

LCJE Bulletin

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Networking Jewish Evangelism



Lausanne Consultation
on Jewish Evangelism



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From the Coordinator

This issue of the Bulletin includes the 2012 Annual Reports from our LCJE Area Coordinators around the world, as well as the 2012 LCJE financial report.

Our LCJE North America conference held in Boca Raton, Florida, from March 3-6, included many wonderful papers and presentations. Gary Hedrick, our North America Area Coordinator, mentions the conference briefly in his Annual Report in this issue. We will feature more highlights from that conference in the May issue of the Bulletin.

There are two important LCJE-related conferences that are upcoming for which we ask your prayers - the first is the Fourth CEO Conference, which will be held from 27-31 May 2013 in St. Chrischona (Basel, Switzerland). Please pray as leaders meet to discuss key issues in Jewish evangelism, to have fellowship together and to seek even greater areas for mutual encouragement and cooperation. The second conference is the Lausanne Movement Global Leadership Forum, which will convene in Bangalore, India, from 17-21 June. Several of us will be representing LCJE at this Leadership Forum. The meeting will include as many as 350 global Christian leaders from scores of countries. The primary purpose of this event will be to assess progress with respect to the 2010 Cape Town Commitment, of which LCJE has been a part.

For LCJE members and others interested in our history, please also take a moment to check out the main webpage of the LCJE website (www.lcje.net) and download a PDF version of our very first issue - Bulletin No. 1 (1984)! Over time, we hope to add other past issues from LCJE's early years to the repository of materials available on the website. These have been scanned for us by a friend of LCJE, for which we are very grateful.

In this issue, Jason A. Poling, Senior Pastor of New Hope Community Church in Pikesville, Maryland (USA), shares his insights about current American Jewish perceptions of evangelicals. Jason's work is based on research he did as part of his D.Min degree program. Though primarily aimed at American evangelicals, his conclusions have value as well for our global witness to Jewish communities as we all seek additional ways to break down barriers and misconceptions about who we are and what we believe.

But though we want to listen well and to not unduly offend in our testimony and conduct, yet this is also often unavoidable in our Gospel witness - and increasingly so in a secular world that seems to grow ever more hostile to Biblical faith by the day. Add to that the special challenges presented by Jewish evangelism - of what other people group is it written that when Messiah came: "Behold I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and a rock of offense..." (Romans 9:33)? May we remain winsome and sensitive even as our message brings offense, for we preach the words of eternal life to those who will believe.

In our sure hope for the coming salvation of Israel. *Jim Melnick*

Visit the LCJE website: www.lcje.net

Death and Birth...what's next?

By Bob Mendelsohn, Area Coordinator, LCJE AustralAsia

The confusion that ordinarily comes when someone dies is natural. Someone has to get to the organizing of arrangements for internment impacted by burial rules that abound in most religions. Contacting relatives, funeral parlors, newspapers, morgue-- all the while needing to enter immediately into the entire grieving process—are all competing for the mind and heart of a mourner. No wonder people break down and cry. Their sobs are rightfully endless. Grief can be so overwhelming.

We don't usually think of birth as equally disturbing, but I believe it is. Although we might have had up to nine months to prepare for the bub's arrival, the moment it comes into the world is disorienting for the baby and the parents and all involved. Certainly professionals in the hospital or the birthing clinic, even midwives in rural situations, have all been accustomed to the shock and the needs, but the birth of a baby is new to the family and thus demanding of the heart and mind of all involved.

Lately I have pondered what the king wrote: "To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven... a time to be born, a time to die." Ed Koch was the mayor of New York City when I lived there in the 1980s. I remember when he reopened Carnegie Hall, after its lengthy renovations, and I



Bob Mendelsohn

wrote a new gospel tract about all of us needing renovation. I was standing on the corner of 57th Street in Manhattan and he walked by with his entourage. When I offered the mayor my flyer, I was delighted that he took the tract, saw my shirt with "Jews for Jesus" clearly visible, and smiled. Last week the mayor died and I ever wondered what his response was to my evangelism and to the message.

As I write this on 11 February, I'm reminded of another significant man in history: my father. He passed away eight years ago today. And the numbness I felt then I often continue to experience. He never opened anything like Carnegie Hall, was never elected to three terms as a major politico in a major city, but he did raise three children who know what a good family man is and does. And today is my co-worker Mark's birthday. He was born; others died. Is

this the 'circle of life?' In this season several staff members around the globe have announced the births of many new babies into our Jews for Jesus family. That's very exciting, yet equally difficult on the new parents and the communities into which they are born. I'm thinking about the ordinary course of life, affected by the introduction of a new member into a family.

Consider that when a new person comes to one of our ministries. Especially ponder what results when you lead someone to Messiah and to the new birth. They don't demand less of us; they need us all the more. I speak or touch base with every new believer for three weeks straight, daily, and that's not the end of it. A time to be born. It affects us!

To everything including death and birth, there is a season, and a purpose. Or many purposes. And at the end of the day for us, the real reasons may never be known. But this is sure—God knows and cares and determines and lays it out. On Him we trust. He knows the end from the beginning.

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**Visit the Lausanne Movement website -
www.lausanne.org**

Annual Report 2012 - LCJE Japan

By Charles Klingensmith, Chapter President, LCJE Japan

Greetings from LCJE Japan!

Shalom to all brothers and sisters in Messiah Yeshua throughout the LCJE network. How grateful we are in Japan to be able to serve with each one of you in the unspeakably wonderful task of bringing Messiah and His Jewish people together. This task is in many ways the core of world mission, and is necessary both for Israel and for the nations.

As one of those nations, Japan is especially far removed from the knowledge of the God of Israel and of His saving acts among the people of Israel and in the Land of Israel. And because we often feel so far removed from the everyday work of Jewish evangelism as well, we feel that much more honored to be included in this great network, and our constant prayer is that the very little we are able to accomplish among Japan's wholly gentile churches, might be of some use to those of you who serve directly in bringing the Good News to the Jewish people.

Two Core Commitments

In 2012 we were able to continue our two core commitments to this LCJE work. The first commitment is praying for Israel, both the Land and the People, and for all of you who bring the gospel to Israel (both in the Land and in the Diaspora). The second commitment is publishing in the Japanese language a monthly newsletter introducing the latest missiological topics in the field of Jewish evangelism to the Japanese church at large. We were able to enjoy adequate funding for



Charles Klingensmith

these efforts and participation in them to the degree possible by many Japanese Christians.

Prayer Activities - Tokyo and Osaka

Prayer activities consist of two regular LCJE prayer meetings each month, one in Tokyo and one in Osaka, with attendance at either prayer meeting from ten to twenty people, many of whom travel considerable distances by express train to attend. Also last year on April 28 we hosted our recently established annual large scale spring Prayer for Israel meeting roughly corresponding to the spring celebrations in Israel of the foundation of the country. Our guest speaker was Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum of Ariel Ministries, and his talk was a great stimulus to further faith and life for each person who attended.

Last year our LCJE Japan Committee also laid plans for this spring's event, which due to the schedule of the speaker had to be held in February. We invited Wes Taber of Life

in Messiah, and we shared a wonderful time of fellowship together.

Publishing LCJE Japan News - Many Volunteers

Publishing LCJE Japan News monthly involves the efforts of many volunteers who translate into Japanese articles from the LCJE Bulletin, and efforts as well of LCJE Japan Committee members who write monthly articles. Recently we have been able to increase the number of contributors of articles by calling on the assistance as well of other people in Israel-related ministries who are not formally attached to LCJE Japan.

