

- Inside this Issue:*
- For Such a Time as this by Rev'd Timothy Butlin
 - The Russian-Speaking Messianic Jewish Movement by Dr. Dan Juster with Vladimir Pikman Th. M.

DOORS OPEN FOR TJCII IN ARGENTINA

BY AGUSTIN MARSAL, *TJCII Coordinator in Argentina*

In February Rabbi Marty Waldman, Fr Peter Hocken and Dave Pyles, three members of TJCII international, came to Argentina to meet with Rev Agustin Marsal (of the Anglican Church), and both Julia Torres and Fr Fernando Giannetti (of the Catholic Church), and many others to share the TJCII vision. The message was very well received and many new contacts were made and relationships forged.



Rabbi Marty Waldman and Rev Agustin Marsal at the Anglican Church in Buenos Aires

The TJCII members had an interview with Messianic Rabbi Ricardo Chemi, as well as a meeting with Pastor Norberto Saracco who is a key Pentecostal leader in Argentina, who were both very interested in the TJCII vision. The TJCII International Team shared a Shabbat dinner with a Catholic Bible Group (organized by Julia Torres). On Saturday, there was a conference with 30 participants from the Anglican and Catholic Church, with a wonderful time of worship followed by teachings on the TJCII vision and related scriptures by Rabbi Marty Waldman and Fr Peter Hocken.

On Sunday there was a meeting hosted by Rabbi Marty Waldman and David Pyles with Baptist missionary Richard Kunz. That evening the TJCII International Team visited the Iglesia del Buen Pastor (The Church of the Good Shepherd) led by Rev Agustin Marsal. A wonderful time of worship was followed by Rabbi Marty Waldman preaching. The congregation was deeply touched. Refreshments and a time of fellowship with some leaders followed. The TJCII vision was very well received.

The following day we met with Pastor Juan Bongarrá and a group of Evangelical pastors where Rabbi Waldman again shared the TJCII Vision. Some of these pastors also showed interest. The TJCII Team had lunch with Fr Pedro Torres, Executive Secretary for Ecumenism in the Catholic Bishops

Conference of Argentina. He also was very open to the message of the TJCII Vision.

Later that afternoon a **special meeting took place with the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio (now Pope Francis)**. After hearing Rabbi Waldman's testimony he said: **"This is from the Lord"** and when asked about the first steps to take with the vision in Buenos Aires, he answered: **"To ask wisdom from the Lord and to pay attention to the way He is going to show us."** His last words were: **"You can count on me."** This meeting was very important because **three weeks later he was elected Pope!** Evidently it was the Lord's timing for the TJCII vision and opens tremendous possibilities for the future!

Fr Peter Hocken was able to share the TJCII vision at a meeting with Pastor Norberto Saracco and some leading Pentecostal Pastors from Chile, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador, which Julia Torres also attended. He shared a biblical meditation with the Board of the Bible Society of Argentina based on Romans 15:7-13. One of the pastors said: **"I have taught the Book of Romans for years and had never seen this before (about the Jewish and Gentile believers)!"** Fr Peter also suggested some useful ideas for the future to Rev. Agustin Marsal and Julia Torres. He was also able to fit in some meetings with Catholic charismatic leaders and to visit the parish of Fr Fernando while in Argentina.

Before their departure, Rabbi Marty Waldman stressed the importance at this stage to build up the TJCII Intercessory Group in Argentina. As a result, the TJCII Intercession booklet has already been translated into Spanish and distributed among the intercessors, being led by Maria Pibernus (Anglican Church).

TJCII

PRAYER IS REQUESTED for our TJCII Team in Argentina:

Rev. Agustin Marsal; Julia Torres;
Fr Fernando Giannetti (all in Buenos Aires).
Please pray also for Maria Pibernus,
intercessory prayer leader In Argentina.



For Such a Time as This?

By Timothy Butlin (*Anglican vicar, Loudwater, England*)

Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? (*Esther 4:14*)

The leadership conference run by a local church in the centre of London might not appear to herald a season of opportunity for those whose heart-cry is for the TJCII vision. But **Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB)**, in London's fashionable area of Knightsbridge, is **no ordinary local church**. It is a multi-site church with 11 congregations worshipping on Sunday and a string of church-plants across the capital. It is also the birthplace of the Alpha Course, an introduction to Christianity running in 163 countries, already attended by over 22 million people. HTB is certainly the most influential church in the UK.

