



COMMUNIQUE

A PUBLICATION OF TOWARD JERUSALEM COUNCIL II
APRIL 2005

Why “Toward”?

By Fr. Peter Hocken

The initiative this Communiqué presents is called “Toward Jerusalem Council Two” (TJCII). The vision first received by Marty Waldman of Dallas, Texas, and confirmed by others who became founding members of TJCII, is that one day there will be a second Council of Jerusalem, that will be the inverse of the first Council described in Acts 15. Whereas the first Council was a totally Jewish gathering convened to decide the conditions under which Gentiles or pagans could enter the Church, the vision for the second Council is for a gathering of Jewish and Gentile leaders at which the leaders from the Christian churches would recognise the rightful place of all Jewish believers in Yeshua (Jesus). As this would be accepted by the Jewish leaders, full fellowship would be restored between Jew and Gentile in Messiah.

But why is the word “Toward” in the title of the initiative? The first reason is that the executive committee of TJCII does not represent Church leadership. The executive is a group of leaders, one half drawn from the Messianic Jewish movement and the other half from individual leaders and pastors with a commitment to this vision. While the initiative has been welcomed by the two major Messianic Jewish organisations in the USA, the Christians on the executive from various churches and denominations do not



Johannes Fichtenbauer, member of the TJC II executive committee and head deacon of the Catholic Archdiocese of Vienna, spoke to the Vienna III consultation.

have the authority to represent their parent bodies. As a committee, we do not have the right or the authority to call a Council of the whole Church. But as believers convinced that this initiative is from the Holy Spirit, we have the faith to believe that the Lord will use our humble efforts as part of the process to create the conditions in which such a Council can take place. Hence, we who form the executive of TJCII see ourselves as servants of the Lord to facilitate a second Council of Jerusalem, not as those who can ourselves call and organise such an event.

Secondly, part of the vision is that this second Council of Jerusalem would annul all the decrees passed during the centuries of Christendom against a Jewish expression of the Church. For such an annulment to have credibility, it requires the participation of those Churches responsible for these decrees and those Churches who identify with the Church of the early Christian centuries that made these decisions. This is why

the executive has welcomed Roman Catholic participants and has given a priority to finding Eastern Orthodox leaders to be part of the initiative. To be credible, a second Council of Jerusalem has to be acceptable to all its constituent parts, and this is another reason why we ourselves cannot call a Council. If this seems an incredible dream, it is no more incredible than many prophetic words in the Scriptures. The history of the initiative so far shows the extraordinary favor of the Lord upon this highly visionary dream.

Thirdly, the “Towards” is an expression of humility. The executive is offering itself as a group of servants, and is making no special claims for itself. The whole history of Christian denial of the place of Jewish believers within the Church has been a history of arrogance, the arrogance against which Paul warned the Christians in Rome when he told them “not to become proud, but to stand in awe” (Rom. 11: 20). The road to the full reconciliation of Jew and Gentile in the one body is a way of humility and of mutual honor. The “Towards” in our title helps to safeguard this humble stance.



About the Author...

Fr. Peter Hocken, a member of the TJCII executive committee, is a Catholic theologian, teacher, and author who resides in Vienna, Austria.

Impressions of a Prophetic Moment

Hans Heimbucher is a veterinary surgeon and leader in the Vienna group of TJC II intercessors.

The experience of meeting for the TJCII consultation in Vienna (October 2004) was unexpectedly emotionally overwhelming. As I sat in that small room, surrounded by such a wide manifestation of God's church from Orthodox to independent charismatic, covering so many countries in Europe and with representation from the Middle East and the USA I found the breadth of representation the most impressive gathering I had ever had the privilege to be in. I was particularly touched by Fr Vasile and Sister Agnes- their devotion to Word and Spirit,

and by Vienna's Cardinal Archbishop who gave time not only to speak but also to stay for worship.

The agenda of TJCII is breath-taking. As Fr Peter Hocken said in his address, it is impossible to undo 17-18 centuries of history in a simple leap, but if it really is to be that Christ's Bride is intent on removing the very serious division of the Jew-Gentile split among us, then that in itself is an agenda worth serving. And again, I was particularly humbled [because I live and work in an entirely protestant cocoon] that so much commitment and listening to the Spirit is being invested by those from other, older traditions.

