

LCJE Bulletin

Issue 135, Spring 2019



LCJE AustralAsia 2019 Regional Conference

An Interview with Lausanne Movement CEO Dr. Michael Oh

LCJE Regional Reports





From the Coordinator

To LCJE Members:

Our 11th international conference, "Making All Things New," to be held in Toronto (11-16 August 2019) is fast approaching.

Here are some key items:

*** Hotel rooms held under the LCJE block of rooms (#1074358) at the Novotel Toronto North York Hotel are quickly being booked. You should make reservations immediately if you want to secure a room at that hotel. Go to www.lcje.org or call 416-733-2929 extension 1 or 2 for reservations and mention "LCJE International." Or email: reservations@novotelnorthyork.com. If any blocked rooms are still left, they will be released after 10 July 2019.**

*** The DEADLINE for sending proposed agenda items for the General Meeting is: 10 June 2019.**

*** 2018 and 2019 dues must be paid up in order to vote. Please contact me if you are planning to come to the conference but are unsure of your membership status or your dues payments.**

Regional Reports. We have regional reports in this issue from the recent LCJE conference in AustralAsia, as well as reports from Japan, Hong Kong/China, South Africa and Latin America. Please read these through to see some of the exciting things happening in our network around the world, as well as current prayer needs.

Letter from LCJE President Tuvya Zaretsky. Tuvya's letter includes two key issues: (1) the upcoming deadline for agenda items that LCJE members would like to see included in our General Meeting during August 2019, and (2) a discussion about the purposes and future of the LCJE Bulletin, seeking input from across our network.

Interview with Lausanne Movement Executive Director/CEO Dr. Michael Oh. A big thanks to Theresa Newell for taking advantage of a recent opportunity to interview Lausanne CEO Dr. Michael Oh for the Bulletin while she was attending a conference where he spoke. Her interview begins on page 7.

LCJE Rules and Procedures - Proposed Changes. The LCJE Rules and Procedures have long been in need of an overhaul. In preparation for our General Meeting in Toronto in August 2019, the ICC, in coordination with the Procedures and Nominations Committee, also consulting LCJE CEOs, has put together a proposal for members to consider. It is presented here in the Bulletin, beginning on page 5. It is best read in the color-coded PDF version, which shows more clearly in different colors the current rule (blue), explanatory comments (green), proposed actions (black), and proposed changes (red). If any member has a question or concern about these proposed changes, please contact me. (p. 5)

New Books. This issue contains a review of *God Stories from the Jewish Mission Field*, as well as noting some of the new books by LCJE members or of interest to LCJE members.

Financial Reports. The LCJE financial report for 2018 and our accountant's letter can be found on pages 24-25.

Devotional. This issue's devotional, titled "Gentiles, Salvation and 'Tikkun Olam,'" turned into a longer piece than I originally planned for. A number of things came together from various sources that contributed to my thinking on this subject and how this relates to Jewish evangelism. I hope it will be a blessing to many readers.

In our sure hope for the coming salvation of Israel. *Jim Melnick*
Isaiah 45:17: "Israel shall be saved by an everlasting salvation..."

Front cover images: Photo of LCJE AustralAsia Conference attendees (February 2019); LCJE AustralAsia logo produced by Daniel Secomb, LCJE AustralAsia Assistant Coordinator and webmaster.

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CONTENTS

- 2 From the Coordinator
- 3 Devotional: Gentiles, Salvation and 'Tikkun Olam'
- 3 Prayer needs in LCJE
- 4 Letter from LCJE President
- 4 LCJE Facebook & Twitter
- 5 Proposed Rules Changes
- 7 Interview with Michael Oh
- 8 Annual Report - Japan
- 9 Reports from AustralAsia
- 12 Annual Report - Hong Kong/China
- 14 Annual Report - South Africa
- 17 Annual Report - Latin America
- 21 Book review of Steven Barry Kaplan's *God Stories from the Jewish Mission Field*
- 23 New books by LCJE members
- 24 2018 Financial Report
- 25 Accountant's Letter
- 27 LCJE 11th international conference: Toronto 201
- 27 Caspari Media Review ad

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Gentiles, Salvation and 'Tikkun Olam'

by Jim Melnick, LCJE International Coordinator

"He says, 'it is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you for a light to the nations, that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth.'" ISAIAH 49:6

The conundrum of the Gentiles and salvation

Judaism has always had a difficult time knowing how to deal with the Gentiles (the nations). Whether we consider the "mixed multitude" that came out of Egypt with the children of Israel (Exodus 12:38) or the first major theological crisis of the early Church, as in, 'Can Gentiles even be saved, and if so, how?!' (Acts 15), the issue has always been, at the very least, shall we say, problematic! We also see that problematic attitude expressed throughout the whole Book of Jonah. Jonah knows that he is supposed to go to Nineveh to preach repentance to those awful Gentile Ninevites, but he would rather see them burned up and destroyed!

Later, with respect to Temple worship and the Gentiles, yes, there was a Court of the Gentiles in the Temple in Jerusalem. But was it used properly for worship of the God of Israel? Clearly, that was part of our Lord's concern when He drove the moneychangers out of the Temple. It was not just "a den of thieves." The moneychangers and those leaders who allowed them to operate in the Temple were also profaning God's intent of the Temple being a house of prayer for *all nations*. (Mark 11:17)

Continued uncertainty in the Talmudic period

Later, in Orthodox Judaism, we see this uncertainty continue. We see ongoing Jewish concern for the salvation of the nations, but it is assumed that such a means no longer exists after the destruction of the Second Temple. Earlier, during the days of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles (Numbers 29), seventy bullocks were sacrificed. This has been interpreted as referring to the 70 'root' nations of the world delineated in Genesis 10. The Babylonian Talmud contains an extraordinary passage about this in Sukkah 55b: "Rabbi Johanan observed: 'Woe to the idolaters [referring to the pagan nations], for they had a loss and do not know what they have lost. When the Temple was in existence the altar atoned for them, but now who shall atone for them?'" I go into this in more detail in a section of my book, *Jewish Giftedness and World Redemption: The Calling of Israel* (Melnick, pp. 187-189).

A visit to the Crown Heights shul

In my own experience with Lubavitchers, finding myself many years ago at the Chabad world headquarters in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, at 770 Eastern Parkway,

I put on a kippah to get a tour of the place (I am sure I have probably shared at least some of this story before, but it bears repeating for this devotional). Since I was wearing a kippah in assenting to getting a tour, my Lubavitcher tour guide assumed that I was Jewish. After showing off the headquarters to me and a few others (this all occurred a few months after we had experienced the abduction of a Russian Jewish teenager who had come to faith and had been taken to Brooklyn for deprogramming), we entered the main shul. Another Lubavitcher came up to me, strongly urging me to put on tefillin. I demurred, saying, "I am not Jewish."

At this point, it felt as if everything in the room suddenly stopped - something similar to those old television commercials in the U.S. where everyone in the room stops what they are doing to hear what a particular investor has to say (I am sure this may not mean much to non-American readers, but most Americans of my generation should recognize the comparison immediately!). That's what seemed to happen to me in the world headquarters of Chabad Lubavitch!

(Continued on page 19)

PRAYER NEEDS for LCJE Members

BILL BERG (NORTH AMERICA) went Home to be with the Lord on 20 December 2018. Please pray for his widow, Betty.

MIZUE TAKASE (JAPAN) continues to need our prayers. She is suffering from acute leukemia. Please pray for Mizue and her husband Makoto Takase, LCJE Japan office manager.

Letter from the LCJE President

by Tuvya Zaretsky

Notification to all LCJE members

I am grateful for the participation of all agency and individual members in the LCJE Network. This notice goes per our LCJE Rules and Procedures that a General Meeting will take place at the LCJE 11th International Conference in Toronto, Canada. Business sessions will be held between the 11th and 16th of August. The four officers of your International Coordinating Committee will be nominated and elected for the next four-year term. Please review the Rules and Procedures at <http://www.lcje.net/rules&procedures.pdf>. Do join all of us in prayer for those who will serve us all in the cause of networking Jewish evangelism.

Proposed agenda items: Upcoming deadline

The International Coordinator is able to receive proposed agenda items for consideration at the general meeting no later than **June 10, 2019**. Any agenda item received by the International Coordinator after that date and up until July 10 may be considered as a notice of motion for debate at a subsequent General Meeting, but not in Toronto. Items requiring a decision must be submitted to the International Coordinator with the name of both a proposer and a seconder. An agenda for the general meeting will be distributed to all members, not less than two weeks prior to the general meeting.



Tuvya Zaretsky

Future of the LCJE Bulletin

Your LCJE International Coordinating Committee is in the process of reviewing the purpose and publication format of the LCJE Bulletin. We need your input.

Currently, three LCJE Bulletins are being published each year. The cost is \$2,400 each for a total of \$7,200 in the annual LCJE budget. The only source for funding the Bulletin comes from membership dues. We have been thinking about the purpose of the BULLETIN to make sure it is meeting membership needs and providing real value for the cost.

The ICC has enlisted a few advisers to serve us as a communications committee in thinking about what we want to accomplish with the BULLETIN. We would also like to hear from LCJE members about the purpose for the LCJE BULLETIN.

Here are some of the current functions of the BULLETIN:

- Provides historical records of membership activities
- Announces upcoming regional and international LCJE conferences
- Publishes papers and highlights from recent LCJE conferences
- Presents articles of interest from Jewish evangelism mission history
- Reports missiological innovations and new resources available in the field of Jewish evangelism
- Publishes theological statements out of conferences that have bearing on Jewish evangelism

Survey about the Bulletin

The ICC would like your help to gain clarity about the purpose of the LCJE Bulletin. We will shortly be soliciting your opinions and interests about the purpose of the Bulletin with a simple survey of all LCJE members. Please help us by setting aside time to thoughtfully respond to that survey with your preferences for the BULLETIN. There will be opportunity to let us know suggested additional purposes you would value in the LCJE Bulletin. Thank you for your participation in the LCJE network.

Thanks to all for the mutually supportive nature of our network for the global cause of Jewish evangelism.

Shalom and blessing to all,
Tuvya Zaretsky, President

LCJE FACEBOOK and TWITTER Accounts



LCJE FACEBOOK
ACCOUNT:
LCJE.Intl



LCJE TWITTER
ACCOUNT:
@LCJE_Intl

LCJE General Meeting

Proposed Changes to LCJE Rules

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES to “LCJE RULES & PROCEDURES” - to be presented at the 11th International Conference at our General Meeting at Toronto, Canada in August 2019

FROM: Jim Melnick, LCJE International Coordinator & the ICC

TO: CEOs assembled at Fifth LCJE CEO Conference (Haslev, Denmark), May 2017, for their consideration

History: The original set of LCJE Rules and Procedures was formulated by the then International Coordinating Committee (ICC) and published in the LCJE Bulletin in Issue #35 (Feb. 1994; pp. 18-25) in preparation for the 1995 international conference in Jerusalem. The current “Rules and Procedures” can be downloaded online at: www.lcje.net/rules&procedures.pdf

Recent History: This review of our Rules & Procedures grew out of a review of the Rules following the 9th international conference in London in 2011. At the 2011 meeting, an issue arose over nominations to the ICC member-at-large positions. This prompted a follow-on review of the rules related to nominations. The ICC then initiated a review of our Rules & Procedures in general to see where some might need to be changed or updated.

