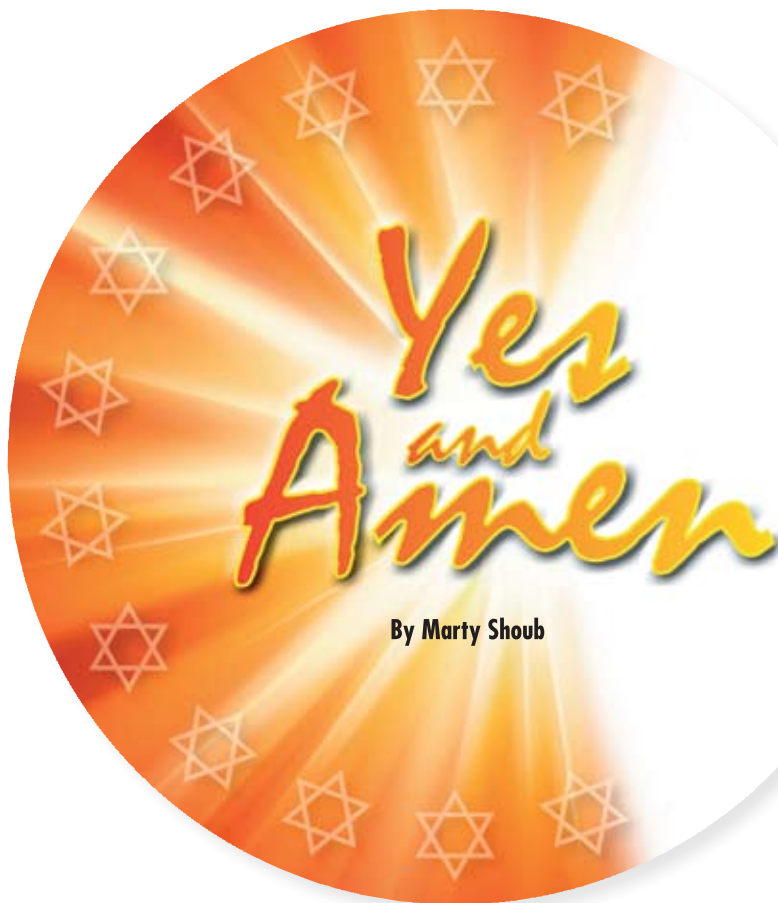




Oasis

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By Marty Shoub

Every January, "Intercessors for Israel" holds a prayer conference in Jerusalem. For the last seven years they have asked Marc Chopinsky to lead worship at the conference. For those of us who know Marc personally, that is not a surprising choice. Marc has had some twenty years to hone his craft as a worship leader; his Spirit-sensitive leadership style is conducive to helping intercessors focus on the majesty and faithfulness of God.

The conference had just ended and Marc was packing up the sound equipment, ready to head back to the Haifa Bay area. Quite to his surprise, after the inspiring music and worship had ended, Marc heard the Holy Spirit speak: "Produce a recording in English that focuses on the centrality of Yeshua." Marc was surprised not only with the Holy Spirit's timing but with His explicit command instructing Marc to record the project in English.

Marc's experience in music ministry predates his role as a worship leader. In the 1980s, Marc, along with Rene Bloch and Paul Wilbur, was a member of "Israel's Hope" the forerunner, seminal Messianic worship band that recorded two critically acclaimed albums. The band concluded their ministry and Paul Wilbur moved on to establish a solo career as a recording artist. Marc and his wife Leah subsequently moved to Israel where Marc set up a recording business and settled in as Tents of Mercy's worship leader.

All of Marc's musical endeavors in Israel have focused on Hebrew based music. Marc noted, "English was not on my agenda, all my years in Israel I have emphasized worship in Hebrew and have endeavored to promote and produce Israeli Hebrew music." Marc ruminated on the Holy Spirit's instructions and a plan began to formulate in his mind. "I sensed the project was to have four objectives, to emphasize the Lordship of Yeshua, Focus on God's sovereignty, record 'anthems' with a heavenly theme and bring refreshment to the Messianic movement, particularly English speakers in the West."

As Marc began to plan out his project he turned to keyboard player, Michael Gerasimov. Michael had been Marc's accompanist at the prayer conference and a new edition to the Tents of Mercy worship team. Michael and his family made aliyah just 3 years ago and he has an extensive musical education and experience. The two men quickly discovered that they shared very similar styles and musical philosophy. Marc explained, "I could not have done this album without Michael. It was very much a collaboration between the two of us. I believe Michael's arrival in Israel and joining Tents of Mercy was part of God's timing for this recording.

