

Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times" - Publisher
- Israel Legal Defense
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

We can do both, as long as we understand they are two essentially separate worlds. The business of the world is making money. The business of God's Kingdom is making disciples. Yeshua said:

Go ye therefore, and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:19,20).

The glory of the Lord is shown in the fruitful lives of His disciples. In the world of commerce, an organization might have a good looking reception area, state of the art office equipment and sound finances, but if these amenities do not result in productivity, the company will have to shut its doors. The business of the Kingdom is the production of disciplined lives.

Yeshua didn't pray for great crowds or funds to support His works. His prayer was about His followers:

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me, through their word, that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:20, 21).

The Body of Messiah is like a fabric of independent lives woven together. We are incomplete without each other, and we function as a coordinated whole. Some were created to support others, who are released for ministry works. Some provide employment for others. Each of us was created in a unique way. Each person's gifting can be used to serve someone else's calling.

The dynamics of Jewish ministry are the same as the rest of the Body. Each of us has been given a responsibility to support first our local congregation. If we have not been inspired to give, then we might ask if this is a problem with the group or with ourselves. When we are productive channels of blessing, God has promised to do more through us.

Of course, all of the above requires faith to do according to the Lord's instruction. His way is true and it's the way to our well-being.

In Messiah,

Paul Liberman
Executive Director

International Messianic Jewish Alliance

האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

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ESSAY # 160

BUSINESS & MINISTRY

Dear Fellow Workers,

Even as a young boy, the world of business captured my interest and I wanted to know all about it. At the age of ten, I started to read books about accounting. What a weird little kid I must have been! Yet it appeared to me that money was the means of making things happen. In Hebrew school, studying the Scriptures didn't seem to be pertinent to economics.

After becoming a Bible believer, the main way I integrated this thinking was to depend upon God to make me a successful businessman. Only during the last 20 years have I fully realized a dichotomy between the world system and the Kingdom of God. The problem was I only had degrees in Economics and Business Administration. Moreover, my experience was mostly practical and the Messianic involvement was only a sideline.

Now, with years of exposure to the business side of ministry, it still seems holding a job or owning an enterprise is a wholesome occupation. It's the way it is done that determines whether it is a noble thing to do. In general, professional ministry is a worthy calling unless it is corrupted.

There is a tendency to forget that Yeshua (Jesus) was a carpenter's apprentice, making all kinds of things for the ordinary lives of His customers. He intimately knew the daily routine of the working people to whom he ministered. Many of His parables and illustrations were drawn from everyday life.

Those years were preparation for His ministry. In the life of His son, God drew a clear line between the business of the world and the business of the Kingdom:

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much, and he that is unjust in the least is also unjust in much. If therefore we have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will

What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters utilized by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

National Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Holland
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

commit to your trust the true riches? (Luke 16: 10,11).

Yeshua's intent was to show how easy it is to allow seeking riches to corrupt holy activity:

...and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting, and when he made a scourge of small cords, he drove them out of the temple and the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers money and overthrew the tables, and said to them that sold doves, "Take these things hence, do not make my Father's house a house of merchandise" (John 2:14 -16).

Many sincere believers mistake their work in the commercial world for the ministry God has given them. Business is business, and ministry is ministry. While there is nothing intrinsically wrong about believers conducting business, understanding our dual roles and keeping them distinct seems essential.

Yes, let's be upright in our conduct, so people can have respect when they learn about our spiritual views, outside working hours.

John the Baptist preached repentance and holiness, but did not demand his following to leave their jobs, even when they were questionable, such as collecting taxes or serving Roman occupying forces.

Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said to Him, "Master, what shall we do?" And He said to them, "Exact no more than that which Is appointed to you." And the soldiers likewise demanded of Him, saying "What shall we do?" And he said to them "Do violence to no man; neither accuse any falsely, and be content with your wages." (Luke 3:12-14).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Yeshua said:

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see good works and glorify your Father, who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Our professionalism, integrity, wisdom and success will provide us with credibility. We may spend fewer hours on directly related Kingdom activity, but these attributes will help us to be more trust worthy.

As in the Bible, some believers are called to full-time ministry and are supported totally by the gifts of others. Most are called to earn a living in the secular world. Regular occupations can be a great preparation for full-time service. Rav Shaul (Apostle Paul) made tents in order to support the church planting ministry of his disciples. He didn't preach a gospel of tent making. After he put down his canvas, thread and needle, he preached about the Good News of Messiah. Speaking of his relationship with Aquila and Priscilla, Paul:

...abode with them, and wrought, for by their occupation they were tent makers. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks (Acts 18:3,4).

Perhaps a few of Paul's spiritual illustrations were derived from his business experience:

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven; inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life (2 Corinthians 5:1-4).

Tent making was not Paul's ministry, but his vehicle for his spiritual works. Believers need not feel a compulsion to insert witnessing tracts in every product they make. Rather, after hours, with time available secured through hard work and success in the marketplace, can we freely offer Messiah's solace, just as Yeshua did. Of course, some are called to full-time work. Let us hope when ministry is pursued, it is not for the status of being a clergyman, but rather as an opportunity to serve. God is not a respecter of persons and doesn't favor those who have been called to ministerial occupations. Clergy is not higher than lay people; neither is the reverse true. A different role doesn't mean it is superior.

The Good News of Messiah is heavenly and pure. It has no unrighteous obligation to the marketplace:

For ye remember, brethren, our labor and travail, for laboring night and day, because we would not be changeable to any of you, we preached to you the Gospel of God (Thessalonians 2:9).

This does not mean we are unable to make money and minister concurrently.

Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian and now Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do. Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

