

Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times" – Publisher
- 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.

Notice a few things about Yeshua (The Way)! He "made himself of no reputation" (Philippians 2:7). He didn't have to try. If the virtue is there, opinion will follow. Yeshua proved that. Sowing and reaping would seem to be consistent with this as well.

It is the delusion of our minds that we can obtain honor by seeking it, but Romans 12:10 instructs us that Yeshua's Way is to prefer one another. Imagine how different our lives would be if instead of scrambling for every scrap of credit, we hid from it. Suppose we accepted an equation that receiving applause in this life compromised our eternal stature.

In fantasy, we could possibly visualize how this could comically work. In business, academia or Body life, the leader would insist it wasn't he, but his assistant that was responsible for the success. The assistant wouldn't want to be caught receiving acclaim, so there could be yet another attempt to deflect public credit. And so it would be, with everyone being blessed in this life and the next.

Unfortunately, it is just fantasy. In heaven, pride will in no way be present and our little fantasy might not be so far from eternal reality.

Oh, how our human condition deceives us from the true realities. Up is down and down is up! Every once in a while, when we are in the spirit of the Holy One, we might just muster the stuff to do a kind or self sacrificing thing, as an act of loyalty to our friend Yeshua (John 15:14). We will feel better and have enhanced our eternal reward.

Our Messiah values our sincere efforts.

In Him,

Paul Liberman
Executive Secretary

P.S. A special thank you is due to our donors who made it possible for us to have a successful worldwide conference that we sponsored. Some 33 attendees from 14 national organizations gathered in Israel in September. May you be blessed always for this kindness.

International Messianic Jewish Alliance האגודה הבין לאומית של היהודים המשיחיים

72-877 Dinah Shore Dr., Ste. 103-141 • Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 • TEL: (760) 668-3011 • FAX: (760) 837-0451 • Website: www.imja.com

Number 143

REPUTATION

Dear Fellow Workers,

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..."
(Proverbs 22:1).

In I Samuel 18:29,30, we are told of the origin of Saul's enmity toward David. When the Philistines came forth, "David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by."

How true to our own lives that we are respected according to the things we say and do. Ecclesiastes 7:1 says, "A good name is better than precious ointment". It is of great value. Movie stars, politicians and even religious leaders strive to achieve it. It's public approval.

Cornelius, a centurion of the despised Romans, was called a just man and of good report among all the nations of the Jews (Acts 10:22). The good report about Timothy recommended him to the apostle Paul to be his companion and protégée. Ananias was another who was well reported even by all the Jewish people, because his devoutness was so well known (Acts 22:12). Similarly, Titus was well praised throughout all the churches (II Corinthian 8:18). In the third book of John (verse 12), Demetrius was of a good report, which was recorded.

There are many more examples of virtue being correctly perceived, reported and recorded. It is a high goal. Some even attempt to buy it. However, in the long run, it doesn't seem that spin or public relations firms will achieve it; nor will reputation based on such manipulative devices make a lasting imprint.

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
- Holland
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

How quickly we forget, when President Harry Truman left office, only 55 years ago, his public approval rating was only 23%. Now, it seems he is going to be remembered as one of our countries greatest Heads of State. Presidents Johnson and Nixon were very conscious of their historical legacy, but didn't do as well.

Then, there are the characters that do bad things, but attempt to put a good face on them. A case in point would be Pontius Pilate. His washing of hands publicly was a statement that the decision wasn't his responsibility (Mathew 27:24). Somehow, he still goes down in history without a good name. Words alone will not outweigh deeds.

When, however, we see an action worthy of admiration, we recognize it. Courage in the face of adversity, standing up to a bully, risking for a cause, all have something in common. When someone rises above ordinary human nature, we stop to notice. Much of virtue is simply going against the influence of the world system, which holds fame, money, power, rank etc. as its indicators of man's approval.

So far, we have identified examples of the goal of public acclamation and some defective methods of attaining it. Most everyone wants the objective, but the means are an open question. So often elevation in the public eye is so much desired that some folks try to ascend higher by making others seem lower. Many people have observed it is not fruitful to compare ourselves with others. This is because it tends to result in either envy (wanting to be someone else) or pride (we are so much better).

With so many people involved in a competition for reputation, is it any wonder there is contention and conflict? Ironically, those most striving in such competitive efforts often times don't notice the backlash they are quietly accruing.

In our society, politics and religion are seen as two distinctly different activities. Yet, they frequently look alike. Both play to the crowd, upping one and downing another, along with great hypocrisy. Both seek money, fame, power, rank etc. Some just use the things of God, as their instruments.

One spiritual leader mentioned he would seek every advantage to see his ministry would be successful. That sounds like business to me! As in other worldly enterprises, we see people who are willing to "kneel for the deal". This is personal soul devouring, just to be a somebody.

How easy it is to observe these frailties in others. It seems it's everywhere. Considering the source is our human nature, can any of us begin to claim immunity from these insidious attacks on our integrity? Which of us can say we are pure or even nearly so in these regards? There are none that are fully righteous. Or as Psalm 53:3 puts it, "there is none that doeth good, no, not one".

Yet, some people seem to be winners of the high prize of good reputation. Abraham Lincoln seems to have done it, and there are those who have come out favorably among people we know. The common denominator is the selfless stand for the rightness of things and opposition to the wrongness of things.

How can I overcome my human nature? There is a way! What way is that? There are so many pundits, advisors, experts all telling us how; yet none ultimately satisfy.

Then, there is The Way. While everyone is telling us various methods, there really is only One Way. Yeshua (Jesus) said He was The Way. What exactly did He mean? The means He used are the ones, which will ultimately work.

Yeshua suffered questionable reputation in the short time he was on earth, but wound up with a name and reputation totally above all others. He said to do as He did. That's it. It is narrow, but if I can remain in His Spirit, I will want to live according to His methods. My human frailties can be overcome. I can only be virtuous when I am focused on Him; what He did, who He was and is.

Unfortunately, I don't spend all of my time in His Spirit and the results show it. Nevertheless, the system works. I have the ticket. I need to use it. A more concentrated effort is obviously in order. Alas, this is a worthy method, utilized too seldom. Perhaps you can identify?

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

