

1ST QUARTER 2017

# JVT

JEWISH VOICE TODAY MAGAZINE



**Jewish Voice**  
Ministries International  
1967-2017



# Happy 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary JEWISH VOICE MINISTRIES!



## Marty Goetz

My wife, Jennifer, and I want to take this opportunity to wish Jewish Voice Ministries International a “Happy 50th Anniversary!” We consider ourselves privileged to have participated, in some small way, with this marvelous ministry that has served the Lord so faithfully for five decades. Happy 50th Birthday to Jewish Voice Ministries International, to our dear friend, Rabbi Jonathan Bernis, and to the whole ministry team at JVMI! May the times ahead be your best times ever—until the day when the voice of the One who called us all out of death into life calls us to Himself—FOREVER!



## Jonathan Cahn

Jonathan and I have been friends for almost thirty years. He was the first person I spoke to in the Messianic Movement, the week I became the spiritual leader of Beth Israel. I’ve been blessed to watch what God has done in Jonathan’s life and ministry. Jewish Voice is impacting the world by bringing the good news of salvation to Israel and the Jewish people, by reaching out to the poor of the world, and by educating Believers in the importance of their Jewish roots in Messiah.



## Anthony and Shirah Cardinale

Congratulations, Jonathan, on the 50th Anniversary of Jewish Voice! Our friendship with Jonathan Bernis started with our “to the Jew first” ministry. As both single and now married believers in Yeshua, we have a lifestyle committed to sowing into the Jewish community first. It all began at the messianic congregation called B’rith Hadoshah (New Covenant) in Buffalo, NY.



## Sid Roth

Jonathan is one of my closest friends. I have fond memories of taking weekends to pray and fast with him when he was a Messianic Rabbi in Rochester, NY. But my most exciting memory was the time I joined him for his first Jewish outreach in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was the first time we had ever seen so many Jewish people saved at once. They were running to the altar!



# SHALOM

Dear Friend,

It’s hard to believe that it’s been 50 years since Jewish Voice was launched. When God called Louis Kaplan to leave behind his thriving real estate business and begin full-time ministry, there were many challenges. But from the first broadcast on a single Phoenix radio station back in 1967, a great worldwide evangelistic ministry has grown.

Even as we look back to the past with great gratitude for the investments and sacrifices that have brought us to this point, we rejoice in what God is doing in our world today. All across the globe the Good News is being proclaimed, and people are coming to faith in Jesus, the Messiah.

And we are incredibly excited about what is coming next. Our focus is to prepare the way of the Lord, not just for 2017, but for decades to come. The harvest from our first 50 years has been nothing short of miraculous, and we are confident that the events of those years are only the beginning.

We ask that you continue to stand with us through your prayers and financial support. This is the fuel that has allowed us to grow from those humble beginnings to fulfill the vision of an evangelistic work that would span the globe.

Together we are fulfilling the command of God to take the Gospel to the Jewish people and their neighbors! We appreciate you so very much and give thanks to Him for your love and support. May you be inspired, encouraged, and blessed by the stories of God’s goodness in the pages that follow.

Jonathan Bernis  
President and CEO  
Jewish Voice Ministries International



Jonathan with Louis Kaplan



Jonathan with Chira Kaplan



Jonathan with the Kaplans at the 30th anniversary celebration of Jewish Voice Broadcasts



# Remembering the Kaplans

JVMI STAFF WRITER



**L**ouis Kaplan was born December 13, 1915, to Russian Jewish parents in New York City. He was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home, attended Hebrew school, and was made “a son of the commandment” at his Bar Mitzvah at age 13. Louis was taught by the rabbis to observe rituals, ceremonies, and Jewish traditions more than the teaching of the Tenakh—the Torah, the prophets, and writings of the Hebrew Scriptures.

When Louis was 19 years old, he found himself working in a packing house in Florida. There he met what he described as “a real Christian.” This young man was very kind to Louis and showed concern for the welfare of his soul, something no other person had done before. Shortly after they’d met, the man left Florida, but

the impact of his faith remained with Louis.

When a local church held a revival meeting, Louis attended, “out of curiosity.” But, he said, “I was also hungering for the precious something that this young man had in his heart which I did not have.” That night, he realized it was Jesus that his soul thirsted after.

Louis discovered that in the Messiah, God had broken down the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile, making one new man. He saw that the Church of God was not the Jewish nation or the Gentile nations, but Jews and Gentiles made one in Messiah.

There weren’t very many Jewish people receiving Messiah in 1935. At least, not enough to notice. Certainly not in the numbers we’re witnessing today. Then, as now, however, God was preserving a remnant of

the Jewish people, opening their eyes and helping them see and embrace their Messiah and carry the message of His coming to any who would listen. Louis was among this small remnant. Upon meeting him, you wouldn’t consider him a “world changer.” A survivor, and a successful one at that, but a world changer? You wouldn’t think so, and quite frankly, neither would he. But he was.

You see, there was one thing about Louis Kaplan that set him apart. He had a fire in his heart for Yeshua, one that wasn’t content only to have a relationship with God himself, but which yearned to bring others into relationship with their Messiah as well.

Chira was more than just the wife of Louis Kaplan. She was really the visionary force behind the ministry for many years, in the latter years of her husband’s life. She was host of the ministry’s television broadcast, editor of the monthly magazine, and on-the-field emissary. She was the face of Jewish Voice Broadcasts. Her immense contribution to this ministry is immeasurable.

Although she ministered to thousands by television each week, Chira was an intensely private person. She was very uncomfortable drawing any attention whatsoever to herself. Humble, yet as stubborn and tenacious as anyone, she was a godly woman. She walked in the fear of the Lord. She and Louis lived simply and frugally, never becoming attached to the things of this world. For most of her life—almost 50 years of the 73 she was on this earth—she was solely focused on one mission: the restoration, salvation, and well-being of Israel and the Jewish people.

She was a true Ruth—the Jewish people became her people, the God of Israel her God, and wherever the Lord led her to go help them, she followed.

Today, millions of people worldwide are reached daily with the Good News through Jewish Voice Ministries over regular networks and via satellite because the Kaplans decided to trust and obey the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**Yes, Louis and Chira were pioneers. They were trailblazers. They enriched our lives, and they will not be forgotten. 🇺🇸**



## **DON'T** LET THE GOVERNMENT DECIDE HOW TO DIVIDE YOUR ESTATE

Through your participation in the Abraham Promise Fund, you will make a lasting, long-term impact on countless lives.

When you make a legacy gift to the Abraham Promise Fund, you will be a part of proclaiming the Good News of Yeshua to hurting Jewish people all around the globe for generations to come.

Jewish Voice has also partnered with the Financial Planning Ministry to provide FREE WILL AND TRUST PLANNING to JVMI partners like you if you have a need. You will have peace of mind knowing your gifts will be blessing God’s Kingdom well into the future.

**JOIN with us** and create an enduring legacy of reaching the Jewish people with the Gospel!

**CALL 1-855-550-1455** or  
**VISIT [jvmi.org/apf](http://jvmi.org/apf)** to learn more.





# Our VISION for the NEXT

# 50 YEARS



BY JONATHAN BERNIS



Jewish Voice Ministries International is a unique ministry that incorporates large-scale outreaches, including music festivals and medical clinics, to reach out with the love of Yeshua to thousands of Jews and people of other backgrounds. We exist to transform lives and see all Israel saved. In the coming years, we will continuously be on the lookout for new strategies to accomplish our mission to proclaim the Gospel, engage the Church concerning Israel and the Jewish people, and to grow the Messianic Jewish community.