Process for Proposed Changes: The ICC reviewed the work and recommendations of the previous Procedures and Nominations (P&N) Committee, under Richard Harvey, former chairman (ICC Minutes, Basel, Switzerland meeting on 31 May 2013). The ICC assessed those initial recommendations and then added additional areas to look at where changes to the rules seemed warranted. After much discussion during various meetings, a set of proposed changes that had general consensus within the ICC was compiled. This set of proposed changes was then shared with Kai Kjaer-Hansen as former International Coordinator and Bodil Skjott (as former LCJE Secretary and current ICC Member-at-Large) for their additional input on the history of the original rules and what impact any potential changes might have. After additional revision, the changes below were approved by the ICC¹, and these were then submitted to the new P&N Committee under chairman Rolf Heitmann for that committee’s consideration. The Procedures & Nominations Committee supports in general the recommendations from the ICC.

Current Rule in BLUE

Explanatory Comments in GREEN

Proposed ACTION to be taken in BLACK

Proposed CHANGES in RED

¹ Following various drafts and emails, this ICC-approved version, referred to as the “Be’er Sheva version”, is dated 25 September 2016.

a. **Rule 3.1. PRESIDENT.** The President is a senior member of LCJE whose main tasks are to chair the General Meeting and to act as a public representative of the movement. The President shall be elected at the General Meeting.

Rule 3.2. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR. The International Coordinator is a senior member of LCJE, reporting to the ICC, whose main tasks are, inter alia, to oversee the functioning of the network, secure new members, keep an account of all international expenditure, supervise the production of and dispatch of the Bulletin, to coordinate the international meetings of the consultation and to oversee the implementation of the decisions taken by the General Meeting.

Rules 3.1 and 3.2 define the roles of the LCJE President and the LCJE International Coordinator. Both officers are described as being “senior members” of LCJE, but the word “senior” is not defined anywhere.

At the end of Rules 3.1 and 3.2, ADOPT former P&N Committee recommendation of definition of ‘senior’ in the LCJE Rules and Procedures: *“The term ‘senior’ shall be understood as meaning at least five years’ membership and attending LCJE activities/meetings/conferences, whether as an individual or a member through an agency.”*

A proposed addition to the end of Rule 3.2 further defines one of the responsibilities of the International Coordinator, which has been the case in practice, but has not been written down specifically.

Additionally, ADD to end of 3.2: *“The International Coordinator shall provide a substantive report on the work of the LCJE over the previous four years since the previous international meeting. This can be summarized at the conference, with a longer report published in the LCJE Bulletin.”*

b. **Rule 3.3. Area Coordinators.** Each regional chapter shall, from time to time, elect an area coordinator. They shall be responsible to promote the aims and objects of LCJE in each area and serve the interests of local LCJE members. They are subject to election on the following basis:

- (a) The first term requires a simple majority.
- (b) The second term requires a 60% majority.
- (c) The third and subsequent terms requires a 75% majority.

A term of office is understood to be the period of time elapsing between International Conferences, normally four years.

Our proposed changes define more explicitly when Area Coordinators should be elected and provide an alternative for appointing an interim Area Coordinator to a given region if that should become necessary. Deleting sections 3a, 3b, and 3c will make for straightforward elections of Area Coordinators, eliminating the need for a 60% majority on the second term and a 75% majority on the third and subsequent terms of office.

ADOPT new language for Rule 3.3, regarding Area Coordinators: *“Each regional chapter shall, ~~from time to time~~, elect an area coordinator at the next International Conference or at its next regional conference. ... A term of office is normally understood to be the period of time elapsing between International Conferences, normally four years. For area*

(Continued on page 13)

An Interview with Lausanne Movement CEO Dr. Michael Oh

by Theresa Newell, CMJ-USA, Former LCJE NA Coordinator

Overview

In February 2019 Dr. Michael Oh was the featured speaker at the annual mission conference at Lancaster Bible College (Pennsylvania, USA). I had only seen or briefly met Dr Oh at two of the Lausanne Movement - LCWE (Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization) international conferences – in Pattaya, Thailand in 2004 and Cape Town, South Africa in 2010. During those years, Michael and his family were serving as missionaries in Nagoya, Japan (2004-2016). I was excited to have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Michael and his wife Pearl at LBC, situated only a few miles from our home! Jim Melnick helped me set up a meeting with Dr. Oh. We all saw this meeting as a gift of a providential God.

Personal background

Dr Michael Young-Suk Oh is of Korean descent, born in America. He received his BA, MS and PhD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed an MDiv at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and an MA in Regional Studies, East Asia at Harvard University. I wanted to learn how he became involved in the Lausanne Movement (or LCWE), the overarching network which LCJE works under, and how he viewed his connection to LCJE. Here are some of Dr. Oh's answers to those queries.

1. How and when did you get involved with the Lausanne Movement? When did you begin as Global Executive Director and CEO?

Michael Oh: "I first learned about the Lausanne Movement in seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in my Missions classes. I was also in an advanced discipleship class with Robert Coleman, who was one of the first



Dr. Michael Oh

leaders of the movement. I was inspired by the vision for unreached peoples presented at the First Lausanne Congress (1974). I was called to missions with a focus on the 10/40 Window as presented at the Second Lausanne Congress.

"Then in 2004 I stumbled upon an invitation to the 2004 Forum that was a bit of a re-launch for Lausanne. I attended as one who didn't deserve to be there for sure! I was a 33-year-old president of a seminary that didn't yet exist! A few months later Christ Bible Seminary launched in Nagoya, Japan.

"At the 2004 Forum plans for the 2nd Younger Leaders Gathering (2006) were announced. I helped to serve on the younger leaders planning team and was asked to give the opening night address. In 2007 on a cruise boat on the Danube River I was invited by the Lausanne Board to join as its youngest member. Then, on March 1st, 2013, I took on leadership of the movement as Global Executive Director and CEO."

2. We know that the signature

mission for Lausanne is in the motto "The whole church taking the whole Gospel to the whole world." Can you give some updates on how the mission is being accomplished to date?

Michael Oh: "In 1974 when Dr. Ralph Winter presented on people groups and UPGs (Unreached People Groups), the course of global mission history was changed. At the time there were 17,000 UPGs. Today after 45 years of targeted gospel engagement, 9,000 of those people groups are no longer unreached. We celebrate this. And we mourn because still nearly 8,000 people groups are considered unreached today."

5. How is LCWE leadership structured? Is there a "headquarters"? Do you have a staff? How is LCWE financed?

Michael Oh: "LCWE has a board of directors of about 12 members who are the guardians of its mission and vision and stewards of its heritage. We also have 12 RDs (Regional Directors) who lead our 12 regions. We have more than 60 Catalysts who lead our 30+ global issue networks. And we have our YLGen (Younger Leaders Generation) arm of the movement. These three arms (regions, collaboration/content, and generations) are led by our three Global Associate Directors. We have a small staff scattered around the world who are gifted, humble, and overworked!

"LCWE is financed through gifts from friends around the world. Our budget is about \$1.4 million. For too long our main financial support has come from a small handful of donors for a few regions giving one-time gifts. This has to change and is changing slowly. We want to have a broad base of supporters (Lausanne family and fans!)

who really adopt us as their missionaries and support regularly and pray faithfully for us. This includes individuals and churches and organizations from every region of the world. We would very much welcome your financial support and you can give online here: <https://www.lausanne.org/giving-options>.

6. As a long-time missionary in Japan where there are 0.2% evangelical Christians, how do you view the main goals of world evangelization today?

Michael Oh: "Japan is a nation that I love. Japanese Christians are so dear to my heart. I feel it was a high privilege to serve alongside them for the Lord's glory in Japan. I think the main opportunities lie with young people, many of whom are lost or drifting from hopeless and meaningless lives. They have

learned important lessons. Work is not the hope of life. Success is not the hope of life. Sex is not the hope of life. We now need to help point them to the solution to their questions.

7. Can you tell us about your family, parents and your own nuclear family?

Michael Oh: "My father was born and grew up during the Japanese occupation of Korea. It was a painful time, but the Lord had birthed faith in my family during this season. I am the 5th generation of Christians in our family. My parents emigrated to the US in 1970. One year later I was born. My sister and her family are serving as missionaries in Ethiopia. My wife Pearl and I have been blessed with five children."

9. How can we in LCJE pray for you

and for this season of LCWE?

Michael Oh: "I would appreciate prayer for a strategic planning process that we are going through now which is very exciting. We need God's wisdom, God's guidance, God's vision. Also please pray for spiritual protection and blessing for my family. If they are well, I'm well."

You can view Dr. Oh's talks given at Lancaster Bible College (LBC) on February 12-14, 2019 at this link:

<https://mediacenter.streammonkey.com/ydqt5tr/ubxta2ug/pkozcb3m>

Information about LBC can be found at: www.lbc.edu

Annual Report for LCJE Japan

Shalom in Messiah Yeshua to all LCJE co-workers throughout the world in this year of grace 2019! Thank you for your prayers and concern for us in the year 2018; we in turn thank the Lord for letting us pray for you, and with you, in all that you did for His Israel and for Him.

Last year 2018 turned out to be a year of big tribulations and harsh difficulties, one after another for members of Japan's LCJE steering committee. Ongoing or sudden family health emergencies, or family deaths, or unavoidable family relocations visited almost all of us in different ways and at different times, and necessitated great outlays of time, energy, and in some cases, funds; we regret that thereby we were simply not able to pursue to the degree we had wanted to, the many connections we had made, and opportunities for work in Jewish evangelism we had found here in

Japan and abroad, presented by the 2017 LCJE Japan-sponsored conference, "Jewish Evangelism in East Asia: Looking for Opportunities, Making Connections."

Jewish evangelism is also an activity we committee members pursue in addition to our regular Japanese church work, and some of us have had to accept further long-term responsibilities for several churches at once due to the drastic fall in numbers of people in ministry here in Japan, and due to deaths and retirement. Japan's churches mirror the collapsing birth rate and ongoing population collapse of Japanese society as a whole, and people who remain in active ministry are having to increase their share of the burden, yet with decreased giving to churches and infrastructure aging in a national tax system that is designed to discourage giving to religious or educational bodies. The task of bringing the gospel to the

Japanese people gets harder year by year, and that affected LCJE Japan's planning in 2018 as well.

