

Special Summer Evangelism Report

**The
Chosen
People**

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Dear friends,

Shalom from the heartland of Jewish America—New York City! I am delighted that Chosen People Ministries' International Headquarters is right in the middle of Manhattan. New York City is probably busier—and certainly louder—than any metropolitan area in the U.S.—even at midnight! This is the City that never sleeps and never slows down.

There are always people on the streets, in restaurants and cafes, and in gathering places like Times Square and Greenwich Village, where we can meet people and talk to them about Jesus. This is the reason why we focus our summer ministry efforts (STEP, our Summer Training and Evangelism Program) in New York City.

On the following pages, you will read some exciting stories and testimonies of witnessing encounters experienced by our STEPers.

A "STEP" in the Right Direction

STEP is the cornerstone of our short-term missions program in North America. This four-week program (June 15–July 12) started with two weeks of in-depth teaching in Jewish history, culture and witnessing strategy at Moody Bible Institute in preparation for two weeks of street evangelism in New York.

Yet, even in Chicago, our dynamic and dedicated volunteers took advantage of the opportunities the Lord provided. Kim Bursch, who is about to start graduate



them for street evangelism in New York.



The in-depth teaching in Jewish history, culture and witnessing strategy prepares

studies in secondary math education at the University of Denver, relates this account:

“One afternoon on Rush Street, I gave an ‘Is Jesus the Messiah’ brochure to a man standing at a street corner. As I told him, ‘Have a great day,’ he said, ‘Is that it?’ I was taken off guard.

I stood there dumfounded for a second and thankfully, the Lord prompted me to begin a conversation. The man’s name was Steve, and he told me he wasn’t really a sinner and that he didn’t really need someone to die for him.

I shared with him the need to confess our sin to God and place our faith in Messiah Jesus’ sacrifice to God. He ended up agreeing that he was a sinner and I asked him if he had ever received Jesus’ atonement for his sins. He told me he hadn’t and that he would like to. We prayed together and he received Jesus as his Savior and Lord.”

Once in New York City, evangelism continued in earnest. On July 4th, the team passed out approximately 20,000 pieces of Gospel literature at the fireworks display in Manhattan. Each day the team met Jewish people on the streets who wanted to speak to them about Jesus!

Jason B., a Jewish Studies major at Moody Bible Institute and summer intern with Chosen People Ministries, reports,

“I spoke with an Orthodox Jewish man in the Diamond District. In the course of the conversation, I could see that his religion did not give him peace and contentment. But as I shared my testimony and some of the Messianic passages from the Hebrew Scripture, I really had a sense of God’s presence. He became more open and in the end, he gave me his email for further contact.”

Another summer intern and Jewish Studies major at Moody, developed a love for the Jewish people in high school in North Carolina through friendships with her Jewish

classmates. Her story shows that ministry sometimes means calling people back to the Lord from Whom they may have strayed.

“One day at Hunter College, a man told me that he had once received Yeshua, but had drifted away. As a result, he felt quite guilty and felt he still had to pay for his own sins. When I showed him the passage in Ephesians about God’s grace, he got very excited. I got his phone number for follow-up.”

The last person I want to introduce you to is a remarkable fellow named Mark Steadman. He’s a few years past being a student and works as a government administrator in his home city of Belfast, Ireland. Mark is a delightful witness for the Lord and worked with an evangelistic ministry to the deaf in Israel.

“I had a conversation with a Jewish man in Brighton Beach who told me he was a believer, but had backslidden. I prayed with him and it was quite an emotional moment. The thought of me coming all the way from Ireland to reach out to Jewish people really touched him.”

STEP-in-a-Week

Seven Days in “Jewish New York”

STEP-in-a-Week (July 13-19) provided an opportunity for people who were only able to spend one week of ministry in New York City.

Chosen People Ministries staff member Alan Shore, a native New Yorker like myself, helped lead this exciting program and took special delight in showing out-of-towners the “inside story” of Jewish history in New York City.

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The experience Israel evangelist



It is part of our Mission Statement to empower and equip our fellow believers to reach the Jewish people in their own communities.



STEP is not only a great experience; it is our way of training you to reach your Jewish friends and neighbors.



Outreach is a balance of training, ministry and travel throughout the Holy Land.

One of the week's highlights was a walking tour of the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where the Mission's founder, Rabbi Leopold Cohn, first heard the Gospel preached by a Jewish man at the close of the nineteenth century. This year, Alan took the group for a visit to the Tenement Museum of the Lower East Side, which depicts the difficult life that Jewish immigrants endured as they struggled to gain a foothold in the New World.

Alan told me, *"It was an indescribable pleasure to walk those streets and to see the landmarks that are the visible record of this colorful chapter of Jewish history. Showing them to an appreciative audience made me value them even more."*

Ministry emphasis is also an integral part of STEP-in-a-Week. The participants distributed tracts on the streets of Midtown Manhattan and shared the Gospel everywhere from Central Park to Greenwich Village. What a time—what an opportunity—to serve the Lord for a week!

eXperience Israel - Ministry for Messiah in the Land of Promise

Although God's Word tells us it is better to give than to receive, it is hard to imagine a greater blessing than to minister for Messiah in the Promised Land.

