



COMMUNIQUE

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A Vision not just a Project

By Fr. Peter Hocken

TJCII is a vision. It is a vision of the Church of the last days. It is a vision of reconciliation between Jew and Gentile in the one body of the incarnate Son of God. It is a vision for the mutual acceptance and right relationship between Jewish believers in Yeshua ha Mashiach and Gentile believers in Jesus the Christ. We sense that it is also a vision for the healing of the wounds of Christian history.

For those anchored in the realities of divided churches and divided world, the vision of TJCII may seem like a foolish dream. But we believe that TJCII is a dream of the Holy Spirit. It was on the day of Pentecost that the apostle Peter cited the prophetic words of Joel: "Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." (Acts 2: 17).

How do we know that TJCII is a vision of the Holy Spirit? First, because it is a return to the biblical vision articulated in Romans 11: 17 – 24 and Ephesians 2: 11 – 3: 6. In Romans 11, the Gentile believers are presented as branches of a wild olive tree that are grafted into the cultivated olive tree that is Israel. In Ephesians, the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile is the direct fruit of the cross, by which they are formed into one body; the Gentiles become joint heirs with the Jews, and are built up into a living temple on the foundation of the Jewish apostles



Vienna III - prayer for the participants from nations of the former Soviet Union

and prophets. Secondly, because this vision of biblical reconciliation has the capacity to draw Gentile believers from all churches and movements, ancient and modern, in a way that is beyond human explanation.

Is not TJCII a project to gather in Jerusalem leaders, Jewish and Gentile, from all the body of Messiah? The original vision, received by Marty Waldman, was of a second Council of Jerusalem, that would affirm the right relationship between Jews and Gentiles in Messiah Yeshua, a relationship originally affirmed at the first Council in Acts 15. Being a vision, the TJCII executive has no idea how the Lord is finally

going to bring about this seemingly impossible vision. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit to lead us each step of the way. It is clear that this vision of reconciliation is leading us toward Jerusalem. We also

know that the TJCII leaders cannot themselves call a Council of the whole body.

As we have committed ourselves to this vision, the Holy Spirit has begun to show us the initial steps that we need to take. The Gentiles have to repent for the sins of the past against the Jewish people, particularly those that involved the suppression of a Jewish witness to Yeshua. We have to make known the Holy Spirit's work of restoring this Jewish witness in our day. And we have to prepare the way in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem, especially with the Jewish believers in Yeshua.

Out of the vision come particular projects. But each project has been conceived as a step toward the fulfilment of the original vision. Along the way there will be gatherings in Jerusalem, as seem necessary and appropriate. But the final gathering . . . that is in the heart of the Lord and the timing of the Holy Spirit.



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.



Vienna III Consultation

The gathering of the nations for Vienna III Consultation was larger and more diverse than our previous European consultations, with 160 attending from 23 nations. The tent pegs were extended to include at least 70 new participants. There were 33 Messianics and 39 from former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The group also represented a wider ecumenical diversity with greater participation from the traditional streams of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. We were joined by small delegations from Israel and other parts of the Middle East.

Many heard the vision of TJC II for the first time. For the first time in a TJC II consultation, the difficult but essential themes of the olive tree and the land of Israel were addressed, led by the presentations of Benjamin Berger and Peter Hocken. Times of discussion, questions and prayer followed as well as comments and responses from national leaders. A "common ground" paper is being produced from the discussions. One evening session was devoted to prayer for Israel and Jerusalem.

A significant development was the



Registration for Vienna III

"The cultivated olive tree is the meeting point where all branches come together."

Benjamin Berger -
Messianic pastor and leader, Jerusalem

formation of national support groups, with the French and Austrians leading the way. In the closing session, members of the executive committee led as we prayed for each of the 14 national or regional groups.

Unity in the midst of diversity was reflected in the powerful worship team from 4 nations. Most had not met before, did not speak a common language, and did not sing the same songs. Yet their music was characterized by extraordinary unity and anointing.

Preparations for the meetings and participants were made by the efficient staff and volunteers of the TJC II European office in Vienna. The Austrian intercessors group was joined by others from Hungary, Netherlands, and USA to pray during the consultation and the meetings of the executive committee.