In his opening address at this May's conference, the senior leader and Anglican Vicar, Rev'd Nicky Gumbel, disclosed that 2012 had been a year in which he discovered the extent of his own Jewish heritage and the painful past that it carried, with many members he had never known lost in the Shoah. His family had been researched by a museum in Berlin and he had been linked to Jewish relatives he had never known, or known about. All this was by way of a sermon illustration, but it did set a scene for what was to follow.



Rev'd Nicky Gumbel and Cardinal Christoph Schönborn

The conference's first main guest speaker was the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Rev'd Justin Welby. The British Press are notorious for digging up skeletons from unexpected places with which to embarrass unsuspecting public figures. That's what journalists do, and so it was no surprise when, on his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of 2012, Justin Welby was given such treatment. What was a surprise to him, and to everyone else, was to discover that he also had a German-Jewish father, and an unknown family lost in the Shoah – and this already alongside a personal history of positive statements about Jewish people and a heart for reconciliation.

What these two men make of their recently begun journey into their Jewish past, and the implications this might have in their respective positions of leadership in the church worldwide, remains to be seen. But a clear sense of direction was offered by the conference's next guest speaker. Following immediately after Justin Welby, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, the

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vienna, was Rev'd Gumbel's second interviewee of the morning. The topic of conversation was to do with leadership in the church but the conclusion to the interview was as much of a surprise to the audience as what had gone before.

Link to the video of the interview:

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/66252031?title>

“I think the deepest wound, in the Body of Christ, . . . is the wound between Israel and the Gentiles. . . . I think we are called to ask the Lord to heal this deepest wound when it is His time.”

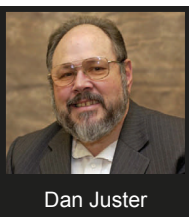
Rev'd Gumbel invited the Cardinal to bring a closing message with the words, “There are five and a half thousand people here. There are thousands more watching this online and I know everyone has appreciated your presence here. Is there any message you have to encourage everyone here?”

The Cardinal responded, “Yes, I want to say one thing: I was so impressed with what you said yesterday, about your father and what Archbishop Justin told about his father. You have both German-Jewish fathers. And I think the deepest wound, in the Body of Christ, the unique Body of Christ, is the wound between Israel and the Gentiles. And in your body, and in your life, and in Archbishop Justin's life, and a little bit also in my own life; I think we are called to ask the Lord to heal this deepest wound when it is His time.”

And so it was that at this year's HTB Leadership Conference, attended by 5700 people with a live stream watched by a further 60,000 online, a Catholic Cardinal in a Protestant country publically created (or acknowledged) a season of opportunity for the church in the UK to play its part in healing the deepest wound in the history of the Body of Messiah – this healing being precisely the vision of TJCII. And he invited the Church of England's two most prominent leaders to play their own leadership role in the process. Has the significance of the moment been fully understood? How will we respond? Time will tell. **TJCII**

The Russian-Speaking Messianic Jewish Movement

By Daniel C. Juster, Th. D. with Vladimir Pikman Th. M.



Dan Juster



Vladimir Pikman

The fall of the Soviet Union provided an amazing opportunity for Jewish outreach. I was personally acquainted with friends in ministry that were reporting amazing opportunities. A few of my friends reported that they had opportunity to **share the Gospel from the beema (stage) in synagogues in various cities.**

The modern Messianic Movement in the former Soviet Union began in Kiev, Ukraine, in 1989. Sam Nadler, at that time the president of Chosen People Ministries, preached in a church where 70 Jewish people came to Yeshua and the first Messianic Congregation was started. It was led by Vladimir Vainer. This expanded to two congregations in Kiev and then one in Kharkov and one in Lvov. There was indeed a revival atmosphere beginning that drew others to the former Soviet Union.

In this context Jonathan Bernis, in the early 90s, a member of our TJCII Executive Committee shared his vision for music festivals in the former Soviet Union. The context was a three day gathering for fasting and prayer for the Messianic Jewish Movement. With others I affirmed his vision and expected success but did not expect the astonishing results that followed.



