

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE



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JULY 2022

Reaching Jewish Suburbia

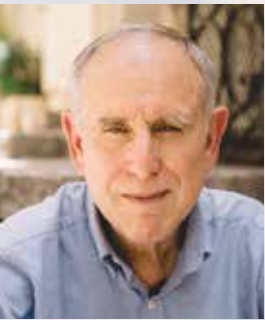


REACHING SUBURBAN JEWISH PEOPLE FOR MESSIAH | MINISTRY IN
CHICAGOLAND | MICAH AND AN INDICTMENT OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS

Shalom in His grace,

I pray that, as we reach the middle of the summer, you are finding time to spend with your family and friends and enjoying a slower pace of life. These can often be the times of refreshing that the Bible speaks about (Acts 3:19; Romans 15:32).

As I think about family, I cannot help but consider the ongoing struggles in Ukraine and the devastating impact it has had on families. I especially mourn the loss of so many children. I know you will join me in praying the Lord will have mercy on the children who have survived, as they will certainly be affected by the trauma of war for the rest of their lives.



FROM THE
PRESIDENT,
MITCH GLASER

For those Ukrainian families who were able to find their way to the Promised Land, we are still very busy helping them during their transition. We are renting apartments where they can stay while they get on their feet. Our staff are assisting them in the most practical areas of life, showing them the love of Jesus in all we do for them.

Though Your Mission to the Jewish People unashamedly shares the gospel with God's chosen people whenever the Lord provides the opportunity, sometimes our actions speak louder than words. Jesus once told

His disciples:

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." Then the righteous will answer Him, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or

naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" The King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:35-40)

Often it is through genuine caring and outreach that God will open the hearts and minds of Jewish people to the love of God, which is in Messiah Yeshua, our Lord (Romans 8:38)!

FOUNDATIONS '22 AND DEEPER TRAINING FOR JEWISH EVANGELISM

While we reach out to Ukrainian Jewish refugees with love, hope, and practical assistance, we continue to approach religious Jewish people with solid arguments from Scripture—answering age-old objections to Jesus.

But we also share the gospel with more secular Jewish people.

When it comes to evangelism in general, as you know—one size does not fit all. There is no "typical" Jewish person with whom we share the gospel, as each person is unique. The more we know about an individual and their beliefs, the better we can make the gospel relevant to them.

Secular folks probably represent the majority of your Jewish friends. To help you better understand them, please allow me to take a few more moments of your precious time to share some of my own background and suggest a few principles on reaching secular Jewish people for the Lord.

Last month, I shared with you about my Ukrainian Jewish roots. Both sides of my family hoped that their children and their children's children would grow up to be observant Jews. While affirming their Jewishness, my parents did not follow in their parents' footsteps when it came to following Jewish law. We were 100 percent Jewish, but not in the same ways as our ancestors.

When I became a follower of Jesus, that all changed for me. The Jewishness of my grandparents suddenly made sense, despite the secularism of America in which I grew up. The holidays took on new meaning, and I have come to delight in the feasts of the Lord! Many of the Jewish traditions, in fact, became forms of worship that I would eventually include in my life as a believer. It is fairly common that, when a secular Jewish person believes



Reaching Suburban Jewish People for the Messiah



in Jesus, they usually celebrate their Jewish identity and traditions more than ever before as we recognize that being born Jewish is not a serendipitous act of fate but rather part of a grander plan of God that we are called to join. Years ago, we used the slogan “Jesus Made Me Kosher” and, in so many ways, this is still true.

COMMUNITY REJECTION

I remember a lesson I learned from my grandparents in a conversation from two decades ago like it was yesterday. My father and I were visiting his family, and while eating a bowl of chicken soup and matzah balls and engaging in a deep philosophical discussion, my dear grandparents were doing their best to try to figure out why their grandson believed in Jesus and not Moses or even Marx.

When I finally had the chance to speak, I posed a question. I said, “Dad does not believe in God. Like Grandpa, he never attends synagogue, and yet he still says that he is Jewish. I, on the other hand, believe in the God of our fathers, learned Hebrew, married a Jewish girl, but believe Jesus is our Messiah. Which one of us is the better Jew?” My grandmother did not hesitate in her response: “Your father.” I dare say she spoke for the majority of the Jewish community!

In other words, you do not remain in the community by virtue of your beliefs, but you can be removed because of them. The Jewish people you meet and witness to will be resistant to the gospel far more because of their fear of community sanctions than because of a theological disagreement over the identity of the Messiah.

You can help Jewish believers in Jesus by providing friendship and support as the Lord can use you to ease the pain of community rejection that is sure to follow their accepting the Messiah.