Justin Kron, who helps lead this vital part of Chosen People Ministries' evangelistic outreach, has put together a program with a balance of training, ministry and travel throughout the Holy Land that makes for an unforgettable memory.

The eXperience Israel program, which began immediately after STEP, was created in large measure as a result of Justin's own life experience. He says, *"My first visit to Israel when I was 24 years old had a profound effect on how I perceived the Word of God and the events described in it. Most significant,*

however, was how walking in His footsteps impacted my identity as a follower of the Messiah."

There is no doubt that eXperience Israel is a life-changing adventure. David, one of the participants, put it very well: *"I've yet to feel the same as when I left. The reality of the Word is hard to dismiss when you constantly walk in its shadow. There's a saying in Israel that 'every crevice tells a story' and I would add that each one tells a story of God's faithfulness. Another great part of the trip was the godly fellowship. I have never felt so close to a group of believers in community: 'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity' (Psalm 133:1). The hardest part of the trip was leaving."*

TeenSTEP -

Growing Leaders for the Future

Jay and Lauren B. work with the Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn. However, they also enjoy working with teens in TeenSTEP, which was held in Boston July 3-11. They were joined in ministry by the incomparable youth minister/clown Henry Morse, a.k.a. "The Great Benafuchi."

The group of about a dozen teens handed out tracts in busy Boston neighborhoods and had what they call, "The Infamous Free Car Wash," where Henry got on his stilts to attract attention and the teens washed cars and gave out Bibles and other Gospel literature.

Reflecting on TeenSTEP, Jay said, *"The spiritual growth among the teens is wonderful. Some of them are in their fourth year with us. They really want to get out there and share the Good News. Not only is it ministry for those we reach out to, but for us as well."*

More About

STEP-in-a-Week

We have decided to expand our STEP-in-a-Week program, and next year we will offer STEP-in-a-Week two different times.

STEP-in-a-Week can be a good experience for the entire family. We are now encouraging families with children twelve years old and older

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Step-in-a-Week is for people who can only spend a week of ministry in New York City.

to join us for a “Family STEP-in-a-Week.”

STEP-in-a-Week is also the type of opportunity where you could bring an entire home group, Sunday school class, or other small group, to New York City for a week of evangelism and ministry. This is also a great opportunity for teachers who have their summers off.

STEP-in-a-Week is usually limited to 20 people, but if we continue to have as much interest as we had this year, then we might expand it to three or four different weeks.

Your Help Is Still Needed

I hope that you enjoyed the wonderful testimonies of God’s power and faithfulness. I want to thank you for your prayers and faithful support of our outreach to the Jewish community.

May I send you some of our brochures? Or would you like to put me in touch with the Missions Committee at your local church, or the person in charge of short-term missions outreach? Wouldn’t it be wonderful if your congregation could get involved with one of our STEP programs or eXperience Israel?

We take Romans 11:11 very seriously, where the Apostle Paul tells us, “*I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.*” It is part of the Chosen People Ministries’ Mission Statement to empower and equip our fellow believers to reach the Jewish people in their own communities. STEP is not only a great experience, but also our way of training you to reach your Jewish friends and neighbors.

Please pray for the follow-up of our STEP outreach. Our New York-based missionaries are busy following up with the many people who expressed an interest in Jesus.



So please pray for our follow-up and think about joining us next year for STEP or eXperience Israel—and please let us know how we can better serve your church or congregation in helping you reach your Jewish friends.

Follow-Up

At this moment, our New York-based missionaries are busy following up with the many people who gave us their names and addresses and expressed an interest in Jesus during our summer outreaches. They are in contact with many among the Russian Jewish people, who were quite open to the Lord this year!

Please pray for the follow-up of our STEP programs and eXperience Israel outreach.

I am sure you realize that summer is a time when many people are away, and gifts of support slow down. Yet, for your Mission to the Jewish people, **it is a season when we intensify our evangelism efforts and therefore our expenses.**

Would you pray about helping us with a gift this summer that will enable us to stay current with our heavy SUMMER EVANGELISTIC expenses?

Your help this month will have a significant impact on keeping Chosen People Ministries running well financially.

May the Lord fill your home with all of the blessings He promised to Abraham when He said, “*I will bless those who bless you...*” (Genesis 12:3)

Yours in Him,

Mitch
Mitch



Dr. Mitch Glaser
President



P.S. On another note, I want to let you know that our new Messianic Jewish Art Calendar is available. This is a great tool for you to use in sharing the Good News with your Jewish friends. We contracted with a brilliant young artist to paint a number of original Jewish still-lives, which depict the Jewish Holy Days throughout the year. You can view some of these pictures on our web site at www.chosenpeople.com. I have enclosed a response card for you to order these calendars for your witness as well as for your own personal enjoyment and edification. You can order the Jewish Art Calendar online as well!