We are looking for gap year students who have either recently graduated from undergraduate studies and are waiting to go on to a master's degree or some type of ongoing educational program, or for those who are already in possession of a master's degree and would like to experience ministry before entering the workplace. The program will include outreach among Jewish university students at New York University, training Gentile Christians in Jewish outreach who are already ministering on campus and have many Jewish friends and associates, and personalized discipleship with experienced Chosen People Ministries staff.

Street evangelism is just one of the ways we start conversations with Jewish people.

Relationships

One of the reasons I personally enjoy serving with Chosen People Ministries is because of the emphasis we have on developing relationships as the foundation for our fellowship and ministry. There is no doubt in my mind that there is a time and use for campaign-style evangelism, such as in stadiums, online, and in larger venues, but I am glad that for 125 years, our mission has viewed ministry through the lens of relationships. This is true of our fellowship as a staff—it is reflected in the way we begin congregations, and, of course, in the way we do evangelism and discipleship. I believe the best ministry is personal, and we have built our ministry by building relationships.

Maybe it is because I live in a big city where it is so easy to become alienated from others due to the busyness of life and the difficulty of getting around. I believe the greatest need of the 21st century is to develop ways to help people stop feeling alone. Have you ever experienced this loneliness in your church, congregation, or even personally? Relationships take intentionality and hard work, and I am hoping that we will be able to continue this style of ministry for the foreseeable future.

A Global Vision for Jewish Evangelism

One of the critical values of the original vision of Chosen People Ministries is the expansion of our ministry worldwide. Leopold Cohn came from Hungary to the United States along with millions of other Jewish people, and he found the Lord while walking the streets of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Culturally, he remained connected to Eastern Europe, which at that time was the center of Jewish life. At the time Rabbi Cohn became a believer, the common language for Ashkenazi Jews was Yiddish and, believe it or not, most of our ministry was conducted in that language. Almost all of our evangelistic literature was published in Yiddish, including *The Shepherd of Israel,* which was eventually translated into many other languages, including French, Spanish, and English. However, for many years this evangelistic newspaper was published with one side in Yiddish and the other side in the vernacular.

Moses Gitlin was a missionary in Poland in the early days of our ministry, and heroes like Emmanuel Lichtenstein served the Lord as part of Chosen People Ministries in Vienna. Once the Holocaust dislodged him from Austria, he left for Argentina and began our ministry in South America. The story of Chosen People Ministries is a global story because Jewish people live in almost every country in the world. It has always been our strategy to focus on developing ministry to the Jewish people in every country possible and also to the Gentile believers in those particular countries in order to enlist their help in reaching their local Jewish community. This global burden is at the heart of Chosen People Ministries and continues until this present day.

During my tenure as president, we have added quite a few countries to our list of ministry partners. In fact, what many people think is a new idea—to take on national missionaries in the various countries in which we serve—has been part of the Chosen People Ministries strategy since Rabbi Cohn began his ministry in Brooklyn. We have always invited local Jewish and Gentile believers to serve with Chosen People Ministries because they know the country's language,

"We value the Bible—it informs all we do."

Manhattan Messianic Center and Chosen People Ministries International Headquarters Building

culture, geography, laws, and so much more, which makes them effective in reaching their own Jewish community.

We now not only have national missionaries, but national boards and local support of our work in various countries. Our books are published in many languages, and the web makes a huge difference, as now it is much easier to immediately put materials into other languages so that they can be used to reach Jewish people and "help others do the same," in the words of our mission statement.

I believe that we will continue to be global as long as the Jewish people live in a variety of countries around the world. Israel will always be special to us, but we are also a people in *diaspora* (dispersion) and we cannot neglect the Jewish people living in so many countries around the globe. I believe that our global ministries are still in the very early stages of development.

Honoring Our Heritage

I am proud of the ways in which Chosen People Ministries honors the past and our heritage. This is one of the reasons why celebrating our 125th anniversary is so important. First of all, there is so much to celebrate, but I believe honoring the past demonstrates good character. When we show honor to those to whom it is due, and respect those who have gone before us, it says something positive about the ministry or organization. It is pure arrogance to believe that we have the answers to all the questions of Jewish ministry, when in so many ways we are merely repackaging what has been done ever since the early Jewish ministries recorded in the book of Acts—or even in the Gospels through Jesus Himself.

Heritage is important to us. This is a Jewish value as well because as Jewish people, we always look back to look forward, thanking God we still have the vision and energy and wherewithal to even think about the future. We learn lessons from the past that apply to the present and propel us into the future. Chosen People Ministries has a great heritage that is worth building upon. Honoring your heritage is no excuse for dismissing innovation, but it does provide a sure foundation for a bright future. The Bible calls upon us to look back and appreciate what God has done through those He used for His purposes. Yet, the Bible also demands that we look towards the future of what God has planned for Israel in the world.

We also appreciate our Messianic Jewish heritage. We honor those who pioneered this work—from the Apostle Paul to the early Messianic Jewish leaders in the post-reformation period—as well as those Messianic leaders who survived the awful pogroms in the 19th century and the Holocaust in the 20th century. We need to appreciate what faithful men and women have done and because there is so much value and so many lessons to learn for today and for tomorrow.

Towards Tomorrow: 125 and Counting!

Looking back and seeing how far we have come has me excited about what is ahead. Chosen People Ministries has a sure and good future because of the promises of God!

I have enjoyed taking a moment to focus some attention on the vision and values of Chosen People Ministries as we celebrate our 125th anniversary as a ministry among the Jewish people. I hope you have enjoyed this overview of our great Mission.

It is my hope that reflecting on what makes us who we are strengthens us for the journey towards our future—as the Lord tarries! We want to build today for a stronger Chosen People Ministries tomorrow.

Thank you for being an integral part of this great work of the Lord through your faithful partnership. May God bless you as you bless the Jewish people!

Warmly in our Messiah,

Dr. Mitch Glaser
President, Chosen People Ministries

Staff members in front of the Philadelphia offices of the American Board of Missions to the Jews around 1940. The Hebrew sign reads, "Jesus the Messiah, Redeemer of Israel."

The History of Chosen People Ministries

Rabbi Cohn's story

In 1862, in the ghetto of the little town of Berenza in eastern Hungary, a family of Orthodox Jews joyfully welcomed a new son, Leopold Cohn, whose destiny would become interwoven with the future of Jewish people across two continents. At the tender age of seven years old, Leopold lost both of his parents, and he and his sister became orphans. This tragic loss, combined with the loneliness and isolation of ghetto life, caused Leopold to cry out to God for help and comfort. The Lord answered Leopold's prayers and guided his steps throughout the rest of his childhood and as a young adult, providing an illustrious rabbinic career and a wife named Rose, a beautiful, accomplished woman from a wealthy Jewish family.

However, tragedy struck again in 1881 when Leopold's father-in-law died unexpectedly, only one year after his wedding. Leopold again cried out to God, and also began fervently searching the scriptures about the Messiah—who He was and when He was coming. During this time, Messianic expectations were high. Jewish people everywhere were hungrily searching for the Messiah and thought He could be alive and living in another part of the world at that very moment, like a long-lost relative.

Rabbi Leopold Cohn and Family

It was during these years of rabbinic study that certain portions of Scripture leapt off the page to Rabbi Cohn, especially the passages in the book of Daniel that describe the timeline of Messiah's coming. According to Daniel's timeline, the Messiah should have already come two thousand years ago! Cohn asked himself, *Is it possible that the time which God had fixed for the appearance of our Messiah had passed away without the promise of our true and Living God being fulfilled?* Cohn was perplexed. If Daniel was correct, then the rabbis of the Talmud were wrong. Rabbi Cohn decided to dig deeper, but after much searching he could find no satisfactory answers for his troubled soul. One rabbi in a distant town advised him to go to America, where people knew more about the Messiah. So Cohn immediately made his preparations to leave for the United States.