We are eager to help you reach your Jewish friends, too!

Earlier this year, I presented the Messiah in the Passover at a local Baptist church and was approached by a delightful Christian who asked for some help in witnessing to her Jewish friend. She wanted to know if giving her friend, who was in his 90’s, my book *Isaiah 53 Explained* would offend him. She really loves her friend and prays for him each day. I suggested giving him the book, encouraging him to review it from a “Jewish” perspective, and then talking again to let her know what he thinks.

Our staff have dozens of conversations like this each month, and we want to help you share the good news with a Jewish friend. Equipping you is a major part of our **Foundations** ’22 annual campaign.

SPECIAL FREE BOOK OFFER

We are offering a free copy of *Isaiah 53 Explained* to all who ask. Although most Jewish people will be more receptive to the book if it comes from someone they know, like you, if you prefer, you can give us their address, and we will send the book directly to them anonymously. Just complete the enclosed card and return it in the envelope, and we will take care of the rest! I recommend checking in with your friend in a few weeks to follow up with them and start the conversation!

We are reaching many different types of Jewish people around the globe! Israelis, religious Jewish people, elderly Holocaust survivors, displaced Ukrainian Jewish people, and more! This month, I am excited to share with you the testimony of one of our missionaries who has been reaching out to Jewish people living in suburban America for decades.

The remainder of the newsletter is adapted from a paper he presented at a conference on Jewish evangelism earlier this year. I know his testimony will bless you, and I pray that you will gain some insight into reaching the Jewish people with the gospel!

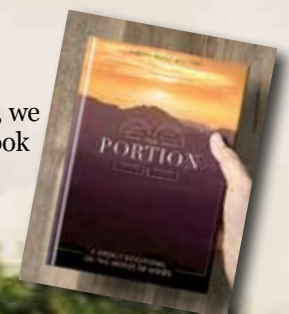
The summer is also a time when we schedule our camping programs and our evangelistic campaigns in New York City and in various other places where Your Mission to the Jewish People reaches Jewish people for Jesus day in and day out! It is also a season of lower missionary giving—people are on vacation and maybe not reading their mail as usual. Your gift of support will go a long way to help us fund our summer outreach and make the gospel known in cities and suburban areas of our country.

As always, thanks for caring!

In our Messiah,


Mitch

P.S. For your donation of \$75 or more, we would like to send you our new book called, *The Portion*—a devotional based upon the Five Books of Moses. I think you will love this book!



My Ministry to Suburban Jewish People in Chicagoland



By sharing my experiences with reaching Jewish suburbanites with the good news, I hope you will gain some insight that will help you do the same. The Lord allowed me to begin two congregations in the Chicago area, and I led Adat Hatikvah Congregation for twelve years. Those experiences helped me understand some of the dynamics of reaching Jewish suburbanites and discipling them in their new faith.

Our goal for the congregations was to reach Jewish people and families. My wife Joanne is not Jewish but has a heart and love for Israel and the Jewish people. We wanted to raise our children to be comfortable in both the Jewish and Christian worlds. We believed they needed to appreciate and love both expressions of the faith.

Joanne was an integral part of the congregation's children's outreach. Having four children born and raised in our communities was a significant element in attracting other families with children and similar backgrounds. I believe this was key to the growth of each congregation we planted.

The congregations were in communities where there were many marriages between a Gentile Christian and an unbelieving Jewish person. So, we focused our message and ministry on helping those families learn that Yeshua is Israel's promised Messiah and that biblical Christianity is Jewish at its core.

We named the first congregation The Olive Tree, based on the teaching of Paul in Romans 11. Many in the Roman Christian community believed God had rejected the Jewish people because of their resistance and hostility toward the gospel. But Paul reminded them that faith in Yeshua and the kingdom He brought is thoroughly Jewish. Moreover, Paul saw God's kingdom, previously accessible through Israel, as now including Gentiles through their faith in Yeshua the Messiah.

In Acts 13, Paul wrote, *"It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles"* (v. 46).

Unfortunately, the predominantly Gentile historical church has taken those words out of context. They thought it meant a complete and

final rejection of Israel as God's people. However, we know that in the next city Paul visited, he went to the Jewish community first.

The church's failure to understand this in context led to a disconnect from the Jewish foundations of the New Covenant Scriptures and message. As a result, this divide impeded the church's outreach to Jewish people with the good news of the Messiah. Wherever Paul went, he began his ministry of proclamation with the Jewish community. (Romans 1:16).