Clearly this is an embryonic movement. Nevertheless, as someone pointed out,

it took only around 50 years from the first Zionist Congress to a Zionist state.

At this stage I have no official or direct involvement in the movement. I was invited and came as someone who has been involved in Jewish ministry both in Israel and the UK for over 20 years. I am currently a trustee of CMJ (Church's Ministry among Jewish people) and am writing an MTh thesis on the subject of CMJ's ministry in the 21st century. CMJ was founded in 1809 and was in the forefront of the Diaspora-wide evangelistic explosion among Jewish people in the 19th century – a prophetic role indeed. Other churches, movements and agencies have joined what God is doing since then, and now TJCII has issued a prophetic call to a new level of unity that, I believe, the church should not ignore.

TJCI



About the Author...

Hans Heimbucher is a veterinary surgeon and leader in the Vienna group of TJC II intercessors.

Testimony of a Prophetic Moment

On that occasion it happened to me, that the Spirit lifted somewhat the curtain over the spiritual reality of TJCII, and we could take some trembling steps into the promised land: a representative from the historic Churches - the Catholic, the Evangelical-Reformed and the Orthodox – were together on their knees, surrounded by Messianic Jews, who cried out in prayer to God for us, like Moses for the People. It was not *our* doing; it was Jesus, who was glorified before our eyes. We were like the disciples on Mount Tabor, who did not know what was happening to them. What I share now is what I realised later about this evening:

1. As the rift between the Messianic Jewish communities and the Church community from the nations begins to close, the ancient

gates to reconciliation and unity open of themselves.

2. Reconciliation leads us into a deeper repentance and self-denial, that burst open our normal patterns of experience. It was the Spirit of God that compelled me to go on my knees before Fr Peter, to give expression to the cry of our neediness as Reformed Christians and our longing for a deeper fellowship with each other. Another had placed his girdle around me and led me on a path that I could not myself have imagined.

3. Fr Peter's reply was an overwhelming identification with the cry of my heart. In place of the mounting wall of theological impossibili-

ties, I received a tenderness of understanding that so to speak lifted us over the wall. In place of the impracticability of a shared Eucharist was the glory that Jesus had received from his Father and that he then gives to his Church that we may be one.

As I write this, I am once more conscious, that on that evening I was treading on the ground of a mystery, that I carry as a treasure in my heart and that I will take further.

TJCI



About the Author...

Geri Keller is a Swiss Reformed pastor and founder of Stiftung Schleife, a reconciliation ministry. He resides in Winterthur, Switzerland.



Why TJC II is Important

Attending the TJCII gathering in Vienna in October was a very special time for me. A privilege to be a part if such a diverse group, all with the same focus...

In the richness of its diversity TJCII is an expression of the unity of the Body of Yeshua which is at the heart of the teachings of the New Testament. Joining together are denominations which over the centuries have either fought or ignored one another. The Historic churches along with the Evangelicals, Charismatic and Pentecostals are seeking, within TJCII, to lay aside ancient differences and declare a common unity in recognising the importance of a Jewish expression of the church and a right relationship between Jews and Gentiles in the Body of Messiah.

Whilst TJCII is focussed on its God-given vision relating to a Jewish expression within the Body of Messiah, this will undoubtedly have wider implications for the Church and the Kingdom. It was after the first Jerusalem Council that the gospel

began to move throughout the nations. Could it be that as a result of TJCII there will be a fresh move of the Holy Spirit in evangelism within the Jewish community worldwide and indeed into all the world bringing about a final harvest for the Kingdom of God before the return of our Lord Yeshua?

Of great importance in this Movement is intercession. Without strong, prevailing prayer the vision of TJCII will

"TJC II is a mighty vessel for the kingdom of God."

