

HANDBOOK FOR TJCII INTERCESSORS

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Revised 2022

Toward Jerusalem Council II

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Intercession within the Work of TJCII

When the first structures were established in TJCII in 1996, a Spiritual working group was established that took responsibility for the organization of prayer journeys undertaken in 1998 and 1999. When TJCII was re-structured in October 2000, “it was recognized that the Spiritual working group would have two major responsibilities: (1) to encourage more prayer journeys as appropriate for the expression of repentance for sins against the Jewish expression of the Church and (2) to organize intercessory prayer support for every aspect of the work of TJCII.”

The call of the TJCII intercessors is to intercede on behalf of the body of Messiah for the reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles. We pray for the healing and restoration of Christians and Jewish believers in Yeshua, especially the whole Messianic Jewish movement, and for a second Council of Jerusalem in preparation for the return of Yeshua to the earth.

The Importance of Intercession in TJCII

The work of TJCII has many dimensions. They have been classified as diplomatic, promotional, spiritual and theological. However, we must understand that the whole calling of TJCII is a profoundly spiritual task. The vision of TJCII is a radical vision that calls for a reversal of the way that the whole Body of Christ (Messiah) and most of all the Churches have treated Jewish believers in Yeshua

throughout almost all Christian history. Such a radical vision calls forth deep opposition that expresses itself in many ways. But the deepest opposition is the spiritual opposition of the powers of darkness for whom the concept that God has rejected the Jewish people is a mighty stronghold. For this reason above all, TJCII can only move forward toward the realization of its goal of Jewish-Gentile reconciliation in the Body of Messiah when it is being prepared and accompanied by a constant and deep work of intercession that is humbly repentant for the historical deviations from God's plan for his chosen people and their role in the Body of Messiah. In fact, it took the TJCII leaders several years to wake up to this realization.

In the first years there were people praying for TJCII and in 1998-99 prayer teams accompanied the executive members on some key journeys to sites of great historical significance. But there was at that time no regular organized intercession for TJCII. The depth of the spiritual opposition to the TJCII Vision became much clearer around 1999-2000, when the initiative almost collapsed.

When the executive committee re-grouped in October 2000, a new importance was given to the Spiritual Working Group and it was realized that a strong intercessory base for TJCII had to be developed. David and Raquel Pyles of Dallas, Texas, were then asked to take on responsibility for the international oversight of the intercession for TJCII under the guidance of the executive members responsible for the Spiritual Working Group. Since that time, TJCII intercessory groups have been established in 29 countries. In addition intercessors have been present on site during the executive meetings and at every consultation held to promote the TJCII vision. Throughout this

history it has become clear that the spiritual dimension in the work of TJCII has been growing in importance as the initiative has been moving forward.

Understanding the Call of TJCII

It is an essential requirement for all called to become TJCII intercessors that they understand the distinctiveness of the call of TJCII. It is not enough that newcomers to TJCII intercessory groups and teams are experienced intercessors. The distinctiveness of this call was expressed in the first TJCII booklet in this way: “TJCII is a sharply focused initiative. It is wholly directed toward the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile in the one body.” It is “a single-focus initiative”. Just as the TJCII leadership has to focus on this one goal, so it is essential that the TJCII intercessors are focused on this one goal in their intercession. Because TJCII intercessors are drawn from people to whom the Lord has given a real love for the Jewish people, it is natural that participants in TJCII should also support other Israel related causes. The TJCII leadership does not discourage other Israel-related activities in principle, but they must not be confused with TJCII. The progress of TJCII requires that it concentrates on its sole purpose and as a group initiative does not allow itself to be drawn into other issues not clearly related to the mutual recognition of Jewish and Gentile believers, personally and corporately. This single focus requires discipline and vigilance, particularly among the leaders of TJCII intercession that the prayer is not led off into other areas by enthusiasts who do not have a clear grasp of the TJCII vision. For this reason, it is essential that all new participants in TJCII

intercessory groups have and then deepen their understanding of this vision.

The single-focus of TJCII is related to the vision to reach all parts of the Messianic Jewish movement and every Church and community honoring Jesus Christ as unique Lord and Savior. No other Israel related initiative has and seeks the support of leaders from such a range of Churches. This breadth is at the heart of the TJCII vision for which it is fundamental that all Christian bodies repudiate the historic rejection of the Jewish people and so contribute to healing all the wounds of history to the “one body”. For these reasons, it is also necessary that all TJCII intercessors be open to praying with fellow believers from all participating Churches and communities.

Toward Jerusalem

Within TJCII the understanding of the vision has been growing as the initiative has advanced. In particular, through the coming together of TJCII and the Jerusalem Olive Tree Fellowship, the Lord has been emphasizing that the whole initiative is “toward Jerusalem”. This makes it particularly important that a strong intercessory base for TJCII is formed in the land of Israel, and especially in Jerusalem. A group has now been formed in Jerusalem lead by Bracha Cale. This group, started in 2015, is an answer to much prayer!

