

LCJE Bulletin

Issue 95, February 2009

Networking Jewish Evangelism



Lausanne Consultation
on Jewish Evangelism



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From the Coordinator

Who Won?

This was written on January 21, a few hours after Barack Obama's inauguration as the 44th American president. And what a ceremony! Framed by prayers in which the God of *Israel* was mentioned and the name of Jesus invoked in many different languages - including the Hebrew form of *Yeshua* - and where the Lord's Prayer was also prayed.

I live in a so-called Christian country, but something like this would never take place in connection with the inauguration of a new prime minister. One of the hottest issues being discussed in Denmark right now is whether it should be allowed to continue to pray the Lord's Prayer in public schools.

Obama won the presidential election in the USA. His inauguration happened immediately after a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas had taken effect, following the three-week war in Gaza.

In an email from January 18, the Executive Secretary of the Palestinian Bible Society, Labib Madanat, asks the question: "Who won?" And he continues:

"Some Palestinians said: the Palestinian resistance did; Hamas! They are still in Gaza and so is Gilad Shalit.

Some Israelis said: We did. We paid back Hamas and Iran and anyone who thinks of hurting Israel; they all know how much it will cost them.

NO ONE WON, IT'S LOSS FOR US ALL. With ultra-nationalism and any religious fanaticism, all life is compromised, the right to grieve and identify is suffocated, and humanity is violated to the core.

Christians, believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to turn this curse into blessing, destruction into construction, fear into love and hurt into healing; it is time for redemption. I call upon us all not to invite curse into the body of Christ turning it into another battle ground. Blessed are the peace makers."

LCJE has, naturally, no official opinion on how to solve the political conflict in the Middle East. We are called to make Jesus known among Jewish people. May we do it in a way that does not create hatred of Palestinians. They are also created in the image of God.

Kai Kjær-Hansen

**LCJE members are kindly requested to pay
their 2009 dues NOW.**

Making Good Decisions – *What Informs Us?*

By Bob Mendelsohn, LCJE Coordinator for AustralAsia, Sydney

The story is told of the senior executive who welcomed a new assistant into his office. The new man was intimidated and worried about meeting “the boss.” He’d heard so much about his hardness. After the initial conversation and the farewell handshake, the new man asked, “Boss, what’s the most important advice you can give me, as I start?”

“Make good decisions,” the boss answered without looking up.

“Great, thanks,” said the new man, as he headed out. “But, sir, how do I do that?”

“Experience, that will help you make good decisions,” answered the one-liner boss.

“Right, great, . . . thanks, boss,” as the junior slipped his hand on the doorknob again. “One more question, if I might. How do I gain experience?”

Without so much as a nanosecond delay, the boss replied, “Bad decisions.”

I don’t know about you, but making good decisions and sticking to them rivals most other realities for me as a missionary and missionary leader. There’s no magic formula nor special recipe I can give you to accomplish this, but Proverbs 16 gives us some information on how to do just that, in a real and sensible way. If we can



learn from our ancestor Solomon in this regard, so be it!

Structure of Proverbs 16

I like the *inclusio* of verse one along with the last verse in the chapter.

Inclusio is a term almost like a modern parenthesis. Inclusio is a literary device, also known as bracketing, which involves creating a frame, placing similar material at the beginning and end of a section.

So here we see the bracket of verse one and verse 33.

Verse one says we make plans, and humans do that all the time, but something bigger is working. Our answer is from the Lord. Then from verse 33 we see that decisions come from God. And many would be familiar with verse 9, “The mind of man plans his way, and the Lord directs his steps.”

Wouldn’t it be nice if at the end of a day, or the end

of an event or the end of an outreach, we could say, “God oversaw, God accomplished, God made his plans come to pass”? For me, this is my heart’s desire, and I know it is the desire of so many of us in LCJE.

I hope as a result of reading this, that you will be comforted. Comfort is the word God wants us to hear. It acts as a cushion for us, in light of all the decisions we have to make and we do make, right or wrong. We decide and then hope that we are comforted in having made the right choice.

It’s clear there are consequences to our choices. That’s why we are so concerned. What if we choose wrongly? What if we say or do something which slips us into the wrong avenue? I’m not talking about what type of movie we should see or which dress to wear.

Rather these are major decisions, like moving to another city, taking a new job, purchasing shares, etc. Where will we invest our resources, our time, our talent, our treasure? What will we be doing and being in seven years? Are we where we said we would be seven years ago?

I believe we are responsible to make these major decisions (“The plans of the heart belong to man”), all the while a bit of

humility is warranted (“but”). This in direct contrast to the old Yiddish expression “Man plans and God laughs.”

The Hebrew of verse one shows the drama: *L'adam ma'archei lev; Umei'adonai ma'anei lashon.*

The verse shows the actor/object in clear opposition. *To Man:* the plan of the heart. *From*



God: the answer of the tongue. So, I hear great comfort in that. I hear God wishing us comfort in our plans and in the assurance that if we seek him, we will find his answers. *And especially as we are being informed by true and godly advice, for sure.*

Being informed

By what are we informed nowadays? Certainly the media does this with its 24/7 updates, hourly emails, and barrage of information. Then there are observable realities like the weather, which helps me choose clothing and activities in the now. Friends inform us, mostly about friends, and even



enemies. Politicians help us, newsmen, Bible teachers . . . all inform us.

Our own heart informs us, when we are trained in godliness (verse 21-23). Godly conscience helps determine truths and paths and reality, and checks us from wrong behavior and wrong paths.

We have to be careful about human invention and playing with “God led me” kind of talking. Verse 25 warns us that a way that “seems right” may not actually “be right.” Yet we can listen to godly advice – the gray heads are wise elders in verse 31 who help righteous folks get along the right path. The best advice, though, comes from the Bible. The Book informs us, and this is the greatest “answer from the Lord,” before the plans are even made. When the Book speaks, as such we are most informed by the God who made Heaven and Earth.

As God informs me, I feel as if I'm walking in his presence, and thus walking in larger footprints. There are things happening all around me, making the train connection, being in the shop when a Jewish visitor pops in, missing the turnoff from the highway . . . all of which seem major at the time, but really they are all part of God's overall plan.

We plan, and we rejoice in the comfort, in the assurance, that God is superintending. God sees to things; he oversees things. He is our rock even in making choices and keeping them. Thanks be to God for his help, even in times of trouble. Even in 2009, and throughout our days.