Both congregations we planted near Chicago began with worship on Sunday. This decision was intentional at that time to identify with the body of Messiah. We wanted to convey the unity to which God called us in Israel's Messiah. We also intended to help Jewish and Gentile spouses see that biblical Christianity is Jewish. We wanted visitors to know that we were a Jewish-oriented church and fully part of the global body of Messiah. We wanted Jews, Christians, and non-believers to feel welcome and that this could be a safe place to grow in faith by studying God's Word from a Messianic Jewish perspective. Finally, we wanted to convey that Christianity and the church were not "other" religions.

Over time, we moved our day of worship to Saturday. This seemed to be more appropriate for the Jewish people we were reaching, of course. We believed that biblical Christianity must express the unity between the Old and New Covenants in a visible way so that it is taught and caught! We did not worry about the opinion of the rabbis or the church because we were transparent about what we believed in both our doctrinal statements and practices. We wanted our people to fix their eyes on Yeshua, the Lord of both covenants.

I began my congregation-planting life as a full-time student in the Jewish Studies program at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. I also worked part-time for the American Board of Missions to the Jews (ABMJ), now known as Chosen People Ministries.

A few Jewish people came to faith during my first year in Chicago, and I wanted them to join a local congregation where the unity of Jews and Gentiles in the Messiah was appreciated. My supervisor, John Bell, suggested that we start a church. He came to Chicago as a church planter and began his work using the Chosen People Ministries building where I lived. His love for the Jewish people grew, and he accepted a call to work for the ABMJ. I assumed he would be the pastor, as he was a Bible school graduate and knew what was needed to plant a church. I knew nothing about starting or leading a congregation. John, however, said I should take the lead.

The summer before we began our first service at The Olive Tree Congregation, we went door-to-door in the neighborhood. Some of our first attendees came to us because of our conversations with them in their homes. Word of mouth also brought many intermarried couples. It was also a time of revival in the country, and many Jewish people were coming to faith. After three years, the congregation became financially and spiritually stable so that we could turn the pastoral duties over to one of our elders. The congregation then became independent.

Two years later, the Lord led us to begin a new work. Our family, John Bell, and another full-time worker with Chosen People Ministries started a second congregation in Buffalo Grove called Rock of Israel. Buffalo Grove was a fresh and fast-growing Jewish suburb with new homes and families at that time.

A vibrant children's program with teachers committed to helping families understand the Jewishness of Christianity attracted more and more mixed couples. John Bell appealed to the Gentile Christian families who attended.

The Jewish and interfaith couples were usually new to the faith and biblical doctrine. They felt comfortable with my leading the congregation. The Jewish people who attended thought I was authentically Jewish and could relate to me as their leader. My wife Joanne and her solid Gentile Christian heritage helped the non-Jewish women who were married to Jewish men feel comfortable because they could relate to her.

Three years after we began, we merged with a Baptist church in the community that was down to just a few members, but they had a building on five acres of land and were supportive of our work among the Jewish people. They, too, wanted to reach the Jewish people of Buffalo Grove. This church embraced our constitution and leadership as they turned the building and property over to our care and use.

I confess that I am not an expert missionary or professional congregational planter. However, the Lord has done it all in spite of me. Yes, of course, He used the gifts He endowed me with, and I have seen those gifts used more effectively as I have learned to walk in His Spirit as opposed to the flesh. I can confidently say that God takes weak and broken vessels and uses them to bring others to Himself through Yeshua. We are a testimony of His love and grace.

I can testify that if we put Him first and walk in His ways, He will do His work, whether it is to suburbanites, city people, Jews, or non-Jews. He will use us to share with the greater body of Messiah that God is still at work among the Jewish people, and that He is returning soon to Jerusalem. He will bring His kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. It is nearer every day, and the peace and joy we have in this crazy world will serve as an anchor for our souls and a safe harbor for others.

So, as the Lord provides you with opportunities to minister to suburban Jewish people, remember these three things:

1. Many will be in interfaith relationships—sensitivity to the faith backgrounds of both spouses will go a long way.
2. No matter your faith background, be authentic—it is essential that Jewish people know from where you are coming.
3. Success is not dependent on you—God is responsible for the outcome.

May God bless each of us as we serve Him and His chosen people with the good news that the King and the kingdom have come!

Micah 3:9-12

A General Indictment of Israel's Leaders

Chapter three of Micah begins with the prophet's indictment against the civil and religious leaders of Israel. In verse eight, Micah separates himself from the false prophets by declaring that he is "filled with power—with the Spirit of the Lord." Therefore, unlike them, he is able to "make known to Jacob his rebellious act, even to Israel his sin."

In verse nine, Micah proceeds to carry out his ministry by calling on Israel's leaders, the heads of the house of Jacob and the rulers of the house of Israel, to pay close attention to what he has to say. He brings an indictment against these leaders when he describes them as those "who abhor justice and twist everything that is straight."

