

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.

what the Lord has put in their heart. That is where the IMJA comes in – to show Christian leaders that we are not the "new kids on the block" in the Jewish world and to make the case that Messianic Jews worldwide need their support, in word and in deed. I believe this networking to be a worthwhile expenditure of time on behalf of the IMJA. I encourage you to get active in your own networking. Together, we can spread the word that our Lord is up to something great among His Chosen People – that we finally understand what we have been chosen for!

As the summer comes to a close, many of our minds and hearts turn back to our children and grandchildren starting back at school, fall weather, and of course, God's Biblical calendar. We are in the midst of a 30-day period leading up to the High Holy Days, designed among our Jewish people to help us let go of pain so that we can embrace the future with hope. These weeks are a season of spiritual preparation for the Days of Awe. It is our time to get ready, before we come together as a community, beginning the evening of September 18th which marks Yom Teruah (Day of Shofar blasts – known today as Rosh Hashanah), spoken of in Lev. 23:24,25 and Numbers 21:1 ...*In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, have a shabbaton (rest), a zikron t'ruah (memorial of shouting), a mik'ra kodesh (holy convocation); do not do any kind of ordinary work; it is a day of blowing the shofar for you.* I highly encourage each of you, if you have not already done so, to seek out your local Messianic Jewish Congregation (www.messianictimes.com – click "Directory") and attend that weekend for any one of their Rosh Hashanah worship services. I know you will be tremendously blessed to do so and you will learn much about this prophetic appointed time of the Lord. I would appreciate knowing how such a visit turns out by dropping me an e-mail at: ravjoel@pacbell.net

I am making some headway on reformatting the website and would equally appreciate your input as we add content. For those who donate to this ministry, you can now do so securely on the website via PayPal, which may be more convenient for some.

As the High Holy Days approach, on behalf of our Executive Committee and Administrative Committee, let me personally wish you all - *Shanah tovah b'Yeshua HaMashiach*, a good year in Messiah, Yeshua!

Joel Liberman
Executive Director

International Messianic Jewish Alliance

האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

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ESSAY # 165

OUT AND ABOUT - NETWORKING

Shalom *Chaverim* (Friends) and Co-Laborers,

It sure is fun to network in the Kingdom of God! From the doors that are opened to share the Messiah, Yeshua with our Jewish people who don't know the Lord (yet!), to sharing about the work of the IMJA, I am thoroughly enjoying this new role as Executive Director. Allow me to update you up on some exciting things that took place at three conferences I participated in over the past month.

First, as I briefly mentioned in the last essay, the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Mexico held their 20th annual conference in Puerto Vallarta in mid-July. Many thanks go to the conference leadership team, consisting of Manuel Hernandez, who leads *Yeshua ben David Messianic Jewish Congregation* in Guadalajara along with Myriam Levy (IMJA Vice-President), and Yolanda Guzik (President of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Mexico) who, despite challenging economic conditions, put together an outstanding convention for all of the participants, both young and old! Manuel, Myriam and Yolanda represent a truly committed group of *gibborim* (warriors) for the Messiah, who, along with exhibiting high character, have a clear vision and direction for Messianic Judaism in Mexico akin to Sha'ul (Paul) the Emissary, whose *prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved* (Romans 10:1). In addition, I was tremendously encouraged by their spirit of self-sacrifice, love for the Lord and each other, which accompanied overwhelming support of the IMJA!

My role was to participate in a Latin American Theological Consultation panel discussion, and to bring two messages (all translated by tireless worker Andrea Platner) that I believe challenged our southern neighbors as to where we should be headed as a Messianic Jewish Movement. Two other Spanish-speaking Messianic rabbis from the U.S. joined with me (Jack Zimmerman and Michael Stepakoff) in teaching and preaching duties. We worshipped, prayed, and mutually exhorted one another alongside our

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

Mexican brethren, in an effort to strengthen these nationals to believe for ADONAI to move mightily on our Jewish people in their country -- from Monterrey to Mexico City -- and all parts in between. Mexico City, the world's largest megapolis, with a population of over 22 million, is home to tens of thousands of our Jewish people and I am hopeful that when I return for next year's conference, Messianic Jews from Mexico City and other Latin American locales will be heartily represented as they "lock arms" together in the Good News.