*Bob Mendelsohn
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Annual Report 2008 for LCJE Israel

By David Zadok, LCJE Coordinator for Israel

It is always good to reflect on the past and to see the goodness of the Lord and his faithfulness. Since not much had happened in the past in the Israeli chapter of the LCJE, it was decided in our 2007 meeting to build up slowly. Two projects were decided on for 2008: the first, to conduct a seminar on evangelism; and the second to compile a resource list of the various ministries in Israel, in order to facilitate networking.

As you may have read in issue 92 of the LCJE bulletin, May 2008 (the one that was mistakenly printed as 91 February 2008) the seminar on Evangelism and Media made all present more aware of the various efforts that are being made in this field. Good cooperation came out of the seminar, especially as a representative of the national evangelistic committee also participated.

A planning meeting for 2009 was held towards the end of 2008. It was decided to build upon the success of the previous seminar. This year we plan to hold a seminar on the methodology of reaching out to different groups within society. We want to learn from each other some of the ways to reach out to Russian immigrants, single



mothers, Israelis, the homeless, and other groups in the land. A sub-committee was formed to organize the details.

In addition we are looking into ways to increase the membership of LCJE among the congregations. At the moment most LCJE members, though a part of local congregations, represent their own organizations. We hope to see more membership from local congregations.

Finally, we drew up a working plan for the compilation of a resource catalogue. We began by including information from LCJE participants, sorted by categories, and then the resources of congregations. Inclusion in the list will be voluntary. In other words, all those listed will have agreed to be in it. It will be discreet and accessible to a limited group of people.

The current war

On a personal note, towards the end of December, after the rocket barrages on Israel escalated and it became apparent that other means had failed to halt the attacks, the government launched a military operation in the Gaza strip against Hamas.

As I write this report, the fighting continues. Over the past seven years over 8,000 rockets have been shot at the southern parts of Israel from Gaza. In the current war more cities have come within the range and rage of the Hamas rockets, including Gedera, Beersheba, Ashdod, and other smaller towns.

One rocket landed only three houses down from our home in Gedera. Eti and the children were home, but sheltered in our secure room. Thankfully, though much damage was caused to nearby homes, only one child was hurt – a three month old baby was lightly injured and taken to hospital.

We and many others are praying that the Lord will use this horrible situation to bring his peace to the people in Israel and to the Palestinians.

Thank you for joining us in this prayer.

David Zadok
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Annual Report 2008 for LCJE AustralAsia

By Bob Mendelsohn, LCJE Coordinator for AustralAsia

From Brian Wells, Christian Witness to Israel, New Zealand

We have always felt an awareness of being “workers together with him” in the harvest of souls. Thus the work continues to develop in ways never expected. We praise the Lord for his leading.

(1) The Outreach to the Jews: Personal Visitation, Studies in the Torah, a ministry to Israelis on their Big O.E., and Email Outreach.

(2) The Outreach to the Church: teaching sessions, regular Deputation, and forming Prayer Groups.

First, the go-between plays a vital role in our making contact with Jews living in NZ and Israeli visitors. For example, a recent phone call linked us up with a young couple seeking help. They visit our home, are texting us with questions, and are writing quite long email letters!

With those really interested we introduce Studies in the Torah (the 5 books of Moses). There are questions for them to find answers to in the law. We have a literature contact with many Israelis. They are here on their big O.E., and some of our Christian friends accommodate them on farms. Over 40,000 visited one year and many heard the gospel through contact with our friends. Some also took away with



them copies of the OT/NT. In one home where 4 were staying, one showed real interest and immediately accepted a copy from us. This then led one of the others going on to Australia to ask for a copy: “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ” (Rom 10:17).

Perseverance is vital, and having made a contact we don't let go!

Email Outreach is helping us retain contacts, and at appropriate times on the Jewish calendar we send a message that points them to Messiah Jesus.

Another contact moved to Canada and we have kept email contact for 5 years. Recently he wrote of his marriage coming up. The Jewish wedding provides an excellent gospel message. We sent this, asking that it be read at the wedding. Within days we received a positive response from them.

Secondly, contact with the

church through deputation is vital to establish links with the wider church and encourage those already supporting the work. We put out the challenge for folk to commence a prayer group for the work in their homes. We have been encouraged by the response. We are convinced that “prayer is the best way to bring the Jew to Jesus.” NZ is two Islands, and deputation takes us on many a journey up and down both sides of the North Island and annually up and down both sides of the South Island. Quite a lot of preparation is going into arranging accommodation and meetings for the journey. So many hours go into writing and taking care of correspondence. The computer age has helped considerably.

Haderekh (The Way) meetings for Christian youth! We see this as a valuable time of teaching how to share Messiah Jesus with the Jews. Most young Christians know Jews at school and university. We often focus on sharing Christ Jesus in the feasts and festivals of Israel.

Hatikvah (The Hope) our school of Jewish Studies! We aim to have two 12-week semesters each year. We are already receiving applications for the semester beginning March

2009. We try to follow the university calendar for the dates, as often students want to do the course, but age is no barrier. Praise God a number of our students are now missionaries on the field and full time pastors in churches. Some have even taken up positions in the USA.

**From Paul Morris,
Christian Witness to
Israel, Sydney**

We have continued to work hard at established ministries and there have been some areas of new development. Street witness through a book table and tracting continue to lead to many witness opportunities; our experience is that the Israelis and Russian Jews we meet are the most open. Australian Jews are friendly and approachable but comfortable and secure, with little sense of spiritual need. However, it is encouraging to see that some Jewish people are also coming to faith through the witness of Christian friends, and so we have continued to focus on a ministry in Sydney's business district to Christians who have Jewish colleagues. This focus on Christian witness has also led to good opportunities to speak in churches holding seminars on "World Religions" (an increasing trend here) with a view to equipping for witness.

We also want to develop

a ministry in Melbourne, where many churches are keen to support us. We now have a group of volunteers, some of whom have begun some occasional street witness, and one who lives very much within the orthodox community. It has been a blessing to see developments in our work among Israelis by Kay Chan and Sue Park. By café, friendship, and street witness they meet Israelis who live here, and those who are backpackers. A network of Christian homes and Christian employers willing to provide hospitality and/or work for backpackers is being established.