*Charles Klingensmith
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Annual Report 2012 for AustralAsia

By Bob Mendelsohn, Area Coordinator, LCJE AustralAsia

Overview

The work of the Gospel is increasing in Australia and around our region. Rather than focus on the individual ministries as we usually report in the Bulletin this time each year, we thought we should highlight LCJE itself in the region.

Conferences

As those of you who have kept up in reading the last two Bulletins would know, we had our 3rd LCJE AustralAsian conference in Sydney in August last year. The spirit of cooperation for which we all long was again present and sharing together began early each morning in our daily prayer meetings. David Brickner from the USA spoke each morning on the Psalms and each ministry present shared during what we call "Reports from the Field." This is more than a filler in a program, which is already quite full. It is incumbent on us to hear from each other, to share and rejoice in the opportunities we each have and to pain with each other in the tough times. And those abound as well.

The Board chairmen from Chosen People, Jews for Jesus, CMJ, and CWI continued some significant conversations. This is a regular feature in our conferences, as they have a Board Chairs breakfast at each, and we applaud their efforts to make sure that our relationships are maintained from the tops down.

The surveys which were sent immediately after the confer-

ence indicated that the attendees are very happy with the way things are going and appreciate the prayer meetings, the fellowship, the 'reports from the field' and the biblical messages.

Membership

We build LCJE membership into the cost of our conferences, and as such we have dramatically increased our regional membership since 2007. The US dollar and the Aussie dollar are about even now, so we can send money to the US bank very easily. And the renewals are not too much, so most renew, especially if they plan to return to the next year's conference.

Locally

The model for LCJE local is JOOS (Jewish Outreaches of Sydney), which began in 2001. At that time two new ministries were beginning and the other ministries gathered to welcome the new folks. That meeting launched us into three-times-a-year gatherings, which rotate in various districts of Sydney at one of the member's homes. We eat together a shared dinner at 6, and catch up on a personal basis with each other. Then at 7 we begin with a devotional from one of the members, followed by a sequence of sharing and praying for each ministry represented. It is a holy time with the Almighty. We usually end at 9, but people linger and continue the sweet fellowship for a long time afterwards.

Some have shared needs that others have supplied before the next meeting. That is not the reason we meet, but it is a corollary. And a blessing!

When we met at our LCJE Conference in August last year, both Melbourne and Sydney caucused for about an hour. We decided that in Sydney we would have a picnic in January (that's summer for us), and sure enough, that took place on 19 January in a famous park, made famous by being the original landing site of Captain Cook in 1770. Representatives from each ministry were invited to participate, and, even though the rains came too early and spoiled our time together, God was well honored, as people shared who don't usually do so.

Future Plans

Plans are taking shape for our 4th bi-annual conference, to be held 22-25 July 2014, again in Sydney Australia. We invite any LCJE members worldwide to visit our shores, to share with us in real fellowship, to bring to the conference your own ministry, your own fervor in the Lord and in the outreach that God has given you. There is room for you!

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ANNUAL REPORT 2012 for LCJE Latin America

Recent Events Regarding Jewish Evangelism in Latin America

By David Sedaca, LCJE Coordinator for Latin America

An Amalgamation of Cultures and Languages

To most people in the northern hemisphere, Latin America appears as a homogeneous group of countries united by culture and language. The fact is that what we called Latin America is an amalgamation of 32 independent nations with tremendous differences among themselves. Although most Latin American countries speak Spanish, Brazil speaks Portuguese; and a smaller number speak French, Creole, Dutch and English. Not only has the language made them different but also their history and culture. Needless to say, the language spoken is derived from the European nation that colonized that particular country. Few people know that the first synagogue in the Western hemisphere was established by the Dutch in what today is Aruba! By far, the largest Jewish community in Latin America is still Argentina, home to more than 500,000 Ashkenazy Jews and 100,000 Sephardic. For these reasons I will start this report with news on Jewish evangelism in Argentina.

Re-opening the Buenos Aires Messianic Center

Chosen People Ministries (CPM) Messianic Center in the heart of Buenos Aires has gone through a series of changes and has now re-opened the Buenos Aires Messianic Community Center. This has been possible due



David Sedaca

to a partnership with Baptists in Argentina. Jewish evangelism started in Argentina near the end of World War I, and by the 1920s there were three foreign missions working specifically in reaching the thousands of immigrants then arriving in the southernmost country in South America. CPM began in Argentina during World War II with the arrival of several dozen Jewish believing families led by Emanuel Liechtenstein, grandson of Isaac Lichtenstein.

New Partnership

After the founding of "The Messiah Congregation" under the auspices of the Lutheran church that had been instrumental in helping Jews escape the Holocaust, a new partnership was established with the American Board of Missions to the Jews, now known as Chosen People Ministries, to focus more on evangelism. Now, a similar partnership has been established between CPM

and Baptists in Argentina. The property had to be repaired and remodeled, and now it is open for missionary activities. I had the opportunity of visiting Argentina several times these past few months to reconnect with Evangelical churches and oversee the reorganization of CPM in Argentina. New and innovative methods are being developed that will allow for effective outreach to the Jewish community and to Israelis who are traveling in South America.

The Usirpizim Retreat

In Argentina's third largest city, Cordoba, Congregation "BET MELEJ HABA" organized a retreat for young people from February 9th to 11th in Calamuchita National Park. This retreat - called "USIRPIZIM" - was attended by approximately 75 young people between the ages of 20 to 35. It included worship, solid Bible teaching on Israel and the Church, and a challenge to reach the 50,000 Jewish people in the city of Cordoba.

"Akiva Akkiba" Seminar Series

Following the retreat, a new series of seminars on Judaism and Jewish evangelism starts on April 1, 2013. The name of this six-month long seminar is "AKIVA AKKIBA," which is a play on words, since a literal translation into Spanish means, "HERE COMES AKKIVA."

Thanks to modern communications, David Sedaca teaches a class on Jewish History via

video every Thursday night - from New York City!
 The Argentina Jewish community is at odds with the government because of a recent agreement between Iran and Argentina. This agreement says that the Iranian terrorists who attacked the Association of Jewish Communities Centers (AMIA) 10 years ago, causing over 300 casualties - the worst terrorist attack to a Jewish institution, will have their trial in Iran - by an the Iranian court! What is upsetting is that Argentina's Foreign Minister, Hector Timmerman, who signed the agreement, is Jewish.

The other interesting event is that for the first time ever, the Chief Rabbi in Argentina is Hasidic and the head of the Satmar community of Argentina, Rabbi Samuel Sofer. Until now, the Chief Rabbi was always Orthodox or Conservative. This is an indication of the growing influence of the Jewish ultra-Orthodox community, not only in Argentina, but also in Brazil. I had the opportunity of speaking with Rabbi Sofer last December in Buenos Aires.

New Developments in Brazil

Another major conference took place in Belo Horizonte, Brazil; this is the seventh conference organized among different Messianic Jewish congregations and organizations in Belo Horizonte. According to the report received from Jaime Araujo, leader of a Messianic Jewish Congregation in Belo Horizonte and one of the organizers of this conference, this year they had as special guests Joseph Shulam from Israel,



CPM Messianic Center - Buenos Aires, Argentina

messianic rabbis Marty Waldman and Russ Resnick from the United States. This event had an attendance of almost 1000 people. Jaime Araujo reported:

Today in the Seventh Messianic Jewish Congress here in Belo Horizonte something extraordinary happened. Since earlier this morning the Lord began to move among us: first was the message of Rabbi Joseph Shulam, then the message of Rosh Matheus Zandona, but the high point was when the Catholic priests Peter Hocken Catholic and Joahannes Fichtenbauer members of TJC II (Toward Jerusalem Council II) humbled themselves and on behalf of the Catholic Church asked forgiveness of the Jews Anussim (descendants of those persecuted by the Spanish Inquisition, i.e. most of us Jews and descendants of Sephardic Jews).