LCJE Japan in 2018 did what it could, however. Our Tokyo and Osaka LCJE prayer meetings continued as scheduled monthly, and were attended as usual, and we published and sent out always on time our monthly Japanese language LCJE News. We are doubly grateful to everyone who made efforts to accomplish these essential LCJE Japan tasks last year in the face of unexpected difficulties and grief. We are praying and hoping to send LCJE Japan personnel to Toronto this coming summer, and we look forward to reconnecting with all of you.

*Charles Klingensmith
LCJE Japan Area Coordinator
rehoboth@gol.com*

Reports from LCJE AustralAsia

by LCJE AustralAsia Area Coordinator Mark Polonsky

Overview

The tranquil setting of Belgrave Heights in the Dandenong ranges near Melbourne provided a delightful backdrop for the 6th Australasian Regional Conference, themed "Bringing the Jewish Messiah to the Jewish People." Special guest speaker, Dr David Sedaca, Vice President of Chosen People Ministries and LCJE area coordinator for Latin America, did a marvellous job in presenting various talks ranging from The Reliability of the Scriptures from Biblical Archaeology, Understanding the Judaism that Jesus met, and other encouraging messages about Jewish evangelism. The conference was held from 25-28 February 2019, with participants from more than a dozen ministries to the Jewish people enjoying Dr Sedaca's wide range of experiences and academic studies.

A practitioner's forum comprising Dr Sedaca, Bob Mendelsohn, Lawrence Hirsch and Scott Brown tackled issues including antisemitism, Torah observance, online evangelism and ways to stand with the Jewish people.

Other highlights included worship led by Teresa Thomas from Celebrate Messiah New Zealand, testimonies from area prayer coordinator Juanita Doody, and Eric, a young Jewish doctor who recently came to faith in Yeshua, and a focus on reaching the Haredim, with reports from the Jews for Jesus Israel Outreach and Chosen People Ministries' On the Derekh conference.

Celebrate Messiah report

Celebrate Messiah continues to "Bring the Message to the Original Messengers" in Australia, New Zealand, Russia and in Israel. In partnership with Chosen People Global Ministries we work together in 18 countries around the world.

In Australia, our work's headquar-



LCJE Australasia Conference - Melbourne (Belgrave Heights)

ters are in Melbourne in the heart of the largest Jewish community in Australia, in what is known as the Melbourne Eruv. In this environment there are about 75,000 Jewish people with approximately 45 synagogues, Jewish schools and organisations, kosher restaurants etc.

In Melbourne, Celebrate Messiah missionaries and workers reach out through personal evangelism, visitation, hospital visit, nursing homes, hosting Israeli tourists, special outreach events and through other relational means living within the Jewish community.

Congregations in Melbourne

We have also planted two messianic Jewish congregations in Caulfield; Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation and Dom Missiee Russian-speaking Messianic Congregation. Beit HaMashiach has an average of about 180 worshippers attending each Shabbat and Dom Missiee has about 60 elderly Russian Jews attending, most of whom have come to faith in Yeshua.

Congregation in Canberra

Celebrate Messiah has a congregation in Canberra led by Robert and Eleanor Miles called Hineh Yeshua. They host regular Shabbat services each week and

reach out to the resident Jewish people in Canberra as well as Israeli backpackers.

Congregation in Sydney

A fellowship in Sydney has been slowly growing over the past few years, which is now called Brit Chadashah. It is situated in the heart of the Jewish community in the North Shore of Sydney called St Ives. It is led by Celebrate Messiah missionary Paul Cohen and Board member of Celebrate Messiah Harry Hamman. Recently, they had two Jewish people come to faith in Yeshua and they have significant relationships in the local Jewish community.

Besides congregational ministry in Sydney, we have another missionary doing significant work amongst Jewish ladies, having developed key relationships within the Jewish community.

Tikkun Olam

Celebrate Messiah runs a benevolent ministry called Tikkun Olam – Repair the World, hand delivering food parcels each month to needy Jewish people as well as special hampers for the Jewish holidays. These food parcels are delivered across the country in Melbourne, Sydney, Gold Coast, Adelaide and in Perth.

Significant relationships have been forged with individual Jewish people through this ministry as well as a strong partnership with the Jewish community leadership in Perth.

This year 651 parcels were delivered with a value of \$36,000.

Outreach to Israeli backpackers

By means of two online networks, Chiburim and HIT, a number of Celebrate Messiah friends and ministry workers host some of the thousands of Israelis travelling across Australia each year. This ministry probably represents the greatest opportunity to engage with Jewish people about Yeshua the Messiah than any other ministry opportunity at the moment.

Outreach to Jews in the Far East of Russia

Celebrate Messiah began ministry to the forgotten Jews of Far East Russia in September 2004. Now we have two established congregations in Artyom (north of Vladivostok) and Birobidzhan in the Jewish Autonomous Region. These are significant outreaches and are reaching out to very needy and impoverished Jewish people in these regions. Many Jewish and Gentile Russians have come to faith in Yeshua and have been baptised over the past few years. Each year we host a family camp in both of these centres over the summer, attracting about 80 people for each camp.

Reaching the Remnant

It is a privilege to be partnering with the Lord in His mission to the remnant of Israel: "And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—he says: "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 end of the earth.'" (Isaiah 49:5–6, ESV)

Mark Polonsky

mark@celebratemessiah.com.au

Celebrate Messiah - NZ

As Celebrate Messiah New Zealand enters its second decade of service, our original three-fold strategy remains intact:

Evangelism -- The Zula and the Homestead, our lodge and backpackers (hostels) which are free for Israeli travelers, are our primary means for reaching Israelis in NZ. Imagine facilities staffed with Israeli believers and other trained Christian volunteers who are weaving the message of the gospel into the fabric of the daily routine and are alert to evangelistic opportunities among guests. As a result of God's favour, we have the opportunity to share the love of Messiah with thousands of young Israelis who stay with us.

Equipping – Paul's inspired strategy of enlarging his ministry to include "provocative" Gentile believers (Romans 11:13,14) is the very strategy we're employing here in NZ, where hundreds of Christian households are networked to provide free or low-cost accommodation to Israeli travelers in their homes! By strengthening this movement, we (in the words of Paul) "enlarge our ministry" exponentially, reaching thousands of Jewish lives through the hospitality of these Christian hosts. This is why we go throughout the country providing free training in Jewish evangelism and free Hebrew Bibles and gospel literature to these provocative hosts. We are also launching a Host Support Network to provide a broad range of instruction and encouragement online for these precious hosts.

Training - Celebrate Messiah is also committed to serving local Christians who are eager to learn more about the roots of

Christianity, Israel in prophecy, and Jewish evangelism. By providing this instruction, we're able to build bridges between two worlds that, sadly, are historically conflicted: The world of Jews, and the world of Gentile Christians. We are humbled and excited by the many opportunities God is giving us to teach in churches, church camps, conferences, Bible schools and mission agencies.

What's new and what's next

- Our newest staff members, Michael and Teresa Thomas, are growing our Prayer & Worship ministries, as well as new initiatives in IT and Social Media.
- We are asking God for a third outreach facility near Te Anau, a strategic bullseye for Jewish evangelism in NZ. We have our eye on a particular property and are raising funds with a view toward a purchase later this year.
- We are honoured that Prayer For Israel-NZ has invited CMNZ to become part of its legacy by "inheriting" its national prayer ministries. PFI-NZ is dissolving its Board; CMNZ will carry the banner forward.

*Scott Brown
Director, CM-NZ*



CMJ ANZ:

Shoresh Australia

Review: The current mission of CMJ ANZ is to:

1. Support like-minded ministries and individuals in Israel such as Christ Church in their encouragement and education of people, promoting at least one tour or visit from Australasia each year, and,
2. Work with like-minded ministries and individuals in Australia and New Zealand such as Heritage Resources to the same end, facilitating at least one educational event each year.

Tours/Visits to Israel

This year, the Lord provided five

subsidies for trips to Israel, as follows:

- Reverend Canon John Simons attended the third Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) held in Jerusalem in June. Christ Church partnered with GAFCON Australia to host almost 2000 delegates from 50 countries. This was the most significant international gathering of Anglicans in 50 years and a joyous celebration of ten years of growth. The take-home message of this assembly was that “the church must remain faithful to the unchanging authority of God’s word. The behaviour of those who have chosen not to abide by Holy Scripture and step outside Lambeth Resolution 1:10 was clearly schismatic and the national church has a duty to tell them so.”
- Mrs Linda Cook (NZ), Mr Stephen Inbanathan (South India), Mr Keven McIldowie and the writer represented us at the bi-ennial International Conference of CMJ. Founded in 2012, this gathering

of the global CMJ family provides a forum for the support and encouragement of branches like ours around the world.

Educational events/ seminars

- The Feasts of Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot were celebrated in Western Australia;
- A seminar series entitled ‘Israel in the Plan and Purposes of God’ was delivered in Geraldton WA;
- Deputation was provided to a group of 38 ladies at Papamoa, Tauranga, NZ;
- A documentary, ‘Whose Land,’ was screened in the House of Lords in London.

Future directions

Plans are well underway to host another Tour of Israel during the Feast of Tabernacles in October 2019. Sukkot is a time-honoured season for God’s people to go up to Jerusalem. It is an ‘appointed time’ not only for generations of Jewish

people but for all generations of His people – including those to come in the Millenium (Zech. 14:16-19 & Rev. 21:3). Our ‘With Jesus at Sukkot’ Tour has been prayerfully designed to provide an experience of the liturgical richness of this biblical festival not just as a tourist but as a pilgrim. In fact, it is not only an appointed time but an anointed time for Australian and New Zealander believers to celebrate the Feast together with their Jewish and Christian counterparts from all over the world – including those in Eretz Israel itself.

Also, we have been invited by our representative in South India to send a team to minister the word of God from a Hebrew roots perspective there. Two of our Directors are praying about accepting this invitation.

*Martin Weatherston
Executive Director*

Jews for Jesus

Jews for Jesus continued to operate in AustralAsia again this year, as we have since 1998. Our staff regularly visits with Jewish enquirers in Bondi and throughout Sydney, then via LiveChat and Skype (and telephone!) with Jewish people throughout Australia. The center of our operations is the bookshop in Bondi Junction, in the heart of the Jewish community. Each week since 2005 not-yet-believers have come into the shop, for one reason or another, and as a result we have opportunity to share the Gospel, to give some literature, to spend time over a cuppa and unpack the issues our name and our Messiah generate. Thanks be to God for the general Christian support of this operation.