All our staff are now located in Jewish neighborhoods, which leads to good opportunities for making friends and speaking of Messiah. One highlight of the year for myself was a visit to Ghana, West Africa, after 8 weeks in the U.K. on deputation (Ghana is my wife's country of birth). Five ministers' conferences heard of our ministry to Jewish people, telling us they knew nothing of such ministries, only of prophecy-focused organizations. They are committed to pray. And pray they will! God bless them. At this point in an LCJE Australasia report for CWI, it is appropriate to recognize the support for our ministry given by many Christians in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan,

although it is a U.K. responsibility.

**From Lawrence Hirsch,
Celebrate Messiah
Australia, Melbourne**

The work of Celebrate Messiah Australia had a significant year of growth in ministry, both in Australia and overseas. The work is focused in Melbourne, where about 75,000 Jewish people reside, but an active team has been building momentum in Sydney as well. The Messianic congregation Beit HaMashiach, planted by Celebrate Messiah Australia 10 years ago, is now self propagating and self supporting, and has a pastoral team and Board running this strategic outreach in the center of the Jewish community in Melbourne. The average attendance is between 90-100 people per week.

Outreach to Russian speaking Jews in Melbourne continues, and we have seen several people make commitments to follow Yeshua this year. Each week Bible studies and personal visitation is undertaken, with several special events for the Jewish holidays.

Each year Celebrate Messiah hosts an annual Messianic conference called Simcha. This year we had a record number of 270 delegates from across Australia; about 40% of these people were Jewish. This conference has helped forge a Messianic Jewish identity and sense

of belonging for many believers across the country. This year we had guest speakers from Germany (Vladimir Pikman) and Israel (Evan Thomas), as well as Dr. Ashley Crane from Perth in West Australia. Not only was this conference edifying for believers, but during the weekend five Jewish people prayed to receive Yeshua as Messiah.

This year also witnessed the birth of Celebrate Messiah New Zealand. Seasoned missionary and Messianic Pastor Scott Brown has moved to the South Island of New Zealand together with his wife and four of his seven children. Their vision is to reach the 8,000-plus Israeli backpackers that tour the country each year. They will be hosting mission teams at their campsite on the South Island and training them in evangelism to international travelers. These teams will then be placed on the backpacking route on the South Island. This is an exciting and innovative mission opportunity.

Celebrate Messiah also supports two missionaries in Birobidzhan in the Jewish Autonomous Region of Russia, and continues to send mission teams to do work amongst scattered Jewish people across the Far East of Russia. In March 2009 another team from Australia, Germany, and Russia will go to several

cities in Far East Russia to reach out to these “forgotten Jews.”

It is also our privilege to support the work of Chosen People Ministries in Israel. We send money from Australia each month to support one of the workers in Israel, and Celebrate Messiah has also been sending short-term mission teams into Israel. In January 2008, a team of 10 young people from Australia spent 3 weeks in Israel doing a wide range of ministries from the North of the country to the South. Especially noteworthy was the work done by this team in the besieged city of Sderot. The practical work done by these young Australians in this city bordering Gaza was much appreciated by the Deputy Major of Sderot and many of the local residents.

From Bob Mendelsohn, Jews for Jesus, Sydney

We have been reporting good things about our bookshop for a couple years, and this year was no disappointment. Every week unsaved Jewish people come inside, some to argue, some to discuss, some to buy products. We rejoice in the continuing ministry we have to many of these folks, here in our region or in Israel where some live. The bookshop is on Oxford Street, Bondi Junction, in the recognized center of the Jewish community in Sydney.

The Liberated Wailing Wall visited for a fortnight

and brought great awareness of our work in the churches. Also the rest of the staff continued to preach most weeks in many Christian churches, totaling 142 for the year. This demonstrated to us the continuing need to go out there and inform the churches, and helped us as well financially and in gathering prayer supporters for the years to come.

Evangelism continues to be that which defines us, on the streets and in the homes of Jewish enquirers country-wide. This year we have met with Jews in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, as well as Sydney and its environs, of course. In some circumstances, the reception was negligible, but for the most part, we are delighted by the responses of Jewish people to our message of the hope of salvation found only in Jesus.

We have continued to participate in the “Behold Your God” campaigns in Israel which began this year, which helps the unsaved directly and encourages the saved almost everywhere we go.

Increased traffic attends both our website and blog, which is very satisfying.

Plans are in the works for more work throughout the country and internationally, continuing our forays into Singapore and New Zealand, where we enjoy good cooperation with

other ministries and have our regular mailings and outreaches through co-laborers. Our NZ Co-Laborers also welcome Israeli tourists into their home on South Island, and share faithfully.

Staff issues reported last year have settled down with the recruitment and training of a new administrative worker in January this year, for which we are very grateful.

From Mark Warren, David House, Melbourne
David House Fellowship, Inc. continues its ministry to Jewish people through the pages of *The Vineyard* magazine. A full-color A5 publication, *The Vineyard* is printed in English and Russian with some 30,000 copies distributed worldwide each month. A Spanish edition was launched in November 2008, and is available for

free download from our website (www.thevineyard.org.au).

The Vineyard magazine is compiled with the aim of stimulating Jewish readers to faith in God and his Messiah. An excellent tool for witnessing, *The Vineyard* magazine is like a welcomed friend visiting, each month, homes and families that for various reasons could not be contacted or visited personally.

The Vineyard magazine is also helpful for believers who wish to know more of the Hebrew roots of their faith. For this reason, it has been extensively used in home groups for prayer and Bible study; as well as in the local church.

LCJE

We anticipate a great response to our first-ever LCJE regional conference, to be held in Sydney in July

2009. Darrell Bock will be one of the speakers during the 3-day event, and many ministries are coming along. It will be held in the beautiful Collaroy Centre, overlooking Collaroy Beach on the Northern Beaches. Because of Bock's recognized teaching ministry, we anticipate theologians from various local seminaries to attend the evenings and to be inspired about Jewish evangelism. Our network should expand individually and among ministries as well. At least so we hope.

Thanks for remembering us here in the South Pacific. Thanks for caring for the relatively few Jewish people who reside here, and for keeping our efforts often in your prayers.

Each of the ministries appreciates you!

Bob Mendelsohn
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Annual Report 2008 for LCJE South Africa

By Cecilia Burger, LCJE Coordinator for South Africa

During 2008 the members of LCJE in South Africa increased to 16. Although I tried to involve people in other places in South Africa as well, the members are from two major cities, namely Johannesburg and Cape Town. Eleven members are from Cape Town and five from Johannesburg.