If you spend any time with me, you'll eventually hear me say, "People don't care what you know until they know that you care." This truth has driven us to serve people around the world, and thereby earn the right to share our faith with them. Our effort to reach Jewish communities in remote nations of the world that are open to the Gospel will continue. We are now exploring reported Jewish communities in Nigeria, South Africa, Somaliland, and Uganda. I expect this

list will continue to expand in the coming years as more "lost and scattered tribes" communities like the Lemba, Ybir, and Igbo are uncovered.

Fifty years is a long time. And yet, we know that in God's eyes, 1,000 years may be equal to a single day. If the Lord delays His coming for another 50 years, you can be certain that Jewish Voice Ministries International will still be here, serving Him, saving lives, and preaching His Word when 2067 comes around.

If He returns before then, He will find us watching, waiting, and doing everything within our power to fulfill our purpose to transform lives and see all Israel saved.

Thank you again for your partnership with us in this labor of love. As the Apostle Paul says, "*I thank my God at every memory of you, always praying with joy in every prayer of mine for you all, because of your sharing in the Good News from the first day until now*" (Philippians 1:3-5 Tree of Life Version). 🙏



## Other goals for the future include:



Expanding our mission to build the Messianic Jewish movement throughout Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and other nations



Enlarging our outreach to colleges and universities



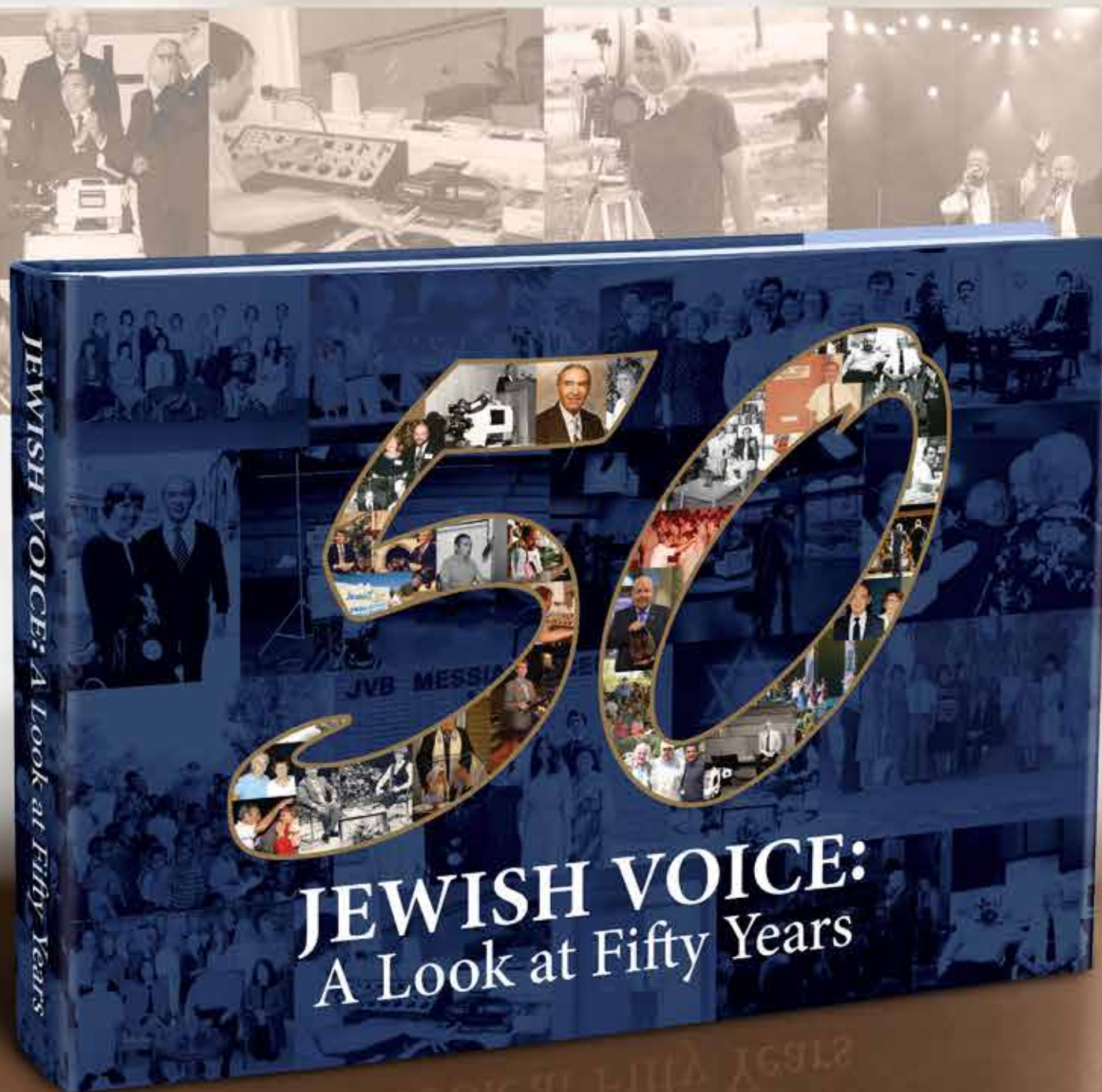
Reaching younger generations through the internet and other social media and becoming more relevant within the popular culture of our times



“Remember His wonders that  
He has done, His miracles.”

– PSALM 105:5 TLV

## *Jewish Voice: A Look at Fifty Years*



As we celebrate this important ministry milestone, we invite you to join us in looking back at all that God has done through Jewish Voice Ministries International over these last 50 years while also looking forward to the next 50 years of proclaiming the Gospel of Yeshua to the Jew first, and also to the nations (Romans 1:16).

This beautiful hardcover coffee table book is full of

photos and stories from five decades of ministry. From Louis and Chira Kaplan's earliest Jewish Voice Broadcasts to large-scale festivals in Russia, India, and Argentina, to medical outreaches in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, this book is a celebration of God's wonders and miracles and how He is positioning Jewish Voice Ministries International for even more in the years to come.

Receive your copy of *Jewish Voice: A Look at Fifty Years* as our "thank you" for your gift of **\$100** or more to continue the global outreach of Jewish Voice.