TJCII Intercessors and the TJCII Leadership

From the beginning the leadership of TJCII and the intercessory coordinators have been bound closely together. The unity between the leadership and the intercessors is foundational for the whole work of TJCII. The guidelines offered in this Handbook have been prepared jointly in collaboration with the TJCII international executive and the intercessory coordinators. From 2009, the existing TJCII intercessory groups have been an integral element in the development of TJCII. Although they have arisen in slightly different ways, they have always had strong relationships with one of the leaders responsible for the Spiritual working group (in 2009 David Rudolph and Peter Hocken) or with another member of the TJCII executive. It is the view of the executive council that it is more important that developing intercessory groups in TJCII are in close touch with the TJCII leadership than that they all arise in the same way. This decision reflects the important place of relationships in TJCII and the way that the Holy Spirit uses people in different places and situations. With the formation since 2004 of a continental committee for TJCII in Europe and the formation of national groups, the international responsibilities of Dave and Raquel Pyles have changed. The aim is to have a coordinator for TJCII intercession in each continent (or subdivision of a continent) as in Europe since the appointment in 2007 of Ans Leitner of the Netherlands. In this more developed situation the responsibilities of the international coordinator(s) are primarily:

- the supervision of intercessory teams during the TJCII executive meetings;
- the supervision, together with the leaders of the Spiritual Working Group, of teams for TJCII prayer journeys addressing global TJCII concerns;

- the coordination of communication between TJCII intercession coordinators in Europe and other continents.

As the structures of TJCII further develop, e.g. with the formation in TJCII of continental and national groups, an intercessory group needs to be put in place to pray for each new development and for the new continent, region or nation being reached. It is also important that good communications exist between each TJCII intercessory group and the local TJCII leadership.

The more normal pattern has been for a TJCII leadership to be formed and the intercessory work then develops out of the work of the national or regional team. But in a few cases, as in Hungary, it can be that an intercessory group has been formed before a national leadership is in place and is then praying that a national leadership team can be formed. In terms of national groups, geography often determines what is possible. In smaller and more compact countries like the Netherlands and Ireland, it is much easier to organize a national intercessory team that can meet regularly than in larger countries like France.

The first responsibility for organizing the pattern of TJCII intercession in their nation belongs to the national leadership team, who should discern the best way to organize this in their situation with its particular opportunities and possibilities (see also under “New Groups of TJCII Intercessors” below).

As the TJCII executive plans the further promotion of TJCII throughout the world, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, any emerging leadership on these continents will be reminded of the

importance of establishing intercessory groups and of the principles set out in this Handbook.

It is the responsibility of the leadership in all TJCII intercessory groups to ensure a proper balance between praying for the local needs of TJCII, and praying for the wider needs, especially for the TJCII executive. The executive members are grateful for the prayer cover and support of those intercessors who have committed to pray regularly for them personally.

The Intercessory Task in TJCII

There are two major intercessory tasks in TJCII corresponding to two distinct forms of spiritual opposition to the initiative and its goals. These two tasks are (1) dealing with the spiritual opposition to the advancement of the vision; (2) dealing with the centuries-old strongholds that the enemy has established in the Churches and among the Jewish people that must be removed before the TJCII vision can be welcomed and supported.

Dealing with Spiritual Attacks

The first task is a constant need. It is a responsibility of each TJCII intercessory group and prayer team. In this respect the role of the TJCII intercessors is first to surround this initiative and those serving it with worship and prayer.

The particular tasks are:

- thanking the Lord for His grace and favor on this initiative;
- praying for the protection of all involved, including their families;
- praying for the Messianic Jewish movement, and its response to TJCII, particularly in Israel and in Jerusalem;
- praying for TJCII gatherings, both international and more regional or local;
- praying for the TJCII vision to be accepted by the leadership of the churches and denominations;
- seeking light from the Lord on current TJCII events and plans;
- praying, as the Holy Spirit leads, for the Lord to deal with or thwart the hindrances, distractions and other tools that the enemy uses to hinder the advance of TJCII;
- praying for the necessary finances to carry forward the TJCII Vision.

Pulling Down the Strongholds

The second task involves the identification and the removal of the spiritual strongholds that block the realization of the goals of TJCII. Some of these strongholds are international or have international ramifications, others are more regional or local.

Those that have global or inter-continental dimensions are directly the concern of the Spiritual leaders on the executive together with the international prayer coordinators (as with everything concerned with the Marrano issue). Those that are more regional and local are directly the concern of regional leadership and prayer coordinators. However in all issues of major spiritual strongholds, it is essential that proposals and reports are circulated widely which provides a higher level of spiritual protection.