Three weeks after his arrival in America, New York City to be exact, Rabbi Cohn happened to walk by a church where there was a sign with Hebrew letters saying, "Meetings for Jews." Too curious to turn away, Cohn entered the church, and to his utter amazement, the room was packed with about eight hundred Jewish men and women. There was even a choir of Jewish girls singing, "At the cross…" Cohn found this confusing, but he stayed to hear some of the preaching. He was fascinated, but as an observant Orthodox Jew, there were many cultural things that were off-putting to his traditional Jewish upbringing, such as women and men sitting together, the presence of crosses, and the preacher saying God's name without a *yarmulka* (skullcap). Cohn left halfway through the message but got the contact information for the preacher from the security guard. He visited the preacher at his home, and after much discussion, the preacher gave him a New Testament in Yiddish to read. As Leopold read the New Testament, he realized that Jesus was the true Jewish Messiah!

Brooklyn Beginnings

Cohn knew that there was only one course for him to follow: He must share the knowledge of the Messiah, Yeshua, with his Jewish people. He explained an early encounter with members of the local community: "I showed them from the Scriptures that to believe in Yeshua was Jewish faith, real Jewish faith." This became Leopold Cohn's life calling. It also became a guiding principle for Chosen People Ministries, which he founded in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, New York, in 1894 as the Brownsville Mission to the Jews. Two years later, the Williamsburg Mission was added.

Leopold Cohn began this ministry by holding meetings in a store that was a renovated horse stable. He founded his work in response to the Scriptural exhortation of Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* The ministry's first Bible meeting was attended by eight Jewish people. The Lord continued to bless this work, and in the course of his lifetime, Leopold Cohn led more than one thousand people to the Lord.

In 1911, Leopold's second eldest son, Joseph Hoffman Cohn, came to work alongside him in the ministry. Joseph's head for business and administration brought his father's vision into the next generation, and together they began to start international branches. During the turbulent pre-war years of the 1930s, Joseph was instrumental in rescuing Jewish families out of Nazi Germany and providing benevolence to Jewish refugees fleeing Europe. The work of the Mission continued to provide aid to Holocaust survivors after the war was over.

Joseph Hoffman Cohn

Leadership through the Years

In 1937, Rabbi Cohn passed away, and Joseph was appointed the General Secretary of the Mission until his passing in 1953. Joseph was trained by his father to understand the Scriptures in Hebrew and Yiddish, and as he grew, he became an excellent communicator in both written and verbal communication. Joseph was also a deeply practical man, and believed that sound business principles could and should be applied to the Mission's work. Joseph's philosophy and direction enlarged the vision of his father and directed the course of the Mission's future.

In his history of Chosen People Ministries, *A Rabbi's Vision,* Harold Sevener writes,

"Rabbi Leopold Cohn was a visionary, a scholar, and a missionary. While Joseph shared his father's vision, he also had a keen sense of organization, of promotion, and of business."

It was under Joseph's leadership that Chosen People Ministries started an endowment fund to stabilize its finances and also expand the work of the Mission through its monthly publication, which at that time was called *The Shepherd of Israel.*

After Joseph Cohn passed away in 1953, Mr. Harold Pretlove assumed the title of Executive Secretary. Two years later, in 1955, the Mission changed its leadership style, being led co-equally between three people: Emil Gruen, the Conference Director; Daniel Fuchs, the Director of Missionary Activity; and Harold Pretlove, the Executive Secretary.

Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg (left), a Jewish scholar who came to faith through the Mission, was the first Academic Dean of Talbot School of Theology. The Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies in Brooklyn is named after him.

Sevener writes, "One thing is certain—God never intended for the Mission founded by Rabbi Leopold Cohn to cease in its tireless efforts to bring the gospel to the Jewish people. The work begun by the fearless rabbi, and expanded by his determined son, has continued to be blessed of God so that now, one hundred twenty-five years after its founding, it is still a vibrant testimony reaching Jews everywhere with the gospel."

After Joseph Cohn: 1953–1990

The second half of the 20th century saw the Mission expanded into many cities and new programs started. The Mission began to reach Jewish people through media. In 1964, the Mission opened an evangelism booth at the New York World's Fair. During the turbulent years of the 1960s and early 1970s, the Mission stayed attuned to the times and the shifts in the Jewish community and reached Jewish young people through new and creative ways.

A branch was opened in San Francisco, which was a mecca for countercultural hippies, many of them nice Jewish boys and girls from the East Coast. These young people often came from traditional Jewish homes, and some of them were even children of Holocaust survivors. They grew up with an active memory of the "old country" of their parents and grandparents, yet wanted to explore the new ways of thinking and believing that the current times offered.

There was also a Brooklyn Branch and a Chicago Branch, which still reach the Jewish people today.

Some memorable moments from these years include mentions from *Time* magazine and *The New York Times* in 1971, and in 1986 President Harold Sevener presented thousands of signed petitions in support of Israel and the Jewish people to the Prime Minister of Israel at a special meeting of the Knesset. The Lord was certainly at work!

Harold Sevener, Third President of Chosen People Ministries

The number of Jews is especially high in Brooklyn, where 600,000 residents–one out of four inhabitants–is Jewish.

Charlotte, North Carolina office

Charlotte, North Carolina

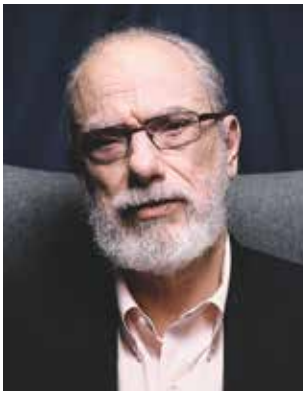
It had always been Leopold and Joseph's policy that "every barrel must stand on its own bottom," meaning that every department had to raise any monies that it spent. When they passed the mantle on, this policy changed, and missionary salaries, including pension plans, company cars, and health insurance were paid for from the General Fund. While this provided for the missionaries to have full benefits regardless of their own personal fundraising, it soon meant that the Mission could no longer support all of the missionaries that were serving. In an effort to reduce costs and continue to bring the gospel to the Jewish people, the New York headquarters was moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where administrative costs would be lower.

"God never intended for the Mission founded by Rabbi Leopold Cohn to cease in its tireless efforts to bring the gospel to the Jewish people."

Recent History and Current Leadership

In 1997, the board sought out Dr. Mitch Glaser to appoint him as president. Mitch had previously served for many years as "Minister at Large" for Jews for Jesus. He was brought up in a Modern Orthodox family in Brooklyn, New York, and was thoroughly a "Jewish boy" in every way. Mitch was attuned to the pulse of the heartbeat of his Jewish people. After much prayer, Mitch agreed to become president.