Second, I headed directly from Puerto Vallarta to Washington, D.C. to come alongside 5,000 brothers and sisters in Messiah to lobby Congress on behalf of Israel. There was also a small contingency of Jewish people in this effort who crossed over their lobbying affiliations with AIPAC (The American Israel Public Affairs Committee) to join us. I was already prepared for the "pushback" from members of Congress that, almost without exception accepts the idea of a "two-state" solution as a prerequisite to the "peace process." I recognized that I was not going to change anyone's worldview in the matter of a short meeting; I was there to talk policy to policymakers and not the Bible, and the facts needed to inform my activism. I was given the opportunity to be able to personally speak with my district's Congressman (Rep Duncan D. Hunter – CA-52), Senior Foreign Policy and Defense Advisor for Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) and Legislative Assistant for Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA) regarding the issue that Israel is not the problem in the Middle East, and that pressure on Israel is not the solution.

I particularly reminded Congressman Hunter that President Obama has indicated that resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict is one of his Administration's top foreign policy priorities. Obama has called upon Israel to immediately cease the natural growth of its settlements in Judea and Samaria, and he may pressure Israel to make significant territorial concessions. The fact is that Israel has already taken significant risks for peace. In the 1990s, Israel

withdrew from most of the Arab population centers in the West Bank. In 2000, Israel withdrew from Southern Lebanon.

In 2005, Israel removed all of its soldiers and settlers from Gaza. In each case, terrorism against Israel only increased.

In 2002, Israeli troops had to re-enter most of the West Bank to stop a bloody wave of "Palestinian" suicide bombings in Israeli restaurants, cafes and buses. Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon was followed by thousands of missiles being launched into northern Israel, and the withdrawal from Gaza was followed by thousands of rockets being fired into southern Israel.

We know that Israel is not the obstacle to peace in the Middle East. It is the refusal of Hamas, Hezbollah, and even many supposed moderates to recognize Israel's right to exist. Peace can only be engendered when Israel's neighbors are ready to recognize the nation and renounce terror – in both word and deed. Many do not have much hope for that, and are looking for the return of the Prince of Peace to be the only solution to the conflict. And so, several thousand believers on one day urged our state Senators and Congressmen to oppose American pressure on Israel to make territorial concessions, which the Israelis themselves do not wish to make.

Third, the following week I flew to Denver, Colorado to gather with 7,000 others at Folsom Field at the University of Colorado for the 20th Anniversary Conference of Promise Keepers, whose conference was titled 'A Time to Honor.' Messianic Jewish leaders and worship artists (including Joel Chernoff – our own IMJA Vice-President, Rabbi David Chernoff; Dr. Dan Juster; Paul Wilbur; Marty Goetz,) and Christian leaders and worship artists (Coach Bill McCartney and Dr. Raleigh Washington of Promise Keepers; Jane Hansen Hoyt, President of Women's Aglow Int'l; Gary Smalley, prolific writer; Pastors Tommy Barnett and Dr. Tony Evans), were unified as they presented testimonies, instruction, and led praise and worship with Galatians 3:28 in mind – to break down the divide between genders, races, ethnicities, and social strata. The climax to the conference was the final portion of the program that dealt with healing the schism between Jews and Gentiles in the Body of the Messiah. Many tears were shed and hugs given as seeds were planted that I believe will take root, grow and flourish in order to see the eradication of Replacement theology, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in the Body of the Messiah.

During all three of these conferences, the Lord put me in contact with Jewish unbelievers to share the Messiah, whether at the conference itself, at local restaurants, or on the airplane. It all seemed so easy and I was deeply encouraged that the prophetic words of Scripture are increasingly coming to pass – *Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days* (Hosea 3:4,5).

Upon returning, I have had several meetings with local pastors who are excited about what God is doing in these days concerning Israel and the Jewish people. Several of them have long-term relationships with rabbis and other Jewish leaders in the "traditional" Jewish community. It is a process of education for them and it is of utmost importance to connect them as well with a Messianic Jewish expression of faith to further clarify

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

