

Report for LCJE North America 2007–2011
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“Jewish Evangelism: Until He Comes!” This was our theme for the 28th annual meeting of the North American chapter of LCJE, March 28-30, 2011, at the Union Station Marriott Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Steve Cohen and Apple of His Eye Ministries formed our host committee and also sponsored a reception on the evening prior to the conference. The hospitality was greatly appreciated by all.

Although I was in St. Louis to attend a pre-conference meeting, I was not able to be present for the meeting, myself, as I received news of my mother’s death and had to return home the day before the conference. My mother was looking forward to being in the presence of her Savior, and now her faith has become sight.

All reports of the conference have been positive. I am indebted to Tuvya Zaretsky for leading the conference sessions with almost no advance warning, and to Kathi Graham for her work as secretary-treasurer. Dr. David Allen, back by popular demand, brought Bible lessons from the Epistle to the Hebrews that were intellectually and spiritually stimulating, and each speaker followed suit in providing material that was interesting, challenging, and helpful. Our international director brought his report, as well as a historical presentation, Susan Perlman surveyed our movement as it was reported in the media, Rob Styler added a helpful dimension through the use of drama, and Beth Tuttle led our music and praise times. CMJ-USA reported that Rev. Canon Daryl Fenton has been hired as full-time National Director, and Arlie Francis reported the beginning of his new ministry, Disciple Daily. Our final speaker at the concluding banquet was Dr. Paige Patterson, President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who brought an inspiring conclusion to our annual conference. We plan to post many of the papers on the LCJE website soon, so that those who were not able to attend may be enriched, as well.

Several of the presentations were by younger leaders, whose involvement gives tremendous encouragement for the future of Jewish ministry and of the LCJE network that has blessed so many of us over the past thirty years. Some of our members brought young adults with them to the conference to introduce them to the network. Much more needs to be done, however, in encouraging and developing new generations of missionary scholars who see the value of the LCJE network.

There seems to have been a good balance between networking and formal presentations. Our meetings are something like a family reunion and an academic conference combined into one very nice package. Some would always like to see more of one or the other, but most agree that the formula works!

One of our relatively new organizational members is CMJ-USA. Their board met prior to the LCJE conference and encouraged board members to remain for the sessions to follow. This is a great idea and is worthy of emulation. The Anglican Church in North America’s Ecumenical Relations Task Force scheduled a meeting on the day following the conference and met with a number of Messianic Jewish leaders. Only time will reveal the significance of these meetings

and the 28th annual meeting of the North American chapter of LCJE. Next year's conference is scheduled to meet March 5-7, in San Diego, California.

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