Seeing that I'm from



Cape Town myself, it was easy to bring the members of Cape Town together. We had our first meeting, attended by eight members at my apartment, on March 29th. We tried to meet every other month.

At these meetings we had tea together, and shared experiences and testimonies of happenings in our various ministries

involved in outreach to Jewish people. We exchanged ideas and invited others to conferences and meetings. At one of the meetings a member shared how she had been trying for years to witness to her family about the Messiah. After many years they are showing interest. What an encouragement! We also spent time in prayer, praying for our Jewish friends and family. On a few occasions I got information from other area

coordinators, which I shared so we could pray more effectively for the needs of the wider LCJE family.

Because of the distance between Cape Town and Johannesburg, it is not possible to bring all the members of LCJE South Africa together. I tried to arrange a meeting with the five members in Johannesburg while I visited family and friends there. Unfortunately, due to busy schedules, it was not possible to have a meeting.

I was, however, able to have fellowship with two members individually.

In the future I would like to encourage the members in Johannesburg also to try and meet regularly. The networking and fellowship proved to be very valuable to those of us who were able to meet together.

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Annual Report 2008 for LCJE Finland

By Juha-Pekka Rissanen, LCJE Coordinator for Finland

The working group of LCJE Finland (in Finnish: JUST, Juutalaisevankelioinnin Suomen työryhmä) is formed of the representatives of some Protestant organizations, congregations, and individuals. Among the members there are three persons representing Lutheran missionary organizations, three Pentecostal or other "free movement" Christians, and two representatives of the Parishes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

The Education Secretary of the Finnish Lutheran Overseas Mission, Magnus Riska, has functioned as secretary of the group. The chairman of the group has been Rev. Juha-Pekka Rissanen. The working



group held 6 meetings in 2008.

Activities

LCJE Finland continued, traditionally, with two main activities during 2008. The Spring Prayer Event was organized this time on the evening of May 19th at the premises of Saalem Pentecostal Congregation in Helsinki, with the

attendance of about 100 participants. Several speeches were given and a lot of singing took place. A collection for JUST and the Israel group of the Saalem Congregation was taken. The event was more comprehensive and encouraging than it had been for a long time.

The other traditional activity - the "Jesus to Israel" Seminar - took place on November 24th at Myyrmäki Lutheran Church (the day program) and at Hämeenkylä Lutheran Church (the evening program) in Vantaa, a city near Helsinki. There were about 90 attendees at the day program and about 40 participants in the evening program.

The main speakers of the day were Professor of the

OT Exegesis of the Swedish-speaking University of Turku (Åbo Akademi) Antti Laato, and Rev. Jouni Turtiainen from Lauritsala Parish, the town of Lappeenranta. The topic of Antti Laato was "On the Way to Emmaus," with a special view on the faith and the understanding of the Jewish Holy Scriptures of the first Jewish followers of Jesus. The topic of Jouni Turtiainen was "Israel Sacramentalism," including critical observations as to certain friendship activities between Finland and Israel. The central question was the following: "Has God given the Jews any other way to salvation than through Jesus the Messiah?" The answer was an absolute "no."

The workshops dealt with the OT Prophecies on the Messiah (Antti Laato), reaching out to the Jews with the Gospel (Juha-Pekka Rissanen, Magnus Riska, and Avigail Avneri), and prayer for Jewish evangelism (some volunteer laymen).

On the evening occasion the main message was given by Rev. Jouni Turtiainen. Interesting speeches were given by Lutheran Rev. Ramez Ansara from Ramallah (residing in Finland during 2008-09) and a Messianic Jew, Avigail Avneri. In the program there was a healthy combination of the views on the same Messiah from different perspectives.

Publication

A new activity in 2008 was the publishing of two important documents of the LCJE, the "Willowbank Declaration on the Christian Gospel and the Jewish People" (1989) and "Jewish Evangelism: A Call to the Church" (LCJE, Pattaya 2004). Promotion information on the latter is found online (in Finnish) at <http://www.kuvajasana.fi/fi/tuotteet/?id=18&selProduct=1932&selGroup=33>. The intention is to have this publication available on the LCJE International Web site.

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Annual Report 2008 for LCJE Japan

By Charles Klingensmith, Chapter President LCJE Japan

Shalom in Messiah to all brothers and sisters in LCJE worldwide! LCJE Japan was allowed to serve our Lord, the Messiah of Israel, this past year 2008 too, in one of the least Christian, and least Jewish places on this earth. In a situation of very little Japanese Christian infrastructure and very few financial resources for Christian work, LCJE Japan has never really had reserves in the bank to help us in difficult times. We have always had to pray for each yen we need,



but the Lord provided for us in every instance in which we asked him to provide, and he also provided

speakers, co-workers, venues, as well, and in this report for the activities of LCJE Japan 2008, first we thank him and give all credit to him. He led the way, and allowed us to follow.

LCJE Japan's ordinary activities continued to be monthly prayer meetings with study sessions for Jewish evangelism in both Tokyo and Osaka, with members often commuting over 2 hours one way to attend from neighboring cities and prefectures. In addition, LCJE Japan

publishes a monthly LCJE Japan News to send to individual Christians, to churches, and to seminaries. Although there are various publications here dealing with Israel and the Jewish people from a Christian Zionist or eschatological perspective, this is the only parachurch Japanese language publication exclusively devoted to Jewish evangelism.

This past year LCJE Japan was also able to host visitors from abroad. In August, we hosted David and Lisa Loden of Congregation Beit Asaph in Netanya to speak in three venues, Tokyo, Osaka, and Wakayama. The Lodens spoke about the Reconciliation Movement in Israel today, as it concerns Messianic and Arab believers, and as it concerns us here as

intercessors for this urgent work. They also refreshed us with a wide selection of current Messianic music, and with reports of their own mission travels in Siberia and Mongolia before coming to Japan. LCJE Japan thanks them for their great efforts on our behalf, and the Lord Yeshua for providing all the necessary funding and personnel for their visit.

This visit by the Lodens was also an opportunity for LCJE Japan to cooperate more closely with other Japanese Christian organizations concerned with Israel and the Jewish people, and was partly funded by A Bridge Between Zion and Japan (BZJ). For this we are also thankful. Other opportunities for cooperation with BZJ and other organizations were large assemblies

celebrating Israel's 60th Birthday in May, at which Peter Tsukahira and Aviel Schneider spoke as invited guests, and a Yad Hashmonah get together in September. October saw a large prayer for Israel meeting in cooperation with other Japanese organizations, mainly sponsored by LCJE Japan, and November saw an LCJE prayer meeting with special guest Joseph Shulam, who was in Japan attending BZJ functions.

