



CANADIAN NEWS

Chosen People Ministries (Canada)

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May 2020

Dear Canadian Partner in Ministry,
Shalom in Jesus the Messiah!

Shavuot – The Feast of Pentecost

This month we will celebrate Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, on May 29 – fifty days after Passover. Our English word Pentecost is an anglicized version of the Greek word for fifty.



In Israel, Shavuot marks the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. In Biblical times, two loaves of leavened bread were waved in the Temple, symbolizing God's provision.

In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the time when God gave the Torah (the Law or instruction) to Moses at Mount Sinai. Furthermore, Jewish tradition says that the souls of all mankind somehow were present when God gave the Torah to Israel.

There are several parallels between what happened at Sinai and the event described in Acts 2 during Shavuot/Pentecost:

Old Testament

New Testament

- | | |
|---|---|
| * God gave the Law | * God gave the Holy Spirit |
| * Fire & rumbling at Sinai | * Tongues like fire & wind in the upper room |
| * All mankind somehow present (traditional) | * People from around world present in Jerusalem |
| * Nation of Israel born at Sinai | * Church, Body of Messiah born at Pentecost |
| * Two loaves waved together | * Jews & Gentiles are one in Messiah |

During this season, let's be grateful to the Lord for His Word, for the power of the Holy Spirit in us, and for the oneness that Jewish and Gentile believers can experience in Messiah!

Time Flies When You're Having Fun

As I write this news update, we are marking the end of the sixth week most of us at Chosen People Ministries (Canada) have been working from home. I know I've discovered I'm busier than ever writing emails, blogs, devotionals, sermons, Bible studies, recording audio and video Passovers and messages, attending virtual meetings, livestreaming, making phone calls, etc. And, since we are home, some of us are doing more housework than ever before – in addition to everything else!

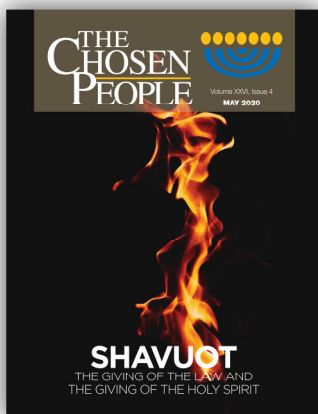
Yet in the midst of all the devastation, pain and suffering this pandemic has caused, several positive things have also taken place.

- **Many have grown closer to the Lord by spending more time in prayer and meditating on His Word.** Now, more than ever, we realize He is our only hope, our daily provider, our sustainer and the only One who can make sense of the confusion around us. In years to come, we will look back on this difficult time and better understand His purpose for our lives.
- **We who live with other family members have grown in our relationships with them.** Marriages have strengthened since we've been spending almost 24/7 at home with each other. Parent-child relationships have grown as home has become school, playground and entertainment centre. Siblings have been forced to put up with each other again!
- **Even relationships with our spiritual families have improved.** With the imposed limitations on group gatherings, churches and congregations have been forced to meet virtually over the internet. We've all been participating in online worship services, prayer meetings, Bible studies and discipleship programs. I know I've been seeing my fellow brothers and sisters in Messiah more times during the week than ever before! In our household, Marta and I have to plan when we're going to be engaged in meeting others online so that her three Bible studies don't overlap and conflict with all my meetings!
- **One of the best results of this unique situation has been the number of people reached with Yeshua's message of forgiveness and salvation.** From the reports we've received, our congregations and small groups here in Canada and around the world have experienced significant growth in the number of participants in their weekly services. We have seen Jewish and Gentile individuals come to faith in

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Thank you for your prayers and faithful financial support as we share the Good News of Jesus the Messiah with Jewish people across Canada and around the globe!



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I am enclosing a gift. Please send me a complimentary copy of Twelve Sons of Israel. [Offer available until June 30, 2020.]

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Thank you for blessing God's chosen people! Please remember Chosen People Ministries in your will.

Messiah during these past several weeks, some over the phone, some during the services, and some through personal visits (while keeping appropriate distances)! Praise the Lord!

One of our Canadian missionaries has been witnessing to a Jewish couple for some years and they have been wrestling with the Messianic prophecies of Isaiah 53. At long last, both husband and wife have made firm commitments to Yeshua (Jesus) their Messiah! Please pray that they will be strong in their commitment and grow in their faith. Pray especially for the Bible study they have set up in a nearby Yeshiva (Jewish seminary). Pray for God's protection and grace in an environment that is traditionally hostile to the Gospel.

For these reasons and more, I say, "Thank you, Lord!" I wish these circumstances could continue – just without COVID-19! I even thank the Lord for the internet and social media which are clearly being used as instruments for His purposes!

Pandemic Impact on the Mission

Of course, I am aware that not everything is going so well. There are still too many people sick or dying as a result of the pandemic. Many are suffering due to the loss of loved ones, a reduction in income or loss of employment. Our Mission is not exempt!

The biggest impact the pandemic has had on our ministry is the cancellation of speaking engagements at churches – particularly Passover presentations – and the overall decrease in donation income – by 25% to 30% to date.

We are doing all we can to promote our ministry so that financial support will continue. At the same time, we are trying to cut costs in every possible way without hampering our work. Until now, we have been able to meet all our financial commitments, in some cases with delayed payments. But, in spite of our best efforts, we expect to face serious challenges in the near future.

Unless we see a significant increase in contributions, we will need to make some difficult decisions in the coming weeks.

We are grateful to our God for His faithfulness and constant provision for all our needs. We are thankful to you, our supporters and Partners in Ministry for your efforts to support God's work through Chosen People Ministries.

In addition to trusting the Lord and our faithful supporters, we are doing all we can on our part. We have applied to every available assistance program offered by the Canadian Government and our financial institution, and we are waiting for their response. We have also inquired about some legacies we have been expecting to receive – hoping to see that the funds will be released soon. *As I've said*

before, we are open to God's miraculous provision from whatever source He chooses to send it to us!

So, let me ask you to **keep praying fervently for God's continued involvement in our Mission.** *Without Him, we can do nothing, and our efforts are only in vain!*

Our staff is praying for you, our faithful donors. We pray that your family needs will be met in every way and that you can continue to support us in prayer and finances.

I ask you to **pray that we who are part of the Canadian Chosen People Ministries staff and Board of Directors will continue to serve the Lord faithfully** in the task and calling He has given us individually and corporately.

Please **pray that, in the midst of this situation, we will stay focused on Yeshua** and sharing His message of salvation, forgiveness and the eternal hope He offers!

Pray that Israel and Jewish people everywhere will turn to Him in great numbers. And let's **pray as well for our Government and our financial institutions** – that they will do their part in helping our organization during this difficult time. I am committed to praying with you.

Let me leave you with these encouraging words from Psalm 20:7-9 (Complete Jewish Bible):

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we praise the name of Adonai our God.
They will crumple and fall,
but we will arise and stand erect.
Give victory, Adonai!
Let the King answer us the day we call.*

I'd like to offer you a complimentary copy of Twelve Sons of Israel when you send a gift of any amount during the next few weeks. This little book recounts the stories of 12 rabbis – including our found, Rabbi Leopold Cohn – who came to faith in Jesus the Messiah. These testimonies will touch and encourage your heart. Do you have a Jewish friend who needs to know Jesus? Twelve Sons of Israel may be something you could share to bring him or her along the road to faith.

I hope to hear from you soon. Trusting Him daily,



Jorge Sedaca
Executive Director



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