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# OPENING A DESTINY

## The First Outreach to

# RUSSIA

JVMI STAFF WRITER



When Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union in 1985, he implemented “Perestroika” (restructuring) and “Glasnost” (openness). In 1985, Jonathan Bernis was in his second year as Messianic Rabbi of Congregation Shema Yisrael in Rochester, New York. He didn’t know then that an enormous window of opportunity was opening that would change the course of his life. He didn’t know that within a matter of years, “Gorbachev’s revolutionary program [would sweep] communist governments throughout Eastern Europe from power and [bring] an end to the Cold War (1945-91).”<sup>1</sup>

While the Iron Curtain was weakening, the reforms of Perestroika opened up new opportunities for the distribution of Bibles and sharing the Gospel

in the USSR. The changes also opened a floodgate for the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. After years of struggling for freedom, unprecedented numbers were being allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

In a series of articles published in Shema Yisrael’s monthly newsletter between July 1990 and February 1991, Jonathan Bernis described his first venture into this historic ministry opportunity—a trip to Leningrad and Moscow—and the beginnings of what would become a radically different future for him. In the July issue, he begins:

*In May 1989, while touring Israel, I felt the Holy Spirit directing me to take advantage of this incredible opportunity and lead a ministry team into the Soviet Union. Under the auspices of the MJAA (Messianic Jewish Alliance of America), this calling became a reality last month. I had the privilege of leading a small ministry*

*team (myself and four others) into Russia for six days. Armed with several suitcases filled with Russian/Hebrew Bibles and hundreds of pieces of Messianic literature, we ventured behind the “Iron Curtain,” believing that the Lord would sovereignly lead and direct us. Although the trip lasted only six days, the experience had a profound and lasting impact on all of us.*

The team had all heard stories of Bibles being confiscated, and they were concerned about what would happen to the bags of Bibles and materials in their luggage. They were surprised and delighted to make it through customs without any search of their bags.

They went on this adventure not exactly knowing what lay ahead for them. Their first destination was Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). The team of five had prayed for divine appointments. “Although we had some contacts to follow-up, we were basically relying on God to connect us with the right people,” Jonathan remembers.

Among the handful of contacts on the team’s short list were the families of two Messianic Believers from the States. At each meeting with these precious families, the ambassadors for Messiah arrived to find relatives and guests filling the tiny apartments. Everyone was open and interested as the team shared their beliefs as Messianic Jews. At one home, 10-15 people sat in rapt silence as Jonathan shared his testimony. “For the 20 or so minutes that I shared, you could have heard a pin drop—everyone listened intently to each word I said, and I could feel them just soaking it in.” The team was overwhelmed by the sacrificial hospitality lavished upon them by these families who had so little by American standards. They left Bibles and literature with each group so they could continue to discover Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah.

With the Leningrad leg of their journey complete, they had distributed all of their allotted Bibles and literature. Next stop: Moscow.

Once at their Moscow hotel, Jonathan particularly noticed “a number of stern looking Russian men in trench coats and suits who looked exactly like the movie image we have of KGB agents.” To his surprise, he later learned from various cab drivers that their hotel was “in fact, crawling with KGB agents!”

Upon seeing the Kremlin and Red Square, Jonathan wrote:

*The massive, stark architecture and almost endless line of loudspeakers hanging from the high, imposing walls of*

*the Square and Lenin’s tomb seemed to typify the Russian communist mindset and mentality: mass propaganda, faceless masses contributing their part to the advancement of ‘the State,’ and no individualism or encouragement to be individualistic or different. It was a sad and almost eerie atmosphere, and it became clearer to me just why most of the Russians I had met during the trip were unhappy and discouraged. I was told more than once that we were easy to spot as foreigners simply because we were smiling.*

One of the objectives of the team for their visit to Moscow was to get literature about Israel and Messianic congregations there into the hands of Russian Jews seeking to move to Israel. They’d heard that because there were no diplomatic relations between Israel and Russia since the Six-Day War, the Dutch Consulate (an office serving different functions than an embassy) was handling the application process on behalf of Israel. After about an hour’s cab ride searching for the address, they arrived at the Consulate only to learn that the Dutch Embassy was handling the Israeli immigrations, and that building was several miles away. First, they were frustrated. Then, they experienced a miracle.

A man standing in front of the compound offered to help them, and upon learning their destination, offered to guide them there in the cab because he was going there himself. Jonathan describes what happened next:

*During the half-hour ride, we discovered that he was the head of the Consular section of the Embassy and the person directly overseeing Israeli affairs! As we arrived, he invited us into the Embassy for coffee. We quickly accepted and were led through a line of hundreds of people waiting*



Messianic music group performs in front of the Kremlin, Moscow, 1994



to get in, and were ushered by guards through the locked gates of the compound like VIPs. We all knew without question that this was God's doing.

Sitting in his office, the Consular explained the current emigration situation to Jonathan and his companions:

*He told us how overwhelmed they were with Russian Jews waiting to go to Israel. The Russian government had only allowed five Israelis to come to help process visas, and there was a huge backlog. He showed us over 49,000 applications from between January and April, with 15,000-plus expected in May.*

The ministry team also learned how difficult leaving Russia was for these people.

Visas are only good for 30 days, so that is all the notice they have to pick up and leave. Airline tickets are very expensive and hard to get. Worst of all, they are only allowed to take \$50 and their clothing out of the country. Even engagement rings must stay. In addition, all those leaving for Israel lose their Russian passports and citizenship immediately upon exiting.

Still, they thronged to move to Israel.

After spending considerable time with the Dutch Consular, the group felt fully briefed on the situation. As they went through the gates to leave, they distributed Bibles and Messianic literature. "We were literally swarmed by the curious crowd, handing out all our materials in a matter of minutes." After reading the explanation of Messianic Judaism and belief in Yeshua as the Messiah, many of the people begged the team for more. Others asked if they could come to their hotel to talk with them more. "It was

an absolutely overwhelming experience for us to see so many Jewish people open to the Gospel," Jonathan recalled. "We spent a couple of hours just talking with people and sharing our faith. We spent the remainder of the day back at our hotel meeting with those that wanted to talk further."

This inspired and adventurous group of Messianic Believers had come to the Soviet Union with a list of five contacts, 300 Bibles, and 400 pieces of Messianic literature. In six days, they'd distributed all of it. Nine months after the trip, Jonathan Bernis recalled, "We left for home the following morning, exhausted but thankful to God for the privilege of being used. God had shown Himself faithful, and somehow I knew that I would be returning."

In the coming years, Jonathan would return to Russia many times. God was moving in dramatic ways among the people there as they emerged from under a repressive government and into new freedoms. God called him to uproot his life and move to Russia, establishing and pastoring the Messianic Center of St. Petersburg, Russia from 1993 to 1996. 🇺🇸

[<sup>1</sup>"Perestroika and Glasnost," History.com, <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/perestroika-and-glasnost>]

Jonathan addresses a crowd in St. Petersburg, Russia, 1995



## Be a part of these **life-changing** trips as together we prepare the way of the Lord!

God has called Jewish Voice to be on the front lines of the battle to take the Good News of Yeshua to the world. Now we invite you to join us on this journey as together we live out the ancient words of Isaiah 40: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Whether you're a medical or a non-medical professional, we need volunteers like you on medical outreaches to Jewish communities in some of the most impoverished parts of the world.

We're preparing the way of the Lord, bringing much-needed medical treatment and the truth that these precious people can have a hope and a future through Yeshua the Messiah.



**JOIN JVMI**  
on an international medical outreach mission and bring the compassion and care of Yeshua to those in need.

**VISIT**  
[jvmi.org/2017outreach](http://jvmi.org/2017outreach) or call 800-299-9374 to learn more and partner with us.

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Enhancing Trust





FOR 50 YEARS, THE PURPOSE OF  
JEWISH VOICE HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED...  
"TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND SEE ALL ISRAEL SAVED."



Even though the strategy, the methods, the tools and technology, and the geographic locations of our outreaches have changed over the decades, our mission...