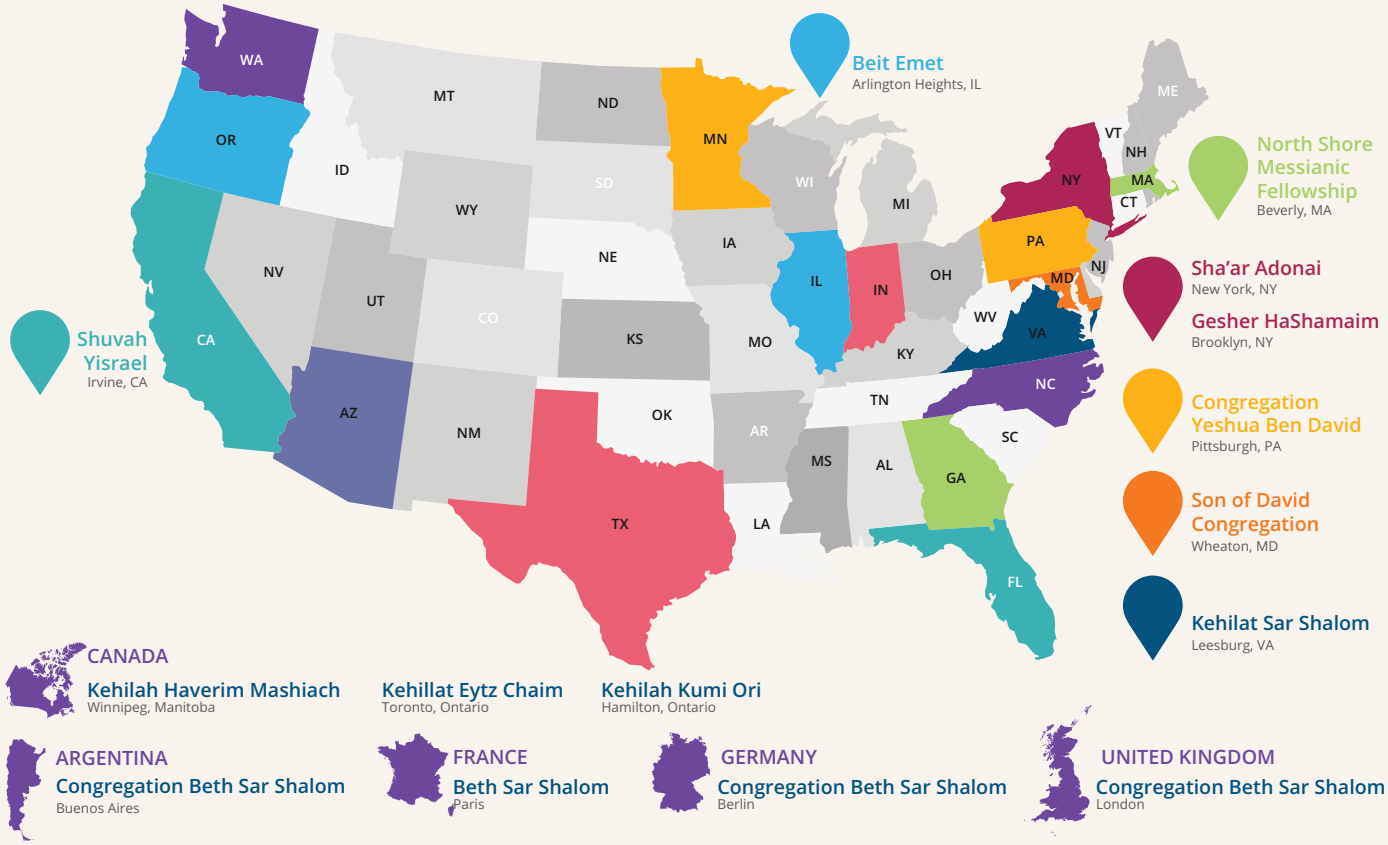
Mitch initiated the move back to New York one year later. He facilitated the purchase of a building in midtown Manhattan, which now serves as the International Headquarters for Chosen People Ministries. The missionary staff switched to support-raise, and Mitch began an aggressive mail campaign to get new donors through the monthly Chosen People Ministries newsletter, now called *The Chosen People.* This was a very successful venture that helped to rebuild the General Fund.



Sam Nadler, Fourth President

Dr. Mitch Glaser, Fifth President of Chosen People Ministries

"Messianic Congregations are places of worship where both Jewish and Gentile believers can fellowship together in a Jewish context."



Our Ministry Programs

One of the challenges that the Jewish people have faced over the centuries is how to preserve Jewish heritage while looking to the future. This also describes the goal of Chosen People Ministries. Although, when compared to Jewish history, our 125-year-old existence seems a mere drop in the bucket of eternity, we must also look ahead, even as we act as responsible stewards of our traditions.

It seems that the Lord is honoring our commitment, because our work is expanding at a rapid pace. We are finding that Jewish people across the globe are becoming more and more receptive to the gospel as the Lord opens their hearts and minds to the life-giving message of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.

We have a great heritage and a bright future because God is faithful and passionately loves His chosen people! With your prayers and partnership, we hope to keep proclaiming the gospel until we see Him face to face.

Chosen People Ministries impacts Jewish people and Messianic Jewish people across the United States in many different ways.

Messianic Centers

One of our most effective ministry strategies is to engage local Jewish communities through our Messianic Centers. Our centers are facilities that we rent or own, located in key Jewish population centers; they serve as the base of our ministry operations in the surrounding community. In addition to supporting our evangelistic and discipleship efforts, they provide a place for worship, Bible studies, spiritual counseling, and practical help ministries like food distribution and addiction recovery programs. Some of our key Messianic Centers are located in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, South Florida, Buenos Aires, London, Berlin, Moscow, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem.

Messianic Congregations

Messianic Congregations are places of worship where both Jewish and Gentile believers can fellowship together in a Jewish context. In addition, they offer Jewish seekers a familiar cultural setting combined with clear gospel teaching, which communicates our commitment that one can be

Jewish and believe in Jesus! We have helped launch more than a dozen Messianic congregations in the United States, and many more around the world. They continue to be an important and viable part of our ministry.

Evangelism and Discipleship

Evangelism has always been the heartbeat of our ministry, and every year we lead outreach programs and events specifically designed for reaching Jewish people with the gospel. Our traditional outreach programs include tract distribution, open-air concerts, book tables, and surveys. During our Isaiah 53 Evangelistic Campaigns, we incorporate newer outreach methods by utilizing social media and digital advertising to offer evangelistic literature to Jewish people. We also host seminars and debates where Jewish seekers can learn about Jesus in a neutral setting.

Through each of these outreach events, we meet Jewish people who are seeking spiritual answers. Our missionaries connect with these individuals and build authentic relationships with those who are seeking the truth.

Equipping the Local Church

Another key focus of Chosen People Ministries is to engage and train local churches for Jewish evangelism. Throughout our history, we have observed that one of the key factors in Jewish people coming to know the Lord is the positive influence of Gentile Christians. Therefore, we have made it a priority to develop and offer resources for churches to help believers discover the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and understand the need for Jewish evangelism. We continually develop tools and help equip churches with practical ways for congregants to share Jesus with Jewish people in their communities.

The Master of Divinity Program

Another way we are fulfilling our mission is by identifying 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 a tremendous need within Jewish missions for more seminary-trained leadership. Through a partnership with Biola University's Talbot School of Theology, located strategically in the greater Los Angeles area, we were able to develop a cutting-edge Master of Divinity program with an emphasis on Messianic Jewish Studies. After receiving accreditation through the New York Board of Regents and the Association of Theological Schools, we began classes in the summer of 2007.

The Feinberg Center program contains 78 credits and awards a Master of Divinity degree in Messianic Jewish Studies from Talbot School of Theology. Our program is still unique from most regular seminary programs in that it offers specialized coursework to prepare leaders for Jewish ministry as missionaries, Messianic pastors, non-profit leaders, and educators. Three key components of the program make it unique: Coursework, field ministry, and cost.

A Feinberg graduate and Chosen People Ministries staff member now teaches Greek at the seminary.

Coursework

We have designed the curriculum for the Feinberg Center to incorporate both a typical Jewish studies program and an evangelical seminary program, while also tailoring each specific class toward the current needs of Jewish ministry. Each of our Jewish studies courses, like Rabbinic Literature and Theology, Theology of the Siddur (Jewish prayer book), and Jewish History, contain practical elements on how a better understanding of Jewish tradition can enhance our work in Jewish missions. Additionally, each of the traditional evangelical seminary courses, like Pastoral Ministry, Church History, and Apologetics, include a unique Jewish perspective for the context of Jewish ministry. Our professors are all excellent scholars with a long history of personal experience in Jewish ministry.

We have had 27 students graduate from the Feinberg Center.