The pulling down of strongholds featured prominently in the four prayer journeys made in 1998 – 1999, when the executive and intercessors visited Spain, Rome, Nicea (Turkey) and Israel (Jerusalem and Yavneh). We were specifically addressing in repentant prayer the major sins of Christian history against the Jewish people and particularly against any Jewish expression of the Church. There was also an element of this form of repentant prayer concerning the Catholic treatment of the Marranos during the TJCII visit to Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2005. This form of strategic prayer requires additional preparation and protection over and beyond the regular prayer of intercession.

In particular, it requires:

- careful research into the history, discerning between scholarly books based on extensive research and popularizations simply repeating what other popularizations have said and often repeating their errors (many of the best scholarly books on the Church oppression of the Jewish people have been written by Jewish scholars – not Messianic);
- a careful avoidance of all forms of judgment (“Do not judge, or you too will be judged” Matt. 7: 1) and of praying “against” any persons or groups apart from the devil and his minions;
- a greater spiritual maturity in the participants, who are coming into situations of greater danger by directly attacking the Strongholds.

Qualifications for TJCII Intercessors

It is vital for the proper functioning of the TJCII intercessory groups that only spiritually qualified persons be admitted. This is even more important for the composition of the intercessory team praying during executive meetings and major conferences.

The following qualities are looked for in each candidate to become a TJCII intercessor:

- a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- an openness to the leading and to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- the evidence of a holy life according to the Ten Commandments and to the teaching of Jesus Christ and the apostles as this is transmitted to us in the New Testament.
- acceptance of and faith in the revealed truths taught in the Scriptures concerning:
 - a) the election of Israel as God's covenant people,
 - b) the Messianic promises of the Lord to Israel that have never been revoked,
 - c) the place of Israel in God's plan, particularly in the end- times,
 - d) the falseness of the grave error in replacement teaching that says that the Church has replaced Israel as God's chosen people;

- a love for the whole body of Christ and a desire to work and pray for the realization of the prayer of Jesus that “all may be one” (John 17: 21);
- a heart for the Messianic Jews;
- an understanding of the practice of identificational repentance (representative confession).

The candidate to become a TJCII intercessor should also show signs of:

- a call to become a TJCII intercessor, and not merely an interest in TJCII;
- a willingness to make their own the concerns of TJCII;
- a readiness to make a commitment to TJCII and to the other intercessors and to enable these relationships to grow along with a servant spirit;
- a readiness to participate regularly in the TJCII intercessory meetings and to take personal prayer time for TJCII;
- a willingness to go forward in greater depth with the prayer needs and the prayer responses;
- a willingness to accept the authority of the leaders of TJCII and of those responsible for the work of intercession (at international, regional and local levels).

The Selection of New Intercessors

It is the responsibility of the leaders of each TJCII intercessory group to give invitations to potential new intercessors and to discern their suitability in the light of the above qualifications. It is strongly recommended that potential new members who appear to fulfil the necessary requirements be first invited as guests with a period of probation being established before they are officially invited to join. But it is important that before any invitation is given the potential candidate has some understanding of the distinctiveness of TJCII (see the section on Understanding the Call of TJCII).

Procedures may be established for potential new members to follow (the Dallas leadership has an application form to be completed), but no uniform procedure will work in all situations. What is essential is that there is a firm recommendation from someone with close knowledge of the potential new intercessor (in Dallas their pastor is asked to endorse the application). It can be helpful to ask the candidate to provide an account of their personal testimony of their faith journey and how they received a love for Israel.

When a period of probation is completed, the local leadership will form a judgment as to the candidate's stability and commitment (have they participated regularly during the time of probation?) and as to their understanding of TJCII (see section on Formation below). Regular members may be asked informally for their discernment.

Formation for TJCII Intercessors

It is important that the intercessors be well-informed about the TJCII vision, its history and its principles and that they have an understanding of repentance for the sins of the past at both a personal and a corporate level.

In particular, it is essential that all the intercessors understand and accept the breadth and range of the TJCII vision. All TJCII intercessors need to identify with the TJCII vision of reaching all Jewish believers in Yeshua and all the Christian Churches and denominations (Catholic and Orthodox, Eastern and Western, Reformation, Evangelical and Pentecostal). Formation may need to address directly the limited horizons and knowledge of potential and new intercessors. Among new TJCII intercessors experienced in praying for Israel but only in Evangelical – Pentecostal contexts, it may be necessary to pray for deliverance from deep-rooted suspicions of the historic Churches. Among new TJCII intercessors, who are experienced in wider intercession, but not in relation to the Jewish people or to Messianic Jews, they may need deliverance from deep-rooted patterns of replacement thinking.