The Spirit of God fell in our midst with brokenness, repentance and confessions. It only took 15 minutes of Father Peter's speech and the operation of the Lord was done. Hallelujah. Almost 40 years of praying for God to move in the Catholic

Church, and all of a sudden, things started to happen.

Let's pray, my brothers and sisters, let us cry out for God's Spirit to move in the Catholic Church, as in evangelical churches, and all under the mighty hand of God, guided by His Son Yeshua HaMashiach, we will see the restoration of our roots, see Israel saved and surely hasten the return of Yeshua to reign in glory forever.

Growth of Hasidism and Evangelicals

Brazil has become one of the centers of evangelical Christianity; the Billy Graham organization estimates that they are more evangelicals in Brazil than all of Europe combined! We are happy to see a revival in Jewish evangelism among evangelical churches. Not only does Brazil have almost 300,000 Jews, but the city of Sao Paulo, counts among its 14 million inhabitants the fastest growing Hasidic community in the world.

New Ministry Outreach in Colombia

A new ministry is now being started in Bogota under the direction of Yaakov Jay Colmenares and in partnership with Chosen People Ministries. Messianic Rabbi Colmenares, having completed a four-year training program on Messianic Judaism offered in Spanish, has begun a new outreach in Colombia - first, by connecting with evangelical churches, then commencing a home Bible study with unsaved Jewish people. Although the Jewish population in Colombia had been decreasing due to political and economic reasons, now it is coming back. First, because the overall situation in Colombia has improved, and then there

has been a tremendous number of Jewish people moving from neighboring Venezuela to Colombia.

First Spanish-speaking Conference in Miami on Jewish Evangelism

Chosen People Ministries, in cooperation with almost 600 Spanish-speaking churches in South Florida, is organizing the first Spanish-speaking conference under the name, 'Jewish Evangelism and the End Times.' It is well known that there are 500,000 Jewish people in South Florida, but not many people know that over 100,000 of them are Spanish-speaking. Most of these came from South and Central American Spanish-speaking countries as result of economic and political instability. The Spanish-speaking churches in South Florida are trying to reach out to them, and thus they welcome this upcoming conference to take place from November 1-3 in Miami. A local organizing committee composed of leading Spanish-speaking pastors and ministry leaders from South Florida is working with Chosen People Ministries in planning this conference.

Seeking New Open Doors

As LCJE Coordinator, I personally keep in touch with people and organizations involved in Jewish evangelism in Latin America. Thanks to modern means of telecommunication, I can hold scheduled meetings via Internet and keep informed of new and ongoing evangelistic efforts in Latin America. I continue to ask for your prayers that the Lord will open new doors and continue blessing the ministries that

are being carried to bring the Jewish people in Latin America to a saving knowledge of Jesus the Messiah.

David Sedaca
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Annual Report 2012 - LCJE South Africa

By Cecilia Burger, LCJE Area Coordinator, South Africa

Our August Conference

The highlight of our LCJE activities this past year was the conference we had from 24-25 August with "He is our Peace" from Ephesians 2:14 as our conference theme. Pastor Umar Mulinde, a Christian from a Muslim background, was our keynote speaker. As I mentioned in my report published in LCJE Bulletin, issue 110, November 2012, to me this was a unique conference, bringing believers in Messiah Jesus from diverse backgrounds together. Amongst the 200 people who attended the conference there were Messianic Jews, Christians from a Muslim background and other believers.

Pastor Mulinde addressed various congregations and Christian groups while visiting South Africa. During these meetings the people present were introduced to the LCJE network. A few expressed interest in becoming members.

Coming Closer Together

Working together in organising the conference brought the members of the LCJE in South Africa even closer to each other. We support one another's projects and pray together at our bi-monthly prayer meetings. We are planning to have another conference in 2014.

Some LCJE members gave reports on the work of their respective ministries:

David and Jonathan Foundation - Jack Carstens

This past year was a wonderfully blessed year for our ministry that supports a number



Cecilia Burger

of Messianic congregations in Israel. The number of support churches and prayer groups in South Africa making up our network grew to 20, while the number of congregations we support financially and with prayer grew to 11.

We hosted ten Shabbat meetings during the year as well as two conferences. The theme of one conference was "The Shadow of the Messiah in the Old Testament." The second conference was an equipping conference that showed how to share the gospel with Jewish people. Manfred Nochomovitz was our presenter.

Amanda, one of our Board members, visited Israel for 6 weeks and met the leadership of all 11 congregations that we support.

Emet Ministries - Manfred Nochomovitz

Emet Ministries began in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2006 with the vision of taking the gospel to the Jewish people and sharing God's heart for the Jewish people and Israel with the Church. Emet Ministries has been involved in various forms of Jewish evangelism, such as one-on-one visits, Shabbat ser-

vices and numerous equipping events, in which we teach the church on how to reach Jewish people with the gospel. We also have regular prayer meetings for the Jewish people and Israel.

We partner with Messianic ministries in South Africa as well as with Messianic organisations, ministries and churches throughout the world, including: Israel, America, Argentina, Australia and the Ukraine to get the gospel to Jewish people.

In 2012, we saw a number of people, both Jews and Gentiles, in Pretoria and Johannesburg, coming to salvation. We now partner with a local ministry in Cape Town, and we are beginning to make inroads into Cape Town.

We have also recorded 25 radio programs for a Christian radio station in Cape Town.

Friends from Abroad - Ashley and Rosemarie Cloete

Born and bred as a German, Rosemarie has been challenged to apologise to Jews on behalf of her nation as opportunity arises. We continue to pray for the right doors to open where she can minister in this way. Furthermore, the Lord has been laying the reconciliation of Jews and Muslims under the banner of the conquering Lamb on our hearts, e.g. by bringing together believers from both backgrounds.

Messiah's People - Edith Sher

Messiah's People is the South African branch of CMJ International (Church's Ministry Among the Jewish People). We believe in a holistic approach, not only

in reaching out to the Jewish people but also in educating the Church about sensitive evangelism and the Jewishness of Jesus.

Outreach

Our outreach to Jewish people is relational rather than confrontational. We receive most of our contacts from individuals or churches. At the time of writing I am ministering to Anne, a 79 year-old Jewish woman who came to faith last year. She has just been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour and the prognosis is not good. Devastating though the news is, it has given her the courage to confess to her son who is visiting from Australia that she is a believer in Yeshua.

Education

We believe that when the Church has to deal with a Jewish Jesus it is that much more difficult to entertain anti-Semitism or Replacement Theology. To this end, we host three-yearly conferences called "Roots & Shoots" and have also put together a teaching course. In addition, we host a weekly radio programme pitched at Jews and Gentiles, and on Monday nights have a young adults group made up of 20-30 year-olds from various churches.

Under the leadership of John Atkinson as International Director, the work of CMJ is expanding worldwide.

Jews for Jesus - Michael Sischy

2012 was a very busy year for creating awareness of the need for Jewish evangelism in the body of Christ through our Passover and Sukkot tours as

well as our outreach to and in the unsaved Jewish community. We continued with weekly visitation of unsaved Jewish men and women throughout the year, exposing them to the truths of Messiah in Scripture. We had the privilege of training a new team of volunteers for the London Olympics for which Michael was seconded to for a month. The end of the year saw us hold our first women's conference, led by Alison Barnett of our London office, in Johannesburg. Our responsibilities in the local Messianic congregation continued with weekly Bible studies, Shabbat celebration services and holiday cycle events to which unsaved Jewish and Gentile people were exposed to the gospel in a Jewish context. Lastly, we need to mention that we have been running a streetside advertising campaign that got a lot motor vehicle traffic exposure, which we updated every 2 to 3 months.