We were blessed the last 4 months of the year to welcome David and Giselle Leaupepe Bruce back to town, who gave us a major boost as we relaunched our OneNewMan

community meetings, and Shabbat Fellowship Groups. We also began some social and cultural events and are widening our scope to have more people sponsoring more activities. The key is bottom up, not top down, initiation. We are excited to be the drivers of the colloquium and workshop: “The Jewish People and the Church: What are the Questions?” This is being held in Bondi in February and features some significant Christian pastors and messianic Jewish speakers leading the discussions about both evangelism and objections to the Gospel, and the significant questions and problems raised by Jewish people.

The most significant outreach in JFJ history took place in 2018 in Jerusalem, as our entire international staff including everyone from here in Australia, worked there during May. During Behold Your God: Jerusalem we spread into 9 different arenas of

work, and in each zone, whether in sports or the arts, among the Haredi or prostitutes, we made significant inroads. In the 4 weeks, we spoke one-to-one with over 4,000 Jews, took the follow-up details for over 1,700 of those people, and 58 professed faith in Jesus during that month alone. Since then many of our teams stayed behind and have continued evangelism individually.

We celebrated in both Melbourne and Sydney the 20th anniversary of our existence and continual work in country. Pastors’ fellowships, Shabbat gatherings, evening soirees, deputation, and street evangelism attended these anniversary celebrations. Thanks be to God for His care to keep us going!

*Bob Mendelsohn
Director*

Yeshua Tsidkenu - Sydney

Our congregation continues to meet in a community centre in

Waterloo, Sydney, on Shabbat. It is a faithful group of people, the majority of whom are Russian-speaking Jews. We follow what we see as the scriptural model, that the kehila (church) is the way that God fulfils His mission to the world. Therefore we not only look after each other's needs and pray for each other and encourage each other, but are looking outside to seek and bring in the unsaved, first the Jew and then the Gentile.

The feasts we celebrate are usually outreach services. We door-knock and advertise for Jews and Gentiles to come to these feasts. We have found that some of the most popular feasts for non-religious Jews are those that are not *moedim* (God's appointed feasts) but the traditional Jewish holidays of Purim, Chanukah and Rosh Ha-

shanah (which of course coincides with Yom Teruah, but is not called in Scripture 'New Year' that Jews love to celebrate).

These have been a great way to communicate the message of Yeshua. Many have been touched and many have prayed prayers of commitment and repentance, but at this stage we see that this is not heart commitment. The cost of true commitment is still too high for most of them to make that decision. The fear of rabbis, community and family ostracism and love of the world are still the great obstacles. It seems that the eye of the needle that Yeshua spoke of, that camels can't pass through, is even smaller for Jews in the west. We are hoping to see a few true commitments this year not just in prayer, but repentance and water

baptism.

We are in the fifth year of our monthly outreaches which we call 'Club of Eternal Years'. It is in Bondi Junction, where many of the people live and shop. Many come regularly. A few have begun to come regularly to our Shabbat meetings and our feasts as a result of crossing this bridge.

This happy club presents the gospel through videos, articles and testimonies and using humour to break the ice. There is always tea and coffee at the end. The Club offers good company to many who are lonely.

We continue, praying earnestly, fasting and telling people about the wonderful love of God in Yeshua.

*Pastor Konstantin (Kostya)
Michailidis, Yeshua Tsidkenu*

Annual Report for LCJE Hong Kong/China

Hong Kong is a unique city, being small but international. So, we have gained gracious opportunities to reach worldwide people in a close proximity, including the Jewish people. Plus, we also treasured many chances to educate and equip the Chinese churches here regarding Jewish missions.

I am writing this report with an overview of overall activities by organizations in Hong Kong that serve the Jewish people. I will try to focus on the work rather than the names of the various organizations.

First of all, we continue to find ways of getting involved with the small local Jewish community and building genuine relationships. Upon these friendships, we seek opportunities to share Christian love and the gospel truth. We have found that the local Jewish community has expressed consistent kindness to Hong Kong Christians and to those who are sharing the faith. Although we

understand that it takes time to have them understand faith, it is still exciting to see the bridges being built, friendships established and good questions being asked.

In addition, since there are tens of thousands of Jewish travelers or backpackers going to Hong Kong every year, loving and witnessing to these people have become precious opportunities for us in Hong Kong. We have teams that wear special welcoming T-shirts at the airport to greet the arriving visitors. We have teams that bring Jewish people sightseeing and witness their faith to them. We have teams doing direct outreach evangelism to Jewish people in scenic spots. We also have teams hosting homestays to Jewish travelers and witnessing to them. There are various creative ways now being established to show genuine Christian love and witness the gospel to them. Not only in Hong Kong, in fact, but in the mainland China there are also wonderful Christians who love and

host Israeli travelers, and that has made huge impact on many Israelis. Hong Kong and mainland China Christians have kept communication and partnership.

Last year, Hong Kong also sent short term missions to Israel and other places. Besides that, we here in Hong Kong held a first joint prayer meeting prior to the High Holidays organized by several groups last year. We hope that more prayers can be aroused to embrace this important work.

In conclusion, we have seen an overall increase in the interest of Jewish missions work in Hong Kong and mainland China, and accordingly, we look forward to some harvest of these precious souls in the near future, even this year, if the Lord wills. Please pray for Hong Kong. We all humbly desire to please the Lord and to be used by God.

*Mark Lam
Area Coordinator of
Hong Kong/China
marklam99@yahoo.com.hk*

(Continuation from page 6)

coordinators who are unable to finish their terms of office due to death, disability, resignation, or cause, the ICC, in consultation with leading members from that LCJE region, shall appoint an interim area coordinator until an election can be held of a new area coordinator at either the next meeting/conference of that LCJE region or at the next International Conference, whichever comes first.

Delete sections 3a, 3b, 3c: Replace with: *“Election of an Area Coordinator requires a simple majority. In the case of multiple candidates, the two highest vote-getters in the first round will have a run-off election until one candidate receives a simple majority.”*

- a. Rule 3.4. Tenure of Office. The President, International Coordinator, and members of the ICC shall be subject to election by the General Meeting on the following basis:**
- (a) The first time requires a simple majority.**
 - (b) The third and subsequent terms requires a 75% majority.**
 - (c) The second term requires a 60% majority.**

A term of office is understood to be the period of time elapsing between International Conferences, normally four years.

This rule change is needed in order to deal with whatever situations might arise with respect to LCJE office-holders, so that those situations can be dealt with as needed until the next opportunity for election of a new officer or officers.

ADD to Rule 3.4 “Tenure of Office”: after “four years”:

3.4. (i) “In the event that a member of the ICC is unable to finish his or her term of office due to death, disability, resignation or cause, the ICC shall have the option of either leaving that position unfilled until the next General Meeting, when a candidate for that office or position shall be elected in the regular manner, or, in the interim, of appointing another LCJE member to that office or position to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of the departing officer or member of the ICC.

3.4 (ii) For Procedures & Nominations Committee members who are unable to finish their terms of office due to death, disability, resignation or cause, the P&N chairman shall be empowered, with the concurrence of the ICC, to appoint another LCJE member to fill the unexpired term of the departing member until an election can be held at the next General Meeting. In the event that the P&N Chairman is unable to finish the term of his or her office, the ICC will appoint an interim chairman to fill that role until one is elected at the next General Meeting.

2. Additional proposed changes: (in red)

- a. MIS-NUMBERING.** There are some mis-numbering errors between the body of the Rules and Procedures and the Contents section. These shall be fixed to be consistent throughout once a new set of changes is finally approved.
- b. Rule 1.2 Associate Members:** Change “LCWE” to “Lausanne Movement”

(Continued on page 26)

Annual Report for 2018 for South Africa

by Cecilia Burger, LCJE South Africa Area Coordinator

Overview

Greetings in Messiah Jesus! It is a privilege to be part of LCJE South Africa and to witness the work of the Lord in the lives of people. LCJE South Africa consists of 13 members, 8 in Cape Town and 5 in Johannesburg. Although we don't all get together regularly, I try to keep in touch with the members.

Conference with Wayne and Anne Hilsden

Wayne and Ann Hilsden were the main speakers at our LCJE South Africa conference in May 2018. The conference was attended by about 100 people from diverse backgrounds. There were Messianic Jews, Muslim Background believers, someone from a Hindu background and other Christians. The theme of the conference was "The Role of the Nations in the Restoration of Israel." Wayne challenged us to be a "Ruth Church" – standing with Israel or an "Orpah Church" turning back. The loss of the nourishing sap of the roots of our faith weakens us. Ruth stood fast. She was blessed and ultimately placed into the ancestral line of the Messiah.

We have a debt of gratitude as Gentiles to pay to the Jewish people. We are called to care, to serve, to be a supportive presence, to share their interests and concerns where we can with integrity. We are to share the gospel when we are given the opportunity. Wayne encouraged us by saying, "Let's walk with the Jewish people back to the Land and back to the Lord." God's plan is to use the nations. Some build bridges of care, and others walk over these bridges with the gospel. Both are needed and it is vital to respect and support each other's ministries.

Ann spoke on the use of the arts and music in outreach. Jewish people love the arts and we need to use it as common ground to



Cecilia Burger

reach out to them.

Apart from Wayne and Ann, another highlight was the testimony of Faiez who comes from a Muslim background. He was invited to a church service where he heard the gospel and accepted Jesus. Reading the Bible his perception of Israel and the Jewish people changed, and today he is a pastor. His testimony stressed the unity of believers, a vital part in our ministry.

Ministry reports by LCJE members: 1. CMJ South Africa from Edith Sher

As the international chairman of CMJ, Rev. John Atkinson has a varied portfolio. Last year John taught and preached in various churches and groups across the country. His work also involved visiting Israel to oversee the work there. The compound at Christ Church Jerusalem is comprised of a coffee shop, heritage centre and bookshop as well as the church itself. These outlets provide vehicles to share the gospel with Israelis as well as the numerous tourists who visit Israel. There is a similar centre in Jaffa and a retreat centre in Migdal.

John also conducts tours to Israel and his tours last year were very successful. These tours have opened the eyes of many people who beforehand had not seen the importance of Israel in God's purposes. John also led the CMJ International Conference at Beit

Immanuel in Tel Aviv-Jaffa this year. This is a staff conference that allows delegates from the various branches around the world to connect with one another and to pool ideas for evangelism and growth.

Locally, we continue to work with Jewish people in sharing the good news of Yeshua. I was asked by a believer who had attended one of our conferences to visit a Jewish woman in the northern suburbs of Cape Town. She was witnessing to her but felt inadequate. I asked a worker with a ministry operating in that area to visit Arlene (not the Jewish woman's real name) and that broke the ice. But Arlene wanted to meet a Jewish believer so I visited her and we got on very well. She sent me a text message afterwards to say how much she had enjoyed the visit. She has a chronic and debilitating illness but is feisty and determined. She was very open to the Gospel and I left two books with her containing the testimony of Jewish believers. We have arranged to meet again this year.