Micah continues and further describes his audience of civil and religious leaders as those who built "Zion with bloodshed and Jerusalem with violent injustice." He uses "Zion" and "Jerusalem" interchangeably to describe the same place, the capital city of the land. He charges its leaders with sacrificing the lives of innocent people to accomplish their crooked schemes.

The list of charges grows as Micah chastises Israel's leaders, priests, and prophets for rendering favorable verdicts to those who would give them bribes (v. 11). The idea that only those willing to pay money for a favorable judgment is contrary to the character of God, which the leaders of Israel are supposed to emulate. Psalm 68:5 says, "A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation." Micah also says in verse eleven, "Her priests instruct for a price and her prophets divine for money." For them, Israel can only learn about God if they are willing to pay. Of all the evil behavior manifested by these leaders of Israel, this was the most evil because it taught that the word of God can only be accessible for a price. Somehow, these greedy leaders claim to trust in the Lord, and they falsely encourage themselves that God would not let evil befall them: "Is not the Lord in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us."

Finally, in Micah 3:12, the prophet announces that, because of these leaders, there would be a disastrous future for the Israelites. "Therefore, on account of you, Zion will be plowed as a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the temple will become high places of a forest." God would destroy Jerusalem and the Temple area would become overgrown and

neglected like a hilltop in a forest. This happened when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 CE.

Jerusalem (or Zion) and the Temple describe the whole city in its political and religious aspects. A century later, Jeremiah quoted this portion of Micah's prophecy to assure the people of Jerusalem in his day that the doom of their city was certain: "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah; and he spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus the Lord of hosts has said, "Zion will be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem will become ruins, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest"' (Jer 26:18).

Micah's words, remembered for their shocking severity by Jeremiah, deserve to be taken seriously by each generation of God's people. Even today, religious and civil leaders in Israel and around the world still attempt to misuse their positions of leadership for their own glory and profit. The words of the prophet are a dire warning against the complacency that can reject God's standards and values. Micah's prophecies are a passionate plea for consistency between one's beliefs and one's actions. The Lord is content with nothing less.



The menorah outside the Israeli Knesset building



Rich Freeman, DMin, serves as the vice president for Church Ministries and Conferences with Chosen People Ministries and lives in South Florida with his wife, Julia.

MINISTRY NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

ISRAELI STAFF MEMBER CONNECTS AND SHARES HIS TESTIMONY WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS

One of our Israeli missionaries who is currently studying at Moody Bible Institute had the amazing opportunity to get connected to the Consul General of Israel in Chicago. There were three different events where he had the opportunity to talk with him and his team. First, our staff member, who served in the Israeli military, was invited to the memorial for Israel's fallen soldiers that was held in Chicago. The second event was during the Israeli Independence Day celebration, where he was invited to celebrate Israel's seventy-fourth *Yom Huledet* (birthday). Our missionary was able to make some great connections with the leaders of the Jewish community around Chicago. The third event was a seminar where three speakers presented on the Abraham Accords, the recent normalization agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco. After this last event, he had a private meeting with the team that works on cultural affairs with the Israeli consulate in Chicago. Our missionary shared some of his testimony with the team and his vision for Moody Bible Institute to be connected to the Jewish roots of their faith and, of course, to show support to Israel. He felt the time with them was very fruitful, and they agreed to do some events together at the school. As you can imagine, it is a huge step to have officials from the Israeli government come and speak in front of the students!

HOST ISRAELIS IN YOUR HOME FOR THE GOSPEL!

A project we have been preparing for three years is now, at long last, in the launch stage! Host Israelis is a published network of believers who are motivated by a desire to bless the Jewish people and to provide a positive witness of the gospel to Israeli travelers in their homes. Over the past fourteen years in New Zealand, we have witnessed firsthand the power of this approach to Jewish evangelism, which is fueled by God's promise to **"provoke [Israel] to jealousy"** through the testimony of Gentile Christians (Romans 11:11)! Dear friend, do you understand that you are not only a missionary, but you are specifically commissioned to bring the message of Messiah to Israel's lost sheep? Now you can do it right in your own living room, as you open your heart and your home to Israelis traveling in your region. Please, earnestly pray about becoming part of this emerging network! Visit www.hostisraelis.com and watch the three-minute video. Check out the frequently asked

questions (FAQs). If you still have questions, email us at info@hostisraelis.com or go to our contact page on the website. Let us partner in this grand adventure of bringing the message to the original messengers!

"I'VE NEVER HEARD YESHUA PRESENTED THIS WAY BEFORE!"

