



TJCI II COMMUNIQUE

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Summer 2005

What is Reconciliation?

By Canon Brian Cox

TJCI II is an initiative of reconciliation between Jewish and Gentile members of the Body of Messiah. It seeks to address the oldest wound between followers of Yeshua (Jesus) through a prophetic movement of prayer, repentance and relationship building. It envisions a day when a Second Council of Jerusalem would annul all the decrees passed during the centuries of Christendom against a Jewish expression of the church.

So, what is reconciliation? I have spent the last fifteen years of my life and ministry dedicated to the work of faith-based reconciliation in some of the world's roughest neighborhoods such as Kashmir, Sudan, Bosnia and Kosovo. Hence, I would like to weigh in on this complex subject. In individuals, reconciliation is a spirituality; a spirituality of transformation. In communities, reconciliation is a moral vision. As a spirituality, faith-based reconciliation is grounded in the doctrine of God's sovereignty, of surrender and submission to the



Messianic Leaders at the first TJCI II Banquet in Dallas

will of God. Reconciliation, at its core is about transformed hearts, lives and relationships. What is needed in most intractable identity-based conflicts or long standing historical estrangements is not creative solutions or gifted peacemakers, but changed hearts.

I am a lifelong Anglican and have been an ordained Episcopal priest for thirty years. I grew up and was later trained theologically with the typical replacement theology that still dominates most of the historic and mainline churches. Beginning in 1991 through my friendship with

Christa Behr and others, the Holy Spirit changed my heart. First of all, I was given a supernatural love for the Jewish people which has led me to embrace both the Messianic Jewish com-

munity and to reach out in friendship to the rabbinical Jewish community. Secondly, my eyes have been opened and I have been brought to humble repentance for the centuries of Christian anti-Semitism and, more specifically, to the role of the Gentile Church in destroying Jewish belief in Jesus as the Messiah.

As a moral vision, faith-based reconciliation provides a paradigm for our life together. It is grounded in the understanding that the scriptures provide us with a moral vision of how God's children are to live together in this world.

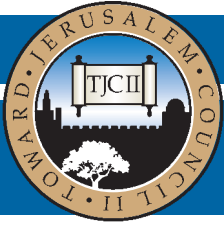
As a moral vision there is no single core value that completely describes faith-based reconciliation. It is like a diamond with eight gleaming facets that must be held in dynamic

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About the Author...

Canon Brian Cox, a member of the TJCI II Executive committee, is an Episcopal priest, pastor, diplomat and professor of conflict resolution who resides in Santa Barbara, California USA.



Impressions of a Prophetic Moment

I thank the Lord that I was able to experience what happened on the Wednesday evening, when Fr. Peter and Geri Keller knelt next to each other and the Messianic Jews gathered around and prayed over them and blessed them. I am grateful for this prophetic sign - a sign of how Unity can come about in the Body of Christ. I thank the Lord to see how this TJCII Initiative brings unity to the Body of Christ, not only between Christians from the nations and Messianic Jews, but also among the denominations and groups among the Christians from the nations.

I thank the Lord for the humility of these two Christians, one Catholic and one Evangelical, and for their words full of respect and of love for each other. I thank the Lord that at this TJCII gathering, with about 150 people from the most varied group

of denominations and from many lands, Geri Keller placed himself before Fr. Peter and cried out: "You Catholics, help us. We need what you have! Help us! Give us, what you have as treasures. Help us with what you have".

“ *I saw that the vision of TJCII would tear down a stronghold that has been hovering over the Christian church for 1800 years.* ”

*Marty Waldman,
Messianic Rabbi, Dallas, Texas*

And then he knelt before Fr. Peter and waited. And Fr. Peter arose and spoke with full love for Geri: "I cannot yet give what you ask. But it is my deepest wish that we give to you what we have, and that you give to us what we do not have but we need. Let us walk further together along the

Correction - In the April issue, we mistakenly printed the photo of Hans Heimbucher along with the text of Tim Butlin's writing from the previous issue. We extend our apologies, especially to Tim and Hans. We hope you enjoy reading Hans' description of the "prophetic moment" in prayer at Vienna III, referenced in Geri Keller's April writing.

way of reconciliation!" . And as Fr. Peter knelt alongside Geri, an Orthodox brother was led to kneel with them, and the Messianic Jews gathered around and thanked the Lord for this moment, and prayed that unity would be restored in the Body of Christ, and they blessed the three who were kneeling. And the whole assembly was deeply moved at this time.

I knew in my heart what I had previously known in my understanding that TJCII is a catalyst for the restoration of unity in the Body of Christ. I knew the blessing that flows out when in a spirit of humility, repentance and mutual respect the Christians from the nations allow the Messianic Jews to take their rightful place. And for this my heart is full of thanks to the Lord!

TJCII



About the Author...

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

News from the Executive Committee

Two new members, Avi Misrachi and Fr. Vasile Mihoc, were added to the Executive Committee at the Dallas meeting May 2 - 6, 2005. Avi is pastor of Adonai Roi Messianic Congregation and director of Dugit Messianic Outreach Center, both in Tel Aviv, Israel. Fr Vasile is a priest of the Orthodox Church of Romania, and professor of New Testament at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu,

Romania. He is also Vice President of the Lord's Army Association, an evangelical-type reform group within the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The Executive furthered the planning for the Latin American consultation to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sept 28 - 30, 2005. As a result of prayerful reflection on the role of Antioch in the first Council of

Jerusalem (see Acts 15), the spring 2006 meeting will be held in Antakia, Turkey (the original Antioch) as part of the immediate preparation for the TJCII intercessory gathering in Jerusalem planned for September 12 - 14, 2006.