Our weekly radio program on CCFM community radio has been on the air for several years now and introduces Christians to the Jewish roots of their faith. We regularly receive correspondence from listeners telling us how their faith has been built up through the teaching.

Our two weekly Bible studies had a two-month hiatus at the end of 2018. The over 35s groups draws between 60-100 people and the young adults group stays at about 12. It was gratifying that during the break the young adults arranged a pizza evening amongst themselves and said how they were looking forward to the studies recommencing. The studies are interactive and the debate sometimes gets very lively. In this new year we have set our sights on increasing attendance in

the young adults group.

Finally, our thrice yearly Roots and Shoots conferences continue to draw about 400 people to each conference. Our last conference on 'The Power of Repentance' was described by many as the best one ever. The DVDs and CDs of these conferences have travelled far and wide and are used in Bible study groups around the country.

2. David and Jonathan Foundation (D&J) from Jack Carstens and Eleanor Kerkman

David & Jonathan Foundation had a very busy year with conferences, speaking at churches, prayer and cell groups. There were also Shabbat celebrations in various churches as well as Passover dinners. One of the highlights was the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles attended by many people from the Christian community in and around Cape Town. An important aspect of the work of D&J Foundation is networking with other likeminded ministries. Some of these ministries had exhibition stalls representing their work at the Feast of Tabernacles celebration.

We thank the Lord for enabling D&J Foundation to raise R832 000 in support of Messianic congregations we partner with in Israel, to assist them in spreading the Good News of salvation.

The Salem Biblical Garden in Paarl is becoming more and more popular. We had meetings in the Jesus Tent and numerous guided tours, with the theme Journey through the Bible. There was a guided hike and bush camps where people helped to build and prepare the camp site.

We still have a long way to go, but with God's help and much prayer "all things are possible". Our prayer is that each person's heart will be touched as they walk through our garden, that they would find out who our Father really is and that they would spread the Good News to others.

3. Emet Ministries from Manfred and Isit Nochomowitz

We thank G-d for all that He accomplished through Emet Ministries during the past year. We thank him for every Jewish salvation and for opening doors of opportunity to the ministry, especially to the Jewish community in Pretoria. We also thank him for partnering us with churches and ministries in South Africa and around the world,

In 2018 our partnering went to a new level as the Lord added Jewish Voice Ministries International, Firstborn Ministries International, as well as Hamaayan Congregation in Kfar Sava, Israel to our list of international partners. We now partner with 8 international ministries/churches and 7 local ministries/churches in South Africa. We are looking forward to a very exciting year as we continue to take ground for the Kingdom.

One New Man

Emet Ministries operates in three of the four main cities in South Africa, Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

As a ministry, we believe very much in the 'One New Man' principle found in Ephesians 2:14-22. God challenged us that if we remained within the comfort of the Messianic body alone, we would not effectively make a difference within the Gentile church thereby bringing about "One New Man".

Lemba People in South Africa and Zimbabwe

We are currently helping Jewish Voice Ministries International through our government connections in Emet Ministries to obtain the necessary permission needed to bring a clinic to the Jewish Lemba people in South Africa, hopefully in 2019. We also work with the Jewish Lemba people in Zimbabwe.

Jewish Community

We are reaching many Jewish people as we have an open door to the Pretoria Jewish community as

well as to the main Jewish Old Age Home in Johannesburg.

We attended a number of Jewish events in Pretoria and Johannesburg with our team, and are building relationships with the Jewish community.

In fact, we have been embraced by the Pretoria Jewish community – the very community that told me I was not welcome in the community because I came to faith in Yeshua.

We are now invited to attend Jewish events, and at one such an event, we were asked to open in prayer, which we did, and ended the prayer: "in the name of Yeshua".

Jewish ministry and the local Church

We continued with Shabbat services, teaching seminars and prayer meetings, as well as a number of special events, including a Pesach Seder, a Sukkot service and a number of prayer walks. We also shared at a number of churches on the importance of the church standing with the Jewish people and Israel.

G-d's heart for Isaac and Ishmael

Emet Ministries held four seminars together with an Egyptian brother, Hany Ammanoeiel, on 'G-d's Heart for Isaac and Ishmael'. Jewish people and others accepted the Lord through these seminars.

We would like, as G-d leads us, to do more 'G-d's Heart for Isaac and Ishmael' seminars and are trusting to do such seminars in other countries as well.

In conclusion, for all that has happened, the biggest thank you must go to our incredible, awesome, faithful and wonderful G-d; without Him, there would be no Emet Ministries.

4. Jews for Jesus South Africa from Michael Sischy

Our 2018 year saw us complete our first year in a shared space with Messianic Congregation Beit Yeshua. This was a year of change, experimentation and much learn-

ing, as we not only moved but now had our own space for community events moving forward. The full gamut of the Hebrew calendar was celebrated, and family, friends and guests were invited to each of these historic and prophetic markers.

The highlight of our outreach last year was to be able to send 3 workers to be part of our biggest outreach ever, in Jerusalem. This culminated 18 years of our "Operation Behold Your God" campaign, and we were blessed and privileged to have South Africa be part of this "grand finale."

What ended in Jerusalem was actually a new beginning as we were all challenged to look at new ways of reaching out and sharing Yeshua with our Jewish people. This process is still unfolding and we are excited to see how God is moving us forward now in this new season. We finished the year with a baptism service and began the New Year 2019 with a baptism service! We are excited to see fruit that is still to come.

5. Messianic Testimony from Leigh Telli

Praise the Lord that the door at a retirement home which houses a number of Jewish people continues to stay open; in fact my slot has changed from the Christian to the Jewish meetings! One such memorable meeting was a talk given by a friend of mine who miraculously discovered that she is related to Ernest Cassutto whose story is found in "The Last Jew in Rotterdam". Elizabeth shared snippets from this riveting autobiography and of Ernest's miraculous escape from the gas chambers. Other meetings have been organised for 2019, including a presentation on the sub-

ject of "Forgiveness" in the light of Corrie ten Boom's life. Please pray that many hearts will be touched and that there will be fruit from the ten years of ministering there. There is another home that I am hoping to get into – may the Lord make a way.

In September of 2018, I organised a Women's Conference called "Unlocking your Strongholds" at my church – over 160 women attended, two of whom were unsaved Jewish ladies.

I continue to visit Jewish people and have recently met up with a woman called A. who suffers from depression. V., an elderly lady who is practically blind, continues to believe, despite a battle with God over her failing sight. There are many others, most of them elderly, that I have befriended. Would you pray with me that the Holy Spirit opens blind eyes before it is too late?

The title for Messianic Testimony's Annual meeting to be held in Cape Town in February is "Israel /South Africa and the Way forward". Liron Shany, a messianic pastor serving at Haderech congregation in Israel, will talk about Israel's spiritual blindness, the reasons for it and how it relates to us in South Africa. I will share on S.A.'s past and current position concerning Israel, and how God's blessings come when we align ourselves with His Word concerning the Jewish people and the Land.

6. Simcha Ministry to Jewish People from Cecilia

This past year the work of Simcha ministry comprised of sharing the gospel with Jewish people, participating in the congregational life of Beit Ariel Messianic congregation, teaching in churches and on a lo-

cal Christian radio station, as well as networking with other ministries involved in outreach to Jewish people and attending seminars and conferences.

Towards the end of last year I experienced the Lord's mercy in a new way. Eleven years ago my Jewish friend, Sheila (not her real name), decided not to talk to me anymore. As a matter of fact, she wanted nothing to do with me. It started with a misunderstanding. When I realised that she was angry with me I tried to talk to her and earnestly sought reconciliation over a period of time until I finally gave up. As we lived in the same neighbourhood I often saw her shopping or walking along the streets until one day I realised I had not seen her for some time. The thought suddenly occurred to me, "Maybe she died with unforgiveness in her heart." I prayed for the Lord's mercy, and He gave it in a most unexpected way!

About a week later while visiting another Jewish friend in a retirement home, I suddenly saw Sheila on the arm of a nurse! I called out her name and the next moment we were embracing each other. We chatted for some time as if there was never anything wrong. She had completely forgotten about the misunderstanding. We prayed together and I left rejoicing with the promise to visit her again soon. She died three weeks later!

In January Simcha ministry welcomed a new fulltime worker, Jeanie de Wet. We are grateful to the Lord for providing someone young and vibrant with a heart for Israel and the Jewish people. Please keep her in your prayers.

*Cecilia Burger
simchaministry@gmail.com*

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

Annual Report for 2018 for Latin America

by David Sedaca, LCJE Latin America Area Coordinator



David Sedaca



Small synagogue in the Argentine countryside

Overview

I want to share with you the activities that have been carried out in 2018 in Latin America. The work of LCJE in Latin America is carried out mainly by correspondence via e-mail or telephone calls, since they include the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Paraguay, El Salvador, Panama, and Cuba. Except for four countries, Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, and Brazil, there are no significant Jewish communities in other Latin American countries. For this reason, we focused on developing contacts and promoting activities in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil.

Argentina

Argentina continues to be the largest and most influential Jewish community in Latin America. It has roughly 400,000 Jews who in a non-official census taken in 2016 have declared to have Jewish grandparents. The Jewish community in Argentina is perhaps different from other Jewish communities in the world, since it had a unique beginning. Because it is the southernmost country in the world, it was sparsely populated by the first Spanish colonizers. Not having gold or silver and a few natives to convert, Spain had

no significant interest in that part of South America. The central and southern provinces were first settled by Welsh starting in 1850, then England began developing the cattle industry and building railroads, which they ran and owned until 1955. The Welsh and English brought along with them their evangelical faith that later on influenced the view that Argentine evangelical churches have on Jewish evangelism.

In the early part of the 19th century, Argentina had plenty of farmlands but no farmers, and it was at this point in history that pogroms became more frequent and harsh in Poland and "white" Russia. Due to the ties that Argentina had with England, by 1866 the Argentine government passed a law promoted by influential Jews in England by which all the Jews who wanted to emigrate to Argentina received freely 20 acres of farmland, and the Rothschild foundation in England provided funds to purchase farm equipment. In August 1889, 824 Jewish immigrants arrived from Russia on the steamer "Weser" and settled in the Moiseville colony (today the town of Moisés Ville) in the province of Santa Fe. Following them, thousands of Jewish people left Russia and other central European countries to become farmers in Argentina. Even today, one can see in small towns country synagogues,

unique for their simplicity and size. In the early part of the 20th century Argentina had the third largest Jewish population in the world, and by the 1950s, it had reached 700,000 Jewish people. For this reason, 80% of the Jewish community is Ashkenazy and 20% Sephardic.