Field Ministry

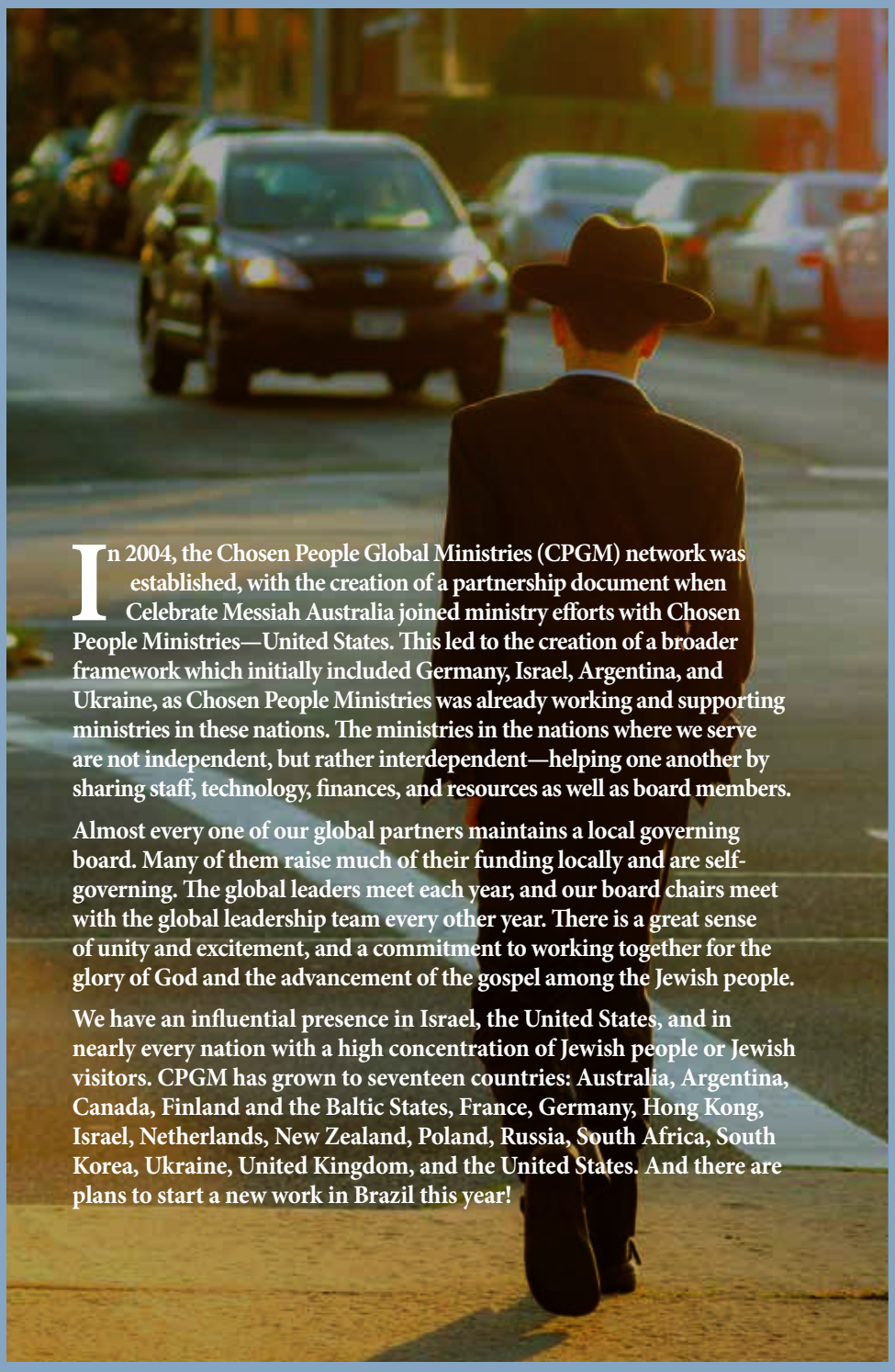
We placed the Feinberg Center in the New York metro area because it is the center of Jewish life in America. With close to two million Jewish people, the city provides endless possibilities for students to immerse themselves in Jewish culture and ministry while completing their coursework. Every semester, we organize various Jewish-focused field ministry programs to help each student put what they have learned in the classroom into practice.

We have designed the different field ministry opportunities to expose our students to several aspects of Jewish ministry over the course of their studies. These aspects include direct evangelism, discipleship, leading Bible studies, Messianic congregation leadership, and non-profit administrative training. We also provide other unique projects each semester, such as our evangelistic Jewish holiday celebrations, interfaith benevolence projects, debates, and café-style youth outreaches. These numerous field ministry programs take students into several areas of New York City including Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn.

Cost

We established the Feinberg Center to provide our students with an affordable education and give them the opportunity to graduate debt-free, enabling them to enter vocational ministry without the tremendous burden of student loans. To achieve this affordability, we offer a wide range of scholarships and subsidies to offset student costs. Not only is our tuition a quarter of what it would normally cost, we also provide heavily-subsidized student housing for single students and offer students with families a housing scholarship to make their rent affordable. The generous and regular support from our ministry partners makes an affordable education possible.

Chosen People Global Ministries: "...to the Remotest Part of the Earth."



In 2004, the Chosen People Global Ministries (CPGM) network was established, with the creation of a partnership document when Celebrate Messiah Australia joined ministry efforts with Chosen People Ministries—United States. This led to the creation of a broader framework which initially included Germany, Israel, Argentina, and Ukraine, as Chosen People Ministries was already working and supporting ministries in these nations. The ministries in the nations where we serve are not independent, but rather interdependent—helping one another by sharing staff, technology, finances, and resources as well as board members.

Almost every one of our global partners maintains a local governing board. Many of them raise much of their funding locally and are self-governing. The global leaders meet each year, and our board chairs meet with the global leadership team every other year. There is a great sense of unity and excitement, and a commitment to working together for the glory of God and the advancement of the gospel among the Jewish people.

We have an influential presence in Israel, the United States, and in nearly every nation with a high concentration of Jewish people or Jewish visitors. CPGM has grown to seventeen countries: Australia, Argentina, Canada, Finland and the Baltic States, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States. And there are plans to start a new work in Brazil this year!

"In 2005, the Jerusalem Messianic Center was established, and in 2017, the Ramat Gan Messianic Center opened in Tel Aviv."

A coffeehouse outreach in the Ramat Gan Messianic Center in Tel Aviv

1 ISRAEL

Jerusalem Messianic Center

Chosen People Ministries is one of the largest mission efforts in Israel, and our Jerusalem center is pivotal to this outreach. Founded in 2005, the Jerusalem Messianic Center is the main hub for Chosen People Ministries' work all throughout Israel. It is located in central Jerusalem within walking distance of the Western Wall. With facilities for worship, classes, offices, and even space to host short-term missions teams, the Jerusalem Messianic Center has been a crucial part of reaching Israelis, young and old, with the gospel.

Ramat Gan Messianic Center

Ramat Gan, an urban suburb east of Tel Aviv, is home to hundreds of thousands of unreached Israeli families. We have established and staffed a new center in this area, and have already shared the gospel through our café, weekly sabbath meals, public lectures, Bible studies, mom's group, and more! The Lord is working powerfully, and through the generosity of friends and supporters like you, we have already been able to add a couple of younger Israeli believers to our staff this year.

Other ministries in the greater Tel Aviv area have also used the center for outreach to soldiers, discipleship, Bible studies, and more! It seems that younger Israelis are more open to the gospel today than at any time in history, so the opportunities to proclaim the good news are plentiful.

Holocaust Survivors

Holocaust survivors in Israel are a very special community of Jewish people, numbering about 200,000, who are an average of about eighty-five years old. Many of them immigrated to the Holy Land during the last two decades from various parts of the former Soviet Union.