**"To proclaim the Gospel, engage the Church concerning Israel and the Jewish people, and grow the Messianic Jewish Community"**

...has been unwavering.

Jewish Voice has grown and adapted with the times, but we remain diligent to this calling and mandate until the Lord returns.

But without your faithful prayers and financial support, these last 50 years wouldn't have been possible. You have been by our side, and by the Lord's grace, we're doing great things together.

Together we're...

- Preparing the way of the Lord!
- Offering hope to impoverished Jewish communities in Africa through free medical, dental, and optical clinics.
- Distributing life-saving medicines to those who desperately need them.
- Bringing water-purifying LifeStraw® filters to remote villages with no other sources of clean drinking water.
- Seeing miracles, signs, and wonders as the Lord demonstrates His awesome power.
- Proclaiming Yeshua to Jewish people who have never heard the Good News of their Messiah.

*Though the darkness may grow, we will continue to shine the light of Yeshua, and the darkness will not overcome it! John 1:5*



OUR THANK YOU  
GIFTS TO YOU

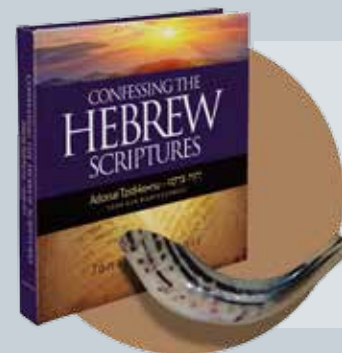


As you give to help impact lives all over the world, we want to express our appreciation with these thank you gifts. It's our way of saying "thank you" for 50 amazing years together and standing with us for a tremendous future ahead.



Receive a **genuine Ram's Horn Shofar from Israel** as our thank you for your **gift of \$50 or more** to the international outreaches of Jewish Voice Ministries.

Shofars just like this were used in ancient Israel to celebrate the start of feasts and to sound the charge into battle. This beautiful (and functional) shofar will serve as a constant reminder of God's calling for us to "Blow the shofar in Zion! Sound an alarm on My holy mountain!" (Joel 2:1). 9940



When you send a **gift of \$75 or more**, we'll send you **the shofar PLUS the brand new book by Jonathan Bernis, Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures: Adonai Tzidkenu, Lord our Righteousness.**

The latest installment in Jonathan Bernis' series on Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures, this guidebook and companion audio CD will lead you step-by-step into proclaiming the wonderful promises of God in the original Hebrew language. Centered on God's name "Adonai Tzidkenu," Lord our Righteousness, you'll discover how you can move into a deeper relationship with Him, a person-to-person relationship in which the Lord Himself is your righteousness. 1819

When you send a generous **gift of \$150 or more**, we will send you **the shofar, Jonathan's new book Confessing the Hebrew Scriptures, and a beautiful "Peace Blessing" Afghan.**

This striking 48" x 60" afghan is woven in white, blue, and gold and carries the inspirational reminder of Psalm 122:6-7 to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. As you are comforted under this lovely throw blanket, you will be reminded of how your generosity to Jewish Voice Ministries is bringing the hope and healing of Yeshua's love to Jewish people all over the world. 1820



Please take a moment to mark this important 50th anniversary milestone with the most generous gift of support you can send.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for being a part of every life touched, every patient helped, every soul saved.

**May the Lord strengthen you!**





# CALLED TO ETHIOPIA

BY JONATHAN BERNIS



**M**y first encounter with Ethiopia came in 1999 when one of our board members, Roger West, and a few other ministry leaders traveled to Ethiopia to find out what we could do to help. Roger already had clear direction from the Lord that we needed to do more for the Beta Israel community, and so he hosted us in Ethiopia.

The first Ethiopian I met after arriving in Addis Ababa was Mezmur Zemichael. We immediately hit it off, and when we traveled up to Gondar as a group, I immediately fell in love with his family as well. When I saw the incredible needs in Gondar, I was deeply moved. One thing I noted in particular was that there wasn't a dentist for 300 miles. Imagine a city of over 300,000 people without one dentist. I felt the burden to organize some sort of medical clinic outreach, something we had been doing already in the former Soviet Union throughout the 90s in conjunction with our International Festivals of Jewish Music & Dance.

The following year we returned with a team of just a dozen people who tried to care for some of these needy Beta Israel. We were able to rent a public health center and discovered as soon as we began that

the need was so great that people overran us. It was absolutely chaotic. Still, in the midst of the chaos, we were able to help several hundred people with medical care, simple dental care, and medicines. Although the clinic was a very moving experience, I didn't really have a sense of what the next steps were. This clinic in 2000 was the beginning of the work of Jewish Voice in Ethiopia.

Continuing on with our outreaches in Eastern Europe, I was not able to return to Ethiopia until 2004 when I went as a delegate for a TJCII (Toward Jerusalem Council II) committee to host a conference. I was newly married at this time, and my wife Elisangela and I had the opportunity to experience the richness of Ethiopia on the one hand and the intense poverty on the other.

The second night after I arrived, I couldn't sleep. God began to deal with my heart about the severity of the needs in this land. These were our brothers, our Jewish brothers and sisters, and they lived in absolute squalor, isolation, and persecution. I knew God was calling me to do something, and it wasn't just another isolated event.

I didn't sleep all night, and by morning I knew I had to do something for a very specific group in

Addis—a Jewish community known as the Kechene community, or the Beta Abraham, the house of Abraham. I shared this experience with one of the members of the team, Gerald Gotzen. Gerald had already been working for more than three decades in Ethiopia and was sort of considered the “white father” for the Jewish community and many Believers. When I shared this with Gerald and another team member, they told me—to my surprise—that the elders of this community were joining us that evening at the hotel for dinner.

When I shared with them at dinner and told them that God was calling me to do something to help on a continual basis, they immediately responded that they needed medical care, that their community was too poor to go to local hospitals, and they were so isolated that they were afraid to go anyway.

That began a chain of events that led us to hold annual medical clinic outreaches and eventually establish a permanent medical facility in the Kechene community. That, then, grew to Gondar and other regions of Ethiopia.

Today, we hold a minimum of three medical clinic outreaches in Ethiopia each year and are now a registered NGO in Ethiopia with a full staff. As a result of these outreaches, we have now assisted in the planting of over 15 Messianic Jewish congregations meeting every week throughout Ethiopia.