Messianic Testimony - Leigh Telli

The highlights of Leigh Telli's ministry have taken place at a retirement home that houses approximately 90 Jewish people and 200 people from other backgrounds, including a number of Christians. Leigh receives invitations on a regular basis to organise events at the home, which range from teaching to testimonies, DVDs, singing and Israeli dancing. Over the last four years, trust and friendships with a number of Jewish people from the home have been built.

Simcha Ministry to Jewish People - Cecilia

This ministry of the Dutch Reformed Church focuses on

friendship evangelism, visiting Jewish people and weekly Bible studies with Jewish friends. Both Francois Wesels and I are part of the Messianic congregation Beit Ariel. Here we work towards creating a spiritual home for Jewish believers and forming a collective witness to the Jewish community that Yeshua is the Messiah.

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Annual Report 2012 for LCJE Europe

By Jean-Paul Rempp, LCJE Area Coordinator for Europe

DENMARK

In Denmark

The focus of our work in Denmark continues to be on creating interest and understanding within the Church for the role of the Jewish people and the need to share the Gospel with them. We do this through our magazine, website and through meetings and articles in other magazines and papers.

For several years we have used the activity of the Messianic Passover meal as a setting for underscoring our Jewish roots and for making the church aware of the Messianic movement. Recently we have tried to do the same with the feast of Succot, introducing it as an alternative harvest and thanksgiving service.

A recent issue of our magazine carried a feature article on the rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism. This highlights a debate going on in our society right now concerning safety within the Jewish community in Denmark. Although it does not relate to mission per se to combat anti-Semitism, this is still an issue on our agenda. It also provides an opportunity to cultivate our relationships with the Danish Jewish community and to that group of Israelis married to Danes.

In Israel

In Israel we continue to work in close partnership with our local partners and other



Jean-Paul Rempp

organizations. We see it as our job to strengthen the local body of believers and to be an encouragement to them in the different projects we undertake. Reconciliation is high on our agenda. We therefore give priority to the work of the Israeli student movement, the work of the Bible Societies in the area through the Bible Land Team, the Caspari Center and Musalaha.

We send missionary families for long-term service and groups of volunteers for up to six months at a time. In the fall of 2012 we introduced a new program for young people called Mission Pilots. These people stay for three months and get an introduction to the lands, to mission theology and actual projects. During their stay they make a commitment to one specific project for which they raise financial support and give practical help.

Elsewhere

Being a small organization, we very much depend on working together with other organizations and joining the programs that they head up. Last summer some of our young people joined Jews for Jesus at their outreach in London during

the Olympic Games. Our youth group will join the youth of NCMi for yet another study tour in the spring of 2014.

(News given by Bodil Skjott, Danish Israel Mission - DIM)

ENGLAND/U.K.

All Nations College continues to run its MTh in Messianic Jewish Theology program validated by the Open University. Recent titles of dissertations include: "How, in the light of the biblical, historical, and theological developments of the first to the fourth centuries of the Common Era, did the Christian understanding of the deity of Jesus become unacceptable to early Judaism?" and "What Contribution Can the Ministries of Echad and Yuval Make to the Arts: Towards a Messianic Jewish Missiology of the Arts."

(News given by Richard Harvey, All Nations Christian College)

"I don't think we've had any specifically LCJE activities in the UK in the last year; however, it is worth noting that the leaders of each of our agencies gather together three or four times each year to confer, pray, and share notes. As all of our agencies or the participants in these discussions are LCJE members, I think this is well worth reporting on." (News given by Daniel Nissim, Chosen People Ministries - CPM)

"CMJ UK has been actively involved in evangelism in the UK during 2012. Our staff team, in addition to "one to one" personal contacts, have been involved with the following:

outreach with teams led by Jews for Jesus and CWI during the Olympic games, regular street outreach in Stamford Hill (London), and supporting the New Age Festival outreach (Vitality Show and Body Mind Spirit).

CMJ works closely with our 161 supporting churches in the UK. Currently, a new evangelism course is being prepared (see CMJ website for details) that is aimed at educating and equipping such churches to be faithful and effective in local Jewish-focused (but not exclusively Jewish) evangelism.

CMJ also enjoys good links with various aspects of the Messianic Jewish movement. CMJ is hosting a special training and celebration day to mark the 200th anniversary of the "birth" of the modern day Messianic Jewish movement. This day is taking place in London in September 2013. Please see the CMJ website for more details. It would be great to have a number of LCJE members at this event!

CMJ UK works closely with CMJ Israel and provides significant funding to help the ministry work in Israel continue." (News given by Alex Jacob, The Church's Ministry among Jewish - CMJ)

Israel

At the beginning of the year a delegation of workers and friends from the CWI Hong Kong office went to Israel with a view to gaining a better understanding of the land and the people and to assist in outreach.

In 2013 HaGefen published Matthew Henry's Commen-

tary on John's Gospel, the first Puritan work to be published in Israel, and work has begun on his commentary on the Psalms. Tedd Tripp's *Shepherding a Child's Heart* was published in Arabic, and Arab congregations in Nazareth and Haifa are helping to distribute the book. Work on the final volume of Ha Edut (the Bible in simple modern Hebrew) is almost complete and should be in print soon. An increasing number of secular parents who are anxious to help their children in their school tests and exams are purchasing copies of Ha Edut.

New Age

For a third year, we took "The Jesus Experience" stand to two New Age events - the Vitality Show and the Mind Body Spirit Festival. We worked in cooperation with The Church's Ministry among Jewish people (CMJ) and were supported by a team of volunteer workers. Although overall numbers at the Vitality event were down, Stuart Cohen reported that he had more "quality conversations" with Jewish people than ever, among them a young actor who was sincerely seeking truth, and an Orthodox Jewish lady and her daughter with whom he spoke for over an hour. An Israeli visitor had just arrived from Scotland where he encountered a group of militantly anti-Israeli Christians who, he said, portrayed him and his fellow countrymen as monsters. He thanked the team for 'The Jesus Experience' and said he recognised the team were 'true friends

of Israel.'

Olympics

In the first week of the Olympics Games in London, a team of 21 volunteers from the UK, the USA, the Far East and Eastern Europe came together to reach out to the Olympics crowds and to the Jewish communities of London. We worked with local churches both in central London and in the Jewish suburbs. The outreach consisted mainly of open air preaching and street evangelism sessions in central London and door-to-door ministry in the Jewish areas. We joined All Souls, Langham Place, giving out gospel leaflets, Christian booklets and bottles of water on the steps of All Souls. Many visitors and tourists - some of whom had never been to a church or even met Christians before - attended the special gospel events.

Orthodox Jews Outreach

Mike Moore, CWI's general Secretary, went to Aberystwyth in Wales to reach out to the thousands of Hasidic Jews who go there every year for their holidays. On the first day after the holiday-makers arrived, however, a highly respected rabbi was swept out to sea while performing his mikveh and was later recovered dead. His disciples returned to London to attend his funeral and to mourn. After that tragedy, very few of the Orthodox men were prepared to talk. This year, Mike will take a break from his outreach to the Hasidim and take part in an outreach in Budapest.

Educating the churches

We launched "The Jews and

You,” a series of five-minute YouTube videos that present a biblical view of the Jewish people, and we also launched ONE16, an online theological journal. The first issue was well received and issue 2 is now available.

2013

This year, in addition to the outreach to Jewish New Agers, we plan to conduct an evangelistic outreach to the 80,000 Jews of Budapest. We plan to continue “The Jews and You” series of YouTube videos, as well as a series on apologetics and a series for Jewish atheists and agnostics.