TJCI

News from the Executive Committee

The next TJCI Consultation will be for Latin America, and it will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina for 2 days in the last week of September, 2005. Actual dates to be confirmed.

The executive decided to begin a two-monthly publication to be called the TJCI Communiqué. This will be printed and sent out by bulk mail in the USA, and by the cheapest means elsewhere through the ordinary mail. Linda Fulmer will serve as editor under the guidance of Peter Hocken.

A new approach to raising funds for TJCI was proposed by Jonathan Bernis and accepted by the executive committee. This is

being put into effect immediately. A fund-raising banquet will be held on Thursday May 5, 2005, during the next TJCI executive meeting in Dallas.

Peter Hocken was asked to share in the responsibility for the Spiritual working group over the next year, with this role being reviewed in September, 2005.

Arrangements are to be made to translate both the TJCI booklets into Spanish before the Buenos Aires meeting.

TJCI

TCJII in Vienna 2004: A Personal Reflection

By Timothy Butlin

The experience of meeting for the TCJII 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 TCJII 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 TCJII has issued a prophetic call to a new level of unity that, I believe, the church should not ignore.

Rev Timothy Butlin
St Peter's Loudwater, UK



About the Author...

Reverend Timothy Butlin is an Anglican pastor at St. Peter's Loudwater in England and a trustee of CMJ, Church's Ministry among Jewish People.

"Thoughts from Poland"

Leszek Lazowski is the Director of Chevra International Aid Foundation, based in Cracow, Poland.

We had a very positive response from our messianic friends from the countries of the former Soviet Union. For some of them it was for the first time that they met with Catholics and Orthodox and it was like the breaking of a barrier (Arkadiy Margulis from Zhitomir, Ukraine). It is a new challenge for them to go out from the "messianic ghetto" to the churches and to preach Messiah Yeshua. They start to think what they as Jews can give to the church and not only what they can receive. Some of the other Russian-speaking pastors at the conference were also Jewish and for them it opened a new perspective: the most powerful was the prayer of repentance, it breaks hearts.

We have some suggestions: There could be more specific prayers for the needs of different countries, churches and messianic congregations.

It would be good in small discussion groups to mix people from different countries to share their problems. The music could be more "universal" with a different kind of praise - not so loud, but more Jewish, giving the possibility for people from all the different churches and styles of worship to join in praise and worship.

We could try to keep in touch with people after the conference so that it would not be just an occasional event, but something going on all year long.

In any case, the conference is a historical event and we believe it will bring amazing fruit in the churches and in the messianic congregations.

Leszek Lazowski

"Working with TJC II causes us to face our own divisions in the Christian Church."

Fabienne Pons- Pastor, Toulouse, France

Comments from Prayer Leaders in Rostrevor, Northern Ireland



Verena Lang, leader in Catholic Charismatic Renewal for Austria, welcomed participants to Vienna III

TJCII Vienna '04 was an excellent and fruitful time together. How can we put it... it felt so right. It was inspiring to have such a wide representation of the Body of Messiah. The symbol of the "One New Man" (Jew and Gentile), which is prophetic, was there in the gathering for everyone to see. The teaching was very good, especially by Benjamin Berger and Fr. Peter Hocken.

It is so encouraging to see what God is doing in raising up Messianic Jews and congregations, that these are increasing in number and that the day is drawing closer when people in Israel will be able to say "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord". The Messianic leaders who were present this year at TJCII had a greater confidence about them than last year. It is good to know that more leaders of Messianic Congregations are working together towards unity.

There was a good balance between the time given to the talks, the working

paper and the group work, and the time given to the Holy Spirit in the worship and ministry. Sister Agnes' ministry to the Messianic leaders was very special. As previously the worship was Spirit-led and inspiring. Perhaps it might be developed in the future to include e.g. Davidic dance and other expressions of worship. Our thanks to all of you who put so many busy hours of work and preparation into making TJCII '04 the success that it undoubtedly was. May God continue to bless and guide us in the future.

Niall & Geraldine Griffin
Rostrevor, N. Ireland

Your Support

Our special thanks to those who have sent donations for the expenses of Eastern Europeans attending Vienna III Consultation. Their added contribution was a great blessing.

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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