

Toward Jerusalem Council II in Romania

After the fall of communism prospects opened up for the coming together of Christian confessions in Romania. In March 1990 five denominations established The Evangelical Alliance of Romania. As Executive Director of the Evangelical Alliance till 1997 and then a member of the Alliance Council until 2003, I saw how real collaboration was developing among the Protestant congregations. As president of the World Vision Romania Board, I had the privilege to cooperate with Father Vasile Mihoc between 1998 and 2000 and organize three Conferences of all Christian Churches that was of historic significance. Besides identifying the outrageous sins of the Romanian people and calling the Church in Romania to repentance, these Conferences aimed at finding ways to heal the many grievous spiritual and social diseases the country was facing in those years. These conferences played a particular role in healing the relationships among Christian denominations in Romania.

In September 2002 I was invited to present a message at the All Nations Convocation in Jerusalem. To my surprise, before presenting the message I had this understanding from God: "Your people is under a curse for the bad things done against the Jewish people through the centuries. Go back to your country and call the churches to confess and repent for these sins so that blessing can come upon Romania."

Back home I called the Evangelical leaders to repent for all the sins committed against Israel. This call was positively received and in the following nine months we searched the historical records and got in touch with Jewish people in Romania who shared what actually happened during the Nazi terror years, about pogroms and the Holocaust. We asked the leaders of the Jewish Communities Federation to participate in a conference in June 2003. I was surprised by the answer from their General Secretary: "Mr. Peia, you are a courageous man. We know that Romania is not blessed by God for what the Romanians did against our people. But there is great opposition to acknowledging this truth. You will be attacked, and many will want to destroy you. Unless the historic churches – the Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed churches – support you in this endeavor, we cannot join you. They will say we have manipulated you in order to fulfill an agenda that does not belong to you."

On June 12th 2003 the Romanian Government ratified the Agreement of Cooperation between Romanian National Archives and The Holocaust Memorial Museum in the USA. A communiqué issued to the press that day declared:

"The Romanian Government ... *strongly emphasizes the fact that there was no holocaust within the Romanian boundaries between 1940 and 1945.*"

On June 13th - 14th 2003 the conference "The Return of Romanian Christian Believers towards the Children of Israel" took place in Bucharest. The participants declared that the Government's decision to deny the Holocaust in Romania did not conform to historical truth. We believe this conference drew blessings upon our nation, according to Genesis 12: 3.

In the following months Romanian attitudes toward the Holocaust changed dramatically. The President and political leaders, as well as those of the historic churches and public opinion, accepted its historical truth. A law

against anti-Semitism was passed and it was decided to study the Holocaust in schools, Holocaust museums were set up, and a Holocaust Memorial Day is to be celebrated. In consequence, 2004 was the most blessed year in the history of Romanian agriculture.

During this period TJCI was expanding its vision into the Eastern Church, especially the Romanian Orthodox Church. It is a divine orchestration of God's plan to prepare His Church for the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The dialogue brought about by the TJCI Conference in October 2006 at the Monastery of Sambata de Sus, astonished us by its openness and harmony. We realized that the outpouring of the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ can only be achieved through the healing of His Body and by not shutting out the Church of Israel. The emergence of the Messianic movement compels us to heal the relationships among the Christian Churches and to welcome the Jews that believe that Yeshua of Nazareth is the Messiah.

As Coordinator of the International Prayer Council for Central and Eastern Europe I can see a radical change for good in acknowledgment of the role of Israel in God's plan for salvation in the end times, an open attitude toward Messianic Jews in the former communist countries and a widespread abandonment of Replacement Theology.

I believe TJCI has big implications for the future. The healing of the Church globally is and will be one of the most significant eschatological signs and so every true Christian has a duty to celebrate the acknowledging of Yeshua as Israel's Lord and Messiah by the Jewish people, thus contributing to this healing.

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