(News given by Mike Moore, Christian Witness to Israel - CWI)

“Our vision for the campaign was based on Isaiah 49:6: *‘It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth,’* and as we believed the ends of the earth were coming to London, we aimed to fulfill that mandate by focusing on the centre of Olympic London for the nations and Jewish London for the Jewish people.

Our strategy was to raise the image of Jesus in the city of London:

- Our efforts were concentrated in central London, Olympic London and tourist London to cover the Olympic events.
- On Sunday, the entire team went into Jewish London, to raise the image of Jewish believers in Jesus in the Jew-

ish community. We had never saturated Jewish London in this way before.

- Our primary strategy was street evangelism. We identified major crowd areas - e.g. parks where big screens had been set up, allowing us to do more conversation-oriented outreaches.

- We decided to hold a high profile Havurah meeting on the final Friday of our campaign. We asked Hebron (a worship team consisting of Simon Elman, Chrissy Rogers and Helen Shapiro) to sing. We printed invitations that the campaigners took out on the street to invite every Jewish person they came across. Over 100 people came.

The final statistics were as follows: 96,925 tracts; 1,012 contacts comprising: 101 Unsaved Jews, 367 Unsaved Gentiles, 31 Jewish believers, 460 Christians, 5 Jewish professions of faith, and 48 non Jewish.”

(News given by Yoel Ben David, Jews for Jesus - JFJ)

Finland

“The activities of the LCJE Finland in 2012 - Juutalais-evankelioimisen Suomen työryhmä (JUST) - consisted of one gathering, which was The Jesus for Israel seminar at The Finnish Bible Institute (Suomen Raamattuopisto). The guest speaker was Michael Decker from The Jerusalem Institute of Justice. Our main topic was the legal challenges in Israel. The seminar was planned for experts in Jewish evangelism. There were some forty listeners in the seminar.

The JUST group had six meetings. We form a network of many Jewish and Gentile mission organisations in Finland; also some individual members belong to the group. Since November 2009, LCJE Finland has also belonged to the Evangelical Alliance in Finland (Suomen Evankelinen Allianssi) and is part of its networks. In the JUST group we also welcomed three new members.

On 26 September 2012, Reverend Risto Santala was taken to eternity. Juha-Pekka Rissanen wrote the obituary of his life in LCJE Bulletin Nov. 2012. (p. 7)

(News given by Juhani Koivisto, LCJE Finland - JUST)

France

In France, please pray for publications already on the market. I think especially of Moishe Rosen’s latest book, published by Jews for Jesus, or of Mitch Glaser’s or Guy Athia’s, published by Chosen People Ministries.

Concerning my ministry among churches, I am thankful to the Lord that my book, *Israel: A People, a Faith and a Land*, continues to be well received among different evangelical circles, both in France and abroad.

During the summer, I worked very hard on a long article about Lausanne III (it is almost 70 pages long), which is mainly an analysis of the Cape Town Commitment. It was published in the last issue of the Vaux-sur-Seine Seminary theological bulletin, *Théologie Evangélique*. This article will be a reference paper for the French-speaking world as a

whole. On the topic of Jewish evangelism, I mainly stressed how strongly this document reaffirms the need for God's people to witness to the Jewish people: "We continue... strongly to affirm the need for the whole church to share the good news of Jesus as Messiah, Lord and Saviour with Jewish people. And in the spirit of Romans 14-15, we urge Gentile believers to accept, encourage and pray for Messianic Jewish believers, in their witness among their own people." (News given by Jean-Paul Rempp, CWI)

Germany

Updates for 2012.

Beit Sar Shalom continues to minister in 17 German cities, building Messianic congregations, doing evangelism, teaching new believers. According to the reports of our missionaries in Germany, about two dozen people (primarily Jewish) came to faith in Yeshua.

In 2012 in various seminars and conferences we made significant attempts to explain to churches in Germany the biblical and historic importance of the Messianic movement and of Jewish evangelism. Unfortunately, the majority of churches in the country still do not understand it.

A major highlight and blessing of 2012 was the first Messianic Jewish Israel-Conference that we organized in November in Berlin. It was the first conference that united all the Messianic leaders of Germany in our outreach to the society. We have experienced unprecedented unity in Spirit. Hundreds of participants who joined us for this event were deeply impressed by the love of Yeshua

visible there. The conference has not just strengthened the Messianic movement and the Jewish outreach but also was a great testimony of the Messiah.

In November 2012, Beit Sar Shalom started ministry among the Israelis who live in Berlin. There are between 18,000 and 20,000 Israelis living in Berlin. We were already able to share the gospel and to develop contacts with some of them. Currently, we are inquiring the possibilities such as language courses, practical help for those moving to Berlin, installing of a network of Christian hosting families for Israeli backpackers and tourists. In 2013 we are going to further develop this outreach.

Some plans for 2013.

Besides the ongoing evangelistic, teaching and congregational planting activities, Beit Sar Shalom is going to be actively involved in the following:

In February 2013 we host the second European Messianic Theological Symposium in Berlin. It deals with "The Role of Messianic Jews in Europe Today."

In May 2013 we are hosting a group of 25 Holocaust survivors from Israel who are coming to have some rest in Germany, meet with the Messianic believers and with Christians. We hope to use this opportunity to share the gospel with them and have arranged some evangelistic outreaches.

The second Messianic Jewish Israel-Conference is to take place in August 2013. The theme of the conference is "United Towards Yeshua's Return." We hope to build this conference upon the success

of the first one. In August 2013, prior to the conference, we are going to organize a training program for those willing to reach out to the Jewish people. (News given by Vladimir Pikman, Beit Sar Shalom)

Germany, Europe and former USSR

Highlights from the European work of Jews for Jesus in 2012.

The highlight of the past half-year for us Jews for Jesus in Europe and in the former USSR was the series of eight campaigns that we were able to conduct in Germany, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine and the UK. Three of those campaigns – the outreaches in Berlin, Warsaw and Budapest – are part of an ongoing project that we're calling "Life from the Dead."

The focus of that project is to bring the Gospel and the hope of eternal life back to the cities where so many of our people died. Some of the other campaigns focused very much on current, popular events – such as the Olympic games in London, and the European Football championship games held in Kiev and Kharkov. How nice of the Lord to bring the nations to those cities, just so that they could hear the Good news from the lips of us Jews! (News given by Avi Snyder, Jews for Jesus, Germany, Europe and former USSR)

The Netherlands

Thanks to our Lord, during 2012 we were able to do a lot of good things on behalf of the Gospel of Jesus Messiah. We had the opportunity to witness at several meetings organised

by churches in our country.

For example, there were some meetings for young people from 12 – 16 years old but also for adult men and women who were very interested in God's unique way with Israel and were eager to learn more. Furthermore, one of our preachers who participates in Yachad made a series of five lessons for catechesis teaching because it is very important that our young people become aware of what the Gospel says about the Jewish people.

The youngsters of these days are the Church of the future! When we reach them, we reach the whole Church! In March 2012, a pastor and his wife from a Messianic congregation in Israel visited Yachad and our country.

He preached in some of our churches with the help of an interpreter. He also met students at some high schools and visited a Christian retirement home. The older people liked his visit very much - they were very interested.

For the coming year 2013, we will continue our support to the Messianic Jews in Israel by mutual visits and other ways of contact. And we will support concrete plans and projects for the preaching of the Gospel in Israel. Maybe it will be possible to organise study days for the workers in Israel so we can learn from each other.

This year two members of Yachad hope to go to Israel to have contact with the congregations we have a relationship with. On this visit we will contact some other people, too, who work there from the Netherlands. And maybe we will find other people to work with and new contacts.