We will need to continue to concentrate resources and cooperate with other Christian organizations here in Japan in the year ahead, we think, as we survey the world situation. Please do not forget us here in Japan.

*Charles Klingensmith
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Annual Report 2008 for LCJE Latin America

By David Sedaca, LCJE Coordinator for Latin America

The work of Jewish evangelism in Latin America continues to be carried out in cities with a significant Jewish population, and is being done primarily through the endeavors of missionary agencies, bona fide Messianic Jewish congregations, and the work of the Messianic Jewish Alliances in Latin America. In addition, we seek to involve churches to



carry out Jewish evangelism, as we firmly believe that evangelism is

a function of the church and not just of missionary organization.

I have reported already than Dr. Juan Carlos Krauthammer, a children's cardiologist and third generation Jewish believer, is now the Latin American coordinator of the International Messianic Jewish Alliance. Dr. Krauthammer is the grandson of Jonas Krauthammer, who was

pastor of the first Hebrew Christian Church of Buenos Aires, and the son of Natalio Krauthammer, pastor of Messiah Congregation of Buenos Aires and president of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Argentina. I work closely with Dr. Krauthammer in developing contacts in other Latin American countries that have a number of Jewish people but no Jewish evangelism. I visited Latin America last October and saw what is being done, and I also talked with a number of leaders of missionary organizations and Messianic Jewish congregations. I am happy to report that although by far the most important missionary endeavors are being carried out in Argentina, together with Dr. Krauthammer we are now putting in place a series of meetings in Sao Paulo, Brazil, home to 150,000 Jews and the second largest Jewish community in Latin America after Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The recent military conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has created mixed feelings among evangelical churches, and some churches confuse Jewish evangelism with support for the State of Israel. Up to the conflagration that started in December, there was growing support from

evangelicals for Jewish missions and evangelism. Two events took place in October and November organized by Jewish missionary organizations, local congregations, and the Argentine Alliance that really made an impact among the evangelical world and brought to the forefront the need to reach out to the Jewish people.

An ecumenical gathering

The first was an ecumenical gathering organized by the Messianic Jewish community of Buenos Aires on October 20, 2008. The event took place at the "Beit Sar Shalom Center," and the main speakers were the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Monsignor Luis Alberto Rivas of Saint Joseph Basilica, Dr. Thomas MacKey of Once Baptist Church, and

Messianic Rabbi Ricardo Chemi, from Chosen People Ministries Argentina. The theme was "Sukkoth, A Vision of Hope for Eternal Indwelling for All Believers." Monsignor Rivas opened, speaking on the topic of "The Eternal Hope For All Believers."

In addition to the importance of having such a high ranking Archbishop of the Catholic Church attend a Messianic Jewish gathering for the first time, there was a musical recital by the Choir of the Church of Pilar and Flores, one of the most outstanding choirs in Argentina. Dr. Tomas MacKey spoke on the prophetic significance of the feast of Tabernacles, and he was also accompanied by his church choir. Messianic Rabbi Ricardo Chemi ended with the topic "Yeshua portrayed in the Jewish Festivals."



Messianic Rabbi Ricardo Chemi opening the event

The event was reported by the secular media and was attended by the major news agencies, who reported on the significance of having Catholics, evangelicals, and Messianic Jews coming together celebrating with choirs and music the unity that comes through Jesus.

Articles in media

As a consequence of the ecumenical event convened by the Messianic Jewish community of Buenos Aires, the most important Argentine newspaper, *Clarín*, ran two articles on Messianic Judaism. Rabbi Chemi was interviewed, and he unashamedly said that those who follow Jesus, whether they be Catholic, evangelical, or Messianic Jewish, need to respect but to reach out in love to the Jewish community with the gospel message. It was the first time that a major newspaper, with a daily circulation nationwide of 2 million copies, introduced Messianic Judaism to the general public.

Another event that made an impact on Jewish evangelism was the "Conference on Israel and the Church," convened by Chosen People Ministries and chaired by Dr. Carlos Villanueva, Dean of the Baptist Seminary of Buenos Aires. The three



Dr. Tomas McKey, Messianic Rabbi Ricardo Chemi, and Archbishop Luis Alberto Rivas praying together

day conference was held November 13-15, and the main speakers were Dr. Carlos Villanueva, Messianic Rabbi Ricardo Chemi of Congregation Beit Sar Shalom, and Percy Johnson, Messianic Rabbi of congregation Kehilat She'ar Yashuv of Montreal, Canada. The event was attended by pastors and leaders of various evangelical churches and Messianic congregations. The importance of such a meeting was that it provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the need that the church has to be involved in Jewish missions and evangelism. This emphasis was backed

by the biblical teachings on evangelism and the prophetic significance of Israel and the church.

I continue to be in touch with evangelical leaders in Latin America, and my role is to present to the church the need to pray for the salvation of the Jewish people. It is my desire that more Latin American leaders will attend LCJE events and that there will be a time in the near future when we will have a Latin American Conference of the LCJE.

*David Sedaca
david@chosenpeople.com*

Annual Report 2008 for LCJE Europe

By Jean-Paul Rempp, LCJE Coordinator for Europe

Denmark

In Denmark there are no specific LCJE events during the year. In the Danish Israel Mission we have continued our work in Israel, being involved with the Bible society and the Ebenezer Home as well as the Immanuel Church in Jaffa. A new couple left Denmark in the beginning of January to continue the work there after the present pastor, Jan Mortensen, returns to Denmark in February. We will also get more involved with the work at Caspari Center when a new couple moves to Israel in the summer to work both with the Danish community there and with the Caspari Center.

The biggest change for us this past year is the employment of these two families, which is really a joy for us. In some ways we see the fruits of the youth work of the last ten years in this.

Finally, we have continued our involvement in the work of reconciliation through our support to Musalaha. Two volunteers left in the beginning of January and will be working with the Musalaha youth team in Bethlehem and Ramalla.

*News given by
Bodil Skjott, DIM*

Finland

See Juha-Pekka Rissanen's separate report.



England

All Nations Christians College now offers an M.Th. in Messianic Jewish Theology, the first U.K. accredited master's program in Messianic Jewish Studies.