Boris Grisenko, leader of a network of Messianic Jewish Congregations in the Ukraine

The campaigns began in St. Petersburg where 4,000 people made professions of faith. Half were Jewish. Soon Jonathan was leading the largest Messianic Jewish congregation in the world in St. Petersburg. Then it was on to Moscow, Odessa, and Kiev where there were more astonishing results and responses from multiplied thousands. Congregations were planted in all of these cities, and some of us sent leaders to help pastor and disciple in these new congregations. These congregations continue today. The most noteworthy congregation is led by Boris Grisenko in Kiev, Ukraine with over 1,600 people, and by his counting, the majority of whom are Jewish. Boris leads a network of these congregations in Ukraine and also has influence in Russia. Another smaller network is led by David Schneier who was sent from our congregation in Maryland to work in Odessa. The congregations connected to Jonathan are quite Holy Spirit oriented.

Other planting efforts were undertaken during this same period. Rabbi Michael Schiffman, from the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations in the United States, planted many smaller congregations that came out of his humanitarian work. Other individuals who caught a vision for new congregations planted many groups. Chosen People Ministries under Mitch Glazer has been involved in spurring congregations. Jews for Jesus has also been a partner to the congregations in Russia and Ukraine and was part of the early beginnings in the early 90's.

In the earlier part of this century, Michael Becker was instrumental in forming a Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations of Russia. This union explicitly notes a place for the five ministry gifts of Ephesians 4:11 and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are other associations and streams as well. The Russian speaking movement has also spread to Israel, Germany and the United States.

There are several gatherings of congregational leaders; under the leadership of Boris Grisenko in Ukraine and sponsored by Mitch Glazer that meets in Jerusalem and sometimes in the former Soviet Union. When mixing with these leaders, I have found people of all Messianic Jewish orientations, from more traditional to less traditional both in worship style and general Jewish observance.

(continued on Page 4)

The Russian-Speaking Messianic Jewish Movement

By Daniel C. Juster, Th. D. with Vladimir Pikman Th. M.

(continued from Page 3)

Russia is so very large that it is hard to approximate the number of the messianic believers and congregations in Russian-speaking communities. For example, in large cities there are multiple congregations (Moscow, 10; St. Petersburg, 14; Kiev, 8) and many small towns, especially in Ukraine, have at least one or two congregations associated with various alliances, unions, mother congregations etc. The majority are quite independent. Those in associations gather at annual conferences. A large overarching conference takes place every three years, the last one in Kiev in 2012.

The days of the large campaigns are past, but the numbers of people in the movements in Russia and Ukraine continue to expand. Conservatively there are probably more than one hundred congregations. However, in the past few years, new pockets of revival have broken out in Siberia and the Russian Far East, leading to the establishment of new messianic congregations in those regions. Two Bible School programs, one in Odessa and one in St. Petersburg are maintained by the Messianic Jewish Bible Institute with an adjunct program soon beginning in Kiev. In addition, there are educational programs from the UMJC, Beit Sar Shalom (Berlin), and the Kiev Messianic Congregation.

The Russian movement is very Bible-based and oriented toward righteousness, biblical ethics and God's commandments. The Russian-speaking Messianic Jews have a great calling and role to play.

TJCII

Dr. Dan Juster has been involved in the leadership of the Messianic Jewish movement since 1971. He is the Senior Apostle and Director of Tikkun International ministries, a network of organizations dedicated to the restoration of Israel and the Church.

Vladimir Pikman Th. M. is the Leader and Rabbi at Beit Sar Shalom Ministries and Congregation in Berlin, Germany.

May we send you the TJCII Communiqué electronically? In this way you could help us at TJCII be even better stewards. As the cost of postage escalates, we feel compelled to use email wherever possible. Please send us your email address at egs@tjcii.org and thank you for your generosity.



Published by TJCII, a non-profit initiative which began in 1995.
Executive General Secretary:
Marty Waldman
Editor: Carole Wright
Website: www.tjcii.org
Email: egs@tjcii.org

You may make tax-deductible donations on line at www.tjcii.org, or send them to:

TJCII
6304 Belt Line Road
Dallas, Texas 75254
USA

The Aims of TJCII Include:

- Proclaim the restoration of Jewish believers in the Body of Messiah
- Foster repentance for the historic suppression of the Messianic Jewish witness of Yeshua (Jesus), the Messiah
- Further the calling and election of Israel and the Messianic Jewish Community through intercessory prayer, teachings, and diplomacy
- Facilitate reconciliation and unity between Christians and Messianic Jews