We also plan to organise a

special "Israel Day/Symposium" for our churches here in the Netherlands. The purpose of this symposium will be to increase within our churches the awareness of our roots and God's way with the Jews and why they are important for us.

Besides this, there will also be several meetings such as took place in 2012. May God bless you and us and help us keep up the good work!
(News given by Erika Medendorp, Yachad ondersteuning voor evangelieverkondiging aan het joodse volk)

Norway

Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel (NCMI) is a Lutheran-based mission organization with the purpose of awakening Christians to their responsibility for the Jewish people, proclaiming the Gospel among the Jews and serving them in Christian love. Due to a very small minority of Jewish citizens in Norway, our main focus is on Israel and East Europe.

Israel

Caspari Center in Jerusalem, founded by NCMI and partner organizations, celebrated its 30th anniversary with the publication of the book, *Chosen to Follow*, focusing on the history of Jewish believers in Jesus, the modern Messianic movement and their theology. Educational programmes and practical training for local believers combined with courses for church leaders' worldwide are ongoing activities.

Ebenezer Senior Citizens' Home in Haifa is developing as an indigenous institution and ministry with a new focus on

reaching out to elderly in the congregations and teaching leaders in spiritual counselling among the elderly.

Through our partnership in Joint Mission to Israel, connected to the work at Immanuel Church in Yafo, we are happy to see a development in contacts with more Israeli citizens, especially through our "open church" programmes and concerts. Individuals, even from Orthodox Jewish backgrounds, approach us with their questions, seeking answers on existential issues.

NCMI is supporting and partnering with the Beit Eliahu Congregation, the Bible Society in Israel, Jews for Jesus, Machaseh Association and Musalaha reconciliation ministry.

Eastern Europe

NCMI is partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary and local mission organizations through Gisle Johnson Institute. Through 2012, the Lutheran Inner Mission has hosted lectures on issues concerning the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. For 2013 we are planning seminars on anti-Semitism.

NCMI is partnering with the Russian branch of Apple of His Eye Mission through seminars and financial support to the web radio www.mashiah.info and a local Messianic pastor in Belarus. In partnership with a local Messianic congregation in Latvia and AMZI we hosted a course for local believers and church leaders on Messianic Jewish identity and the joint calling of Jewish and Gentile believers to be a light to the

world.

NCMI was also invited to the evangelistic summer conference of the Lutheran Church in Poland to lecture on our responsibility for reaching Jews with the Gospel.

NCMI is supporting a Norwegian financial administrator, working with Jews for Jesus in Ukraine and the former Soviet Union. We also support a Messianic congregation in Bucur-esti, Romania. Our theological Declaration of principles was published in Polish and Latvian during 2012, which means that it is now available in six languages.

Norway

There is a good relationship between the small Jewish community in Norway and NCMI. In 2012 NCMI invited Jewish leaders and church leaders to discuss anti-Semitism in Norwegian society in general and in churches in particular. This initiative was highly appreciated by the Jewish community. An NCMI representative is also a member of an official dialogue group between the Church of Norway and The Mosaic community. In that setting we are also able to advocate Messianic Jews and their identity.

(News given by Rolf Heitmann, Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel – NCMI)

Poland

National Conference

We give glory to God for the national conference "Revival According To God's Plan," that took place on October 13th in Wisla. The main speaker of the conference was the author of a recently published book, *Who Ate Lunch with*

Abraham?, Asher Intrater. He's also the director of Revive Israel Ministries and founder of "Ahavat Yeshua" Messianic Congregation in Jerusalem. Polish speakers included: Kazimierz Barczuk, Edward Cwierz, Jerzy Rycharski, Henryk & Alina Wieja. The conference was attended by nearly 700 people from Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany, UK and the US. One of the participants shared: "For me personally, it was one of the most balanced presentations on the topic, the Church and Israel. (...) We leave inspired and mobilized to work towards the revival according to God's 'timetable', both in our personal circle of influence, and the whole of the Church."

Poland-Israel Mission

Poland-Israel Mission organized a Feast of Tabernacles celebration (October 1-9). For over a week, we met every day to celebrate. The meetings included worship, prayer, reading passages from the Scriptures and short lectures on the meaning of this biblical holiday.

(News given by Sylwia Pinkas, Life and Mission Ministry Poland)

Russia - Going to Riga

This is the second year when our mission, together with Norwegian NCMI and German-Swiss AMZI, came to Riga (Latvia) to conduct a Jewish evangelism conference and hold a memorial service in that place where the Riga ghetto citizens were murdered during WWII. The leaders of various Latvian churches, Latvian Jews, and Christians who really love and care for God's people, are always invited.

I often see the Lord's hand and His miracles in my life and in the life of my nearest ones. It took place this time as well.

A few hours before my departure from Moscow I felt ill. My wife took my blood pressure, and, frankly speaking, we were horrified. The pressure was 80/60, while usually it is 160/90. Anya told me that she would let me go anywhere, but after a prayer we decided that human life and death are in our Father's hand, and I went to Riga.

It was only a beginning of the miracles, and I would like to tell about them and about our ministry in Latvia in detail. Those who read our newsletters regularly may remember that our mission publishes "Shalom" magazine in the Russian language together with the "Finnish Friends of Israel" mission. We printed a new issue of the magazine right before the Riga conference. I wanted very much to bring it to Riga, but, unfortunately, the printing office had some unexpected problems. As a result, my friend Nikolai Haskin was able to get the first portion of copies only on the day before the conference. Then a new problem occurred: we print our magazine in Belarus, and spiritual work is almost underground in this country. We worried that we would have problems with transporting the magazines through the border, but the Lord of Israel is alive! He helped us to succeed in it! Our ministry in Riga lasted for three days:

Day #1 - Memorial service in the Rumbula forest, the place of the mass murder of Latvian and European Jews. Later that evening we had a Hanukkah supper for the leaders and

pastors of Latvian churches. Over 40 people participated in it. Lia Shemtov, a member of the Knesset (Parliament) of Israel, joined us at this supper.

We also talked about the necessity of preaching the Gospel to the Jewish nation and of returning to the Hebrew origins of the Christian faith.

Day #2 - Frankly speaking, we didn't expect any large number of visitors, but about a hundred of people from different churches attended the conference. Those were people who love Israel and the Jewish nation. After the conference there was a special Hanukkah concert, where well-known Messianic musicians from Russia, Latvia and Belarus performed. The concert attracted even more people, and we were glad to share the new issue of "Shalom" magazine with them. We also provided NCMI's brochure for Jewish people, titled "The Gospel and Promises," translated into the

Latvian language.

Day #3 - During the third day we continued the festival of Messianic music and also told all the participants about meaning of Hanukkah. (News given by Alexey Shepelev, The Apple of His Eye, Russia)

Future

I am very pleased to officially inform you that we will have the 10th LCJE European Conference in Kiev, Ukraine, from April 28th (Monday) to May 1st (Thursday) 2014 (the three last days in April will be for the Conference itself and the first day in May will be for an optional tour). This will be one week after Passover.

From September 14 to 21, I was in Kiev, Ukraine at Anatole Glukhovsky's seminary, the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary. The purpose of this visit was to help prepare for the next European LCJE Conference. My stay in Ukraine

was a great blessing, particularly as I had the opportunity to meet key leaders from the main Church-Unions, including some from Messianic assemblies, in whom I could stir an interest in our coming conference. I also visited several premises which might be suitable venues for the conference.

I would be grateful for your prayers for the decisions we need to make regarding the venue, the practical organisation ahead of us and the details in regard to the content of the conference, so that it may be of quality. May this conference be a blessing for the people of God in the Ukraine, in the whole of Europe and in Israel.