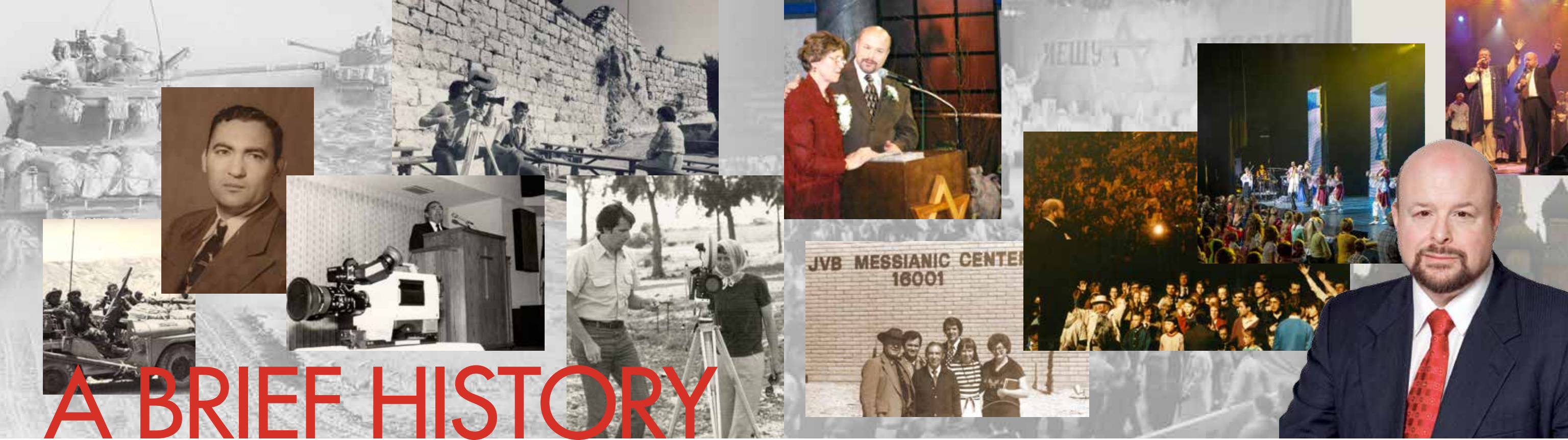
In 2006, JVMI conducted a two-week, two-city medical outreach that

served the people of both Addis Ababa and Gondar, Ethiopia. The trip was originally designed to reach out to the Beta Israel and the Beta Abraham congregation and community in Addis Ababa. Jewish Voice did not approach the Beta Israel group across town because they had never allowed outsiders in before. Many of the Beta Israel had left everything they owned to come to Addis to be ready for mass, Israel-sponsored aliyah (immigration to Israel).

For 36 hours in 1991, Operation Solomon brought thousands of desperate Ethiopian Jews to Israel in a continuous stream of round-the-clock mass airlifts. Israel's efforts toward Ethiopian aliyah slowed after that dramatic operation, but they did continue. More and more members of the Beta Israel left everything they owned and came to Addis Ababa to wait for their opportunity to immigrate to the homeland of their faith. In 2006, most of the people there had been waiting eight years or more. Some had even been left on the tarmac in 1991 as the planes filled beyond capacity with no room for them on board. The Beta Israel waited in deep poverty and deplorable living conditions.

The hopes of the Beta Israel for aliyah depended heavily on protecting their “Jewish” status, and their community was closely watched by Jewish organizations. They did not want to do anything to jeopardize their opportunity to make aliyah, and thus, did not invite outsiders into their community. But their needs were so great that they asked us for help. We were thrilled to add an unplanned satellite clinic right in their synagogue and help hundreds of Ethiopian Jewish people with medical, dental, and eye needs. I remember being humbled and honored to be invited to speak before this ancient Jewish congregation that had given up all for their dream of returning to Israel. 🇮🇱





# A BRIEF HISTORY

BY JONATHAN BERNIS

**J**ewish Voice Broadcasts was founded just months before the outbreak of the Six-Day War and the restoration of Jerusalem in June of 1967. Louis Kaplan, a rough and tumble Jewish believer in Jesus, was, at the time, a Pentecostal healing evangelist ordained by the Assemblies of God. Born in New York, he left home at age 15 to see the world. He rode the rails across the U.S. for four years until he wound up in Florida. There, at 19, he accepted Jesus as his Savior and decided it was time to make his way back home. His parents responded to his new faith by kicking him out of their house. Not long after, Louis became a traveling evangelist, sharing his faith as a Jewish Believer around the country. He ended up in Phoenix with a family of his own, and it was there that he received an undeniable call from the Lord to begin a weekly radio broadcast on KHEP. He incorporated the ministry and called it “Jewish Voice Broadcasts.”

Almost immediately, the radio program found a receptive audience and soon grew to over 20 stations around the country. Within five years, over 40 stations worldwide were airing it. In 1978, Louis heard again from the Lord, this time about going into television.

He reluctantly accepted the call, and soon Pat Robertson invited Louis to join his CBN television network. Television equipment was very expensive in those days, and Louis wasn’t convinced that such an endeavor was worth all it would cost. Still, if it could reach more people for Yeshua (Jesus), he was all for it. He used to say “Imagine it, we can reach more people in one broadcast than Jesus reached during His entire ministry on Earth...Hallelujah!”

The television program, called “Le Chayim” (which means, “to life” in Hebrew) interviewed Jewish people who had come to faith in Jesus. Since Louis hated being in front of the camera, his wife Chira often hosted the program. Chira, a Finnish Christian with a love for Israel, had caught Louis’ eye while he was in Jerusalem preaching. They were married in 1971, and over the next 28 years, she was senior editor of *Jewish Voice Prophetic Magazine*, host of the television program, and an absolutely vital part of the ministry. In fact, she was, in many ways during those years, the driving force.

Chira traveled with her JVB cameraman, Chris Wright, to cover a large-scale Hear O’ Israel! Festival of Jewish Music & Dance I was leading in Kishinev,

Moldova. When she saw the scope of the outreach (we had rented the central football stadium for the event), she began referring to me affectionately as the “Great Impresario.” Almost immediately, she began trying to recruit me as Brother Kaplan’s successor at the helm of Jewish Voice, since he was by then 80 years old (although he was still in great physical shape).

I was resistant at first, assuring her I had no interest whatsoever in moving back to the United States from Russia or being involved in Christian television. I did agree to come to Phoenix and appear as a guest on the program. That was the beginning of numerous long airline flights between Phoenix and St. Petersburg, Russia, where I lived at the time. Then, in 1997, Chira convinced Louis to come with her to Riga, Latvia, to attend one of our festival outreaches. Sadly, en route to Helsinki to spend some time before the festival with Chira’s family, Louis suffered a stroke from which he never recovered. Completely paralyzed, he was flown back to Phoenix three weeks later and died almost two years later in May of 1999.

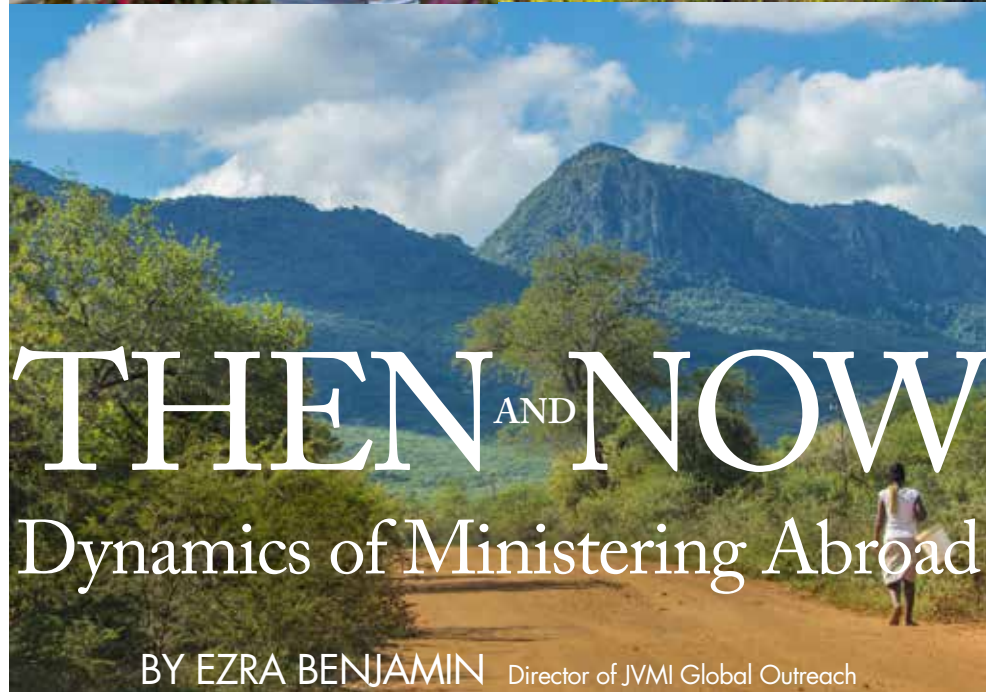
During that difficult period, I was already a member of the Jewish Voice Broadcasts board and agreed to take on the interim leadership of the

