

News From
Toward Jerusalem Council II
February 2004



Marty Waldman, Executive General Secretary

John Dawson, Chairman

Evan Thomas, Chairman

Fall Meetings

Fall meetings for TJC II began in Agia Napa, Cyprus on October 19 at a beautiful 16th century monastery now used as retreat and conference center. The executive committee met together for two and a half days of prayer, strategy and business discussions. Jonathan Bernis and Bob Cohen were not attending. The committee prayed for Bob and accepted his resignation for personal reasons. Jonathan is limiting travel according to the principle of Deut. 24:5 and spending time with his new bride. Curt Landry, Messianic rabbi from Tulsa, Oklahoma, was sent as a delegate from the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America and welcomed by the committee.

Don Finto will be joining David Rudolph in the leadership of the Spiritual Working Group, and Dan Juster will be joining Peter Hocken in leading the Theology Group.

The committee traveled to Israel late on the evening of the 21st and met the next day with Messianic leaders at Notre Dame de Sion at Ein Kerem just outside of Jerusalem. The four Jerusalem brothers, Marcel Rebai, Ofer Amitai, and Benjamin and Reuben Berger, had invited 10 others from Jerusalem. The four presented their vision called the Olive Tree to the entire group, and committee members presented TJC II. This was a very positive meeting which ended with an hour of prayer. Ein Kerem was the home of Elizabeth and the place Mary visited her. The men received revelation of the significance of carrying two visions related to the coming of the Lord.

After traveling to Netanya, the committee gathered on the 23rd at Beit Asaph, the congregation of Evan Thomas, with sixty Messianic leaders and four Arab pastors. There were presentations on Olive Tree and TJC II, followed by the Austrian power point on history of the Messianic movement, and the testimony of Johannes Fichtenbauer. His testimony of turning from the Nazi heritage of his family was powerful and deeply moving to this predominantly Jewish audience.

The planned meeting for the 24th was canceled, and the committee had a day of completing business, debriefing, and prayer.

Special thanks to Joan Jacob of Gateways Beyond in Cyprus and Marianna Gol of Beit Asaph for their excellent work in planning and administration. We also extend thanks to: Dave and Raquel Pyles who skillfully led on-site intercession; intercessors who traveled from Hungary, Austria, and the US; local intercessors of Cyprus and Israel; and the intercessors in Dallas and Vienna who kept prayer watches at home.

Open Doors in Africa

Brian Cox and Dan Juster conducted a diplomatic mission to Kenya in East Africa in September 2003. The purpose of the trip was to contact key church leaders to share the vision of TJC II and to lay the groundwork for the May consultation in Ethiopia. They originally planned to go to Uganda and Tanzania as well, but they received clear direction to remain in Nairobi and establish a base of spiritual support there.

Pastor Ibrahim Ormondi was the “man of peace” who welcomed them into the country and arranged contacts and meetings. He is senior pastor of Dove Christian Fellowship of Nairobi and General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of Kenya. God opened doors of relationship, and they had five meetings with Pentecostal, Evangelical, and Anglican church leaders. One important “breakthrough” meeting was with Anglican Archbishop Benjamin Nzimbi. At the fifth meeting, they spoke to Anglican Archbishops from seven African nations who had come together to discuss reconciliation efforts in their own lands.

Dan and Brian encountered two significant prayer networks, the Vanguard Ministry and Kenya House of Prayer. The TJC II vision was enthusiastically received by Rev. Elizabeth Kamau, who leads Vanguard and has been a friend of Brian’s for many years. Another open door was an invitation to meet with members of the Kenyan parliament involved in a prayer fellowship. These men and their wives agreed to pray for healing between Israel and the church.

A prayerful decision was made to attempt contact with Orthodox Church leaders with whom there was no previous relationship. Again, God opened doors to meet with Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios and with Fr. Moses Shafik, the deputy to the Coptic Orthodox Bishop.

Many of these church leaders and intercessors expressed interest in the May meetings in Ethiopia. The entire trip was blessed with God’s favor in bridgebuilding and relationships. Brian and Dan came away with a prophetic insight of Kenya’s key role in Africa. Their government’s friendship with Israel and the concern for Israel among church leaders and intercessors prepared the way for them to embrace TJC II.

Greek Orthodox Visit

After TJC II meetings, Marty Waldman and Dave Pyles had opportunity to meet with Protospesbyter Alexander Winogradsky, head of the slavic-speaking Orthodox communities within Israeli society of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem. He responded positively to

discussion of the TJC II initiative. They found him to be a man who is open to reconciliation issues and with a ministry to those from all backgrounds who are hurting in the land. He was an Orthodox rabbi who came to faith in Yeshua through Greek Orthodox witness and decided to enter the priesthood. Some of his family members were Holocaust victims.

Unprecedented Vatican Decision

In November, Fr. Jean-Baptiste Gourion was ordained the first bishop for the Hebrew Catholic community of Israel. Bp. Gourion was brought up in Algeria in a French Jewish family. He came to faith in Yeshua in France as a young man and became a Benedictine monk. In the early 1970's he was involved in the beginnings of Catholic charismatic renewal in France, and he went to Israel in the late 1970's as a founding member of a new monastery in Abu Ghosh.