Report compiled by Jean-Paul Rempp, LCJE European Coordinator, CWI France

*Jean-Paul Rempp
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10th LCJE European Conference (Kiev, Ukraine) April 28, 29, 30. 2014 May 1, 2014 - optional tour

Annual Report 2012 for LCJE Israel By David Zadok, LCJE Coordinator for Israel

Recent Activities

The year 2012 was characterized by minimal LCJE activities in Israel, but it has been a year of other developments in the Land and my personal ministry as well. The national evangelistic committee in Israel is still undergoing some changes. For years it functioned under the umbrella of one of the local congrega-

tions, but last year it moved to become a fully independent organization. Part of this was also due to the changes in the evangelistic scene in Israel. Thankfully, more and more congregations are now involved in the evangelistic task, and there is also a shift in use of the electronic media for outreach.

Adapting LCJE Israel

As a network, we are trying to study these shifts in order to suit LCJE Israel to these changes and help advance the cause of the Gospel among our people in the land. In 2012 there were a few evangelistic events organized by various congregations and organizations. In

addition, HaGefen Publishing produced Dr. Mitch Glaser's book, *Isaiah 53 Explained* in Hebrew and Russian. We are hoping that the books will have a great impact on Israel as it is having in English-speaking countries.

Called to Pastor Grace & Truth Congregation

On a more personal note, also in 2012, the Grace & Truth congregation called me to be its pastor. I have had the privilege of serving the congregation as an elder for some 22 years. In June 2012 I was voted to be the pastor, and in January 2013 I was

ordained as the pastor of the congregation. Grace & Truth has always been very active in evangelism. and at the moment it has one full-time evangelist and two other evangelists working part-time. I hope that we will be able to bring in more and more congregational involvement in LCJE network. I believe that our network can enhance the common goal of bringing in the gospel to our people, and we can learn much from the local congregations in Israel as well.

Plans for 2013

For 2013, our plans are to

have a national conference sometime after June. Also we are planning a brain-storming day with all the LCJE organizations and individual members, to see how we can continue to make the network a force in the Land. As Israel continues to be featured in heavy media coverage due to changes in the political situation of the region, please remember us in your prayers. Above all, we need wisdom to know the way forward. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel, and I hope to see some of you at the CEO conference in St. Chrishona, Switzerland, in May.

*David Zadok
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Annual Report 2012 for LCJE North America

By Gary Hedrick, LCJE Coordinator for North America

More Cooperative Work: 'Behold Your God' and 'In Search of Shalom'

Greetings to the worldwide LCJE fellowship from your brothers and sisters in North America! We've been very busy in our part of the world. We are particularly encouraged that there seems to be less inter-agency competition and more cooperative work between ministries these days. Jews for Jesus, for instance, has been actively recruiting other, like-minded ministries to partner with them in their Behold Your God (BYG) efforts in Israel and other parts of the world. Another example of inter-agency cooperation is Life in Messiah International and the initiative they're spearheading in cooperation with Need Him Global (www.needhim.org).

At our recent LCJE-NA

conference in Florida, Wes Taber, Drew Dickens, and several other key individuals in this partnership presented an overview of their vision for reaching Jewish people via both traditional and new media technologies. The software that Need Him is harnessing for this task is absolutely incredible - and they're making it available to 'In Search of Shalom' (the up-and-coming Jewish outreach arm of Need Him Global). Four or five of our North American ministries are already on board, with more on the way. As 'In Search of Shalom' (isoShalom) grows, we trust that many of you in other parts of the world will join us in this unprecedented outreach project.

Messiah.Com.es Initiative
Speaking of outreach, sev-

eral of our ministries in North America continue to promote the Messiah Comes Initiative, mostly with links from our ministry web pages to www.Messiah.Com.es. This is the site that's hosted in New Zealand (so it's truly an international effort) and features the testimonies of twelve prominent Jewish believers: Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Tuvya Zaretsky, Gideon Levytam, Stephen Ger, Jonathan Sarfati, Sam Nadler, David Brickner, Mottel Baleston, Michael Rydelnik, Dovid Rosenzweig, Olivier Melnick, and David Sedaca. The site is generating hundreds of "hits" per month. Who knows what the Lord may be doing behind the scenes as these gospel seeds are planted around the world?

*Gary Hedrick
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Changing Jewish Perceptions of Evangelicals through Interfaith Text Study

By Jason A. Poling, Senior Pastor, New Hope Community Church - Pikesville, Md.

Introduction

According to the Pew Research Center's 2006-07 Faith Matters survey, no American religious group is held in greater affection by its fellow citizens than Jews are. (1) Yet among evangelicals in particular the love is unrequited. Polling data is notoriously difficult to secure for Jewish populations, but it is broadly agreed among researchers that the hints present in the available public opinion survey data confirm the view expressed by evangelicals attending the 2010 Lausanne Congress that Jews as a whole are more likely to view evangelicals negatively than they are to view them positively. (2) As an evangelical pastor in a heavily Jewish part of metropolitan Baltimore, it has been my experience that Jewish perceptions of evangelicals are often rooted in myth or caricature rather than in fact. It has, further, been my experience that personal exposure to real-live evangelicals has served to mitigate or even eliminate negative opinions about evangelicals among Jews. The differences between evangelicals and fundamentalists are usually poorly understood, if they are known of at all, in Jewish communities. When Jews are able to recognize evangelicalism as a movement that broke decisively from fundamentalism, and on account of aspects of fundamentalism like anti-intellectualism and



Jason A. Poling

cultural isolationism that are also offensive to sophisticated moderns, they may see evangelicalism as it is rather than as it is caricatured.

In the course of research for my D.Min. (Biblical Theological Seminary, 2012) I conducted an experiment to test whether participating with evangelicals in interfaith text study attenuates Jewish antipathy toward evangelicals. In order to test the hypothesis that it does, I placed members of my congregation among Jewish (as well as Roman Catholic and mainline Protestant) participants in an adult interfaith text study group. A questionnaire testing participants' opinions of other faith communities was administered at the beginning and toward the end of the course, with the expectation that opinions of evangelicals among Jewish participants would be less negative by the second questionnaire. (A similar procedure was followed with a control group that did not have any evan-

gelical participants in it, with the expectation that opinions would not change between the first and second questionnaires.) Data analysis demonstrated that the results of this experiment support the hypothesis that exposure to evangelicals in the context of interfaith text study attenuates Jewish antipathy toward evangelicals. Prior to the start of the experiment, evangelical participants were given very simple instructions defining the parameters of "faithful participation in interfaith text study" as speaking and listening with respect for both other traditions and our own. Put in more memorable form, participants were encouraged to follow two simple rules:

1. Don't be obnoxious.

Speak respectfully and inquire politely about beliefs and practices other than your own. Listen more than you speak; don't monopolize the conversation or assert superiority in exegesis even when you believe your interpretation to be correct and others incorrect. Grant others the benefit of the doubt and praise the things you find true or beautiful in what they say and do.

2. Be yourself, unless that conflicts with #1.

Maintain authenticity in speaking about your own beliefs and practices, and those of your tradition. Don't try

to portray yourself or your community as better or worse than they are in reality. Don't be afraid to confess that you have difficulty understanding something, or don't know the answer to a question.

Instructions were kept deliberately minimal to test the hypothesis that an "ordinary" evangelical participating in interfaith text study can serve effectively as an ambassador for Christ without extensive preparation, education, coaching, training or other such activity laborious to both clergy and congregant. Indeed, in an age of suspicion toward narratives that are too neatly packaged, a less polished interlocutor may well be a more effective interlocutor, and a more welcome one to boot. Evangelical participants came to sessions directly from work, or from arranging child care, or with a newborn on the arm; they did not appear clean-scrubbed and fresh-pressed, but rather manifested the same "come as you are" mentality that is experienced at their congregation on Sunday mornings.