These Holocaust survivors are now passing away at the rate of about 30,000 per year, and we cannot wait one more moment to present the good news of eternal deliverance to these precious people.

Your Mission to the Jewish People, Chosen People Ministries, lovingly serves this rapidly dwindling community of Holocaust survivors in Israel in a variety of ways. We help them with practical concerns: food, clothing, repairing and cleaning their apartments, and much more. We spend time with them—taking them on trips so they can get out of the house and helping them celebrate the Jewish holidays. We also counter their loneliness by investing our time to sit by their side, to listen to their stories, and enjoy conversations about the deeper matters of life. In the midst of developing these wonderful relationships, the conversations naturally lead to discussions about God, everlasting life, and ultimate deliverance…especially because these elderly Holocaust survivors are watching their friends pass away every week.

Dr. Mitch Glaser with staff at Ramat Gan Messianic Center

2 CANADA

Canada has long been home to a significant population of Jewish people, particularly in the Toronto, Montreal, and Winnipeg areas. For this reason, Chosen People Ministries has had a presence in Canada since the late 1930s. At that time, our field representatives and missionaries began to fulfill speaking engagements in churches and conferences throughout Canada in cities such as Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hamilton, and Montreal. The Mission constituted a Canadian board in the early 1940s and established the headquarters for the Mission in Toronto, Ontario.

Today, Jorge Sedaca supervises the work in Canada. The Mission has Messianic centers and congregations in Toronto (led by Ben Volman) and Winnipeg (led by Michael Wodlinger). Chosen People Ministries in Canada offers Messianic services, campus outreach, Bible studies, home visitation and special events designed to help Jewish seekers and others encounter the life-giving message of the gospel.

Each fall, Chosen People Ministries hosts *Haverim-Friends,* our annual Canadian Messianic retreat in Guelph, Ontario, with special speakers and workshops designed to bring seekers to faith and deepen the discipleship of already committed believers.

3 ARGENTINA

More than fifty years before the first Jewish settlers arrived on the shores of Manhattan Island in 1654, there were already Jewish people in the Southern Hemisphere. Today, the Jews of Latin America reside mainly in Argentina (250,000) and Brazil (130,000).

Chosen People Ministries has been active in reaching the Jewish people of South America since 1943. Emmanuel Lichtenstein, who served with the Mission in Nazi-occupied Europe and barely escaped to Buenos Aires, began ministering to other Jewish refugees there shortly after his arrival.

In the 1960s, Victor Sedaca, an Argentine Jewish believer, took up the leadership torch. Sedaca emphasized reaching out to the Argentine Sephardic Jews. Roberto Passo joined the Mission in 1982 and served for twenty years. Under his tenure, the work continued to expand its sphere of influence.

Today, we own two buildings in Buenos Aires. One of these facilities, the Messianic Community Center (Centro Mesiánico Comunitario) is located in the heart of the Jewish community on Sarmiento 3726. Besides housing a congregation with more than one hundred people attending regular services each week, there are also studies in the Torah and Tanakh (Old Testament), training events, special seminars, and an organized outreach to the more than twenty thousand Israeli tourists that pass through Buenos Aires each year. There are also a dozen beds to house short-term mission teams. The other facility houses staff and provides beds for Israeli tourists passing through.

Although Buenos Aires is the center of Jewish life in Argentina, there are also Jewish communities in several other cities. Groups of volunteers serve as a bridge between the ministry center in Buenos Aires and other Jewish Argentine communities by bringing special gospel-related activities to other cities in Argentina and throughout Latin America on a regular basis. And we have sent out thousands of *Isaiah 53 Explained* books in Spanish as part of our Isaiah 53 outreach campaign.

Jorge Sedaca speaking at a church in Canada

Centro Mesianico Comunitario in Buenos Aires, Argentina

"We always seek to enrich the life of the church and to

Shabbat service at a Messianic congregation in Germany

4 GERMANY

Although the Jewish population in Germany was virtually nonexistent from the end of World War II until the early 1990s, there are now more than 200,000 Jewish people there. Most of these are Russian immigrants.

In response to this significant demographic development, Vladimir Pikman, a young believer from Kiev, and his wife, Inna, began a ministry in Berlin in 1995. Shortly thereafter, Horst Stresow, a longtime supporter and friend of the Jewish people, joined Vladimir and Inna in formally establishing Beit Sar Shalom, Chosen People Ministries' branch in Germany.

In 2006, the Mission fulfilled a long-held dream to have a Messianic center in Berlin when Chosen People Ministries acquired a facility just ten minutes away from where Adolf Hitler and his generals formulated "The Final Solution" for the extermination of the Jewish people.

Chosen People Ministries' work in Berlin continues to be anchored by the Messianic congregation there, which meets in the new facility. In addition to regular Sabbath services, there are also weekly Bible studies, an active youth group, and well-attended special events, particularly during the High Holidays and Passover.

Chosen People Ministries has established a presence in a number of other important German cities including Munich, Düsseldorf, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, Potsdam, Würzburg, Aachen, and Osnabrück.

5 FRANCE

The Jewish population in France is the highest in Europe with about 600,000 people, and Chosen People Ministries has had a presence there for more than eighty years. Now the Mission's work is being guided by Guy Athia, who joined Chosen People Ministries in 2002. Among the activities taking place are Messianic worship services, special events and the publication of the "Berger d'Israël" (*Shepherd of Israel*) magazine, which reaches a wide audience. He coordinates the outreach of Chosen People Ministries in France through the association: Centre Messianique: Oeuvres Auprès du Peuple d'Israël (Messianic Center: Ministries to the People of Israel). The ministry is quite active in visitation and Bible distribution, and a new Messianic congregation was started in Paris in the fall of 2018.

6 RUSSIA

There are still more than a half million Jewish people living throughout Russia, with the main community in Moscow. We have two Messianic congregations in Moscow that are affiliated with our ministry. Our vision is threefold: training leaders for successful ministry; planting new Messianic congregations throughout Russia; and helping Russian Christians share the gospel with their Jewish friends.

7 UKRAINE

The Jewish population in Ukraine is presently the fifth largest in the world with about 300,000 people. Sadly, Jewish life in

minister to other members of the Body of Messiah."

Ukraine is in many ways a shell of its former self. Since the fall of communism, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian Jews have left the country. Poverty is now a way of life for many who have remained, and of these, a considerable number are elderly.

Chosen People Ministries has been active in Ukraine since the early 1990s when a Messianic congregation sprang up in Kiev and God began to raise up Jewish leaders to carry the work forward. The Mission expanded its presence to the city of Kharkov in 1994 when Alexander Sereda, a Christian minister with a vast love for Jewish people, helped to start our Messianic congregation there. We have a very successful small group ministry as well as a variety of evangelistic outreaches. We also provide humanitarian aid for sick, elderly, and disabled Jewish people.

8 FINLAND

Our work in Finland is lead by Toivo Maaki and assisted by Fiona S. Congregation Beit Sar Shalom is a place where Jewish people can encounter Jesus in a Jewish way and where Jewish believers grow in their faith. Finland also hosts healing retreats and vacations for Holocaust survivors, which is a joint effort among Chosen People Ministries Global partners.

9 UNITED KINGDOM

Chosen People Ministries has been present in the United Kingdom since shortly before World War II. In addition to being a witness for Messiah, its first activities focused on delivering and coordinating relief to persecuted Jewish communities in Europe and Russia. As the horrors of World War II unfolded, the work included outreach and assistance to the growing number of Jewish refugees who had made it to London.

Chosen People Ministries in the United Kingdom has a Messianic Centre in Golders Green, which has the highest concentration of Jewish people in London, many of whom are Orthodox. The Center offers Messianic worship services, outreach, Bible studies, and special events designed to help Jewish seekers and others encounter the life-giving message of the gospel. With a growing ministry to Jewish people from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the addition of Fiona S. with more than fifteen years of ministry experience among Jewish people in the former Soviet Union is a tremendous asset. In addition to the Messianic Center in London, there is a volunteer branch in the north of England.