The Vatican's decision of his appointment was unprecedented and represents a significant enhancement of recognition of the distinctiveness of the Hebrew Catholics, which is in sharp contrast to the historic church policy that repressed and persecuted any expression or practice of Jewish identity by baptized believers. For this reason, this appointment is important for all who welcome the TJC II vision for the reconciliation of all Jewish and Gentile believers in Yeshua ha Mashiach.

Dan Juster, Johannes Fichtenbauer, and Peter Hocken all know Bp. Gourion, who for some years has shown an interest in the Messianic Jewish community in Israel. Three of our Messianic Israeli brothers were invited and attended the ordination. At the close of the bishop's ordination address, he said in Hebrew, "Finally we have come home."

Chanukah Story

While in Israel, we heard this story from Jewish friends who are intercession and worship leaders in the land and also for TJCII. We thought it would be an encouragement to you.

" Three years ago, Chanukah and Ramadan occurred at the same time. We were in our home worshipping the Lord with a group of worshippers and intercessors, which we did once a week there. Usually during these worship times we lit a menorah, but we decided since it was Chanukah to light a chanukia. Ours uses oil instead of candles. We lit it and placed it in the center of the room.

As we worshipped and prayed, we felt led to pray that the oil of the Spirit would flow in our neighborhood. We prayed that many would be touched and come to know Yeshua and His love. At some point, we felt to sing a worship song in Arabic. We began to pray that the oil of the Spirit would also flow into the hearts and homes of our Muslim Arab neighbors.

As we began to do that, there was a knock at the door. I went to the door and there was a Muslim woman asking if she could have the olives from our olive tree to press for oil. She explained in Hebrew that she had many children, an elderly husband and no money. The oil would help her family once they pressed it into oil. I gave her permission and gave her a ladder.

Later when we finished we went outside and offered her water but she didn't take it as it was Ramadan. She worked for well over an hour and took every olive from the tree. We shared with her in Hebrew how we had been worshipping the God of Israel in Arabic when she came to our door. She told us about her elderly husband and their poverty.

Two weeks later we were doing the same thing, worshipping with a group in our apartment. Again, in the middle of the time there was a knock at the door and there stood this same Arab woman with a small coke bottle full of her oil from our tree. She just wanted to give it to us!

We felt to take the oil and anoint each other...and pray that as hostilities increased and violence increased that our hearts would not turn to hatred or anger and that we would continue to pray for our neighbors. We have used that oil on numerous occasions and still have a bit left. We have never seen this woman again in our years of living in the same apartment! "

Correction

David Moss of the Association of Hebrew Catholics attended the May meetings in Dallas with Kathleen, his wife. Rosalind Moss, his sister, did not attend. They had encountered Messianic Jews before, and they found the Dallas contacts especially positive and uplifting. We apologize for the confusion and welcome the Mosses as friends of TJC II.

Updates and Prayer Requests

- * Dan Juster and Peter Hocken are working together to write a booklet on the Messianic movement worldwide.
- * Brian Cox continues his work of faith-based reconciliation in Kashmir-Pakistan with International Center for Religion and Diplomacy based in Washington, D.C. He made a diplomatic trip in September.
- * Wayne Wilks recently attended MJB I graduations in Brazil and Argentina. The Brazil correspondence courses are going well. MJB I of Argentina experienced a robbery, and all office equipment was stolen. The Wilks will be returning to Cyprus February 28.
- * Beit Asaph congregation in Netanya, led by Evan and Maala Thomas, received almost 300 calls for the Yeshua video after their city outreach.
- * John Dawson will be traveling and meeting with YWAM leaders in Hawaii, Thailand, New Zealand, and Japan over the next three months. He was inaugurated as president in September in a five-hour ceremony in Singapore with 800 missionaries from 68 nations attending.
- * Dan and Patty Juster are currently in the U.S. visiting congregations and supporters. They are praying with Asher Intrater about beginning a discipleship school near Jerusalem with a focus on prayer. In addition, they hope to publish four books this year and increase their financial support to live in Israel part-time.
- * In February Peter Hocken will teach at a YWAM Reconciliation School in France and will present TJC II vision in Gothenberg, Sweden. He is considering whether or not to purchase a car.
- * Harry Waldman, Marty's father, is living in an assisted-care facility in Dallas after a heart attack. Last month he prayed to receive Yeshua; please pray Harry's relationship with Yeshua will continue to grow stronger. Finances are a concern for Baruch Ha Shem congregation right now.

* Manfred Haselgruber is on sabbatical and no longer leading the Vienna intercession group. The leadership is being shared by Hans Heimbucher, Thomas Lornitzo, and Maria Belakovits.

* Other TJC II prayer concerns – wisdom for future strategy; finances; future Christian Orthodox participation; and lasting fruit from the Cyprus and Israel meetings.

Booklet

The revised booklet “Toward Jerusalem Council II, The Vision and the Story” by Peter Hocken is online. Check the TJC II website at <http://www.TJCII.org>.

A revised printed version in English will be available through our Ventura office after January.

Reminders

May 3-7, 2004 African Consultation in Ethiopia
October 15-22 Executive Committee Meetings in Vienna
2005 South American Consultation [tentative]

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