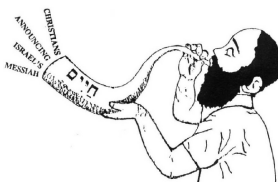


# CHAIM TIMES

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

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## Seeing God as a Person

How do you see God? It is possible to have a good intellectual grasp on proper theology, yet it does not touch your heart. Good theology is critical, yet you are to love the Lord your God "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." (Deut. 6:5). Mental assent to the truth is not enough. It is a temptation to see God falsely as an all powerful transcendent force rather than as a person. It is difficult, actually impossible, to love and be thankful from your heart to a force or energy, or even a "great spirit" far removed from our experience of personhood. We need to see God as a person.

Of course, it is also an error to see God the Father as some old bearded grandfather in the sky! God is indeed a Spirit, as the Westminster Larger Catechism states: "God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." (Answer to question 7.)

As far as definitions go, it is hard to improve upon the Westminster Larger Catechism's answer! But is this enough to inspire love, devotion, thanksgiving and obedience? Knowing God is not simply an intellectual matter or one of having the proper definition. Right theology is very necessary, but we need to see God in a personal way as well.

To see God as a person we need to look to the Messiah who is the Word of God made flesh, the Son of God who has revealed the Father. The second person of the Trinity is the only way we are able to see, hear, and experience God in a personal way.

Isn't God the Son the revelation of the Father and the person of the Godhead we can and will experience? After all: "No man has seen God at any time; but the one and only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared him." (John 1:18) When Philip asked: "Lord, show us the Father" Jesus answered: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9) In John 6:46 we are told: "not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the

Father." See Jesus and you see the Father. That is who the Messiah is, Immanuel, God with us.

When our first parents "heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day" it was the Son, the Living Word, present there. When Jacob wrestled with a mysterious person and his name was changed to Israel, meaning "he who has wrestled with God," it was the pre-incarnate Messiah. When God spoke from the burning bush and later showed his "back" to Moses, it was the Son revealing the Father, and when Isaiah saw "the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple" it was Immanuel.

If you have trouble relating to God in a personal way, perhaps you are looking in the wrong place. Focus on the Messiah and you will see the Father and you can know what God is like in a personal way. Understanding this can change your perspective.

Why the incarnation? In order for us to be redeemed, there needed to be a second Adam to be the head of a new humanity. There needed to be a mediator between man and God. Messiah had to be God incarnate to accomplish our redemption. Being truly man, he could pay for the sins of men. Being God, his sacrifice was of infinite value. But also the incarnation has revealed God to us in a way not possible otherwise.

In Jesus we see God's love and compassion. We see God's righteousness, justice, truth, and mercy in new ways. We see God's willingness to call us his friends. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life **for his friends**...**You are my friends** if you do what I command you...No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:13, 14, 15)

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and friend, let's remember what he has done for us on the cross, and may our hearts be filled with the love of God, who dwelt among us in a very personal way in the Messiah. —FK

# CHAIM MINISTRY UPDATES

Rev. Fred Klett, Director



Rick does evangelism regularly with a team from several churches. They have seen many professions of faith this year!

Vitaly has started teaching English with a local program and has a number of Russian speaking students. He shared the gospel with 12 people recently!



Fred hosted summer barbeques. A dear friend Ron (right), from a Jewish background, is a great guy who's open to discuss the Messiah.

We had a great time at the "Matryoshka" Festival giving out Bibles and other gospel materials and talking with Russian-Jewish neighbors!



Pray for Contacts Sasha & Lena, Felix & Regina, Mikhail, Ron, Miriam, Nazira, & Inna & also for Izzy, who recently professed faith and was baptized at our Rock of Israel PCA church plant.

Thanks for your continuing prayers & support. The generosity of many has been a great blessing.

SEE US ONLINE AT [WWW.CHAIM.ORG](http://WWW.CHAIM.ORG)



At the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism we met with our friend Steven Atkinson, USA Director of CWI, a sister ministry. Pray for our future relationship.

Fred and Vitaly traveled to the Presbyterian Church in America General Assembly in St. Louis to represent the ministry, make ourselves available to consult with churches, provide materials, and make connections. It was at the same time as July 4 activities in Philly, so Rick stayed home and did street evangelism. We are blessed to have a great triple partnership!



**Finally, we could not do this work without our wives, who are very supportive! Jean Klett (top) and Linda Anderson (bottom left) are both involved with teaching English to immigrants with a local program known as "Grow." Marina Kalinovsky (bottom right) is very involved with our Rock of Israel PCA church plant and helps support and take care of her family. These are wonderful women and we truly appreciate them!**

## CHAIM Staff Members:

Rev. Fred Klett, Executive Director

Rev. Rick Anderson, Senior Missionary

Rev. Vitaly Kalinovsky, Russian Ministry Specialist

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL IN THE NEW YEAR!**