Reports from Daniel Nessim on the debates between Michael Brown and Shmuel Boteach, and from Stephen Pacht on the extensive media coverage Jews for Jesus U.K. received this year, are available. [If you wish, you can contact the appropriate persons directly.]

*News given by
Richard Harvey*

Germany Conference of the German speaking branch of LCJE, 2008

From December 10-11, 2008, seven people from AMZI, EDI, and Jews for Jesus gathered at St. Chrischona near Basel (Switzerland) for the meeting of the German speaking branch of LCJE. We shared our experiences

in Jewish Evangelism in the last years and considered the changed situation concerning Jewish immigrants. We agreed that we should re-evaluate our strategies for evangelism because the number of new immigrants has dropped significantly, and 90% of the Jewish immigrants in Germany are living on social welfare. We need a kind of Messianic social ministry (Diakonie).

We further agreed that we should offer to the leaders and elders of Messianic congregations different courses to train them for their task and help them to better understand the biblical message and how to live as believers, etc. Proposals will be collected within the next months.

After serving four years as German Coordinator, Hartmut Renz stepped down from this task. Jurek Schulz from Hamburg was elected as the new coordinator.

*News given by
Hartmut Renz, EDI and
LCJE Germany*

This Conference saved my life!

From May 22-25 2008, the 11th Messianic Jewish Conference took place in Schwäbisch Gmünd (Germany). For many Messianic Jews in Germany, this unique conference organized by EDI is an annual highlight.

In fact, the attendees came from most of the Messianic congregations in our country.

From the start of the conference, a truly prayerful atmosphere prevailed. The first place was indeed given to teaching, fellowship, and prayer. The main speaker was Egor Schelesny, pastor of a Messianic congregation in the US and author of several Christian books. Three days in a row he spoke on the important theme "Messianic Faith as a Lifestyle." His messages answered many questions, and participants grew both in faith and in their personal relationship to Jesus and their relationships with each other. Besides this, various workshops were offered to the participants by Wladimir Pikman (BSSE), Avi Snyder (Juden für Jesus), Jurek Schulz (AMZI), Natascha Duschkin (Gemeinde Schma Israel, Stuttgart), and Alexandra Syroj (Gemeinde Beth Chesed, Düsseldorf).

One of the highlights was a service together with the Schönblick Church on Sunday morning. For me as leader of the conference this service was part of the fulfilling of the apostle Paul's vision of "a new man" in Christ (Eph. 2:15). Looking at the audience from the stage, I could but marvel about this "holy temple in the Lord" consisting of Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 2:21). I was especially moved by the fact that I was allowed to

experience this in Germany – in the country which once cursed and persecuted the Jews.

Isn't this a sign of grace? In Jesus we, Jews and Gentiles, have been united into one people.

One week later, I read in a participant's letter: "This conference was of great importance for me; for it saved my life. Even the day before, I despaired completely and was firmly resolved to end my life. But then, I was renewed spiritually there. I received a new perspective for my life. I was healed inwardly and found new friends. I'm so thankful!"

Reading this filled me with deep awe for God. What would have happened if this lady hadn't come to the conference? Or what would have been if there hadn't been any conference this year at all?

After our 10th anniversary conference last year, I prayed about it with a friend. When we had finished our prayer, he said, "Anatoli, if God told you to go through with this project, you mustn't give it up now. . . . That's a unique opportunity for Messianic Jews in Germany to meet once a year, and to bless one another." His words were a big encouragement for me, and I decided to go ahead again with this service.

*News given by
Anatoli Uschomirski*

We have three full-time outreach workers based in

Essen. During 2008, in addition to the daily work of handing out tracts and visiting with Jewish people in their homes throughout the Ruhr Valley, our colleagues in Essen were able, by God's grace, to launch week-long street outreaches in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich, as well as in Warsaw, Poland. In each of these endeavors, we had the joy of working in partnership with volunteers from local Messianic assemblies and from churches whose members have an evangelistic love for our people. This past year also saw the appearance of two new Jews for Jesus publications in German: the book *Y'shua, the Jewish Way to Say Jesus* and the booklet *Chosen: the Unique Call of Israel*. In the year ahead, we also hope to continue our efforts to raise awareness that there are Jews who believe in Jesus by staging on-going high-profile street outreaches in the cities we've already visited. But we hope to concentrate especially upon the cities in and near the Ruhr Valley. We also plan to bring out another book, *Future Hope*, as part of our plans to produce more and more materials in German (and not just in Russian).

*News given by
Avi Snyder, Jews for Jesus*

*Jean-Paul Rempp
jpnremppbn
@wanadoo.fr*

Annual Report 2008 for LCJE North America

By Jim R. Sibley, LCJE Coordinator for North America

As I write this report, I am in Jerusalem with a dozen students from Criswell College and the Pasche Institute in Jewish Studies. We are here to study the history and geography of Jerusalem, and also to be involved in outreach to the Jewish people.

One of the students observed today, "It seems as though both Jews and Arabs are longing for a relationship with God and are doing all kinds of things to express their zeal, but, as Paul said, 'not according to knowledge.'" Yet, later in the day, I walked past a young Israeli woman presenting the gospel with earnestness to another young woman. She was pleading with her to receive the gift of salvation through Yeshua. Our students have been on the streets and in parks sharing the good news of salvation as well.

Throughout the year, I have had the joy of reading reports from many of our members, whether from organizational members or individuals, in which it becomes evident that Yeshua is being proclaimed to the Jewish people and also that God is giving fruit for our labor.

Meeting in Boston in 2008

About ninety people from all over the United States (with guests from Europe) attended the 25th Annual



North American LCJE Conference in Boston in April. Celebrating Israel's Sixtieth Anniversary, the theme was "For Zion's Sake," taken from Isaiah 62:1. Papers were presented that were both stimulating and interesting. Attention was given to Levi Parsons and Pliny Fisk, the first American missionaries to what is now Israel, and some of the crucial theological issues of the day were also addressed. We were led in insightful expositions of Romans 9-11, and our closing speaker was Dr. Ergun Caner, President of Liberty Baptist Seminary and a Muslim background believer with a love for Israel and Jewish evangelism.

One important emphasis of this meeting was the intentional recruitment and support of young leaders to attend this meeting and to become involved in LCJE. This is vital for our future in Jewish ministry, and a good contingent of young leaders attended and offered helpful suggestions for

increasing the relevance of LCJE to the rising generation.