Impact on Jewish evangelism

I mentioned above that the evangelical faith brought by the Welsh and English would eventually influence Jewish evangelism in Argentina. A large number of English settlers and businessmen were Plymouth Brethren and Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA), denominations that emphasize biblical prophecy and therefore Israel's continued election. Today, other evangelical denominations, such as Baptists, "renewed Anglican," and Pentecostals make up the majority of evangelicals churches in Argentina; however, the interest in prophecy and Israel first introduced by Plymouth Brethren and CMA was inherited and became part of the teaching of many evangelical churches.

After the establishment of the state of Israel and military governments in Argentina, many Jewish people left Argentina for Israel, the United States, and Canada. The second and third generation of Jewish farmers

went to the cities, and they attended universities and became professionals and businessmen. From the 1950s until the end of the 20th century, there were eleven foreign missionary organizations reaching out exclusively to Jewish people. Regrettably, except for four of them, most Jewish missions have left Argentina, as Jewish believers began to establish indigenous messianic Jewish congregations. However, most churches do not have a program for reaching their Jewish neighbors.

Annual conference on Jewish evangelism

As a result, we have an annual conference on Jewish evangelism held at "Derej Haemuna Messianic Center," a mission of Chosen People Ministries. In April 2018 we had a weekend conference on Israel in prophecy and the need to effectively reach the Jewish people with the Gospel. The meeting was promoted by Chosen People Ministries to evangelical churches in Buenos Aires. In addition to the members of the hosting congregation, leaders from different denominations and churches attended at least one day of the three-day conference.

Visit to Uruguay

In April 2018, I also traveled to Uruguay, where the Jewish population rebounded as a result of the Argentine Jews who moved to Montevideo, Uruguay's capital, taking advantage of the liberal banking regulations that made Uruguay a major banking center. For the first time, there is in Montevideo a neighborhood called "Jewish," and the Chabad Lubavitchers have established centers and synagogues there. During my visit to Uruguay I contacted and visited evangelical pastors and leaders, where I shared with them the need to reach the growing Jewish community in Uruguay. The pastor of the First Baptist Church, Lemuel Larrosa, is presently



Derej Haemuna Messianic Center in Buenos Aires

sponsoring the formation of a Messianic Jewish Fellowship and is very interested in sponsoring soon a conference on Jewish evangelism in cooperation with the LCJE where I will be the main speaker. I have also invited Pastor Jose Lewin to this future event to share his amazing testimony. He is a former Orthodox Jew and now the messianic Rabbi of HaDerej Messianic Center of Buenos Aires and leader of Chosen People Ministries in Argentina. This ministry has produced several books in Spanish that have opened new opportunities to promote Jewish evangelism in Latin America. Today we have available in Spanish the following books that promote and teach Jewish evangelism among evangelicals: "Introducing the Jewish People to Their Messiah," "Israel's Holidays in Type and Prophecy," and "The Heart of the Apostle." I plan to revisit Uruguay this coming May, and God willing, I will have a one day conference on Jewish evangelism sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Montevideo open to all churches.

Visiting Brazil

I last visited Brazil on the occasion of the First World Congress on Biblical Archaeology held in Sao Paulo. Because I am a professor of Biblical Archaeology in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I was part of a team of four academics representing the Hebrew University. While in Brazil, I experienced firsthand the growing phenomenon of the so-called "messianic synagogues."

These "synagogues" are made up of evangelical Gentiles who mimic Jewish rituals and traditions. Today there are more than one hundred of these "messianic synagogues." This has caused much confusion among evangelicals who reject this movement. Today in São Paulo, Brazil, there stands a copy of Herod's Jerusalem Temple that is the world headquarters of the Universal Church, a Brazilian denomination with twenty million members worldwide. This Temple has the capacity of holding 15,000 people, with twenty pastors wearing kippas and tallit during their services. Because of the Universal Church's emphasis on Israel, evangelicals are reluctant to be involved in Jewish evangelism.

Despite this confusion, there are three vibrant and bona fide messianic Jewish congregations, and one of them has regular seminars on Jewish evangelism that has featured, among others, Jonathan Bernis and Joseph Shulam as speakers. I maintain contact with the leaders of these messianic congregations as well as with evangelical leaders in the hope that I will be able to promote Jewish evangelism in their churches and congregations. Brazil has approximately a quarter million Jews, most of whom live in São Paulo, and others in Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Fortaleza, Recife, and Belo Horizonte.

Mexico

Jewish evangelism in Mexico has been influenced and carried out by Messianic Jewish organizations

in the United States, but no emphasis on Jewish evangelism is presently made among evangelicals. Although I maintain regular contacts with Messianic Jewish leaders in Guadalajara and Mexico City, I have not had the chance to be involved in promoting Jewish evangelism among evangelicals in Mexico. I look forward to being

more involved again in reaching the 55,000 Jews of Mexico.

In summary, our primary focus has been in Argentina and Uruguay, the most powerful and influential Jewish communities in Latin America; nevertheless, we maintain contacts in Brazil and Mexico. We trust that the Lord will use the LCJE to encourage

evangelicals in Latin America to reach the Jewish people of the region with the Gospel and somehow use us to promote Jewish evangelism among them.

David Sedaca
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"Gentiles, Salvation and 'Tikkun Olam'"

(Devotional continued from page 3)

My Lubavitch tour guide was stunned: "So...what are you doing here then?" he stammered. The Lord gave me the words to say (this all occurred before Rebbe Schneerson had died). "Your Rebbe is famous!" I said. "I wanted to see what this is all about." (which was true, but we were also there to 'spy out the land'). There wasn't much they could say to that. After all, spreading Schneerson's message to the Gentiles is one of the missions of Chabad - they are actually pretty much the only major group in Judaism today that seems to have any 'theology of the Gentiles', so to speak, and even theirs is not much. Most of the rest of Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) Judaism largely ignores or steers clear of thinking about the Gentiles and salvation. (the exception is the Rabbinical Council of the so-called "Noahide Academy of Jerusalem" - <https://www.noahide-academy.com/>)

For those Orthodox Jews who await a coming Messiah, a common refrain is this: 'The Messiah will tell us about this and deal with this when he comes' (or something along those lines). The attitude amongst most Orthodox Jews is that they are to 'stay in their lane' and deal with Jewish issues and problems, not worry about the Gentiles. One can almost hear the rabbis say, 'We have enough of our own problems, do we really need to worry about the Gentiles, too?!

But God Himself *does* worry, or rather, He is concerned about the welfare of the Gentiles (the

nations); that's the whole point! That is the lesson of the Book of Jonah and of so many other Scriptures, including Isaiah 49...

"What about us Gentiles?"

But to return to my story and my 'friend', the Lubavitch tour guide. At this point in the tour, after being very friendly and full of smiles, once he heard that I was not Jewish, he lowered his eyes and took on a somber demeanor; it was quite clear that the tour was over. I used the opportunity to ask a question, one I had been waiting to ask for a while: "What about us Gentiles?" I asked. Without looking into my eyes, he replied softly, "If you keep the Noahide commands, there will be a place for you in the afterlife." This was the first time I had ever heard about the "Noahide Laws." At the time it was a mystery to me what he was talking about. Today with the Internet, one can read all about them with a simple search.

The main point is that, since the destruction of the Second Temple and with it the Court of the Gentiles, the Noahide Laws are the closest thing that Judaism has today to having any sort of theology of how Gentiles can go to heaven. But it is hardly satisfactory, which leads to the next point - how this can impact Jewish evangelism.

"I really struggle with that question"

This issue of the Bulletin includes my review of Steven Kaplan's 2018 book, *God Stories From the Jewish*

Mission Field. Some of the stories Steven relates include his questions to some Orthodox Jews about how, in their view, can Gentiles today go to heaven? In a discussion with one Orthodox rabbi, he wrote: "I asked three times how Gentiles could go to heaven, since he [the rabbi] was saying that Isaiah 53 wasn't talking about atonement through Jesus, but he wouldn't address my question." (Kaplan, p. 123)

In another episode, Steven was in discussion with an anti-missionary: "As we sat there," Steven wrote, "I prayed that God would give me a question to ask him [the anti-missionary] that would touch his soul. God told me to ask him, 'If Orthodox Judaism is the only way to God, how do Gentiles go to heaven?' When I asked him, he just looked at me and said, 'You know, I really struggle with that question.'" (Kaplan, p. 102) So, in their heart of hearts, many religious Jews know that something is missing, that somehow they should be doing something to bring Gentiles closer to the God of Israel, even if they don't know what that really means.

The real "tikkun olam"

This leads us next to the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* (Hebrew for "repairing the world"). The concept of "tikkun olam" now permeates nearly all of Judaism. The term appears in the Mishnah (Robinson, p. 8), while the idea of the world being broken and in need of being perfected also has

a kabbalistic connection (Melnick, pp. 27-28).

As Rich Robinson says in his book, *The Day Jesus Did Tikkun Olam (Repaired the World): Jewish Values and the New Testament*: "Currently, tikkun olam is the Jewish value trending highest." (Robinson, p. 2) The concept today takes many forms, from Jewish philanthropy to political activism to support for utopian and radical movements and many other projects to 'try to make the world a better place.' (Melnick, pp. 19-25). This commitment to 'repairing the world' is very deep in the Jewish heart and soul, but in many respects it is also misguided.

What do I mean by this? Simply this: while some aspects of "tikkun olam" are noble and admirable, they fall short of the Biblical standard for what it really means to 'repair the world,' since we know that only the Messiah Himself can truly repair this broken world!

Rich Robinson describes how Jesus 'did' tikkun olam in this way: "For Jesus, when it came to tikkun olam, loving God and loving people was his foundation..." (Robinson, p. 103) And further, "As we have seen, Jesus distilled the 613 commandments of the Torah into two: to love God and to love others....[T]he New Testament invites its readers to understand that Jesus' death was also a means of tikkun olam, for it was the ultimate example of loving others. It was done to better the world, by offering atonement for sin and reconciliation with God, and in a deeper way than the ancient sacrifices could." (Robinson, p. 112). Rich adds that Jesus's death "was understood to procure forgiveness from sins, atonement and tikkun olam. The world begins to be repaired when we are repaired. In turn, we become the kind of people who can extend God's tikkun olam to the rest of the world. May tikkun olam, and great shalom, overflow our hurting world." (Robinson, p. 116)

Isaiah 49

So now Isaiah 49 and other important Scriptures concerning the Gentiles come into play: "*He says, 'it is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you for a light to the nations, that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth.'*" Thus we understand that the message of salvation through the Messiah is not just for "the tribes of Jacob" and "the preserved ones of Israel" but is also for all the nations and the Gentile peoples of the world.