"Marc and Michael got to work, building each of the fourteen songs from the ground up. All told, fitting the recording time in between other commitments, the project took eighteen months to complete. Originally a privately produced project, Marc entitled the CD *Yes and Amen* to emphasize Yeshua's prominence as the culmination of

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Marc Chopinsky leading worship

all God's promises to Israel. The disc was completed in July 2011. The well known Messianic record label, Galilee of the Nations, took an interest in the project. After listening to the masters, GOTN president, Yochanan BenYehuda offered to distribute the album through their record label. The graphics were reworked in the familiar GOTN style and the title was recast as *Israel's Hope*. This new title also points to the preeminence of Yeshua and hearkens back to Marc's formative days with the musical group of the same name. The official launch of the Galilee Of The Nations production is October 4, 2011. The album is available in Bible bookstores and through all the major digital download sites.



A quiet moment at a worship conference in Germany

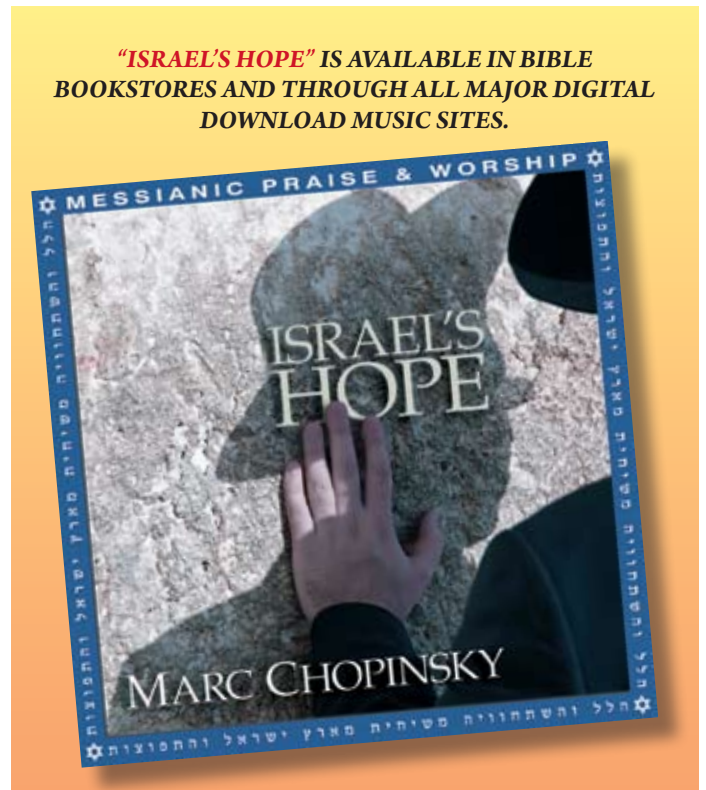
Marc Chopinsky has been in music ministry for thirty years making him exceptionally qualified to comment on the purpose

of worship. Marc: "The goal of worship is to fill the space with His presence – it is part of our experience of knowing Him, there is something about corporate worship that makes God's presence more tangible. I am mindful of the pattern of entering His courts with praise. By definition, praise and worship are separate tasks. Praise has to do with joyful exuberance and worship is focused on giving honor and expressing reverence. When I prepare to lead worship I always take time aside to ask the Lord, 'what would you like to hear today?'"

Marc is enthusiastic about the development of Israeli contemporary worship. "There are a lot of terrific songs, a lot of inspiration and passion, especially among our young people. I am very excited to see young people fired up to give God honor. Marc is not as familiar with the happenings outside the land. But as he sensed the Holy Spirit's direction to craft an album for more Western Messianic audiences he is confident that *Israel's Hope* will bring refreshing and encouragement to the Body of Messiah outside of Israel.

It has been more than twenty years since Marc was involved in producing his own music but with the launching of *Israel's Hope* he already is formulating plans for a new project – stay tuned. ✨

If you would like to purchase Marc's album in its original format, "Yes and Amen" you can purchase it directly from Marc at his online store, "Future Vision Gifts", www.fvgifts.com



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Our Vision:

- Tents of Mercy** - to participate in today's historic exodus by assisting Israel's returning exiles.
- No spectators in the Kingdom** - to be a worshiping, sharing community based in homes, equipping each one for service.
- Come back Yeshua** - to welcome Yeshua home to Israel, by restoring the Jewish roots of New Covenant faith.

