



INTERNATIONAL MESSIANIC JEWISH ALLIANCE

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

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*From the desk of
Joel Liberman*

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Dear Friend in Messiah,

If you receive *The Messianic Times* newspaper, you have probably read Gail Levin's article on our September Berlin conference. I believe that conference was truly a watershed ingathering of Messianic Jewish leaders and sister alliances from around the world. That is why I want to share excerpts and my observations from just a few of the reports that were given during that monumental four-day meeting, so you might rejoice with us and better know how to pray for our brothers and sisters elsewhere.



From Argentina:

The Argentina Messianic Jewish Alliance (AMJA) is 51 years old. Its president is Natalio Krauthamer.

Jewish people have been living in Argentina for many years, and immediately after World War II there was a large influx of Jews fleeing from Europe. While the Jewish community has prospered, with many having attained middle class status, there have been occasional attacks on the community over the years.

According to a census that was done a few years ago, there are approximately 300,000 Jewish people living in Argentina. Of the total, 52% are children of a Jewish father and mother, 10% are children of a Jewish father, 15% are children of a Jewish mother, 12% had a Jewish grandfather, and 7% had a Jewish grandmother. Because of this diversity, it is understood that the work to be done among them is difficult and requires a special dedication.

AMJA services are celebrated once a month in Las Flores (a town in the province of Buenos Aires). In the country there is a lot of insecurity, and a consequence of it is that attendance to their meetings has declined because of theft and violence. Yet, in each of these meetings there is a spirit of unity and integration between Jewish and Gentile believers (who come from different Christian denominations) - people that love the Lord's work among the Jewish people. These services are promoted personally and through the use of secular and Christian media (phone, radio messages and newspapers).

The present AMJA membership is 145 members, of which 105 are Jews, and 40 non-Jews who love and support their Alliance. The AMJA speaks at churches and special events throughout the year. In two services at the Congregation of Benavidez City (located in

greater Buenos Aires), audiences of 900 and 1300 attended. At another church service, 200 people had to be turned away because seating capacity had been exceeded. In addition, one AMJA member teaches Hebrew and on the prophetic relationship of Messiah Yeshua to the Jewish Feasts.

Please pray that economic and security issues do not hinder the Gospel message from going forth to the Jewish people of Argentina.

From Canada:

The Canadian alliance (MJAC) – as reported by its president, Messianic Rabbi Cal Goldberg – has been going through a time of transition, and has faced many challenges in seeking to build a unified alliance in such a vast country. Surprisingly, the Jewish population of Canada is the fourth largest in the world, behind Israel, the United States and France. There are approximately 375,000 Jewish people living in Canada, primarily in the eastern provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

The Messianic Jewish community in Canada is growing. Today there are approximately 25 Messianic Jewish congregations and fellowships in the country and there seems to be a genuine openness to the good news of Messiah within the Jewish community across Canada. Rabbi Jeff Forman of the City of David Messianic Synagogue in Toronto said he has witnessed a shift of thinking in their community towards the message of Yeshua and has witnessed several come to faith. Toronto has the largest Jewish population in Canada (200,000). As G-d continues to bring about a worldwide shaking, Canada is witnessing a growing openness towards the Gospel. Significant growth is being experienced as many have come to faith in congregations in Toronto and Calgary.

Nationally and regionally the MJAC has met with Messianic Jewish and church leaders, and has hosted two Messianic Jewish conferences.

Much has been accomplished but there is much more to be done for Messiah in Canada. Please keep Canada in prayer as the MJAC continues to enlarge the place of its tent, stretch out the curtains of its dwelling places, and expand its vision.

From Mexico:

Yolanda Guzik of the Mexican Messianic Jewish Alliance (MMJA), in sharing her report, quoted the scripture from Isaiah 62:6-7, *“I have put watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They will not keep quiet day or night: you who are The Lord’s recorders, take no rest, and give him no rest, Till he puts Jerusalem in her place to be praised in the earth.”* There are approximately 100,000 Jewish people in Mexico, with the majority living in Mexico City.

