

"PREPARE THE WAY"  
A CALL TO LATIN AMERICA  
David Sedaca  
LCJE Latin America Coordinator

---

My challenge to this conference is to encourage you to keep alive the work of Jewish evangelism in Latin America. As I do this I'm reminded of a similar call that the prophet Isaiah made and is recorded in Book of Isaiah chapter 62 verse 10.

*Pass through, pass through the gates!  
Prepare the way for the people.  
Build up, build up the highway!  
Remove the stones.  
Raise a banner for the nations.*

This verse contains the same elements that I want to bring to your attention, as the call to Jewish Evangelism in Latin America is not only based on Jesus' command to preach the Gospel to all the nations but it is at the heart of God throughout the pages of the Bible. The call to Jewish evangelism in Latin America is echoed throughout the history of the unique relationship between Israel and God. Thus, Isaiah's words of exhortation in the past are as valid and urgent today for Latin America as they were when they were first spoken 27 centuries ago.

In first place, this verse is telling us that Jewish evangelism in Latin America requires a voluntary decision in our part to go forward. "*Pass through, pass through the gates!*" Passing through the gates is an invitation to move forward and to enter into a different place. Sometimes we are within our own area of interest, and rightfully so, but as an organization that encourages Jewish evangelism I'm asking you to "pass through and enter" Latin America. Learn about Latin America, understand the different cultures within Latin America, be sensitive to their culture and distinctiveness, modify preconceived notions. A gate allows people to cross in both directions. So it doesn't mean that we all need to go there, but I'm inviting to let Latin America enter into your prayers; promoting, supporting and keeping Jewish evangelism alive in Latin America must be part of our vision of reaching the Jews for Christ.

My second call is to "*prepare the way for the people.*" Jewish evangelism doesn't just happen. It is clear that in many cases the church as a whole has lost enthusiasm for Jewish evangelism, so preparing the way means that we must maintain alive the flame of Jewish evangelism by reminding our brethren in the church of the need to reach the Jews for Christ. I'm sure that the spiritual restoration of Israel is God's plan, and not only because we are involved in it or because some of us are Jewish believers in Jesus and want to see our people saved. It's clear from Paul's writing to the Romans that God hasn't rejected Israel, and most importantly, that one day "*all Israel shall be saved.*" I don't know when will this happen, but I know two things for sure: (a) "*all Israel*" includes the almost one million Jews in Latin America, and (b) it requires someone to bring the message to them. Again, it is Paul who says "*How can they call in the one the one of*

*whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"* I'm happy that the Gospel is spreading rapidly in Latin America, but I will be much happier if I know that Jewish people in Latin America are part of the revival that is taking place in these countries. It is our role to prepare the way for the Jewish people to enter into the Kingdom.

Following the exhortation from Isaiah, preparation requires "hands on" the job. "*Build up, build up the highway*" means that reaching the Jews in Latin America is more than praying and hoping it will happen. It may require spending time and resources from those who hear the call. When Paul said "*Brethren, my heart desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that may be saved,*" he didn't just pray or said "*O, I wish they could be saved*", but he went to the synagogues and preached the gospel putting his prayers and desires into action. It is my prayer and my challenge that we at the LCJE conference and as part of the Body of Christ, be concerned for the salvation of the Jewish people and do what is required of us to make their salvation a reality!

But the reality is that the work is not simple, there are stones that block the way which need removing. As Isaiah's exhortation is "*Remove the stones*" so we have to remove stones put in the way of the road for Jewish evangelism in Latin America; a road that will lead them to their Messiah. Yes, building implies removing what stands on the way. These stones can be lack of understanding from our brethren in the church, straight forward opposition to Jewish evangelism as a peculiar people, lack of resources, or even lack of understanding of God's plan for the spiritual restoration of Israel. But the fact is that if we are going to build a highway for the Gospel to reach the Israel of Latin America, we ourselves must be the ones responsible for removing the stones. There may be barriers or stones that seem to heavy for us, yet we know that we don't rely on our own strength or power, but in the power of the One who has empowered us to do the job. The same One who has given us the vision and the task will provide us with the power and the tools to accomplish this work.

Finally, we are instructed to "*Raise a banner for the nations.*" In past times armies on the field of battle knew who was with them and what army they belonged to by the banner they carried. At a time when the uniqueness of Israel is being questioned by some, the need for them to hear the Gospel is questioned by others, and others have watered down evangelism in general, we must make clear the banner we are standing with. Let the banner for Jewish evangelism be raised in Latin America. Let us at this conference be the ones carrying this banner that our Jewish people in Latin America will come to know the promised Messiah of Israel, even Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

*David Sedaca*  
*dsedaca@chosenpeople.com*