This is the real message of 'repairing the world' and of the Gospel itself - that the Jewish Messiah has come first to repair the hearts of the sons and daughters of Israel and after that to repair the hearts of all those within the nations who will turn to Him in faith! (Romans 1:16)

Explaining the Gospel in Jewish terms

There is a need to bridge the gulf in terminology between how we refer to the Gospel - the 'Good News' of salvation by faith - and how Jewish people relate to the concept of 'repairing the world.' Rich's book begins to do that by showing how Yeshua's death and atonement is God's means *to repair us first!* Although we are called as believers to do good works in this world for the sake of those for whom Messiah died, we realize that we ourselves can never 'fix' this broken world by our own efforts - only God can do that. We can and should do what we can in those areas of 'repair' that God calls us to, but these efforts can never take priority over the Gospel itself, or else we have lost sight of our focus. Thus, there is this great divide between evangelical Christian and Jewish understandings of how this world should be 'repaired'.

Nevertheless, I believe that if we are able to explain the Gospel at least in part in terms of the concept of 'tikkun olam,' this will help

us in our witness to Jewish people.

While the Gospel is preached on an individual basis for personal salvation, 'tikkun olam' deals more with the corporate nature of the world, looking at things from the perspective of community and having an impact on many people, not just the individual. This is another area where the terminology we use in Jewish evangelism could be more tailored to also embracing the concept of community when we talk about salvation.

Why is this important? As I noted, I believe that God has put this desire for 'repairing the world' deep within Jewish hearts. There remains a veil over Israel when it comes to seeing Yeshua as the Messiah - a veil that shall remain over the nation as a whole until that day when "they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced." (Zechariah 12:10) In the meantime, Jewish people are often at the forefront of trying to 'save the world'. We see this phenomenon over and over again throughout society. This is, I believe, part of their God-given calling as the Chosen People, but it is usually misdirected. Instead of being spiritual leaders calling the Gentile nations to repentance (as Jonah reluctantly did with Nineveh!), this energy and calling, or, what I refer to corporately as 'Jewish giftedness', gets devoted to many other causes and endeavors in which Jewish people often excel. But this can never leave them satisfied! And that is where the Gentiles come in as part of God's plan.

The role of the Gentiles in reaching the Jews

We see God's ultimate plan for mankind unfolding in this way: He chose the Jewish people to be His witness people to the rest of the world. His prophets and the Messiah came to the world through them, but then they lost the vision for reaching the nations after they rejected Yeshua and after the destruction of the Second Temple.

They were scattered among the nations and then turned inward in the face of persecution.

But whenever Jewish people have an opportunity to live in peace and not be persecuted, a strong desire to 'save the world' often becomes manifest. This is expressed in myriad number of ways in the modern era, but there is only one right way, and that is through the atoning blood of the King of the Jews! All the other

ways of supposedly 'saving' or 'repairing the world' have ended or will end in ultimate failure and a lack of fulfillment. This is where Gentile believers come in - we are called to make the Jews jealous - we have found that fulfillment that Jewish seekers yearn to find, for "salvation has come to the Gentiles." (Romans 11:11).

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Book Review: *God Stories From the Jewish Mission Field* by Steven Barry Kaplan (Lang Book Publishing, 2018) Reviewed by Jim Melnick, LCJE International Coordinator

Overview

I am sure that most of us involved in ministry have our own 'God stories' - stories of God's amazing work in our lives and ministries. Steven Kaplan has taken the time to write his down and to share them with us, thus helping to fulfill Psalm 145:4-5: "*One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts.*" Many times when I have told friends my own 'God stories,' people have often said, "You should write those down in a book!" I agree, and I have written some of them down and shared some of them in print. But I have not done what Steven has done and compiled them all together as has been done here. That is quite a feat in itself, indicating that Steven has either a prodigious memory for detail or has kept very good notes through the years!

God Stories from the Jewish Mission Field is a collection of stories about divine appointments, first about Steven's coming to faith in Jesus as his Jewish Messiah, God's working in his life as a new believer, and then story after story of how the Lord gave him and continues to give him opportunities all over the world to witness to Jewish people and how those divine appointments came together.



A Letter from Moishe

In a 2009 letter from Moishe Rosen published in the book, Moishe noted the then "hundreds of energetic young Jews – talented and committed – [who] have been coming to faith in Y'shua... Steven Kaplan is certainly one of the more impressive of these people, and I feel privileged to be able to endorse his ministry." He added: "Steven Kaplan would qualify for service with our Jews for Jesus staff, but I think he's chosen a better path....I think that he has chosen well to be independent of, yet cooperative with all other Jewish missions." (p. v)

Dedicated to the Beckfords

The book is dedicated to Eddie and Lura Beckford, who are friends of

mine who served for a number of years in ministry in the desert town of Arad, Israel, but who have since returned to the United States. The Beckfords are part of Steven's ministry, Jewish Outreach International.

Steven's "Acknowledgements" section is quite extensive. It constitutes a sort of 'who's who' of many people involved in the Jewish missions and Messianic movements, as well as other believers involved in Steven's spiritual journey.

Personal story

In the first two chapters of the book, "Life or Death?" and "Salvation," Steven shares stories about his personal life growing up in Long Island, his search for God, and how he eventually came to faith. The next chapters trace his journey of being called to leave home and move to Atlanta, where he lived in near-poverty for a time but God met all his needs in some amazing ways.

In some of the early chapters, there are many places where I found myself as a reader thinking, 'Steve, you are over-spiritualizing some of these events.' For example, he shares how he viewed the spiritual significance of a green velvet couch pulled from the dumpster, which to him repre-

sented Jesus – he had been Bar Mitzvah'd in a green velvet suit (p. 24), or finding significance in telephone numbers (p. 40)

The important thing as a reader is to suspend those thoughts and to stay the course: sometimes we forget what it was like for us when we first became believers and we saw God's Hand and His care for us in many otherwise 'small things.' We need to remember that our God is the God of the small things as well as The Big Things, and this seems especially so when we consider how God dealt with many of us as new believers and how he deals with many new believers today. Steve's book captures this in the telling of his own story. As we were seeking after God or perhaps after we became believers and we cried out to Him, He showed us such love and care in those little things – things that were inexplicable to nonbelievers, that all we could do was fall on our faces before Him in thanksgiving and gratitude and praise His Name! It is a spiritual lesson that hopefully we learn as new believers and continue to apply later in life as we 'grow in grace'.

The secular world mocks such faith, but all that secularists have is randomness and meaninglessness, as expressed in the worldview of self-identified Jewish atheist Leonard Mlodinow, the son of Holocaust survivors. Mlodinow's 2008 work, *The Drunkard's Walk: How Randomness Rules Our Lives*, expresses this view - that everything in life is random. So, one either believes that everything is random, or one believes that God rules over the affairs of this world, even the 'small things' of life and everyday experience.

Going to Germany & Israel

Steven next relates how he became part of his church's Sanctuary Choir, which decided to go on a trip to Germany. Steven was really resistant at first to go to Germany because of its Nazi past in its destruction of the Jewish people (pp. 43-46).

He tells the story of a 19-person mission trip to Israel where the group slept on mats in Yakov Damkani's backyard in Joppa, passed out tracts "on street corners, army bases, near malls and wherever we could," and where he was assaulted but was "able to escape out the back exit of the mall..." (pp. 58-61).

Jews for Jesus volunteer; 'Behold Your God' campaign

Steven started volunteering with Jews for Jesus in the Atlanta area and drove to Nashville at one point to help Moishe Rosen represent Jews for Jesus at a National Religious Broadcasters convention (p. 65). He also relates his time volunteering in Jews for Jesus campaigns in Paris, London, and Sydney, Australia. The Sydney campaign was an outreach during the 2000 Summer Olympics. In the end he says: "I had been to five cities in five countries on three different continents. I was physically and emotionally drained. I had been physically assaulted, spat at, cursed at, had rocks and bottles thrown at me, had people yell at me, had my tracts ripped up and thrown at me, was stalked by anti-missionaries and questioned by police almost everywhere I went." (pp. 85-86).

Later, Steven later served on the first U.S. "Behold Your God" campaign in 2001. He also participated in a major campaign in South Africa. In one event, a hostile Jewish man tried to ram his car into the Jews for Jesus van. Steven witnessed to him and his friend, and both prayed with him to receive the Lord (pp. 104-105). Steven was later recognized for having served in the most outreaches of the 'Behold Your God' campaign (outside of Israel) - 25 out of 60 outreaches! (p. 176)

'Hanging Out' with the Anti-Missionaries!

Steven relates how he would meet with an anti-missionary named Harvey for lunch at various kosher restaurants: "He would

speak loudly so everyone in the restaurant knew what he was trying to do: talk me out of my belief in Jesus! I loved to meet with him and answer his questions because it gave me an opportunity to pray over the people in these places and share the Gospel in the context of answers to his questions!" (pp. 65-66)

"He would email me questions and that forced me to buy books and look up the answers. E-mailing was a great way for me to learn and grow and have time to pray about and research answers. This went on for many months and ended when I asked him who Isaiah 9:7 was talking about?...He said the verse was talking about King Hezekiah. I said it couldn't be because the Kingdom was established from that time on and forever...He never answered that email, and that was the end of our question and answer Internet exchanges! I credit Harvey for training me as a missionary!!!!" (pp. 66-67)

Harvey "invited me to hear Tovia Singer," a well-known anti-missionary from New York. "The meeting just happened to be taking place at the synagogue I had seen from the train and had been praying for! I went to the meeting and was immediately befriended by Shmul, Anti-Missionary #2. He decided he was going to make me his 'project.'" (p. 67) Tovia Singer then got involved: "I called him [Singer] that week and spent over an hour sharing my testimony, and we exchanged many emails and instant messages for years." (p. 67)

"Shmul invited me to his house for Shabbos dinners....We would discuss Scripture and go round and round and round. He tempted me with sweets, but no sweet can dissuade me from the sweetest Name I know! I loved going to his house for Shabbos meals because he would invite others and tell them about my belief. When he would walk out of the room, his guests would ask me why I believed in Jesus, giving me an opportunity to

share!” (p. 67)

Next, Steven shares about how he began to immerse himself in Jewish life in Atlanta, visiting various institutions and synagogues of all kinds as part of his witness, as well as many of the divine appointments God gave him (pp. 70-77).

In April 2002, Steven’s church appointed him “as a faith-supported missionary to the Jewish people.” (p. 106)

Overall comments

Steven shares many amazing and wonderful stories of witnessing to Jewish people and others in Atlanta and in many other places

around the world. He is surely an indefatigable evangelist, and “God Stories” truly lives up to its name!

At the same time, there must certainly have been many disappointments and dangers that he experienced, as well as much rejection, but he does not dwell on these things in his stories. An occasional comment here or there suffices.