Indeed, the Mexican alliance has been that “watchman” as it publishes a Messianic Jewish magazine, has participated in a number of secular events and forums, holds an annual Messianic Jewish conference, and maintains a strong online presence. Through its web site, the alliance acquaints people with its activities and with Messianic Judaism. The MMJA

receives email letters daily, from interested Jewish people and Christians, whose doubts and concerns the alliance tries to guide and advise. However, it has also received offensive and hurtful anti-semitic communications, especially during times when Israel is on the defensive against her enemies.

The Mexican alliance has reached out to the community and the world in an uninterrupted and continuous way for 22 years. In that, it gives all the glory and honor to G-d Who has sustained them supernaturally and economically.

It is the MMJA's desire to carry out the practice of love for the Land of Israel and its people. The MMJA asks that you pray that there will be more unity within the body of Messiah, and more acceptance and understanding outside of it.

From the United Kingdom:

The Jewish community in the UK is relatively small (around 300,000) and therefore the BMJA is also small. At present, the BMJA has 241 full members (Messianic Jews and their spouses) and 128 associate members (Christians who are sympathetic to the movement). In spite of its small size, the alliance likes to think that it “punches above its weight.”

In recent years the BMJA has produced a statement responding to the troubling increase of anti-semitism in British universities, and a “Guide for preachers,” to help pastors be both biblically faithful and Jewish-sensitive in their preaching. Both of these documents were received positively within the wider British Christian scene.

The BMJA is actively involved in exposing the activities of anti-missionaries in Israel and elsewhere.

The BMJA currently has 16 affiliated Messianic fellowships meeting throughout Britain, where Jewish people can hear about Yeshua in a culturally appropriate setting. It has been hugely encouraging to hear of Jewish people starting to follow Yeshua through the work of British Messianic fellowships – those who have come to faith include Israelis, Orthodox Jews and former atheistic communists!

In the UK, Messianic fellowships also serve an important role as a “safe haven” for Messianic Jews from the rising tide of anti-Israel and sometimes anti-semitic sentiment sweeping through British society – including, sadly, through some churches, where replacement theology is far more fashionable than it would be in other parts of the world. The BMJA and its fellowships can be a real lifeline for otherwise isolated Jewish believers.

One of the challenges facing the British Messianic community is that of continuity – all too often, the children of Jewish believers are either lost to the faith or, if they do continue in the faith, struggle to hold on to their Jewish identity within the wider church. In the last few years, the BMJA has established the Yahad national network of Messianic Jewish students and young adults. Yahad hosts a conference each autumn, and its members are actively involved in Messianic fellowships, churches and university Christian Unions.

The next task is to set up a viable ministry for children and younger teenagers, so that

the Messianic Jewish movement in the UK will truly declare the L-rd's praises "from generation to generation."

The BMJA has asked for prayer in the following areas: The growth of the Yahad network of students and young adults; the start of a ministry for children and younger teenagers; new Jewish members; and its impact on the wider church and the wider Jewish community.

From South Africa:

The Jewish community in the Republic of South Africa is sparse. Most of its older Yeshua-believers have passed away and the younger generation is not as engaged as it could be. In fact, many Jewish believers have assimilated into Christian churches and Islam is a concern with 60% of the nation being Muslim.

While the situation is challenging, the South African alliance leadership has been fasting and praying for a breakthrough they truly believe will be forthcoming. Please join them in praying for this breakthrough.

From the IMJA:

Besides coordinating, attending and presiding over the September Berlin Conference, it has been a busy and satisfying year for the IMJA and myself.

Some IMJA highlights include: Supporting a Messianic day school in Jerusalem, Israel; providing support for Gilad Shalit who, praise G-d, has been recently released; ministering to Messianic Jewish believers in Ukraine; participating and speaking in various conferences and ministry venues in the U.S.; helping provide humanitarian aid to Israel; and supporting civil rights and Aliyah initiatives on behalf of our Jewish people and Christians in Israel.

As you have read, the Messianic Jewish movement is making significant gains in reaching out to Jewish people and the church despite tremendous challenges. The IMJA is committed to being a blessing to all our affiliated brothers and sisters by holding them up in prayer and financial support. To do this, we need your prayers and gifts. Please be generous with your tax-deductible year-end gift to the IMJA. Your support goes to help so many in many places.

Yours in Messiah,



IMJA Executive Director



*May the glow of Chanukah
lights Warm the hearts of
you and your loved ones
this wonderful holiday season*