ministry until another leader could be found. Over the months that followed, it became clear that God was calling me to take this role on a permanent basis. So in November of 1999, I moved to Phoenix and became executive director of Jewish Voice Broadcasts.

At the time, I was leading the ministry I had founded back in 1984 for college outreach and for the later festival work in Russia, Hear O’ Israel Ministries (HOIM). For the next year, I ran two independent organizations, Jewish Voice Broadcasts and Hear O’ Israel Ministries, both of which really demanded full-time attention. For this reason, in 2001, we merged the ministries and formed Jewish Voice Ministries International.

**In the 16 years that have followed, God has poured out His blessings in a tremendous way. Thanks to His favor and your prayer and financial partnership, the ministry has grown exponentially. Our staff has grown from 15 to almost 100 as of this publication. Indeed, God has been good to us!** 🙏





# THEN AND NOW

## Dynamics of Ministering Abroad

BY EZRA BENJAMIN Director of JVMI Global Outreach

Jewish Voice began conducting medical outreaches on a yearly basis in 2006.

For the first three years, each was a combined two-week outreach to the Beta Abraham of Addis Ababa and the Beta Israel of Gondar, Ethiopia.

I started as a volunteer in the prayer room in 2008, and today, I am privileged to oversee an excellent Jewish Voice Global Outreach staff that orchestrates up to eight medical outreaches per year plus Hear O' Israel! Festivals of Music & Dance. From exploratory trips researching possible new locations to meeting with local, regional, and national officials to remaining behind to wrap up clinics, I have had a bird's eye view to a full gamut of dynamics involved in ministering abroad. I have noticed those dynamics change over the years.

Since I went on my first outreach with Jewish Voice, there has been a significant increase in Islam throughout Africa, but especially in Ethiopia, which is a historically Orthodox Christian nation. This expansion of Islam has

led to increased anti-American sentiment.

In the last decade, there has also been an increased unwillingness to "tolerate" what are considered foreign do-gooders who have a "faith agenda." The general "dire need" throughout Africa which ruled the headlines of ten or 20 years ago created a welcome path for international humanitarian aid providers and ministries to serve these people. In recent years, however, these news stories have been replaced by headlines of major infrastructural improvements, foreign business investment, and economic growth. The dire need still exists—especially in some of the more rural areas and city slums where many of these Jewish communities live—but, "Priority A" in these countries is now urban and economic development

from economic powerhouses such as China and several Islamic nations. International humanitarian aid—especially that from organizations like Jewish Voice with strong faith convictions and a message of personal transformation—are now, at best, tolerated rather than welcomed. Even the import of humanitarian goods and medical supplies is now a heavily-regulated process designed to earn further income for these nations through taxation.

Also, opposition to the clear proclamation of the Gospel of Yeshua has grown. The world is moving more and more toward humanistic

tolerance and a paradigm with no absolutes. Many religious entities in the countries where we serve react to this with their own desperate attempts not to "lose" members of their religious communities. As a result, I have seen, in acute ways, a dramatic, rapid increase in the intolerance of the message of Yeshua. The anti-Messiah (anti-Christ) spirit is at work in bolder and bolder measure in the world, including the areas where we serve. Actions taken against our ministry work are increasingly more organized, devious, and fervent. The Lord continues to protect, provide opportunities for ministry, and embolden us to proclaim the Good News of Yeshua in the face of opposition. But it would be ignorant to think that continuing to travel around the world sharing Yeshua with our Jewish people and their

neighbors will not require us to be increasingly wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

There have been many exciting and encouraging changes in our outreaches over the years as well. The depth and quality of care we provide continue to advance. Medical clinics include eye surgeries, dermatology, and pediatrics along with dental care and general medical care. We have expanded to provide water filters and water education to help the people ward off many preventable illnesses. We have also been able to provide follow-up care and facilitate surgeries at local hospitals. We are experiencing an increased partnership with local hospitals, other local NGOs (non-government organizations), and partner ministries.

There is a much larger Messianic presence in the countries we serve than there was when we began conducting medical outreaches. As more members of the Jewish communities we serve come to faith in Yeshua, we are seeing the Messianic community grow in these areas and an increased confidence and openness about Jewish identity.

Also, key members of the Jewish community—even those who don't agree with our message—are growing in their trust in the legitimacy and constancy of our love for and service to them. As Jewish Voice returns again and again, staying committed to their Jewish communities while other organizations come and go over the years, may the veil be removed from their eyes so that they may see the God of their fathers and come to believe in their Jewish Messiah, Yeshua. 🌟



All of our outreaches to bring health and healing to God's chosen people help prepare the way of the Lord.



# COMMITTED TO DISCIPLESHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND PRAYER

JVMI CLD DIRECTOR

**T**he mission of JVMI's Congregation and Leadership Development (CLD) department is to plant indigenous Messianic Jewish congregations, develop Messianic Jewish leaders around the world as the Lord directs, and strengthen the work of JVMI in prayer.

## International Congregational Work

Over the years, the large-scale outreaches of Hear O' Israel Ministries and Jewish Voice Ministries International have resulted in hundreds of thousands of new Believers. The ministry has always been committed to those new Believers through ensuring follow-up, congregation planting, and leadership development.

On the international field, CLD follows the work of the medical clinics to open doors for ongoing relationships and discipleship in the name of Yeshua in the communities that we serve. Jewish Voice currently comes alongside 15 congregations among the Beta Israel groups in Ethiopia with three more underway at the time of this writing. Several of these congregations are thriving and multiplying, serving their communities with creative, well-planned outreach and aid to the Beta Israel.

The Lemba of Zimbabwe have clear

ties to the Levites, and they are coming to faith in Yeshua in rather astonishing numbers. Over the generations, some of the Lemba had heard the Gospel before, and those that accepted Yeshua as the Messiah found they did not fit in Christian churches or Jewish synagogues. When Jewish Voice reached out to the Lemba in 2012 with the first medical clinic, not only did thousands come to faith in Yeshua, but those who already believed in Him found a form of worship that honored both the practice of their Jewish heritage and their New Covenant faith in Yeshua. Since that time, 61 congregations have formed among the Lemba. Ten were planted in 2016 alone, and there exists the potential for many more in the future. Also, we are presently laying the foundations for a congregation plant in South Africa among the Lemba there.