Recently, one of our missionaries visited a Chabad Orthodox Jewish synagogue community a few times. The people know he believes Yeshua (Jesus) is the Jewish Messiah and Savior, and even though some mock or insult him for following Jesus, he has had many open doors to share his testimony, Messianic prophecies, and why he believes in Yeshua! One time, Moshe,* a Persian Jewish man, directly asked him, "Why do you believe in Yeshua?" Amazingly, they talked for three hours! Our staff member shared his testimony and explained how Yeshua's death, resurrection, and the giving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) directly fulfilled the springtime Jewish holy days (Leviticus 23). Yet, perhaps the most impactful part was sharing how God forgives different kinds of sin. **Pesha** is a rebellious, willful sin. Our missionary showed Moshe how the regular sacrificial system never atones for nor forgives pesha. Instead, only two things forgive this rebellious sin in a substitutionary way: (1) the yearly Day of Atonement sacrifice (Leviticus 16), and (2) the amazing Suffering Servant Messianic passage of Isaiah 53! While Moshe thinks he is misguided, he confessed he has never heard Yeshua presented this way before. Please pray for Moshe and for his salvation!

TEDDY BEARS BRING SMILES TO CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS

Recently, one of our missionaries and a few volunteers in Israel distributed fifty soft and squishy teddy bears to children in the cancer wards in a hospital near Jerusalem. This ministry was started by a staff member who has a daughter with severe heart problems and knows how much a teddy bear means during scary appointments and check-ups. The children smiled and hugged their bears while the parents smiled tearfully. They were also able to share with the parents that God loves them and offered silent prayers. It was very heartbreaking for our missionary to see children suffer. Our missionary on the team also had cancer when she was four and has been wonderfully healthy since surgery and chemotherapy eradicated the cancer. She was able to share her story with the nurses in the hopes that they would be encouraged in their work and to share the story with others.

*name changed





LEAVE A LEGACY OF PROCLAIMING THE JEWISH MESSIAH TO GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE!

As a partner with Chosen People Ministries, you are blessing Jewish people by helping us introduce them to their Messiah . . . and so much more! Thank you!

Now, you can make an even greater impact for God's chosen people . . . and leave a legacy, by including Chosen People Ministries in your will or estate plan.

Consider this: Most of our material wealth is not in the bank. Often, it is in our homes, land, rental properties, and other non-cash assets.

It is easy to donate these to the qualified ministries and charities you love when you leave them as a bequest in your will or estate plan . . . **just as Rex is doing.**

Rex has loved the Jewish people for many years. "The Lord led me to love the Jewish people just by reading His word. Everything I read was about Israel." Rex explained that the Lord has been faithful to him, and now he wants his gifts to impact Jewish evangelism beyond his lifetime. Rex explained, "Israel is my passion. It has been my honor to give to this ministry over the years." After prayer, he called to inform us he is planning his estate and wishes to make a bequest of his home to Chosen People Ministries.

By establishing a legacy gift, you, like Rex, will be assured that you are helping to:

- Proclaim the good news through Jesus the Messiah to Jewish people around the world for generations to come
- Provide for Jewish people in need, including elderly Holocaust survivors and those impacted by war or other disasters
- Equip fellow believers with tools for Jewish evangelism
- Advocate for Israel and against antisemitism

Plus so much more!

You can make a bequest to Chosen People Ministries of a specific amount or a percentage of the after-tax estate . . . and receive the joy of knowing that, beyond your lifetime, you will continue to bless the chosen people with the good news about the Messiah, Jesus!

For answers to your questions regarding creating or updating your estate plan, contact Cindy Forbes today at 212-223-2252, ext. 1208 or cforbes@chosenpeople.com today!

Order these Messianic books using the enclosed card or call 1-888-2-YESHUA in the US. For even more resources, visit us online at store.chosenpeople.com.



The Heart of the Apostle

The Heart of the Apostle shows that Romans 9 through 11 may be the most important chapters

in all Scripture for understanding the heart of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, as it pertained to Israel, his "brethren according to the flesh."

PRICE: \$11.95^{us}



How to Introduce Your Jewish Friends to the Messiah

We often find it difficult to share the gospel with those

whom we do not know or feel we do not understand. This manual will help you reach Jewish people with the message of salvation! A must read.

PRICE: \$9.95^{us}



Israel, the Jewish People, and Jesus

In this book, you will discover God's promises to the Jewish people and what they mean today. See how God has preserved His people throughout history

and brought them back to their own land. Learn how to pray for Israel and be part of sharing the good news of Messiah with Jewish people.

PRICE: \$9.95^{us}



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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