Today the ministry in the United Kingdom is in an exciting phase of growth and is reaching out to London's Jewish people. Looking ahead, we hope that the ministry will increasingly reach the Jewish people of the United Kingdom as effectively as it has elsewhere around the world until Messiah comes again.

10 AUSTRALIA

The history of the Jewish people in Australia, initially a British penal colony, began with eight Jewish convicts from England, who arrived at Sydney Cove with the First Fleet in 1788. In the years that followed, the British transported a total of 800 Jews to the Australian colonies from the United Kingdom. Australia now has a growing population of Jewish people, which is estimated to be about 120,000 people out of a total population of almost 20 million.

In 1999, Chosen People Ministries partnered with Celebrate Messiah Australia, which was established in 1995 and operates under the direction of founder Lawrence Hirsch.

Celebrate Messiah has been involved in various forms of Jewish evangelism, such as street evangelism and personal ministry. Two Messianic congregations have been planted in Melbourne, one for English speakers and one for Russian speakers, to meet the needs of the Jewish people who have come to faith through their ministry. A third congregation has been planted in Sydney. Our vision is to help Celebrate Messiah expand their ministry to reach Jewish people living in all of Australia's major cities.

Celebrate Messiah's Russian Jewish work began in 1997 when Hirsch started a Bible study with two Russian Jewish believers. The group grew, and a total of twenty-seven Russian Jews came to faith that year. This encouraging start set the stage for more to come.

Most recently, Celebrate Messiah has also pioneered a new work amongst the Jews of Far East Russia in the region of Birobidzhan, also known as the Jewish Autonomous Region.

Dom Missi'ee, Celebrate Messiah's outreach to Russian-speaking Jews in Australia

The Zula Lodge is in the tourist center of Wanaka, which is on the southern tip of Lake Wanaka–a huge tourist destination sometimes called the Southern Alps of New Zealand.

11 NEW ZEALAND

Our Messiah commanded His disciples to bring the good news *"to the Jew first"* (Romans 1:16) and *"to the remotest part of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). There you have it: Jewish evangelism in New Zealand!

Amidst intense natural beauty at one of the remotest parts of the earth, we backpack alongside Israelis and share Messiah in relevant and relational ways. The ministry team experience is drawn from young people coming from Israel, the United States, Australia, and beyond. Each year, between eight thousand and fifteen thousand Israelis travel to New Zealand. As these young Israelis desire to see the world and contemplate the answers to life's questions, we want to be there to give them THE answer: Jesus.

The team stays at one of our three facilities, like the Zula Lodge, a very comfortable youth hostel our staff in New Zealand purchased in 2016 in the center of the tourist area on the South Island. The Zula Lodge enables many Israelis to live in a believing environment for a few days without cost. More than one thousand Israeli travelers stay at our various facilities over the course of the summer season.

One of the outreach events during the week is a corporate Sabbath dinner where between fifty and sixty Israelis gather to celebrate the Sabbath. The young Israelis help cook the meal and contribute to the service as well. These evenings last well into the night as conversations about life, travel, and the gospel happen naturally between the travelers and staff.

During the week, the team has countless opportunities to relate with Israeli travelers on New Zealand's magnificent hiking trails or just hanging out at the Zula Lodge. Most importantly, the relationships that are begun in New Zealand continue when the travelers return home to Israel. Our Israel staff is following up on the travelers we meet in New Zealand and other regions where we have short-term outreach among Israelis.

12 SOUTH AFRICA

The history of the Jewish people in South Africa essentially began with the general European settlement in the 19th century. It is estimated that around 80 percent of South African Jewish people are descendants from Lithuania. Jewish people played a prominent role in the development of the diamond and gold fields, and many were involved in the anti-apartheid movement. South African Jewry differs significantly from those in other developing countries in that the majority of them still remain in South Africa.

This Jewish community, mostly nominally Orthodox, peaked in the 1970's. Today, the community has become more observant. In Johannesburg, the largest center of Jewish life with 66,000 Jewish men and women, there is a high number and density of Kosher restaurants and religious centers.

In 2011, Manfred and Isit Nochomowitz (Emet Ministries South Africa) attended the Chosen People Ministries Global Conference in London and became a partner.

Emet Ministries works with the local church body and has been involved in various forms of Jewish evangelism, such as personal ministry, Shabbat services, numerous equipping events in which we teach the local body how to reach Jewish people with the gospel, and through this, by the grace of God, Jewish people (as well as Gentiles) have come to salvation.

We also partner with local Messianic ministries and congregations in South Africa, as well as with Messianic ministries and churches in Israel, America, and Ukraine, working with them to share the gospel with Jewish people in South Africa and around the world.

Emet Ministries' vision is to expand Jewish ministry throughout South Africa, and to take the truth of God's heart for the Jewish people and Israel to the church.

13 HONG KONG

Chosen People Ministries has had a warm and supportive relationship with Hephzibah Evangelistic Center, an independent local church in Hong Kong, since the 1930s. This church is deeply committed to supporting Jewish missions and gives 10 percent of its regular offering income toward evangelistic work among God's chosen people.

During the early 1990s, former Chosen People Ministries president Sam Nadler visited Hong Kong and began strengthening relationships between Chosen People Ministries and Hong Kong believers. Later, current president Mitch Glaser visited in 1998 and was similarly warmly received. Since then, Dr. Glaser has returned almost every other year, sharing at different services and public meetings. These meetings are received warmly by the believers in Hong Kong.

In the meantime, several Hong Kong believers joined the Summer Training and Evangelism Program (STEP) in New York City, which is now called Shalom Brooklyn. Two of them, Gershon L. and Mark Lam, with encouragement from Dr. Glaser, went to Moody Bible Institute for the special one-year Jewish Studies program. Gershon and Mark have remained in fellowship with Dr. Glaser and have assisted him greatly during his visits to Hong Kong. A shared dream of setting up a Hong Kong office of Chosen People Ministries began to grow.

In the fall of 2007, Chosen People Ministries Hong Kong finally came into being, and Gershon and four others formed the board of directors. Mark Lam serves as the Executive Director. We have five Hong Kong Chinese workers serving the Lord in Hong Kong, New York City, Israel, and at times in Australia and New Zealand as volunteers.

Our main goals in Hong Kong are reaching Chinese churches and other Christians about issues relating to Jewish evangelism and culture, praying for Israel and her salvation, holding missions trips and seminars, and helping raise finances toward Chosen People Global Ministries.

14 SOUTH KOREA

Cedar Ministry International (CMI) is our CPGM global partner in South Korea. CMI is led by TaeKwon Jung. TaeKwon shares, "After I completed YWAM's Discipleship Training School (DTS) in 1998, the direction of my ministry became clear. Through three months of valuable training, God narrowed down my ministry to ministry to the Jewish people, saying to me, 'To the Jew First.' In line with this guidance, I applied to an M. Div. program at Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary with which Onnuri Church had been associated. I started my journey in the Seminary in 1999."

The first and utmost mission of CMI is to return the Jewish King Messiah Yeshua to the contemporary Jewish people so that they would see Him, their King Messiah again in this end time.

The core ministries of CMI include Jewish evangelism in Israel, Thailand, India, and the United States, Israel education through seminars, Bible study programs for pastors and churches, and modern and biblical Hebrew classes, leading an Israel tour which includes worship, prayer, evangelism, fellowship, and much more.

Hong Kong believers have continued to participate in the Shalom Brooklyn outreach each summer.

2016 marked the first gathering of Russian Messianic Jewish leaders in Poland since the Holocaust.