Each year Jonathan Bernis and the CLD team meet with over 100 Messianic leaders in Zimbabwe and over 75 in Ethiopia from all levels of congregational ministry to teach, equip, and encourage them in their ministries. Aside from these gatherings, multiple times per year, the Jewish Voice CLD team travels to Ethiopia and Zimbabwe to visit with national, regional, and local congregational leaders. These



visits allow us to interact with congregants, assess needs, preach in Shabbat services, and "get on the ground" with the congregations we are serving.

JVMI's commitment to these Messianic communities goes beyond congregations. Jewish Voice has currently helped establish five early childhood development centers among the people we serve, and there is tremendous potential for many more in the future. Jewish Voice is also involved in establishing micro-businesses to help with economic development. In Zimbabwe, we have initiated ten poultry projects that will benefit the communities with food and provide the opportunity to grow business skills for sustainable incomes. The future holds exciting possibilities for this type of development project, leading to an even deeper positive impact in the communities JVMI serves.

## Supporting the Worldwide Messianic Community

Within the United States and around the world, Jewish Voice Ministries serves the Messianic Jewish community through guidance, financial resources, and leadership summits to help develop and deepen Messianic Jewish congregations and ministries.

Jewish Voice hosts an annual gathering of leaders from the international Messianic Jewish community. Some 400 Messianic Jewish leaders from the USA, Israel, and other nations attend the Messianic Leadership Roundtable (MLR). The MLR began in 2007 and hosted its 10th annual conference in 2016.

JVMI also engages in strengthening emerging Messianic leaders. Through both formal and informal gatherings of young Messianic Jewish leaders, JVMI is investing in the next generation of Messianic leadership around the world. The Jewish Voice Congregation and

Leadership Development team is also exploring how it can strategically serve ministries that reach out with the truth of Yeshua to Jewish students on college campuses.

## Serving JVMI and the Messianic Jewish Community through Prayer

Within Jewish Voice, the CLD team works to develop and strengthen prayer support of JVMI, as well as the ministries we partner with around the world. Knowing prayer is essential to accomplishing God's work, the CLD team is committed to serving the ministries of JVMI by covering them in prayer from the day-to-day operations to efforts of the Global Outreach department to our own work for His kingdom. We hold daily prayer meetings for staff members and facilitate weekly and monthly prayer meetings that are open to local intercessors.

In addition to praying for the work of JVMI, we are also committed to raising up prayer for the Messianic Jewish community in Israel and around the world, as well as for the nation of Israel. We believe that the best protection of the people of Israel is the confession of Yeshua as Messiah. We pray on a daily basis toward this end, as well as for Israel's leadership and national safety.

Prayer is such a vital part of serving the Lord, especially in an international ministry the size of Jewish Voice. We are devoted to holding up this ministry in prayer before the Lord to fulfill His purposes and follow His leading in all that we do. Our dream is to develop a fully functioning Prayer Center that combines worship and intercession. The vision for the future is 24/7 prayer! As we continue building into that dream day by day, year by year, Jewish Voice remains committed to pursuing a continually deepening and increasing foundation of prayer. 🙏



# Become a Shalom PARTNER Today

The word “shalom” means more than just “peace.” It means “completeness” and “prosperity.” It’s also a beautiful word we use to describe the friends of JVMI who have a special love for the Jewish people and show it through their faithful monthly giving.

**YOUR** monthly support does so much!



Jewish people across the globe will hear the Good News and receive Yeshua as Messiah.



The elderly, whose eyes have been blinded by cataracts, will receive new sight and a transformed life.



Children in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe will receive daily vitamins to strengthen their bodies.



African Jewish families with no access to clean drinking water will receive Family LifeStraw® units, providing them with up to five years of safe drinking water.

**SILVER**  
**\$25**  
MONTHLY GIFT



With your monthly contribution of \$25 or more, you will receive:

- Jewish Voice Notecard Set
- JVMI Keychain
- Insider's Report
- JVMI Exclusive Annual Gift

**GOLD**  
**\$50**  
MONTHLY GIFT



With your monthly contribution of \$50 or more, you will receive all of the items in the Silver level along with:

- 'Shalom Partner' Dedicated Toll-Free Phone Number and Email Address
- Reserved Seating for Select Jewish Voice Events

**PLATINUM**  
**\$100**  
MONTHLY GIFT



With your monthly contribution of \$100 or more, you will receive all of the items in the Gold and Silver levels along with:

- Exquisitely Designed JVMI Sun Catcher
- 10% Off Designated Events
- Select JVMI Publications

## JEWISH VOICE, A LEGACY OF PRAYER

BY PAULA WALBERER

It only makes sense that Jewish Voice Ministries, or Jewish Voice Broadcasts (JVB) as it was originally known, was birthed and bathed in prayer. As a young man, JVMI founder Louis Kaplan came to faith in Yeshua in a prayer meeting. He saw prayer as the *modus operandi* for the ministry right from the start. Those who were with JVB in those early days recall how anytime there was a pressing need that couldn't be met through man's resources or effort, Brother Kaplan would issue a call to prayer—literally, an out-loud shout for the staff to *come pray, now!* When he prayed, there was a deep sense that Heaven heard, and sure enough, the miraculous answers would come from unexpected sources, often just in time. His prayers were not only answered, but through those answers and his total dependence on God, the faith of the whole team was strengthened.

Chira Kaplan was a woman of prayer and a true intercessor in her own right. As editor of *Jewish Voice Prophetic Magazine*, she could often be seen in her office, head bowed, as she interceded over the articles and themes to be presented in the next issue. Chira would gather other intercessors for prayer, one of whom is once again involved in prayer at Jewish Voice as an onsite intercessor today. This prayer partner remembers the fervency, freedom, and community of those early prayer times with Chira and others. Praying for Israel, the salvation of the Jewish people, Jewish Voice itself, and for our many wonderful partners has always been the core of our prayer mandate.



After preaching a service, Louis Kaplan prays with attendees.

From the beginning of Jewish Voice through today, and on into our tomorrows, prayer has been and will continue to be indispensable.

The time came when the Kaplans faced the reality that a new leader for the ministry would become necessary, and as always, they took their needs to the Lord in prayer. He led them to Jonathan Bernis, who in turn prayed to be sure of the Lord's will as he felt the weight of the stewardship being presented to him as Jewish Voice's leader. Once he took on that mantle, Jonathan was careful that the transition was also covered diligently in prayer. He wasn't just taking on one ministry; he was merging two ministries, Jewish Voice Broadcasts and Hear O' Israel Ministries. Staff members from that season recall the emphasis on prayer and how they experienced the Lord's guidance and help in building on the foundational vision to move forward. Rabbi Jonathan led them in praying it through from start to finish.

Every outreach, whether a medical clinic or festival, includes a prayer leader, intercessors, and a space dedicated to worship and prayer, as well as a prayer strategy to seek the Lord for His results and purposes for that particular outreach. We have seen the Lord do amazing things in answer to these prayers. Sometimes it seems like the answers come as quickly as we call on the Lord. At other times, we must diligently press in over time to receive the

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breakthrough we are seeking on behalf of those to whom we are reaching out. Either way, the Lord gains the victory and the glory.