The Pleasure of Doing Good

By Eitan Shishkoff

When Yonatan (our usually sober keeper of the books) sprayed Sasha with water I knew we'd hit a high point. Hours into the "assembly line" of packing holiday gift packages for local families in need, the heat and impending completion inspired Yonatan. I grabbed my camera, to record fleeting proof of the moment.

We all discovered again just how satisfying it is to work together with brothers and sisters in a way that will bless our neighbors. It's just a lot of fun, even when you're sweating and trying to keep track of how many bottles of water you've actually put in the bag.

Judging by the smiles, jokes and singing that went on that afternoon in the Tents of Mercy warehouse, I would have to conclude that we were cashing in on Yeshua's radical promise. **"Give and it will be given to you,**



The faithful packaging crew



What we put inside



Rosh Hashanah Baskets ready to go



Sveta enjoying a laugh



Yonatan dousing Sasha

a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap." (Luke 6:38 NIV)

God made us to do good and to enjoy it. The Torah anticipates our experience: **"He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, 'a land flowing with milk and honey'...so you shall rejoice in every good thing which the Lord your God has given you... (when) you have given (the tithe of your increase) to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow, so that you may eat within your gates and be filled."** (Deut 27:11,12) The apostle adds in Ephesians 2:10 that **"we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yeshua for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."**

Spending a few hours stuffing Rosh Hashanah gift baskets is not any heroic deed. But that's just the point. Doing good is not necessarily, or even usually the activity of courageous heroes. It's usually the result of simple people who want to give of their time/energy to bless someone else, someone they may not even know.

This holiday season may you enjoy being part of "doing good" with us, as we place a few items where there is hardship. We wish you a sweet and Spirit-saturated year. ✨

Metulah and Security

By Eitan Shishkoff

Near summer's end, while vacationing at a northern kibbutz, I took my daughter to an early bus to get back to her IDF base. A sudden inspiration carried me through Kiryat Shmona, climbing toward the higher elevation of Metulah, another 6 kilometers (almost 4 miles) up the road. Metulah is the northernmost town in Israel. It sits on a high ridge overlooking Lebanon.

On the way I found myself interceding for these Israeli "outposts." They're not really outposts, but I thought about how vulnerable these towns are. They are RIGHT on the border and have already been fired on many, many times. From the mid 1970's until 2000, when Israel withdrew from Southern Lebanon, rocket attacks were an almost daily affair. In the 34 days of the 2006 Second Lebanon War, 1012 rockets hit Kiryat Shmona. Half of the town evacuated and the other half endured the barrages in bomb shelters.

As I continued driving I began calling on the God of Israel, declaring His protection over the area and reminding Him of His protective attributes, oft-cited in Scripture: High Tower, The Rock of our Salvation, Our Defense, Our Savior, Our Shield, He who surrounds us with songs of deliverance. These prayers became more than a remote request for blessing. The tangible, ongoing need of my northern countrymen infused me with fresh, passionate faith in identification with their vulnerability.

Arriving at a stunning outlook point called Dado Lookout I was greeted by a pre-sunrise view of the upper

Hula Valley. Orchards and fertile fields emerged into view as the sun slowly broke through low morning clouds. I felt more alive than usual, as if God was pulling me close and opening a curtain on just one small portion of His grandeur. At the same time I began reflecting on our people, Israel. A longing welled up in me, a longing for my people to know our true Defender/ Redeemer, Messiah Yeshua. My intercession became a cry for the revelation of His atoning mercy here, in Eretz Yisrael, where He was born, lived, manifested the Glory, was executed and conquered death. Then it hit me, in a simple parallel with the security needs of Metula and Kiryat Shmona.

In order to convey the reality of Yeshua as Israel's Messiah to Israel, we must be secure. There is a level of unashamed, restful confidence that comes from Him, that is the foundation for reaching out in love. These towns are open to attack, yet they are fully functioning, content with their sensitive position. They know their importance and without pretense proclaim Israel's return to our ancient home. Is this not what I am called to do? He is my Shepherd and Commander, my Healer and my Comforter. If God is for me, who can be against me (Romans 8:31)? That being the case, interacting with my fellow Israelis, or anybody else, becomes an opportunity - an opening for Him to touch another through me.

May these northern towns dwell securely, and may we enter a new level of inner security, to make Messiah known. ✨



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Metula_and_Hermon.JPG