

Report for LCJE Germany 2007-2011 Jurek Schulz, LCJE Coordinator for Germany

Every year we have an LCJE meeting in Germany. The leaders of several Messianic congregations in Germany and the directors of the 'Israelwerke' [Israel missions] participate; all those are involved who support the spreading of the Messianic testimony among Jews. Additionally there are almost every time those friends with us who are members of prayer groups or who counsel single Jewish people in order to witness about Yeshua to them. Most of them are not part of an institution or members of a Messianic congregation because the personal or regional whereabouts do not allow them to engage any further.

Networks

On behalf of the LCJE conference it is important for us to enhance the network between Messianic congregations, 'Israelwerken' and individuals. We focus on exchanging different views and information in brotherhood and requests for prayer. The aim is to give each one of us mutual support in the ups and downs of life and to make up our own deficiencies. We wish to strengthen the cooperation concerning the media and literature. This could be helpful in lifting up the voices of the Messianic movement much more in public. In Germany the Messianic movement is fairly young. With great joy I have to acknowledge that new initiatives are being started in this country that lay the foundation stone for new Messianic congregations.

Public relations

As a lecturer of theology and Jewish studies I work fulltime for "Arbeitsgemeinschaft für das messianische Zeugnis an Israel" (amzi) in Germany. My aim is to make society more open for the needs of the Messianic movement in the Evangelical State Church (Evangelische Landeskirchen) and free churches as well. I put an emphasis on a new understanding for the outstanding significance of the Messianic movement.

New beginning

Before WWII, especially in Germany, the Messianic movement was very active. In my hometown Hamburg the importance of Jewish-Christians was outstanding. From here the testimony of the Gospel among Jews spread to the whole of Germany. In 1888, Dr. Arnold Frank, a Hungarian Jew, came to faith in the Messiah Jesus and received a vocation as pastor. The Messianic Jerusalem-Gemeinde Hamburg was unique. Over 55 years under Frank's guidance the works of the Messianic testimony flourished in many ways until the executioners of the Third Reich destroyed the Messianic community. The pastor, Dr. Arnold Frank, survived in England and died at an age of 106 in 1965. During his era the social welfare work was reorganized and resulted in the building of the Jerusalem-Krankenhaus, a hospital for Jewish-Christians, and a Jewish-Christian community care center. The Jerusalemgemeinde repeatedly hosted international Jewish-Christian conferences of great importance in Hamburg. Unfortunately only very few members survived the shoa in Nazi-Germany.

Our prayer

Five years ago God bestowed his grace upon us, so that a new Messianic circle could be built up. In the beginning we were able to hold Messianic Bible studies. Up to now we hold meetings with 30-40 saved Jews and non-Jews twice a month for the Bible studies and are almost 100 people who come together for Messianic festivities like Pesach etc.! At the moment we are in the process of setting up a Messianic association. We wish to link up with the amazing Messianic legacy of Hamburg to be continued.

Our prayer is that there will be laid out paths of blessings in the future before us and that many Jews will hear the Good News of the Jewish Yeshua. In any case the LCJE conference will be present here as well. Besides my fulltime work I invest as much time as possible for the building up of the Messianic movement in Hamburg.

The miracle

Until the 1990's there was no Jewish-Christian movement at all, apart from a few initiatives. With the influx of Russian-speaking Jews of the former Soviet Union something happened that nobody could have anticipated. The flourishing of Messianic communities in the whole country was renewed. Meanwhile many Germans of Jewish descent were encouraged to become part of a Messianic congregation.

While in the 1980's the few Jewish-Christians who survived, or their children, kept their Jewish origin a secret, to be able to live a decent life in a Christian church, many of them have been encouraged by the Russian Jews to acknowledge their Jewish roots.

As LCJE coordinator for Germany I would like to express my hope that we shall be able to encourage all those who are involved in the testimony of the Gospel to embark on a friendly basis so that all our annual meetings will be a great success of mutual support. For the participants it should be visible: You are not alone – we are together in this!

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