Meeting in Phoenix in 2009

Preparations have been underway for our next meeting in Phoenix, March 2-4, in the newly renovated Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport Hotel. Jonathan Bernis of Jewish Voice Ministries has offered to welcome us with a reception, and Dr. Larry Poland of MasterMedia International is our featured speaker.

Our theme is "Jewish Evangelism Against All Odds," and presentations will include anti-Semitism and supersessionism.

Again this year, we have encouraged our members to bring young leaders, even if it means subsidizing the cost of travel and lodging. We also want to encourage other chapters around the world to do the same. We found that there was a new energy and creativity injected into our meeting last, and we expect the same this year.

Until we meet again, please continue to pray for us as we pray for one another, that the good news of Messiah might be made known to the Jewish people throughout the earth, for his name's sake!

Jim R. Sibley
na-director@lcje.net

THE LAUSANNE CONSULTATION ON JEWISH EVANGELISM
Annual report (Danish Crowns)
Year Ended 31 December 2008

Statements of income and expenses for 2008

Income

Dues (paid in 2008)	119,901.41
Interest	7,792.21
CEO 2009 Conference	11,107.00
Subscription, booklets, photocopies	3,016.32
TOTAL INCOME	<u>141,816.94</u>

Expenses

Reimbursement for administration	(80,000.00)
Travel, accommodation and ICC meeting	(37,762.66)
Postage	(17,592.57)
Bulletin, printing	(19,419.03)
Stationery and equipment	(15,804.09)
LCWE Cape Town 2010, donation	(11,694.60)
CEO 2009 Conference	(2,700.34)
Web-site	(5,430.59)
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>(190,403.88)</u>

LOSS FOR THE YEAR 2008	<u><u>(48,586.94)</u></u>
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Balance Sheet at 31 December 2008

Assets

Cash at bank	253,945.48
ASSETS IN TOTAL	<u>253,945.48</u>

Equity and Liabilities

Equity

At 1 January 2008	302,532.42
Loss for the year 2008	(48,586.94)
	<u>253,945.48</u>

Liabilities

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES IN TOTAL	<u>0.00</u> <u>253,945.48</u>
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Lystrup, Denmark, 20 January 2009

Kai Kjær-Hansen
Treasurer/International Coordinator

Independent auditor's review report

To the members of The Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism

We have reviewed the annual report of The Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2008. The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the Danish Financial Statements Act.

The annual report is the responsibility of the Treasurer/International Coordinator. Our responsibility is to issue a report on the annual report based on our review.

Review performed

We conducted our review in accordance with the Danish Standard on Auditing on Review Engagements. This Standard requires that we plan and perform the review to obtain limited assurance as to whether the annual report is free of material misstatement. A review is limited primarily to inquiries of organization personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data and thus provides less assurance than an audit. We have not performed an audit and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on the annual report.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the annual report does not give a true and fair view of the Organizations financial position at 31 December 2008 and of the results of its activities for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2008 in accordance with the Danish Financial Statements Act.

Aarhus, 20 January 2009

Deloitte

Statsautoriseret Revisionsaktieselskab

Karsten Mumm

State Authorised Public Accountant

Building a Framework for Faith Today

By Joy Hickman, Messiah House, New Zealand

Purpose

To explore whether it is helpful to prepare the way for the gospel by building a framework for faith that is relevant to Jewish people today.

The problem

"I accept that what you say is right," a Jewish lady said to me recently, "but I have to support the Synagogue as my father did." Quite apart from the social cost, how can it make sense to a Jewish person to believe in Jesus when for centuries it has not been accepted as the right thing to do? Humanly speaking, the more conscientious that person is, the greater the difficulty in this respect. Why change anything now?

Today's challenge

I am not alone in believing that today is a special time for Jewish faith in Jesus. This conviction came to me unsought and unexpected in 1967. We do not, however, need complex ideas on eschatology (which at times can be unhelpful and contrary to grace) to remember that there is the promise of spiritual renewal to the regathered nation (Ezekiel 36:25). Are we bringing a message in keeping with this?

Looking at yesterday

Our westernized minds

tend to think in terms of exact cut-off points, but are we sure this is right? It was after Jesus had said of Jerusalem, "Your house is left unto you desolate" that there were to be thousands of believers in that city, while at the same time the gospel was coming out relatively slowly to the wider world. There was a time of overlap then from which we could learn today.

A fundamental principle

Basic to Scripture is the concept that no flesh should glory in the presence of God. He will not give his glory to another. He called Abraham, an heirless wanderer, chose a people "who were no people" and a shepherd boy to be their king. And to bring to the world the good news of the One who humbled himself most of all, he used a remnant chosen by grace. Imagine how easily a we-will-tell-you-how attitude could otherwise have spoiled that message. Paul reminded his readers in Romans 11:28 that his people were opposed to the gospel for the sake of the Gentiles. Exalting Jewish or any other things will not bring blessing. God will use humble and costly means today. The glory must be his alone.

A biblical example

Paul did not hesitate to

present a time-frame for the unfolding era of Gentile faith. Take his address in Athens: ". . . the times of this ignorance God overlooked, but NOW commands all men everywhere to repent . . ." Then follows the good news of the Lord Jesus. Paul reminded the Ephesian church that they had formerly been strangers from the covenants and without hope . . . but NOW they had been brought near by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:12). Paul sacrificed everything he had formerly taken pride in and finally his own life as well to fulfill his God-given ministry.

Bringing a message back today

"You have been wrong for 2000 years" can too easily be an unspoken implication as Gentiles reach out to Jewish people today. Every individual and every encounter is different, but some of the following suggestions may help to bring the gospel into better focus:

- It is clear from the Tanakh (Old Testament) that only a Messiah at first rejected by Israel could be the true Messiah (Isa. 53:3, Ps. 118:22, etc.).
- The message of Y'shua came out first of all from Jerusalem (you started it!) and has blessed all

nations just as God promised Abraham it would.

- The church has often spoilt that message with pride and wrong use of power. God used just a few Jewish people to bring the unspoiled good news of God's love to the world.
- Many years ago, Israel was regathered from Babylon and succeeding generations of brave Jewish people prepared the way for Jesus' birth. There is a

second regathering today, and it is very wonderful that Jesus promised that Jerusalem would welcome his return. We all need to turn from our wrong ways and accept his gift of forgiveness so we are ready for that day.