Geri Keller

Prayer leader, Winterthür, Switzerland

come to nothing. Without the cries of the intercessors before the Throne of God the enemy will be able to make inroads into this work and weaken and undermine the ability of its leadership to hear from God and walk in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Those of us who are called to the place of intercession and who have also been called to pray for the

Jewish Community and the land of Israel, who have responded to Isaiah 40 v1 **'Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.....'** need to see the importance of the times in which we live, particularly in relation to a Messianic Jewish expression within the Body of Christ. Certainly within the **Lydia Fellowship International** over the past ten years there has been a growing revelation of the importance of praying for the Jewish people and developing a deeper understanding of God's purposes concerning Israel. We have recognised that whilst praying for our own nation and the other nations of the world, Israel and the Jews needs to be a priority. Our perspective of what God is doing within our own nation becomes clearer as we have greater insights into God's heart for the Jews and the ongoing purposes He has for them. In Lydia we seek to pray in accordance with the scriptures and **'do whatever He tells us'**. Over recent years it has become very clear to us that a major part of 'whatever He tells us' is to be watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem, praying prayers that have been initiated by the Holy Spirit.

The vision of TJCII has been shared with Lydia leadership across nations and we shall continue to pray and thank God for this initiative. We shall look forward to an ongoing involvement with TJCII

TJCII



About the Author...

Molly Osborne is the Continental Coordinator for Europe of Lydia Fellowship International, a global intercession network. She resides in Waterlooville in Hampshire, England.

News from the Executive Committee

We have joyful news to report this month. Jonathan and Elisangela Bernis are expecting their first child in March. Please pray for them and for Marty and Marleen Waldman and Baruch Ha Shem congregation as they prepare for the executive committee meetings May 1-6 in Dallas.

TJCII

“Ten Years Ago”, a Letter Sent to the Executive Committee



About the Author...

Dan Juster is a member of the TJC II executive committee and founder and leader of Tikkun Ministries of USA and Israel. He was the first president of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations.

Dear Brothers,
 Today [January 24, 2005] marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. It was on this day, ten years ago, that Eli Weisel spoke to a large gathering and asked God to never forgive the Nazis that produced the Holocaust. It was on that day that John Dawson spoke at the Mid Atlantic Leadership conference on Healing Wounds Through Reconciliation. At the end of that conference I spoke to John about gathering leaders and intercessors for an international conference on reconciliation and affirming the Messianic Jewish community. Two weeks later, to my recollection, Peter Hocken visited my office with his book The Glory and the Shame. He had a vision of repentance and reconciliation and unity with the Messianic Jewish community. Soon after that, I think within two weeks, Marty Waldman called and shared his vision of Jerusalem Council 2. And so in our dialogue together, Marty and I sought to see a board come together to foster the two part vision of spiritual warfare though repen-

tance and forgiveness and for a council to do for Jewish believers what Acts 15 did for Gentiles. So this is a special time of memorial. Let us thank God for all of this and believe that we will see great progress in TJC2.

Your Friend,
 Daniel Juster



“We need to find each other in Yeshua because that is what the Father wants.”

Cyözö Dobner

Baptist pastor, Budapest, Hungary

Your Support

Please prayerfully consider becoming a regular financial supporter of TJC II. You may donate by using the return envelope provided. Checks should be payable to “TJC II”. It is also possible to donate through Paypal using the instructions posted at www.TJCII.org.

We greatly value the prayers of our friends around the world. If you would like to become an intercessor for TJC II and receive a monthly prayer update by e-mail, please contact Linda Fulmer at ircresearch@tyler.net.

Resources

The revised 2004 edition of the booklet, “Toward Jerusalem Council II, the Vision and the Story” is posted on our website at www.tjcii.org. For a printed version at \$3 per copy, please contact our Dallas office at EGS@TJCII.org.

A new booklet, “The Messianic Jewish Movement, an Introduction”, by Daniel Juster and Peter Hocken, is also available through the Dallas office at \$3 per copy.

A German translation of the Vision booklet is available through the European office in Vienna at 2 euros each plus mailing costs. They also have a supply of the power point CD on the history of the Messianic movement and TJC II. You may e-mail them at aon.912289505@aon.at.

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 Executive General Secretary:
 Marty Waldman
 Email: EGS@TJCII.org
 Editor: Linda Fulmer
 Email: ircresearch@tyler.net

Please send your tax-deductible donations to:
 TJCII

6304 Belt Line Road
 Dallas, TX 75254
 or Call: 972-726-9964

on the web: www.tjcii.org