OUR GLOBAL OFFICES AND PARTNERS

COUNTRY	JEWISH POPULATION*	STAFF SERVING
ARGENTINA	180,300	2
AUSTRALIA	113,400	6
BRAZIL	93,200	2
CANADA	390,500	5
FINLAND/BALTIC STATES	12,000	–
FRANCE	453,000	4
GERMANY	116,000	35
HONG KONG	–	6
INDIA	4,900	2
ISRAEL	6,697,000	25
NETHERLANDS	29,800	2
NEW ZEALAND	7,500 – 15,000	10
POLAND	4,500 -10,000	6
RUSSIA	172,000Q	4
SOUTH AFRICA	69,000	4
SOUTH KOREA	100	1
UKRAINE	50,000	4
UNITED KINGDOM	290,000	5

15 NETHERLANDS

Chosen People Ministries opened our office in the Netherlands in 2010. There are about fifty thousand Jewish people there. This was sufficient motivation to translate our popular *Isaiah 53 Explained* book into Dutch. It has already been distributed to more than 1,500 people. There is also a Messianic congregation in Amsterdam.

16 POLAND

The ministry in Poland achieves its goals through a wide spectrum of activities, including Sabbath meetings, teaching ministries at various churches around the country, celebrating biblical feasts, ministering to Holocaust survivors and Jewish veterans of World War II, and Bible camps for survivors, children, youth, and Israeli soldiers. Most of our efforts focus on a partnership with Chosen People Ministries in Israel.

17 BRAZIL

The newest addition to the Chosen People Ministries Global Network will be Brazil. We are establishing a guesthouse ministry in Rio de Janeiro to share the good news with Israelis! These Israelis are searching for a spiritual experience, and we want to point them to the Jewish Messiah. In addition to providing a venue for connection and communication, the guesthouse will also serve as a place for them to stay during their time in Rio.

18 INDIA

By faith, we will also add a ministry in Goa, India, led by Andrew and Levanya Yelchuchri. Andrew and Levanya have been reaching traveling Israelis through their guest facilities in the city of Goa and minister to the thousands of Israelis enjoying the beach and the Indian culture. They invite the Israeli young adults to Sabbath dinners and other events designed to show the love of Jesus to the travelers. They always have gospel materials available in Hebrew and enjoy many conversations about the Lord late into the night.

*https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-population-of-the-world

Evangelism in the 21st Century: Our Digital Presence

In partnership with One for Israel, based in Netanya, Israel, we have produced video stories of Messianic Jews (Jewish people who believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah). These testimonies are posted on the IFoundShalom.com website.

Hebrew Isaiah 53 Facebook Campaign

We are touching the lives of thousands of Israelis through our Hebrew language Isaiah 53 Campaign. This campaign, focusing on the prophecy of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53, has been used by God to touch tens of thousands of Jewish people throughout the world. This has been especially true in Israel.

More than a half million Israelis have watched the Hebrew language testimonies we helped develop with our partners at One for Israel Ministry. We have sent more than 5,000 *Isaiah 53 Explained* books in Hebrew requested by Israelis—95 percent of whom are not yet believers in Jesus!

The Hebrew version of *Isaiah 53 Explained*

I Found Shalom

The *I Found Shalom* website is geared toward Jewish people who are looking for peace—*shalom*. It is packed with video testimonies of Jewish people from every walk of life who have come to faith in Jesus the Messiah:

- Men and women
- Young and old
- Religious and secular
- Professionals from every industry and those in full-time ministry
- Moms, dads, and grandparents

There is even an online chat for anyone who wants to know more about what they discover here and how to find peace. Please refer your Jewish friends to www.ifoundshalom.com. The videos are making a tremendous impact—clearly showing Jewish people how they can retain their Jewish identity and still follow Yeshua the Messiah into a life of peace!

Chosen People Answers: Messianic Apologetics for the Digital Age

Whether you want to help Jewish people recognize the validity of claims that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah or you are a Jewish person looking for meaning in the Hebrew Scriptures, you will soon be able to find what you need at www.chosenpeopleanswers.com.

This work-in-progress website will host a digital library of Jewish and Christian texts, as well as hundreds of Messianic apologetics articles. We want to provide answers to the hard questions that Jewish people have in an interactive and cutting-edge way!

In addition to video testimonies available at IFoundShalom.com, we have also published a book with believers' stories.

"All I wanted to do was something that would please God. But I wondered about my relationship with God."

JAN ROSENBERG / IFOUNDSHALOM.COM

OUR HOPE

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES

Our Hope podcast–coming this summer!

Each verse of every text (Old Testament, New Testament, and rabbinic literature) will be open for submitting questions, which will then be answered by a digital missionary team. The site uses concepts gleaned from social media and video games to make it easy for users to participate and interact. This includes liking articles, asking questions, commenting, and more. This will be an evangelistic site intended for Jewish people who spend time on the Internet as their primary means of connecting to the world.

This innovative and groundbreaking website will be the only one of its kind in existence today!

Follow the Messiah Discipleship Bible Study

We have developed and will soon release the first online, video-based discipleship series designed for Jewish seekers and new believers. The website also allows for personal mentoring by Chosen People Ministries staff and referral to a local Messianic congregation or church. There are sixteen lessons based on the Sermon on the Mount, which are presented in short, five- to ten-minute conversational videos, with reflection questions to be completed at the end of each study. The series is primarily structured to meet the needs of a new generation of Jewish followers of Jesus. Thank God we now have so many incredible new tools to use in sharing the Word of God with others for discipleship, Bible teaching, and training for ministry!

Into the Future

2019 has brought us to the 125th anniversary of Chosen People Ministries—a major milestone for any organization, and one that turns our hearts toward greater things to come!

As we look to the future, with God's blessing and the continued faithful support of friends like you, we will find new and creative ways to preach the gospel, remind the Church of God's promises to the Jewish people and of the divine mandate to reach Jewish people with the gospel (Romans 11:11), and raise up a new generation of workers for the Jewish harvest.

We want to multiply our efforts to:

- Plant Messianic congregations
- Establish Messianic centers
- Train Messianic congregations and local churches to reach Jewish people
- Recruit, train, and educate staff and volunteers across the globe—especially in countries with more than 50,000 Jewish people (but, not leaving out any place where we are asked to help)
- Send teams to reach wandering Israelis worldwide
- Discover and utilize appropriate strategies that speak to the hearts of the local Jewish population as we intensify our efforts within the Holy Land
- Innovate new ways to evangelize and disciple Jewish people, in person and online
- Focus more attention on Israel as the day draws closer to Messiah's return

These bold moves cannot be attempted without you, our fellow travelers along the way, prayer partners, supporters, and dear friends in the gospel. Thank you for opening your heart in compassion toward God's beloved Jewish people. The impact you are making—now and in the days ahead—is astounding.

How You Can Help

Chosen People Ministries would not exist without the faithful support of Christians around the world who stand with Israel and the Jewish people. We are grateful for the prayers and sacrificial gifts that enable us to continue to bring the gospel to the Jewish people in seventeen countries around the globe.

Would you pray about supporting Your Mission to the Jewish People? I am praying that you will give generously and sacrificially, as I believe we have a golden moment to join together in reaching Jewish people that may only come once in a lifetime.

There are a number of ways you can give, but the easiest way is to visit our website, chosenpeople.com/donate.

You can also mail your donation to our International Headquarters: Chosen People Ministries, 241 East 51st St., New York, New York 10022.

You are always welcome to call us and give your donation with your credit or debit card over the phone. Please call 212-223-2252 Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

Testimonies

At the heart of Chosen People Ministries is person-to-person, heart-to-heart evangelism. Below are some stories of how God is using our staff to reach Jewish people where they are with the life-saving message of Jesus, our Jewish Messiah!

Chosen People Ministries staff members are missionaries and depend on financial gifts for their support needs.