- There has been an intervening time while the good news of the gospel has brought blessing around the world. As thousands of Jewish people today

have experienced in their own lives, that blessing belongs specially to you today.

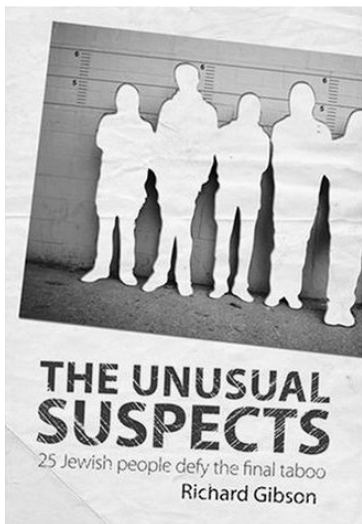
Difficult? Perhaps, but it certainly grabs attention and gives answers to inquiring minds. It can provide an opening, in reliance on the Holy Spirit, to present the truth of the gospel. It helps to build a framework for faith.

Joy Hickman

Joy.Hickman@xtra.co.nz

Book Review: *The Unusual Suspects*

By Adrian Glasspole, CMJ Evangelist, Northern Britain



Richard Gibson's book *The Unusual Suspects: 25 Jewish People Defy the Final Taboo* contains some of the most brutally honest testimonies I have ever read or heard. The vast majority of LCJE Bulletin readers know what a difficult journey it is for Jewish people to accept the New Testament claims about Yeshua – and an even tougher journey thereafter!

Many Jewish believers (myself included) have gone through some kind of "Identity Crisis": *Am I now a Christian, not a Jew?*

As one would expect, the stories range from those who attended church schools to those from more frum backgrounds.

There have been many,

many books of personal faith journey stories. There have been many collections of stories of Jewish people who have accepted Yeshua's claims; so, why another?

On the one hand it is always an encouragement to read up-to-the-minute accounts of what HaShem is doing *now*. While I enjoy reading how Leopold Cohn, Michael Solomon Alexander, and others journeyed to Yeshua, it is hugely important to have stories of people who live in our time.

On the other hand, some of the "Testimony Books" have had a tendency to be twee. Some follow the "before I knew Christ I was a bad person; now I am saved" format, which is not

The Unusual Suspects. By Richard Gibson. Christian Book Publications 2008.

192 pages. £6.99.

Available at:

<http://www.cwi.org.uk/Heralds/Heraldnew/bookreview.htm>

necessarily a bad thing but is irrelevant for Jewish people. However, this book has a wonderfully refreshing “raw” feel to it, with comments like, “I’ve never felt at home in churchy settings such as cell groups, as my bluntness and love of an

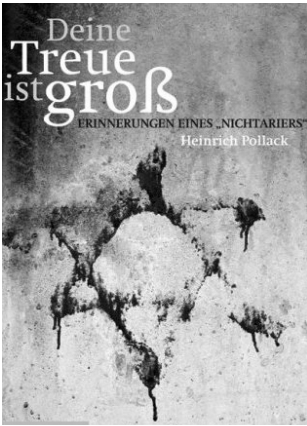
honest debate often set me at odds with the nice people who just want to move on to the next bullet point.” Then there is the account of how one of the contributors went to a “Jesus Tent” so that they could sort them out for using Hebrew words in

their promotion of the Christian Christ!

We need not only to buy it and read it, but to have spare copies to give away.

*Adrian Glasspole
jewishevangelist
@hotmail.co.uk*

Book Review: *Great Is Your Faithfulness* By Torleif Elgvin, former director of Caspari Center, Jerusalem



Deine Treue ist groß. Erinnerungen eines „Nichtariers“ (Great Is Your Faithfulness. Memories of a “Non-Aryan”). By Heinrich Pollack. Neukirchen-Vluyn: Ausaat Verlag 2007.

This German book is the autobiography of Heinrich Pollack, a Messianic Jew with a remarkable life story. Pollack was born in Berlin 1913 in a liberal Jewish family, baptized by his own wish when he was eight years old, lived through the

early Hitler years in Berlin, escaped to Sweden in 1939, was an officer in the Salvation Army from 1942 (in Sweden and Germany), and then immigrated to Israel in 1971 and subsequently worked at a Bible center in Jerusalem. Widowed in 2002, Pollack now lives at the Ebenezer retirement home in Haifa.

The stories from young Heinrich’s life contain many details. There are many names and short stories from the larger family and circle of friends, both among Jews and Christians. Pollack reveals an extraordinary memory for an author over the age of 90.

Pollack’s life story is interwoven with a description of German society in the 1920s and ‘30s. This part contains valuable information for people with a particular interest in the history of Germany and German Jewry. The

glimpses into the oppositional church in Germany of the ‘30s and its leaders are interesting, as are stories of individual Hebrew Christians.

The memories of 35 years in Israel provide information on Messianic Jews and Christian leaders in the country. The autobiography contains lots of information. A chief aim of the book seems to be to educate German Christian readers on Israel and Messianic Jews.

Pollack’s own faith story is fascinating. Through the upheavals of his life, he can repeatedly confess with the hymnist, “Great is your faithfulness” – words chosen as title of the book.

*Torleif Elgvin
telgvin@gmail.com*

LCJE members are kindly requested to pay
their 2009 dues NOW.

Visit LCJE's website
www.LCJE.net

Mishkan

is a quarterly journal dedicated to biblical and theological thinking on issues related to Jewish evangelism, Messianic-Jewish identity and Jewish-Christian relations. Mishkan is published by Pasche Institute in cooperation with Caspari Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies and CJF Ministries.

Annual subscriptions available at www.mishkanstore.org.

LCJE Meetings

LCJE North America

March 2-4, 2009, in Phoenix
March 1-3, 2010 (venue to be
announced)
Contact Jim Sibley
na-director@lcje.net

LCJE CEO Conference

May 18-22, 2009, in France
Contact LCJE
lcje.int@gmail.com

LCJE AustralAsia

July 21-24, 2009, in Sydney,
Australia
Contact Bob Mendelsohn
BobMendo@aol.com

LCJE Europe

April 19-23, 2010, in Krakow,
Poland
Contact Jean-Paul Rempp
jpnremppbn@wanadoo.fr

LCJE International

The Ninth International LCJE
conference is scheduled for
August 7-12, 2011 (venue to be
announced)