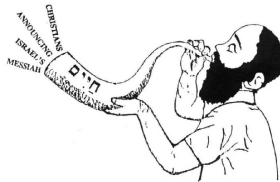


# CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "CHristians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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Fall 2018  
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## SUKKOT

### A REMINDER OF OUR FRAILTY AND DEPENDENCE ON GOD

If you live in an observant Jewish neighborhood, you may observe an unusual phenomenon this time of year. Suddenly small shacks appear in Jewish backyards or on city balconies. They might have sides of wood or cloth or even blue polypropylene tarps. On top will be branches or bamboo. These makeshift temporary dwellings will have a table inside and perhaps some decorations of fruit, Indian corn, or pictures made by children. These dwellings are called sukkot, the plural form of the Hebrew for booth, sukkah. This year Sukkot begins on the evening of September 23.

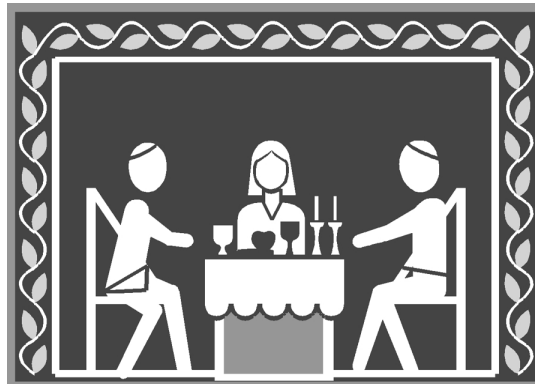
Three major Jewish holidays occur in the fall. First comes the Feast of Trumpets, Rosh HaShana, also known as the Jewish New Year. Ten Days later comes Yom Kippur, the solemn Day of Atonement when religious Jews fast and seek forgiveness. One hopes one is written into the Book of Life. Five days after that Sukkot begins and lasts for a week. You can read about these High Holy Days in Leviticus chapter 23 and Numbers chapter 29.

The Feast of Tabernacles was designed as a reminder of the period of the wilderness wandering during which time the Israelites were totally dependent upon God for their needs. Spending a week in a hut with a roof of branches –or even just eating meals in it as is often done– does remind the worshiper of the temporary nature and frailty of life.

Other aspects of this holiday also speak of God's provision. Leviticus 23:40 says "take choice fruit from

the trees, and palm fronds, leafy branches and poplars, and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days."

This reminded God's people that the fruit and branches of all the trees ultimately belonged to God and were provided by him. Traditionally this season of fruit harvest also brought to mind the need for the provision of water needed for the land to produce. It was at the water-pouring ceremony in Jerusalem at Sukkot that Jesus stood and proclaimed "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." John 7:37-38



I wonder if we truly appreciate the frailty of our existence and our dependence on God. We live in an affluent society, and most of us have more than we need. As I write, a hurricane is hitting the eastern seaboard. How frail we really are! We recently saw a dear friend who is struggling with cancer who we hadn't seen for a couple of months.

How thin and weak she has become. My own frailty became apparent to me in May and June as I suffered from a disc problem and had trouble even walking. (I am doing much better now, thank God.) I have always been the strong one, the guy who opens the pickle jar, but I was laid low for a season. Yes, we are frail –and this is even more true spiritually!

It is only because of the water from heaven that our trees are green and fruit-bearing. It is only by virtue of the Living Water that we can bear any spiritual fruit at all. Left to our own devices, we will wither on the vine. How much we constantly need to be reminded of this –not just yearly but daily. Do remember to pray for us that we may be constantly filled with Living Water, for God has said: "Apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

–FK

# CHAIM MINISTRY UPDATES

## 2018 Independence Week Summer Campaign

Once again we hit the streets during the Philadelphia Independence week festivities. Teams went out during fireworks, concerts, a parade and a street festival. Once again during the annual showing of the Rocky film on the Philly Art Museum steps, we gave out a Rocky-themed gospel pamphlet and engaged people in conversations. One bright young modern woman from a Turkish background passed by and said she was trying to get away from religion. She came back later and engaged in conversation. She was a feisty one! After we spoke for about 15 minutes, she admitted she was purposely trying to get my goat and provoke an angry reaction, but she commended me on my composure. A seed was planted, and we pray God sends others to water it.

While at a concert on Independence Mall, we met an older Jewish man I had talked with last year at the Art Museum! He was very friendly, remembered me, and approached me. Rick Anderson took over with him and they talked for quite a while. I was able to snap a picture of them, below.



### BUG BITES A BLESSING!?

A week before the campaign I went fishing, or attempted to. I took Steve, a Jewish friend with me and David, a young fellow from our congregation. We never fished because the green-head flies at the Jersey shore were merciless. I had 80 bites on my calves! They really started itching during the campaign. It was driving me crazy, so I went to the pharmacy to get some anti-itch lotion. I sat on a low wall to apply it, and two young Hasidic Jews approached me and asked if I'm Jewish! I responded in Hebrew that I'm not Jewish but my king is. They looked at me quite puzzled and responded in English, repeating my Hebrew statement. I knew they were out trying to get Jews to put on phylacteries and say certain prayers in order to expedite the coming of

the Messiah. I am quite familiar with their mystical theology and told them that I believe Messiah has already come, the first time to make atonement for sin so that we can be forgiven, and he will come again to judge the world. One was more eager to talk than the other one. I asked their names. Both were named Meyer! They were no more than 20 years old. So pray for these two Hasidim visiting from Brooklyn doing their form of "evangelism." If it wasn't for the bug bites, this witness would not have happened! God can use anything—even green-head flies!



We were blessed to have a couple from New Jersey join in, Sandy (left) and her husband Albert. They were very enthusiastic evangelists, and we were so glad to get to know them. We're sure they will join us in the future. Also, pictured below are Vitaly, my associate pastor at Rock of Israel PCA, Eva and Paul, Westminster students

and Rock of Israel Members, and me. You can see the Art Museum crowd in the background.



**Please remember to pray for our outreach at the annual "Matryoshka" festival for the Russian-speaking community. We have obtained hundreds of Russian Messianic Bibles and will be giving them out from our booth at the festival, along with other gospel literature and Jesus film DVDs in Russian and the languages of Central Asia. God bless you all!** –Director Fred Klett