

## Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times"  
- Strategic Partner
- Israel Legal Defense
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

### Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

*tell* them what Isaiah 53 says. They need to read it themselves. However, as literate as they typically are, very few have ever actually picked up a Bible. Most of those who have read it are already following Yeshua! The biggest step a Jewish person can ever take toward finding the Messiah is to actually sit down and study the Bible on their own. It doesn't matter what chapter or verse is read. As soon as this happens, it's practically a done deal. The truth will jump out at them! As the relationship grows, consider presenting the Bible as a gift (I suggest the Complete Jewish Bible, translated by Dr. David H. Stern) or simply encourage them to read the one they already have.

Note: It is not necessary for you to aggressively cite, debate, or propound the Scriptures with your Jewish friends. Remember, the Lord promises to bless His words (Isaiah 55:11; Hebrews 4:12). You don't have to dictate which parts to read. Let Adonai direct them! They'll find Isaiah 53 when they're good and ready. The Lord knows what a particular person needs to read in the Bible. They will ask you questions, but don't try to be in control. You can respond to the questions as they come up. Your expertise on the Scriptures has nothing to do with it. **God must be in control, or there will be no fruit to your effort.** Answer what you can, in a friendly way. Don't worry if you don't have the answers. Your friends will not just take your word for something, anyway. Adonai put the answers in the Scriptures for individuals to find on their own, and accept Him by faith on their own. Your friends will find those answers by themselves, as long as they keep reading.

### CONCLUSION:

When Jewish people become open to accepting Yeshua, or accept Yeshua, direct them to a Messianic Jewish Congregation so they can continue living out their faith in the most Hebraic way possible. Remember, Yeshua Himself is Jewish. Our people must be encouraged to embrace their heritage and culture, in order to bear witness for the King of Israel in a Jewish way.

For Messiah Yeshua's Glory,

Joel Liberman  
Executive Director

# International Messianic Jewish Alliance

## האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

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### ESSAY # 167

## PERSONAL EVANGELISM - LEADING JEWISH PEOPLE TO THEIR MESSIAH

Shalom *Chaverim* (Friends) and Co-Laborers,

*Brothers, my heart's deepest desire and my prayer to God for Israel is for their salvation.* (Romans 10:1)

A decade ago, in one of my favorite magazines at that time, a man expressed much wisdom and passion, summarizing what the Body of Messiah needed to hear. He wrote, "Any faith that does not consider itself valuable enough to share with nonbelievers is fated to crumble from within." Was this statement made by a great Christian? An evangelist? Maybe Billy Graham? Was this a warning to Christians? No, the statement was made by Yosef Abramowitz in his article "Taking on the Southern Baptists" in his warning to his fellow Jews! He added, "If Jews shrink from the task of proselytizing, it might send a signal that Judaism isn't worth spreading to others." (*Moment*, December 1999, pages 34 to 35). Lacking personal evangelism, is it possible that believers are unintentionally sending the signal that a vibrant faith in Yeshua (Jesus) of Nazareth isn't worth spreading to others?

For those who have been on our mailing list for several years, you will recall that the topic of Jewish Evangelism has been excellently articulated in our monthly essays (#132 and #148) on several occasions by our previous Executive Director and current Treasurer, my father, Paul Liberman. I would like to revisit this topic (from my perspective), as it is central to everything the Lord has called us to do. Even a study of the appropriate Greek words shows us that *euangelizesthai* ("to announce good news") is found 52 times in the B'rith Chadasha (New Covenant). The noun *euangelion* ("good news") occurs 72 times, mostly in Rav Sha'ul's (Paul's) letters. Interestingly enough, in contrast, the word *euangelistes* ("evangelist") appears only three times (Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; and 2 Timothy 4:5).

