



Shining a light on our souls

The evening of August 13 was the beginning of Elul, the sixth month in the biblical year and the twelfth month of the civil year in the Hebrew calendar.

For Jewish people, it's an "in-between" time, when summer is waning and we prepare our hearts for the High Holy Days and fall feasts.

We don't rush headlong into the new year at Rosh HaShanah. We first take stock of the year that is ending.

During Elul, the customary daily sounding of the shofar penetrates our awareness and calls us to examine our hearts as well as our relationships with the Lord and each other.

It's not about "Did I achieve my goals this year?" It goes much deeper than that and shines a light on the state of our very souls. The questions we ask ourselves can be difficult.

Teshuvah, as this process is called, comes from the Hebrew word, *lashuv*, meaning "to return". Return to what?

Return to what God has called each of us to be. The Torah speaks repeatedly of what He loves (mercy, faithfulness, truth, and justice, to name a few), and our lives are best lived reflecting what He loves.

This task entails recognizing and taking ownership of ways we have wronged specific people or simply neglected relationships. *Teshuvah* also involves taking action to repair relationships and right wrongs.

Thanks to Yeshua/Jesus, we have Ruach HaKodesh/the Holy Spirit, who shines His light on our souls, reveals truth, and empowers us to live lives worthy of our calling. May this intimate relationship be a reality for every person, Jew and Gentile, until all Israel is saved!

In this edition

Shining a light
on our souls

Michael
Wodlinger, a
man of passion
and conviction

Vancouver
congregation
finds a home

Shabbat
services

Hebrew word of
the month

Messianic
Jewish Calendar
2026 – 2027



Michael

A MAN OF PASSION AND CONVICTION

How I remember Michael Wodlinger

by Jorge Sedaca

Executive Director, Chosen People Ministries Canada

I met Michael almost sixteen years ago, when I joined our mission in Canada. At that time, he and his wife Chantal were serving as our missionaries in Winnipeg, and a few years later, they moved to Quebec, where Michael served faithfully until his final breath. Michael was always smiling, no matter the circumstances, even in his final days when he was in a lot of pain.

A man of strong conviction and firmly held opinions, he expressed himself with a loving attitude and with passion. In fact, there was nothing wishy-washy about Michael. One of his favourite phrases was, "Stand firm in the faith!"

From the moment Michael accepted Jesus as his Messiah, he began telling fellow Jewish people, family and friends alike, about Jesus. He had a passion for people. A passion for Ruach HaKodesh/the Holy Spirit. A passion for the Bible, which he called "the Hebrew Scriptures and the Apostolic Writings".

For Michael, a favourite passage in the Apostolic Writings was 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labour is not in vain."

Michael had numerous advanced degrees, including a PhD in educational administration, and was a prolific and gifted writer, teacher, mentor, and artist.

What he cared about most, though, next to his family, was living a life worthy of Adonai's calling. I'm confident that Michael will hear what he longed to hear: "Well done, My good and faithful servant."

I look forward to seeing Michael again, this time in the presence of Yeshua our Messiah.

Donors to Michael Wodlinger's ministry

Please let us know your wishes by answering a simple questionnaire [here](#).

A new home for Vancouver Messianic congregation



After years of renting a space in Vancouver, Kehilat Tsion/Zion Congregation recently purchased a property.

Daniel Nessim, a missionary for Chosen People Ministries in Canada, co-leads Kehilat Tsion with Marty Shoub.

If you're in the Vancouver area, we recommend Kehilat Tsion.

Kehilat Tsion
4195 Knight Street
Vancouver, BC V5N 3M1
(604) 800-3663
info@tsion.org



Daniel Nessim



Join us for Shabbat services

Join us on Saturdays for Shabbat services at one of our Messianic congregations in Toronto, Hamilton, and Winnipeg.

- 10:30 a.m. at Kehillat Eytz Chaim
225 Bridgeland Avenue, North York, ON
- 10:30 a.m. at Kehilat Kumi Ori
465 Mohawk Road East, Hamilton, ON
- 10:30 a.m. at Kehilat HaTikvah
450 Lilac Street, Winnipeg, MB

Hebrew word of the month

Our word this month is *Elul* ("eh-LOOL"). *Elul* is the sixth month of the biblical year, and the twelfth month of the civil year, in the Hebrew calendar.

The ancient origins of the word suggest that *Elul* is associated with gleaning and separating grain from chaff. Indeed, Elul straddles the months of August and September in the Gregorian calendar, a time associated with harvest in the agricultural year.



In Jewish tradition, the word *Elul* is understood as an acronym of a verse in the Song of Songs / Shir Ha'Shirim, "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine," or, "**Ani I'dodi v'dodi li.**"

That verse speaks of intimacy, the closeness of a bride and bridegroom. Elul is a time of reflection and repentance, and the purpose of reflection and repentance is to do what is necessary to draw closer to the Lord and to each other.

Interestingly, the Bible mentions *Elul* only once, in Nehemiah 6:15, though it contains multiple references to the sixth month.



Pre-order your Messianic Calendar for 2026-2027



The new Messianic Jewish Calendar for the year 5787 / 2026-27 is *en route* to our offices and is available for pre-order.

I Found Shalom is the calendar theme this year, and each month features the true story of a Jewish person who found shalom in Jesus the Messiah.

Each of these stories is linked to a full video testimony at ifoundshalom.com.

Pre-order using the prices below, and be sure to add postage to the total based on the number of items in your order.

CALENDAR PRICES

CAN\$16 for a single calendar
CAN\$13 each for 2-10 calendars
CAN\$10 each for 11+ calendars

POSTAGE WITHIN CANADA

1-2 items = CAN\$9 postage
3 items = CAN\$16 postage
4+ items = CAN\$26 postage

To pre-order the new calendar, call **416.250.0177** or **1.888.442.5535** with your payment method in hand. Alternatively, enter the quantity of calendars you wish to pre-order on the reply slip below, and mail it with your payment to our address listed below.

X

Yes, I'd like to help you reach Jewish people with the Gospel of Jesus!

☐

\$

☐ Monthly

☐ One-time donation

☐

Credit card
(Phone # required)

☐

Cheque enclosed

QTY:

Calendars

You can also give online at chosenpeople.ca/donate

When you give to Chosen People Ministries Canada, your gift supports the work of Chosen People Ministries, and the way your gift will be used remains at the sole discretion of Chosen People Ministries. If you have made any suggestion as to how Chosen People Ministries applies your gift, it is only a suggestion. Chosen People Ministries will use your gift as it sees best to fulfill its ministry.



CREDIT CARD #

EXPIRY (MM/YY)

PHONE #

SIGNATURE

EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE

X

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES CANADA
Dufferin-Lawrence Post Office, Box 58103
Toronto, ON M6A 3C8

416-250-0177
1-888-442-5535

www.chosenpeople.ca
info@chosenpeople.ca

