

# CHAIM TIMES

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

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## BORN A JEW...AND STILL A JEW

A little more than 2,000 years ago a Jewish baby was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, Israel's great king. This Jewish man, a descendent of David, changed the world. His first-century Jewish followers brought the good news about him to the pagan gentiles. Europe was transformed as the pagan idols fell. And not only Europe. A Jewish disciple, Thomas, traveled as far as south India with the good news. If not for this Jew from Bethlehem and his disciples, the gentile world would still be in pagan darkness.

And Jesus is still a Jew. As he sits at the right hand of the Father, he remains God incarnate. His genealogy did not change with his ascension. Jesus was born a Jew, died a Jew, was risen as a Jew, ascended as a Jew, reigns above as a Jew, and will return as a Jew. He is now and forever will be a Jew. How strange that there are some who claim to love him and yet hate the Jews!

I recently had one of those Facebook encounters with a friend of a friend, actually now a former friend of a friend. This man, who claimed to be a devout Christian, made the statement: "God hates the Jews." Shocking, but sadly, nothing new. John Chrysostom, honored as a saint in the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, said some absolutely awful anti-Semitic things, as did Martin Luther. Chrysostom said: "God hates the Jews and has always hated the Jews." (Quoted by Edward H. Flannery, *The Anguish of the Jews*, p. 51. Flannery was a priest who taught at Seton Hall University. I think this may be the best book on the history of anti-Semitism, and I highly recommend it.) Even Luther, who was at first sympathetic to the Jews, wrote: "What shall we...do with this rejected and condemned people, the Jews?...First, set fire to their synagogues or schools

and bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them..." (From Luther's Works, *The Jews and Their Lies*.) The reformer hoped such harsh treatment would lead the Jewish people to repentance! The man I encountered on Facebook was what is known as a "Kinist." The Kinist movement claims to be Christian but exalts white European culture and sticking with one's own kind. (For more information, see <https://carm.org/what-is-kinism>).

This reminds me of that bit of doggerel:

How odd of God  
To choose the Jews.

To which Ogden Nash is said to have responded:

But not so odd  
As those who choose  
A Jewish God  
Yet spurn the Jews

How can anyone who claims to love Christ, the Jewish Messiah, hate Christ's own ethnic group? Has there ever been a more devilish plot inspired by the adversary than hatred of Jews by those who claim to follow Jesus? What better way to try to hinder the return of the Jewish people to Messiah Jesus, a return Scripture promises will be a blessing not only to the church but also to the whole world? (Romans 11:12)

This "Messiah-mas" season let us remember to pray for the people through whom God chose to send His Son. God said through Isaiah, "I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6). Let us pray indeed for Emmanuel to come and ransom captive Israel, as the old song says. And please remember to pray for us as we seek to bring the Good News to Jewish friends.

—Fred Klett, Director

## The CHAIM Ministry Team



Director Fred Klett with Jean

It has been a good year. This fall we gave out 520 roses with an attached gospel message in both English and Russian at the local festival for the Russian-speaking immigrants called "Matryoshka." Peoples' hearts were touched, and our gifts were well received. We had many chances to share the Good News and give out Bibles and gospel materials. We worked on this with Sally Klein O'Conner. She is a Jewish-Christian musician and good friend who does her "Tour of Roses" all over the world. We are grateful that she partnered with us, and we are thinking about doing something similar next year. During the summer we lead a street campaign, which was also an encouragement.

We finally received our order of Russian Messianic Bibles from Finland. If you need a Bible for a Russian Jewish friend we will provide one for you without cost.

This past year Fred spoke in churches in Western Pennsylvania, Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, and locally. At several of these presentations Jewish friends of church members were present and heard the gospel.



Florida Regional Rep Michael Saunders with Patty. He teaches Bible studies on Jewish themes. This year, Michael's Advent Devotional has a more Jewish theme. You may enjoy using it for your spiritual encouragement this season. You can download it at: <http://www.chaim.org/Advent2017.pdf>



Senior Missionary Rick Anderson with Linda

At a recent evangelistic outreach at the U. of Penn campus in Philadelphia, Rick met the administrative coordinator for the Jewish Studies Program for the university. She's a born-again Christian, and she was pleased to see what he was doing on campus. They agreed to keep in touch. Please pray that this meeting develops into a wider contact with the Penn students we're trying to reach. Rick has had some great times sharing the gospel with Jews, Muslims, and others on the street, on campus, and door-to-door with a local Evangelism Explosion ministry.

In the coming weeks, Rick will be visiting indoor malls to speak to the Israelis at their mobile kiosks as they sell the Dead Sea creams and nail lotions.



Vitaly Kalinovsky with Marina. He partners with Fred Klett in planting Rock of Israel PCA among Russian-speaking immigrants, half of whom are Jewish. Vitaly is supported through Rock of Israel, but in a very real way he is also part of the CHAIM team.

We at CHAIM (and the Rock of Israel PCA church plant) want to specially thank you for your prayers and support and wish you a very wonderful Christmas, Hanukkah, and a blessed New Year! You are truly an important part of our work. If you already contribute to CHAIM, please don't shift support from one of our ministers to another, but all would welcome any new support! (We can receive gifts of stock as well if that helps with your tax situation. Call for info.) God bless you in 2018!