## What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters utilized by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

## National Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Israel
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

Evangelism is the sharing or announcing of good news; the presence, persuasion, and proclamation of the Person and work of Messiah, Yeshua, the Son of God, as the only way of reconciling man with His Creator, and through Him, the whole creation might be reconciled. Evangelism is the spreading of the Good News by vocally proclaiming the Kingdom that has come **and one of witnessing through life** (1 Peter 2:12). Keeping the “words” and the “life” in harmony is what’s critical, for if they are not, the salt will lose its taste, and the proclamation will be annulled by the lifestyle. In other words, maybe the world we are trying to reach has gone on a low sodium diet, not wanting the “salt” that the believers are offering!

While doing undergraduate work and being involved with an outreach ministry on the campus of San Diego State University 25 years ago, the definition we operated under was that evangelism is “sharing Messiah in the power of *Ruach Hakodesh* (the Holy Spirit) and leaving the results to God.” It may be an old definition, but I think it still works. Notice that it does not say how much time you might have to spend with people in order to get the chance to witness to them.

Bottom line: Rav Sha’ul wrote to the Corinthians: *Therefore we are ambassadors of the Messiah; in effect, God is making his appeal through us. What we do is appeal on behalf of the Messiah, “Be reconciled to God!”* (2 Corinthians 5:20). Like any other ambassador, as Yeshua’s ambassadors we do not serve at home but are sent to foreign countries (John 17:16). In addition, there is no way to represent Yeshua to others without knowing Him personally (John 17:3). Likewise, ambassadors know their country, and represent it well. As believers, we should know our “home,” thinking of things that “are above” (Colossians 3:1, 2). Finally, ambassadors promote their leaders’ policies – not their own – and they stay in service as long as their leader wants them. YESHUA WANTS US FOR LIFE!

For you and I laboring in the Jewish sector of God’s vineyard, quite frankly, very few of our Jewish people want to listen to us preach the Scriptures to them, let alone be pushed or manipulated to believe anything, and any attempt to do so potentially increases the blindness concerning Messiah’s first coming. Surely there must be other keys in bringing about the desired result of leading our Jewish people to the wellspring of Yeshua. Indeed. Accompanied by my own life experience, and after becoming acquainted with many Messianic Jewish testimonies, I offer the following three steps that represent a common thread in leading Jewish people to their Messiah:

### STEP #1:

**RELATIONSHIP:** Establish a friendship with a Jewish person. The basis doesn’t matter, as long as it is not an ungodly thing! It could be a friend at work or school, a person with whom you have lunch, a neighbor your children play with, a couple with whom you and your spouse go out to dinner or the movies, or a companion you meet at the beach. If you are a fisherman for the Lord, your connection is your fishing hook. Get one! Of course, every relationship must be based on love. If you don’t have love on your hook, you aren’t going to catch anything.

Note: History has shown that shoving literature in a person’s face is not a “hook” that has had positive results. When you meet a Jewish person at a grocery store and start reciting Scriptures to prove the Messiahship of Yeshua, don’t expect them to care or ever want to see you again—or want to know where you attend worship services.

### STEP #2:

**PRAYER:** Pray for the needs of your Jewish friend, not just for your friend’s salvation. Find out what concerns them. It could be a broken or troubled marriage, anxiety about work, financial problems, sickness, loss of a loved one, drug addiction or alcoholism. Like everyone else, Jewish people struggle with these issues. As they begin to see these prayers answered, they will eventually make the connection. Once in a while, tell your friend, “I am going to be praying for you about that, if you don’t mind.” As the relationship grows, and when it feels right, you might want to ask if you could pray for them on the spot. Believe me, their response will almost always be: “It couldn’t hurt.”

Note: There is no need to be *constantly* praying in front of your friend. Your friend needs to feel comfortable with you. Why do something that could hurt the relationship? Intercede for your friend in your personal prayer time. God really hears you.

### STEP #3:

**BIBLE:** Jewish people are among the most educated and intelligent cultures in the world. When you encourage your Jewish friends to read the Scriptures, they will clearly see the plain truths about the Messiah. After all, Yeshua isn’t hidden, not even in the Tanakh. All it takes is for someone to read with an open mind. Quite honestly, our people don’t need us to

## Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian, and Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do. Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