Cathy Wilson – Scottsdale, AZ

Shelly*: Shelly and I exchanged several e-mails and voicemails before we finally connected in person. Shelly was transparent and said, "I'm an atheist." I asked her why. Her animosity was overshadowed by her quivering voice, which spoke to me of hope. She told me that she'd been calling out to God for years regarding her chronic back pain and cancer. "He's not answering me," she said. Following two very lengthy conversations on the phone in which I relayed much Scripture, during another phone conversation on September 6, 2017, Shelly prayed aloud, confessing her sin and placing her trust in Jesus! After having known the Lord for two days, Shelly asked me to pray that her faith would grow! A week and a half later, Shelly shared that she'd been singing, "Jesus loves me this I know, for His mercy shows me so."

On June 24, 2018, while living in a group home, Shelly was baptized. God did indeed transform a heart that had been most resistant toward Him. She passed away some time later and at the Jewish cemetery, I shared, "We are here at Shelly's grave-site, but Shelly is not here. Shelly is dancing with Jesus!" We sang, "Jesus loves me this I know for His mercy shows me so."

Alma*: Alma came to faith in Jesus on December 15, 2016 when she entered the coffee shop where we were engaging in Bible study and announced, as she came through the door, "We have no Temple, we have no altar, we have no sacrifice. How are our sins forgiven?" I had told her the same thing many times, however, she had just listened to the testimony of a Jewish believer who mentioned the same. God's timing is perfect!

Immediately after praying and placing her trust in Jesus, she exclaimed, "I feel as if I just had a *shekinah* experience!" I told her, "You have. God now dwells in you." When we walked out of the coffee shop that day, she looked at me with a huge smile and announced, "I'm a Jewish believer in Jesus." And, she practically skipped to her car!

Doug Pyle – New York, NY

I was contacted by a religious Jewish young man to whom I had given a copy of my book *What the Rabbonim Say about Moshiach* with my phone number written in it. He called me a month later and asked me to come to visit him in a halfway house where he was living. After many trips to this facility with pizza and soft drinks (and prophecy editions of the New Testament and occasional Bible studies in the Hebrew prophets) for him and his friends, he called me up one Sunday night. He said, "I've been reading the New Testament, and it had a page in it that tells someone how to accept Jesus...and I did it! There is so much peace!"

Riding with him and others to a church service after that, he announced to everyone in the car, "I'm a Christian!" At that time, he himself was the first Jewish Christian he knew until he was introduced to a Jewish staff member of Chosen People Ministries. This young man became ill a few months

ago and passed away. Praise God he met the Messiah and Savior shortly before being called to meet Him in person!

Justin Kron – Chicago, IL

Sarah* is a Jewish woman I was introduced to through our church who was struggling with the possibility that embracing Jesus as the Messiah could have major repercussions on her relationships with her family because they might see it as a rejection of them and her Jewish heritage. Thankfully, she found comfort in my encouragement that putting her faith in Jesus would actually be an affirmation of her Jewish identity and that you can be both Jewish and Christian.

At the same time I also shared with her the following exhortation of Jesus when she told me that she didn't want fear to stand in the way of her relationship with God—*If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine...If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it* (Matthew 10:37-38).

Some time later it was "Baptism Sunday" at our church. Our pastor gave a very clear presentation of the gospel based on John 1:12: *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"*—and ***both*** Sarah and her boyfriend decided that this was their day. This was their day to proclaim that Jesus is the Lord of their lives and the forgiver of their sins. While the service was nearing the end and all of the scheduled baptisms had already taken place, they hurried up to the stage and said that they wanted to be baptized too. After speaking to someone who made sure that they were ready, they were baptized together.

Eugene and Dasha Ivanov – Germany

We had four more water immersions at our congregation, and we were truly blessed to have many Jewish people attend the service where I preached about the need for repentance in Yeshua and water immersion. Please pray with me that the next water immersion will include even more Jewish people! I have had great conversations with some of our Jewish believers who have not made this important step. I am really encouraged that the Lord is doing something special in their hearts and in His time we are going to witness a greater revival among His chosen people! We need to keep our faith in the Lord, because He is doing it!

Please continue to pray for Eduard* and Elvira* who regularly, and with a great desire, attend our services and Bible studies. He is asking many questions, and he has moved from being an atheist to believing in God. I talk with him regularly, sharing the saving faith in Yeshua with him and his wife. Pray also for Sophia,* an elderly Jewish lady who just recently came to faith, and who desires continual fellowship and the reading of God's Word with great hunger. I visit her at her home where we have been praying and reading the Bible together. I have been encouraging her to walk with Yeshua every day.

*names changed

Scott and Margie Brown – New Zealand

Shaya*, a middle-aged Israeli, knew precisely what he was getting into when he arrived at Zula Lodge. His wife had experienced our Messianic Passover Seder earlier this year and his son had been extensively hosted by one of our staff couples, Michael and Teresa. By the time Shaya reached Michael and Teresa's home for a short stay, he was ready to burst.

"I just need you to show me if Yeshua really is the Messiah!" There was not a hint of insincerity in his voice; he was on a mission, and the questions fairly catapulted from his lips. "Why is he called 'Jesus?' Does Christ mean 'cross?' Why do some Christians support Israel? Why didn't Israel accept Yeshua? Why didn't Yeshua deliver Israel? How can you be sure there is a Suffering Servant and a Conquering King? Why did Yeshua have to suffer and die? Why does the world hate Israel? Why did God choose us?"

Using the Scriptures, Michael skillfully and methodically answered Shaya's questions. "Shaya, you need to understand that the Jesus I serve is not mine—He's yours! Yeshua is Israel's Messiah, and apart from God's promises to the Jewish people, we Gentiles would be hopelessly separated from the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Tears welled in Shaya's eyes. "Michael, your love for God makes me so jealous."

Two thousand years ago, another zealous Jew wrote: *"…salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them [Israel] jealous"* (Romans 11:11b). These heavenly physics are still playing out on the earth today! By living fully-devoted lives and sharing the good news of God's salvation with hundreds of Israeli travelers, our dedicated New Zealand staff are provoking many of Israel's lost sheep to consider the Shepherd of Israel, Jesus.

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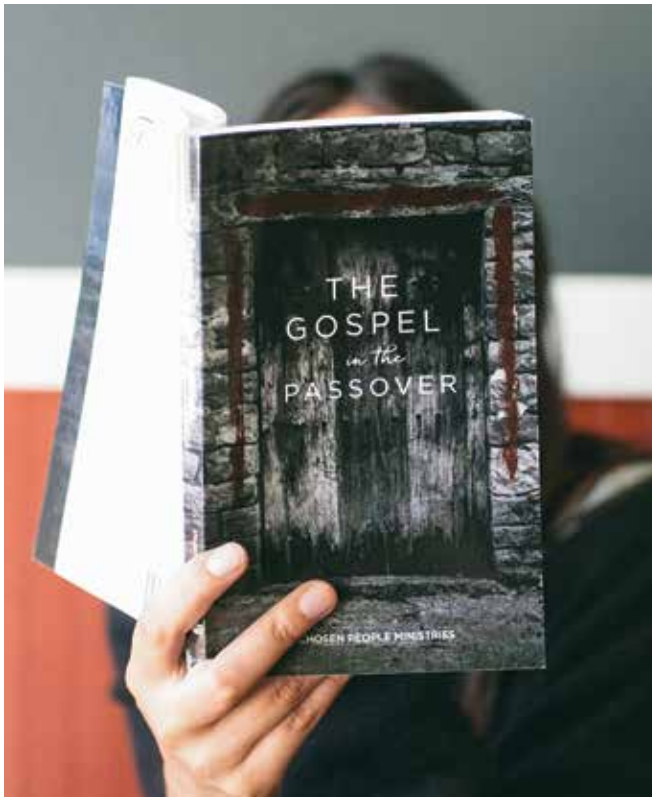

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