



INTERNATIONAL MESSIANIC JEWISH ALLIANCE

Uniting Jews in the Messiah throughout the world in bonds of fellowship, witnessing and relief

5480 Baltimore Drive, Suite 203, La Mesa, CA 91942-2015
619-464-9723, 619-464-9725 (fax), ravjoel@pacbell.net (e-mail), www.imja.com (web site)



*Joel Liberman
Executive Director*

September, 2010

Dear Friend,

For some time now I have had a stirring in my spirit that there must be more ways the IMJA can connect with and bless Israel.

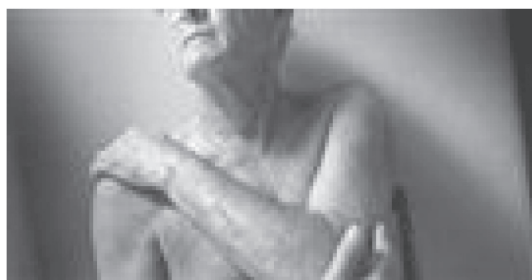
During a conversation with one of our Vice-Presidents recently, he suggested that the IMJA expand its ministry to our Jewish people in Israel facing pressing humanitarian and social issues. A third of the population is living below the poverty level. Messianic Jews and Christians are having their civil rights curtailed, and there is an increasing vice-grip by the ultra-Orthodox on matters pertaining to what defines Jewishness. It isn't that the IMJA hasn't already been working with ministries in Israel. It's just that the times suggest a need for greater urgency in doing even more for our brothers and sisters in the Land.

So, I contacted Calev Myers of the Jerusalem Institute of Justice (JIJ). He is a Messianic Jewish believer who is considered to be one of the leading advocates for believers' rights and social justice in Israel, and for those who are struggling economically.

What resulted from this contact has been the creation of the **IMJA Jewish Defense Fund**. The Fund will be a means by which we will be able to help Messianic believers, who are having legal difficulties making Aliyah, and those who are being discriminated against for their beliefs.

One such story from a man named David is one example of the kind of tragedy that has struck one of God's own . . .

After fighting for his life under Nazi Germany, and watching the man who protected and sheltered him and his family literally flayed in the street, it is no surprise that David scarcely speaks about his Holocaust experience.



After the war, he immigrated to Israel, and two years ago discovered he had stomach cancer, and had three-fourths of his stomach surgically removed. His kidneys

have also failed and for the last two years, he has been on dialysis three times a week. He is transported by ambulance, as he cannot so much as climb three flights of stairs on his own.

David doesn't even have a winter coat, and wears a woman's coat that was given to him last year. Needless to say, David has experienced tragedy beyond imagination, and lives today in conditions of extreme poverty. David is one of thousands of reminders that Holocaust survivors must struggle daily for basic survival in modern day Israel.

Then, there's Ilana who doesn't deserve what she is experiencing . . .

Ilana has been living a double life in Israel.

Though her first visit was as a Catholic, she ultimately decided to become Jewish. Following her conversion in Italy in 2006, she moved to Israel. Incredibly, despite the fact that the (Orthodox) Chief Rabbinate certifies her conversion, the State of Israel continues to deny her basic rights as a citizen, because of belief in Yeshua.

Scandalously, Ilana lives without medical insurance, is unable to work, and has been waiting for more than two years for her case for citizenship to make it to the Supreme Court. In every other Jewish community in the world, Ilana is Jewish. Not in Israel. This is because the Interior Ministry has taken it upon itself to review conversions that were performed worldwide in terms of its own bureaucratic criteria.

After what he has been through, doesn't David – and others like him – deserve to live out their remaining years with some dignity? Shouldn't we bring some comfort to him and the love of Yeshua?

Doesn't Ilana – and others like her who are being kept in bureaucratic limbo – deserve to be recognized as Israeli citizens and take their place in Israeli society?



I am praying that we can launch the **IMJA Jewish Defense Fund** in a spectacular manner this month. I am praying that God will touch you in such a way that you will want to give generously to reach out to Israel in this very compassionate and practical manner.

I'm counting on your most generous gift so we can help those in Israel who need the greatest assistance. I pray you will do it for all the Davids. I pray you will do it for all the Ilanas. And, I pray you will do it because you believe, as I do, that blessing Israel in this manner is dearest to God's heart and to the apple of His eye. Thank you!

Yours in Messiah,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Liberman". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Executive Director

P.S. This month is an especially appropriate time to bless Israel since Jewish people will welcome in the year 5771 with Rosh HaShanah, beginning on the evening of September 8.