If there is one theme that permeates the book in terms of Jewish missions, I could sum it up in these three words: love, availability and perseverance. Let’s call it “L.A.P.” for short! Steven’s ministry and book exemplify these three qualities, and I think that they are re-

quirements for any successful ministry, but especially so in the challenging field of Jewish missions.

I hope that this book will receive a wide reading within the Jewish missions community. May it also inspire many of us to consider writing down our own ‘God stories’ for others to be blessed by, as Psalm 145 encourages us to tell the next generation what the Lord has done in our lives and ministries!

Publisher

God Stories from the Jewish Mission Field is published by Lang Book Publishing (2018), based in New Zealand.

New Books by LCJE Members

Editor’s Note: The following are recent books by LCJE members and/or of interest to LCJE members.

AMY DOWNEY

Dr. Amy Downey’s new book, *Maimonides’s Yahweh: Rabbinic Judaism’s Attempt to Answer the Incarnational Question* (2019), based on her 2016 Liberty University dissertation, is now available. The Foreword by Leo Perce states that “The life of Moshe ben Maimon (Maimonides) remains a mystery to many within evangelical Christianity, and yet he is often celebrated as a kind of ‘Second Moses’ within some branches of contemporary Judaism.” He “helped to fashion a Judaism that (from a Christian viewpoint) creates hostility to Christian readings of the Hebrew Scripture...[T]his work argues that Maimonides’s view may even overlook or obscure some of the truth claims found in the Hebrew Scripture.” Endorser Rev. Brian G. Chilton, Senior Pastor of Westfield Baptist Church, states: “Dr. Downey brings a unique blend of scholarly knowledge and passionate concern for the lost in her missionary work. Her zeal for the Jewish people is seen in [this] book... I not only highly recommend this book, but I also highly recommend your support of Tzedakah Ministries.” Amy did some of the research for this book about



Maimonides ‘on the ground’ in Spain. She is also the first woman to receive a PhD in apologetics and theology from Liberty University. This book is available from Wipf & Stock (www.wipfandstock.com).

RICH ROBINSON

Dr. Rich Robinson is the Senior Researcher for Jews for Jesus. His latest book is titled, *The Day Jesus Did Tikkun Olam (Repaired the World): Jewish Values and the New Testament*. The introduction of the book states that, “From the day Israel received the Torah at Mount Sinai, until now, *tikkun olam* has been part and parcel of the Jewish DNA.” Further, “it has come to define the Jewish *raison d’etre*...” (p. 7) Yaakov Ariel, Professor of Religious

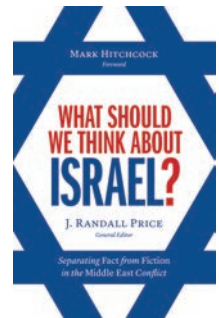


Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, wrote the Foreword. Ariel states: “Robinson, quite admirably, is in possession of remarkable knowledge about both Judaism and Christianity...In *The Day Jesus Did Tikkun Olam*, he utilizes his outstanding expertise on rabbinical Judaism, the New Testament and early Christianity, coupled with first hand familiarity with contemporary American culture, and a dynamic style, full of humor and wit...” (p. ix)

The book is available from Messianic Jewish Publishers (www.messianicjewish.net)

RANDALL PRICE (Editor)

Dr. Randall Price is the editor of the forthcoming work, *What Should We Think About Israel?* with a



Foreword by Mark Hitchcock. Gary Hedrick has written that he thinks this book is “particularly timely because I think we’re all painfully aware of the erosion of support for the Jewish State among younger people these days—including, sadly, young evangelicals.” He adds: “Randall says he’s praying that the LORD will use this new book

for His glory and to advance outreach to the Jewish people and a disenchanted young demographic within the church and on the campus.” Contributing writers include: David Brickner, Michael Brown, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Steven Ger, Mitch Glaser, Thomas Ice, Walter Kaiser, Meno Kalisher, Justin Kron, Jim Melnick, Olivier Melnick, Ran-

dall Price, Imad Shehadeh, Tim Siggler, Michael Vlach, Paul Wilkinson, Andy Woods and Tuvya Zaretsky. The book is scheduled for an August 2019 release, but advance shipping will start as early as mid-July. For a possible discount, contact Kathy Zemper: kathy.zemper@harvesthousepublishers.com or 800-547-8979 ext. 2205.

LCJE 2018 END-OF-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

Regular Income for 2018 (in US dollars)

2018 dues & income \$39,894.60

11th International Conference Income – Registration Fees

Registration fees for 11th International conference

CONFERENCE INCOME at end of 2018: **\$7,933.80**

TOTAL INCOME: Regular income and conference income combined at end of 2018: **47,828.40**

Expenses

REGULAR OPERATIONS

(as of 12.31.2018)

Reimbursement for administration	\$15,000.00
Bulletin (quarterly; printing and production)	4,233.12
Bank charges	1,385.67
Computer software	692.16
Postage and shipping expenses	3,331.58
Travel	6,514.09
Website support (hosting, etc.)	367.83
Office supplies	149.58
Accounting services	275.00
Miscellaneous (foreign transaction fees)	65.44
Reconciliation discrepancies	1.51
Travel insurance	18.24

SUB-TOTAL: **<\$32,034.22>**

11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES (PAID in 2018):

Hotel Catering Contract – Pre-paid charges during 2018 **<\$11,400.00>**

TOTAL EXPENSES for 2018: **\$43,434.22**

NET INCOME for 2018: **\$4,394.18**

YEAR-END BALANCE as of 12.31.2018 **\$24,769.78**

COMMENTS on REPORT

As noted above, some expenses for the 11th international conference in Toronto in August 2019 were pre-paid in 2018. A LCJE financial report will be part of the business meeting planned for noon on 12 August 2019 at the conference. If there are any questions about this report, please contact me at the email address below.

Jim Melnick, LCJE International Coordinator and Treasurer • lcje.int@gmail.com



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March 29, 2019

TO: The LCJE International Coordinating Committee

My assignment was to review the financial statement reporting (Operations- Profit (Loss) and Balance Sheet) for the calendar year 2018. This review included not only verification but reconciliation of both bank accounts and credit card accounts. My findings were that everything balanced and does agree with Bank statement reports as well as credit card reports for 2018. In addition, an Overdraft Protection account exists in the event a short term need for cash arises.

The enclosed 2018 Financial Statement- LCJE International (Income & Expenses) has been reviewed by me and does include the component parts of a true profit and loss statement just presented differently. You will note that total income of \$47,828.40 does equal total reported on the books and total expenses of \$43,434.22 also agrees with the profit and loss statement.

My review does not include an opinion on the financial condition of LCJE International for 2018 but rather a compilation where various accounts were reviewed in conjunction with the resultant report generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Gargan".

Douglas Gargan
Accountant

c. **Rule 1.5 Registration of voters:** ~~“The Procedures and Nominations Committee shall be responsible for drawing up a roll of voters prior to a General Meeting-..... This proposed change to the first sentence of this rule reflects how the voting process is actually done, since the International Coordinator keeps the master list of eligible voters.~~

Change to: *“The Procedures and Nominations Committee shall receive the approved roll of voters from the International Coordinator prior to a General Meeting.”*

Rule 2.7 Agenda. (second paragraph). Items for the agenda received by the International Coordinator less than one month in advance of a General Meeting may, unless withdrawn, be considered as notices of motion for debate at the next but one General Meeting. Notices of motion will be indicated on the agenda of the next General Meeting. The International Coordinator may be asked to provide the Procedures and Nominations Committee with proof of the late arrival of agenda items if so required.

The rule, as currently written, is slightly confusing. The proposed change streamlines and clarifies the process.

Delete the current second paragraph. Replace with: *“Items proposed for the agenda of a General Meeting must be received by the International Coordinator at least one month prior to a General Meeting. That deadline will be published in the LCJE Bulletin appearing at least two months prior to the General Meeting. Items for consideration that do not meet this deadline can still be received by the ICC for possible action in lieu of the entire LCJE membership voting upon it.”*

Rule 2.21. Minutes. The recording secretary shall prepare a summary account of the discussions and decisions of each General Meeting (including a list registered voters present), obtain the chairman’s approval of the draft, and circulate them to each member within a month of the meeting.

This rule needs to be updated to better reflect how we usually run General Meetings – first, a method for choosing a recording secretary at the General Meeting needs to be established in this rule. next, preparing a list of registered voters present is superfluous, since the International Coordinator and the Procedures & Nominations Committee are already aware of the number of registered voters present at the meeting in order to obtain a quorum; the draft of the Minutes needs to be approved by the ICC as a whole; and it is unnecessary to circulate the Minutes to the members “within a month of the meeting” when they can just be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Delete current paragraph and change entire paragraph to: *“The recording secretary for the General Meeting shall be nominated by the International Coordinator and approved by the ICC. The recording secretary for the General Meeting shall then prepare a summary account (Minutes) of the meeting and submit a draft to the ICC for approval. Upon approval, the Minutes shall be published in the LCJE Bulletin.”*

a. **Rule 3.7.2. Members.** The Procedures and Nominations Committee shall be made up of one member selected by the ICC and two members elected by the General Meeting, the members to serve until the election of the new committee at the General Meeting.

The rule as currently written is incorrect and confusing. The members of the new incoming Procedures and Nominations (P&N) Committee (one appointed by the ICC and the two others elected by the membership) must actually assume their posts PRIOR to the General Meeting itself, which they help officiate. Their selection needs to occur near the beginning of an international conference so that the P&N Committee can do all of its work in receiving nominations and in preparation for the General Meeting. This proposed simple change accomplishes that.

CHANGE Rule 3.7.2 to say instead: *“...until the election of the new committee at the at the next International Conference prior to the next General Meeting.”*

MAKING ALL THINGS NEW
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Go to LCJE.org to register!



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The work of the Caspari Center is enabled through the prayers and financial support of organizations and individuals all over the world. The **Media Review** is a weekly English-language synopsis of articles that were originally published in the Israeli press, mostly in Hebrew, focusing on issues related to Messianic Jews, Christians in Israel, Jewish Attitudes toward Christians, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Missionary Activity, Archaeology, and similar themes.

To subscribe to this free publication, please contact: caspari@caspari.com

While offered for free, we would be grateful for donations in any amount to help underwrite the cost of producing this vital chronicle of Messianic/Christian history in Israel and to help us continue distributing it to as many people as possible.

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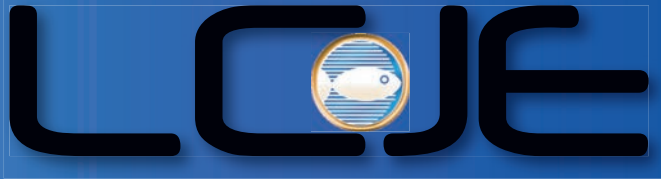
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Networking Jewish Evangelism



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on Jewish Evangelism

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