

Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times" – Publisher
- Combat Anti-Semitism
- 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.

to forego earthly benefits for faith in their coming reward. Their work didn't die, as it would have seemed likely. Gifts made to the Lord are preserved, because they are valuable to Him.

Heavenly Hope

Generation after generations of Bible believers give of themselves, because of confidence that "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). No matter how bad things seem to get, our Lord brings enough good into our lives to keep us going. That is called "the earnest of our inheritance (Ephesians 1:14). This is the down payment on the down payment. How big is the prize?

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things God hath prepared for them that love Him" (Isaiah 64:4, I Corinthian 2:9).

In other words, even the furthest stretches of our vivid imaginations cannot begin to estimate the extent of our reward. We hardly stop to focus on the full sacrifice of a foreign missionary. They do "die daily" (I Corinthians 15:31). Uprooting from family and friends isn't easy. Learning a foreign language and cultural norms is always uncomfortable. It takes humility to live as a leaning learner, being vulnerable and living as an outsider. The financial compensation is usually meager. Yet, people do it with the hope of winning a few indigenous people to the Lord that could in the future move God's purposes into a higher gear.

How analogous is the situation of the Messianic Movement. It took generations of dedicated Christians witnessing to Jewish people to win a few to their Messiah. Now there are many of Jewish heritage, who can profess and explain from an insiders point of view. Yes, things are well underway and yet there is so much more to do.

A vision is caught, not taught. Somewhere, you, our readers have expressed an interest in Jewish work. It was God Himself who revealed its importance. That makes us co-laborers.

Yours in Messiah,

Paul Liberman
Executive Director

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Southern Neighbors

Dear Friends in the Lord,

In the past we have reported to you about the Messianic Movement outside the United States, e.g. Canada, Mexico, England, Israel, Russia etc. This time we would like to focus on Latin America.

Living in the Southwestern part of the U.S., attending the annual conference of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Mexico is more convenient to attend than many other conferences. Such gatherings are a way of meeting new people and learning about Messianic activity.

Recently, there was a gathering in San Antonio, Texas of the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism. There, David Sedaca and others gave reports and many of their observations are included here.

Hispanic Jewish History

Latin America benefited from the influx of Jewish people, dating back to the early Spanish conquest of the New World. For almost 1,000 years Spanish Jewry became the leading force of Judaism in the Diaspora. The Jewish people of the Iberian Peninsula are known as Sephardim, derived from Sephar, the biblical name for Spain. Tragically this era came to an abrupt end with the Decree of Expulsion of 1492, in which the Catholic Kings, Ferdinand of Castilla and Isabelle of Aragon, forced all Jews to either convert to Christianity or be expelled, leaving all possessions behind. Many left for other lands around the Mediterranean, extending all the way to the Middle East to modern day Iran and Iraq.

Many Jews immigrated to the Western Hemisphere and most, while outwardly converts to Catholicism, retained Jewish traditions and culture. They were called Marranos; literally "pigs" since eating pork was the proof of their "genuine conversion" to Christianity.

Today, there are almost one million Jews spread out among 27 Latin American countries that settled there as a consequence of the persecutions beginning with the Russian pogroms of 1862 and after

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 used 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

Affiliated Alliances

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

the Holocaust of World War II. By far the largest number settled in Argentina, whose government passed a law in 1864, by which any Jewish person immigrating to Argentina was given 40 acres of land. Thousands of European Jews, especially those escaping the Russian pogroms settled in the Argentine farmlands.

Jewish Missions In Argentina

Jewish missions began in Buenos Aires in the early 1930's under the sponsorship of the Hebrew Christian Alliance of America, now the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America. By the mid 1960's, there were four Jewish missions active in Buenos Aires, then the fourth largest Jewish community in the world. The Lutheran, Anglican, Baptist and Brethren churches had active outreaches. Today, there are some 14 Messianic congregations in Argentina, who work with their National Messianic Alliance, under the leadership of Natalio Kauthammer.

Jewish Evangelism in Brazil

Jewish missions in Argentina became interested in expanding their ministry to Brazil, which is now home to almost 100,000 Jewish people mostly from Europe. Although earlier attempts to establish Jewish missions in Brazil failed to take root, by the late 1960's there was a solid work in Sao Paulo.

By the early 1970's evangelical churches in Brazil began to notice both the increasing numbers and influence of the Jewish community and on their own inefficacy in reaching them with the gospel. The main reason for their apparent failure was the still prevailing principle that once a Jewish person became a believer in Jesus, for all practical purposes he or she needed to abandon his or her Jewishness and become a "good Christian". Almost every mainline evangelical denomination held the same view. It was the charismatic movement's revival in Brazil that accepted the principle that a Messianic Jewish lifestyle was acceptable as they adopted many traits of Messianic Judaism, mainly "Davidic Dance" as a valid form of worship.

Jewish evangelism in Brazil is growing mainly through the work of Messianic Jewish congregations and our Alliance under the leadership of Sadi Profes in Sao Paulo. There are also groups in Rio de Janeiro, Bello Horizonte, Recife, and Porto Alegre and even in Manaus and Curitiba.

Jewish Evangelism in Other Latin Countries

Mexico City, the world's largest megapolis, with a population of over 22 million, is home to about 40,000 Jews. These are not descendants of the early "marranos", but are mostly Europeans arriving from the former Soviet

Republics. There are Messianic congregations in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Pachuca.

The Jewish population of Uruguay has been steadily declining from its peak population of almost 100,000, due to a depressed economy. Now it has only 35,000 Jews. This is a result of the deterioration of the economy. Our Alliance is the main outreach to the Jewish people, under the leadership of Victoria Gaguine and Jorge Grunwald.

Lastly, the work in Venezuela is growing. From Caracas the witness is carried out to other cities in Venezuela, and even to neighboring Colombia. In Colombia, Fanny Roiter leads a Messianic National Alliance and maintains a testimony to the churches and is reaching out to the Jewish community in Bogotá.

Present and Future

After this July's Mexican Messianic conference, the IMJA is dispatching our Spanish-speaking representative, Andrea Platner to tour South America. Many Messianic Congregations and churches will be visited. Myriam Levy, who is a main spring of the Mexican Alliance and who has served the IMJA as Vice-President, will accompany her.

They will be taking with them a substantial supply of the Spanish translation of The Fig Tree Blossoms, which explains Messianic Judaism. This was edited and printed in Mexico. Many of you regular supporters sponsored this publication as well as the recent Russian version. (Hebrew and English copies are also available).

Although we do not usually get to see the full extent of our impact in this life, we will share in its benefits. In heavenly places, we will all be able to see clearly the product of our labors. Our just God records every one of our good deeds, and renders to every person according to them (Romans 2:6). There is reward for serving behind the scenes. King David let us know how all that works in I Samuel 30:24,25:

"For who will hearken unto you in this matter: but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth, by the stuff; they shall part alike. And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day".

The progress in South America has been generations in the making. Of the many who gave their lives with meager fruit in the beginnings, few names are remembered. Reputation and earthly credit fade quickly into oblivion. Why, therefore, does it sometimes seem so important to us? Heavenly reward, which is permanent, will be given to those who don't get credit here.

If this were truly believed, imagine how everyone would be hiding from prominence and insisting others receive it. The Bible refers to this: "in honor preferring one another" (Romans 12:10). The people who laid the groundwork in South America were willing

Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian and now 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