We are happy to announce the birth of Li'el Gabriella to Jonathan and Elisangela Bernis on March 27.

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tension with each other. These eight core values include:

- A pluralistic vision of community which means that we seek unity in the midst of diversity.
- Compassionate inclusion of all people in a society based on unconditional love, including embrace of one's enemies.
- The peaceful resolution of conflicts between individuals and groups.
- Social justice that seeks the common good through transformation of the community.
- Forgiveness as a bedrock principle between individuals and between communities that creates the possibility of a better future together.
- Healing the wounds of history through acknowledgement, grieving, repentance, justice and forgiveness.
- Sovereignty of God as the heart of the faith-based perspective.
- Atonement as the process of finding peace with God through the cross of Yeshua (Jesus).

These eight principles are the heart of the Abrahamic tradition and are the key to healing the oldest wound in the Body of Messiah. TJCII is a movement that has been given birth by the Holy Spirit with the specific mandate of being a spiritual catalyst to bring about that deep Abrahamic healing needed to restore fulness to the Olive Tree.

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A Call to Dreamers

By Bonnie Saul Wilks, co-founder of Messianic Jewish Bible Institute along with her husband Wayne Wilks, who is also a TJCII executive committee member

Not every dreamer's dream comes true. But when Marty Waldman emerged from his



prayer closet and told his wife, "I have a dream," God soon connected him with others who shared the same vision.

This dream has inspired a comradeship of Messianic Jews, Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox and Evangelicals.

On May 5, 2005, the Toward Jerusalem Council II executive committee hosted a banquet, held in the sanctuary of Baruch HaShem Messianic Synagogue in Dallas, Texas, for the purpose of

increasing awareness, prayer, and support for this strategic initiative. Nearly 175 people, mostly locals, came to eat tasty Southwestern Mexican food and hear about how God is tearing down dividing walls between Jews and Gentiles.

John Dawson, keynote speaker and founding member of TJCII, reinforced the dream of reconciliation with humor, clarity, and international flair. Afterward while visiting with some, I could see the vision taking root. The animated joy of those who attended strengthened my faith in the biblical mandate of reconciliation between Jew and Gentile.



The evening was much more than a banquet to garner support: It was a call to dreamers to participate in the dream.

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Historic Tensions and John 17

Why TJCIi it is important

For me, and my colleagues from Sweden and different parts of the former Soviet Union, the Vienna consultation was a wonderful surprise and a real eye-opener. Being a little informed beforehand and no stranger to the concept of the restoration of Israel in the end time, it was still something very valuable to be in the meeting. First of all, there is a significant dynamic of American messianic Jews and Israeli messianic Jews who see things from different perspectives about the restoration of Israel. There is also the tension between Israeli and Arab to be considered. Then there is the chasm between Jew and gentile believer that exists as a constant undercurrent for all the different historically tragic reasons. Then we see the age-old schism between Protestants and Catholics, as well as the newer tensions between charismatic and other Christians.

To sample all this, and to measure it against the prayer of Jesus for unity in John. 17, was mind-boggling. Yet his words speak so clearly and prophetically as a present day necessity.

The initiative to come together from all these backgrounds with a future council in Jerusalem in mind seems almost unreal in its pretensions, but still it is a powerful seed that will germinate and produce supernatural results. Any future coming together of the church must be forever linked to Jerusalem and the restoration of Israel, no matter from what angle we see it. This must be accepted and realized.

The missing ingredient in the Body of Christ, the Jewish messianic part of the One New Man, is presently taking shape and form and is surfacing in a new and unprecedented way. What this means theologically and how it is worked out structurally is of utmost importance and will have an untold dynamic effect on the restoration of the church in the future. It will produce a paradigm shift in the understanding of the

place of the messianic Jews, not just their existence in the Body, but also their prophetically destined place in leadership. It will have a profound effect on the gentile



Jonathan with Li'el Gabriella Bernis, born March 27th

Church, both historic and modern.

This could very well be the way that, after much heart-searching, agony, repentance and willingness to change, the Spirit brings about the

restoration of the fullness of the Church and the return of the King. Whether this is imminent or further in the future, there is still an urgent need of the realisation of this unity where Jerusalem and the Jewish believers remain the unique catalyst. TJCIi has a very important role to play, not just in theological search for analysis and clarity, but also in forming hearts and relationships to help bring this vision to fruition.

TJCIi



About the Author...

Ulf Ekman, the founder of Word of Life Church and Bible School in Uppsala, Sweden, is an international teacher and author.

TOWARD JERUSALEM COUNCIL



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Your Support

We are very grateful for the financial and prayer support of friends around the world. Those attending the banquet in Dallas contributed and pledged USD 31,000, which will fund future publications and scholarships to consultations in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. You may contribute by making checks payable to "TJCIi" or through Paypal on the website. For those sending donations, at your request to the Dallas office, we will mail a DVD copy of brief interviews with the executive committee, viewed at the banquet. To receive prayer updates, contact Linda Fulmer at ircresearch@tyler.net.