Today, we ensure the flame of intercession is kept going by many ways. Our Prayer Points updates go out twice a month by email to thousands of people. Outreaches are covered in prayer not only at the outreach site and our headquarters, but all around the globe. We have an online prayer calendar, and we invite our email prayer partners to sign up for specific time slots during each of our outreaches. In this way, the ministry in the field is literally covered in round-the-clock prayer by hundreds of faithful prayer partners. Jewish Voice continues to expand with increasing desires for much prayer and many intercessors.

Regardless of the location, the number of prayer partners, or the method by which we engage in intercession, we continue to ground our prayers in the heart and promises of God.

Jewish Voice relies on the fact that as His sheep, we are able to hear His voice, and through His Word and Spirit gain instruction and revelation as to how to pray, what to do, and when to do it. We are completely dependent on God for the immediacy and availability of His presence and guidance in every aspect of the ministry. That only comes through prayer. We are so grateful for every person who is praying alongside us, either here, in the field, or from home. It is reaping eternal fruit!

It is interesting to look back on 1967 and see what was going on in the world at the time Jewish Voice began. Like now, the Middle East was in great unrest, and nations were conspiring against Israel. In the United States, there were 159 race riots that year. However, 1967 was also the year when Israel won a great victory in the Six-Day War and regained Jerusalem. By most accounts, 1967 was a time that both the Jesus Movement and the present-day Messianic Movement began. Also at that time, a renewed awareness and experience of the gifts of the

Holy Spirit began to sweep across denominations.

Today, in our nation and abroad we experience things we never envisioned would be true. We watch the news at times in disbelief. Fear and hopelessness seem to be on the rise. Yet, we as Believers need not

react to what the enemy is doing; we must be confident that he is reacting to what he sees and knows the LORD is doing! As a ministry, we know that the challenges of the times are not reserved to the evening news.

The Lord is calling Jewish Voice to expand to new locations, more outreaches, and increased growth in discipleship and congregational development. We are already

experiencing new and increasing challenges in the field. We know we must, in turn, rely even more intently upon God and His power expressed through answered prayer. Just as the Lord moved mightily around the world in 1967, He can

and will do it again in response to the prayers of His people in each and every nation He calls Jewish Voice Ministries to, and especially in the Land and people of Israel.

We have partnered and labored together to reap the rewards of eternal impact for nations, regions, and thousands and thousands of people across the globe.

We are grateful to each one of you and to the many who continue to swell the ranks of intercessors who are standing in the gap with us for Israel, for Jewish Voice Ministries, and for the salvation of the Jewish people and their neighbors around the world. We bless you in the name of Yeshua, and together we will watch and see what the Lord will do in these next 50 years in response to fervent, united prayer! 🙏

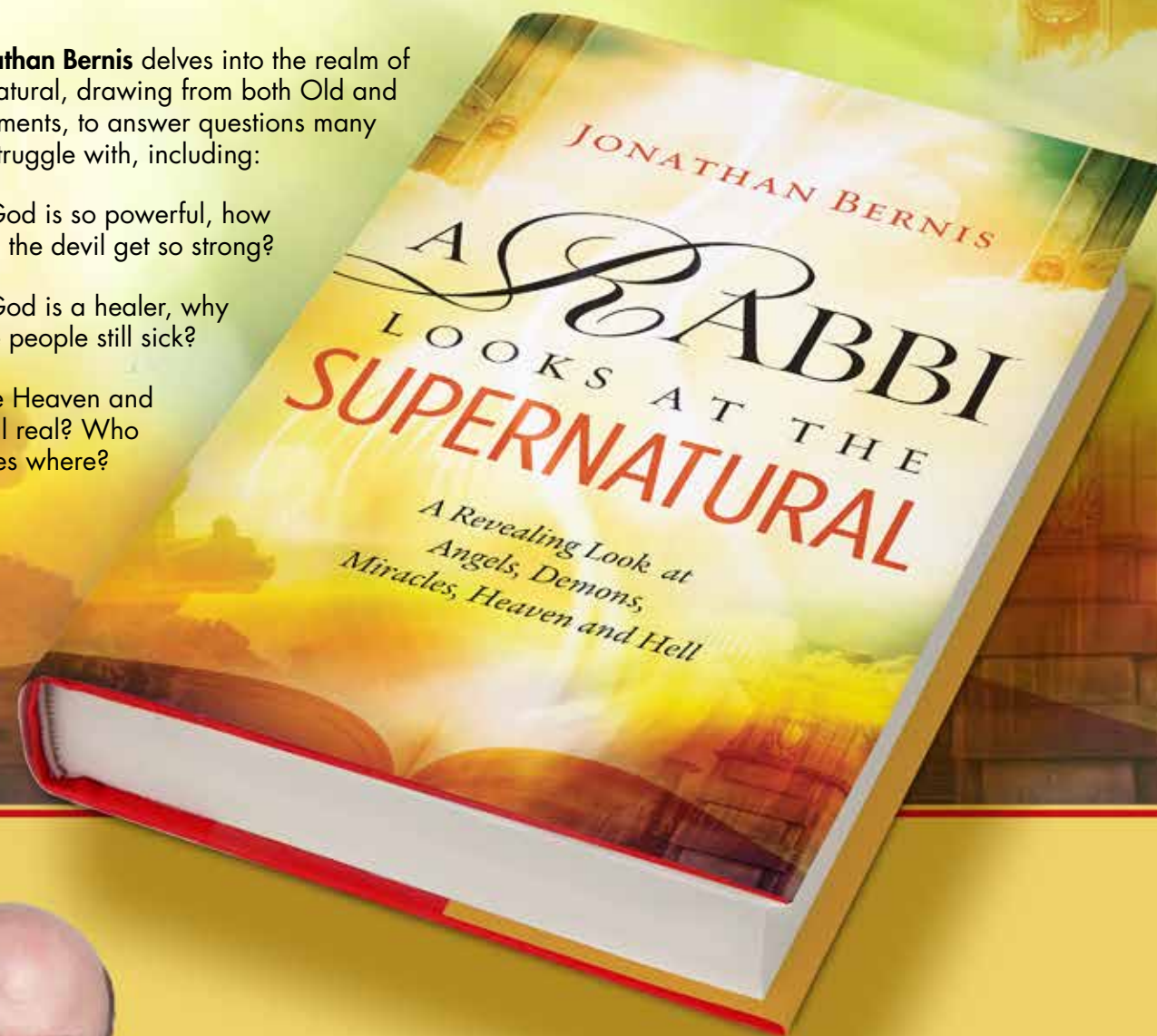


“Above all, you will discover that you are uniquely wired to live a supernatural existence here and now—and that there is a faithful, loving God who longs for you to embrace with confidence His supernatural work in your own life.”

—Jonathan Bernis

Rabbi Jonathan Bernis delves into the realm of the supernatural, drawing from both Old and New Testaments, to answer questions many Believers struggle with, including:

- If God is so powerful, how did the devil get so strong?
- If God is a healer, why are people still sick?
- Are Heaven and Hell real? Who goes where?



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# 50 YEARS OF JEWISH VOICE

**MAY 16-26, 2017**

Not only does 2017 mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's miraculous victory, retaking the capital city of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War, but it also marks Jewish Voice's 50 years of ministry!

**JOIN Jonathan Bernis and his family** on this once-in-a-lifetime historic tour as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jewish Voice!



*Celebrate*  
**ISRAEL**  **2017**

Visit our website for more information:  
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