Such a broad approach to selecting participants is not without its drawbacks. One of the participants emerged as

somebody who would monopolize conversation around her table, and it became necessary for me to take her aside prior to the third session to encourage her to be quicker to listen and slower to speak. Following this intervention her behavior improved, but it became evident from processing informal feedback after the class that other participants remained uncomfortable with her. This experience served as a reminder that the Hippocratic imperative of sound evangelism—first, do no harm—must not be ignored.

Jewish-evangelical interactions, both formal and informal, have proven Marvin Wilson's point that "people come to understand another faith best not by reading its theoreticians but by personally interacting with its practitioners." (3) But what David Rausch noted in 1991 holds true over two decades later: "Impatience and fatigue in the face of constructive dialogue appears to be the current nemesis in evangelical-Jewish relationships. Both groups are involved in dialogue on several fronts, and leaders willing and able to participate are busy with many other tasks." (4) When I asked him why

another national conference had not followed the ones he helped to organize in 1975, 1980 and 1984, Wilson said, "The people involved got interested in other things." The danger of non-institutionalized dialogue is that it can so easily fall by the wayside as people pursuing it avocationally find themselves needing to address more pressing concerns. Successful Jewish-evangelical dialogue might also pave the way for fruitful dialogue involving other Abrahamic faiths. Potential Muslim and Mormon interlocutors might find the presence of confessing, card-carrying evangelicals helpful in demonstrating that a given interfaith venue is a safe space for those unwilling to embrace theological pluralism even as they enthusiastically pursue civic pluralism. The building of these relationships, likewise, not only can offer civic benefits but can also further God's agenda of cosmic reconciliation through his people - as relationships are built, misconceptions are dissolved, and established prejudices are challenged.

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1. Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010), 505.

2. Only 14% of respondents (n=2,196) indicated that they believe Jews have a positive opinion of evangelicals. Of those not expressing a neutral perspective a negative opinion was perceived by 2.4 times as many as perceived a positive opinion. Survey is accessible at <http://pewforum.org/Christian/Evangelical-Protestant-Churches/Global-Survey-of-Evangelical-Protestant-Leaders.aspx#relations>.

3. Marvin A. Wilson, "An Evangelical View of the Current State of Evangelical-Jewish Relations," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 25:2 (June 1982): 143.

4. David A. Rausch, *Communities in Conflict: Evangelicals and Jews* (Philadelphia: Trinity, 1991): 100.

Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism

2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENT - International Accounts

(see Explanatory Note, bottom of page 22*)

1. MAIN LCJE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNT (BB&T, Falmouth, Virginia, USA)

Balance on account (as of 12.31.2011)	\$537.00 USD
Incoming wire transfer (minus \$30 fee) from LCJE Denmark (1.31.2012)	52,917.41 USD
Income for 2012	
Dues	20,924.31
TOTAL INCOME	74,378.72 USD
 Expenses	
Reimbursement for Administration	14,500.00
Travel, accommodation, meetings	1,597.04
Printing, shipping & postage	4,564.75
Bank fees	200.00
Software & domain renewal (5-yr.)	55.65
Software, Web design	699.00
Supplies	53.63
Misc. fees	460.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,130.07
NET INCOME	52,248.65

2. CASPARI CENTER (USA)/CEDARSTONE - LCJE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNT

Income		Totals
Earned revenues		
Membership dues	25.00	
Total Earned revenues		25.00
Special events		0.00
Total Income	25.00	25.00
Expenses		
Misc expenses		
Web expenses	191.52	
Total Misc expenses		191.52
Non-personnel expenses		
In-house publications	600.00	600.00
Mailing services	642.00	642.00
Postage, shipping, delivery	2,497.06	2,497.06
Printing & copying	1,540.21	1,540.21
Supplies	208.44	208.44
Total Non-personnel expenses	5,487.71	5,487.71
Bank Fees	23.35	23.35
Other personnel expenses		0.00
Total Other personnel expenses		23.35
Travel & meetings expenses		
Conference, convention, meetings		0.00
Total Travel & meetings expenses		0.00
Total Expenses	5,702.58	5,702.58
Net Ordinary Income	(-5,677.58)	(-5,677.58)
Net Income	(-5,677.58)	(-5,677.58)

3. LCJE INTERNATIONAL DANISH BANK ACCOUNT 2012

Cash at bank			
At 1 January 2012		DKK	311,296.96
Transfer of money to LCJE account USA \$52,957.41 USD		DKK	300,190.00
		DKK	11.106.96

Income

Dues			
Paul Cohen (new member)	\$25 USD	DKK	101.10
Harmen H. Hanemaayer	20 Euros		128.47
Jews for Jesus, 2nd payment	\$3,000 USD		18.015,50
Bank interest			41.31
TOTAL INCOME		DKK	18,286,38

Expenses

Bulletin design, Chris Skjott	\$500 USD	DKK	3,000.00
Website, Chris Skjott	\$400 USD		2,400.00
Postbox			870.00
Bank fees			5.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		DKK	6,275.00

At bank 31 December 2012 \$4,096.57 USD⁽¹⁾ DKK 23,118.34

The Danish LCJE bank account will be closed after the LCJE CEO Conference, 27-31 May, 2013.

Aarhus, 25 January 2013

Kai Kjær-Hansen
Former LCJE International Coordinator

Karsten Mumm
State Authorised Public Accountant

* EXPLANATORY NOTE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR:

For various historical and practical reasons, the overall LCJE International Account at the end of December 2012 consisted of three different accounts in two countries.

These three accounts are still being consolidated during 2013. As a result of the transition process, final overall figures in some categories for 2012 may need to be adjusted. Any adjustments needed from these 2012 figures should be reflected in our 2013 Financial Statement, which will also show one consolidated account. Meanwhile, our overall financial status for LCJE International remains very healthy in 2013, with an overall 2012 balance of approximately \$50,667.64 USD across all three accounts.

Jim Melnick
LCJE International Coordinator and Treasurer

1. The total US Dollar figure of \$4,096.57 USD, added by the Treasurer, is based on the Danish Krone to US Dollar historical exchange rate on 31 December 2012 of 0.1772 DKK per \$1 USD.

Visit the LCJE website www.lcje.net

Mishkan

A Forum on the Gospel and the Jewish People, a quarterly journal dedicated to biblical and theological thinking on issues related to Jewish evangelism, Messianic-Jewish identity and Jewish-Christian relations. Mishkan is published by Pasche Institute in cooperation with Caspari Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies, CJF Ministries and the Finnish Lutheran Mission. Annual subscriptions available at www.mishkanstore.org

Back issues: Criswell College, 4010 Gaston Avenue, Dallas, TX 75246 USA
Email address: mishkan@pascheinstitute.org

UPCOMING LCJE MEETINGS

LCJE North America

March 3-5, 2014, in Chicago
Contact Gary Hedrick
garyh@cjfm.org

LCJE CEO Conference

27-31 May 2013
St. Chrischona, Basel, Switzerland
Contact Kai Kjær-Hansen
lcje-kai@post4.tele.dk

LCJE Europe

April 28 - May 1, 2014
Kiev, Ukraine
Contact: Jean-Paul Rempp
jpnremppbn@wanadoo.fr

LCJE 10th International Conference

2015 - Jerusalem, Israel
Dates - To be determined
Contact: Jim Melnick
lcje.int@gmail.com

Networking Jewish Evangelism

LCJE

Lausanne Consultation
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