TJCII intercessors are encouraged to read and to study the Scriptures together with the history and the theology concerning the call and role of Israel in the plan of God and their place within the Body of Messiah. We encourage them to read the materials written by TJCII executive members listed at the end of this booklet and participate in courses provided by TJCII.

It is recommended that where possible the leaders of TJCII intercession groups organize a teaching or formation session to promote a deeper grasp of the vision. Advantage should be taken of visits from TJCII executive members to other regions and nations. The TJCII intercessors are encouraged to make known their needs concerning the formation they need for this task.

The Commitment of TJCII Intercessors

A basic commitment is required from each person accepted as a TJCII intercessor. Our intercessors commit to praying each week for TJCII and whenever a prayer request is issued. The amount of time spent praying for TJCII each week is determined by each intercessor. They also agree to accept and respect the leadership of the intercessory group.

New Groups of TJCII Intercessors

The TJCII leadership wishes to encourage the formation of new TJCII intercessory groups, because of the importance of the whole work of TJCII being covered by intercessory prayer. Each newly formed leadership group in TJCII should make it a priority to develop an intercessory group in their nation or region of responsibility. Care should be taken in the formation of new TJCII intercessor groups that the requirements outlined in this Handbook are fulfilled. Obviously the TJCII leadership cannot lay down requirements about anyone

who wants to pray for TJCII. Here we address first the formation of groups specifically to pray regularly for TJCII and to be given the designation “TJCII intercessory groups”. This should not happen without the knowledge and approval of the relevant TJCII leadership. In particular, the designation of one or two persons as leader of a new TJCII intercessory group should only be done by the TJCII leadership of the area being covered. It may be that a new group begins without it yet being clear who has the gifting and calling to be named as leader. In this case, the participants can decide how the prayer is led, but nobody should be called the leader without authorization within TJCII.

There are some instances of people deeply committed to intercede for TJCII but who are not part of a TJCII intercessory group because there is not yet any other intercessor in their region willing to join in forming a TJCII group. In this case, it is important that their names are known both to the national leadership (if any) and to those responsible for sending out the TJCII prayer letters. Some of these people have already taken part in the intercessory team for TJCII international events, which is an excellent way (assuming the necessary maturity and understanding) for these isolated intercessors to be part of wider TJCII events.

There are also many other groups devoted to prayer and intercession that want to pray for TJCII within the framework of their meetings, but where it is not appropriate or desired to form a separate TJCII intercession group. Obviously for these groups many of the guidelines in this Handbook do not apply, but we strongly encourage the leaders of these groups to be well-informed about TJCII and to receive the

TJCII Prayer Letters. The same applies to convent communities that express an interest in praying for TJCII. We encourage all such groups that include significant times of prayer for TJCII within wider concerns to appoint someone to be a liaison with the TJCII prayer coordinators, both to receive information and to send in any reports of what the Lord has placed on their hearts.

Communication between Leaders and Intercessors

Effective communication is essential for the proper functioning of the TJCII intercessory groups. For this purpose, TJCII prayer letters are circulated from Dallas and in Europe concerning the current prayer needs of the TJCII initiative. But communication is a twoway street. The local TJCII leadership and the local TJCII intercessors need to inform the continental leadership of the particular prayer needs for TJCII in their own areas of responsibility. It is also important to send in “Praise reports” of positive fruit being seen as well as lists of needs and problems.

On the one hand, we do not want to overburden ourselves with complex structures, but on the other hand, we do need effective communication at the various levels: between the responsible executive leaders, the international coordinators, the continental coordinators, the national coordinators and the respective TJCII offices.

TJCII Booklets

Peter Hocken *Toward Jerusalem Council II: The Vision and the Story* (2nd edn. Ventura, Ca., 2004)

Dan Juster and Peter Hocken *The Messianic Jewish Movement: An Introduction* (Ventura, Ca., 2004)

Peter Hocken *The Marranos: A History in Need of Healing*
(TJCII, Dallas, 2006)

Toward Jerusalem Council : Vision, Origin and Docunmtse
(TJCII, Dallas, 2010)

Written Materials by TJCII Committee Members

John Dawson *Healing America's Wounds* (Regal, Ventura, 1994)

John Dawson *What Christians Should Know About Reconciliation* (IRC, Ventura, Ca. 1998)

Don Finto *Your People Shall be My People* (Regal, Ventura, 2001)

Don Finto *God's Promise and the Future of Israel* (Regal, Ventura, Ca., 2006)

Peter Hocken *The Glory and the Shame* (Eagle, Guildford, UK, 1994)

Dan Juster *Jewish Roots: A Foundation of Biblical Theology*
(Destiny Image, Shippenburg, Pa., 1995)

Daniel C. Juster *That They May be One* (Lederer Books, Clarksville, MD 1999/2009).

Dan Juster *The Irrevocable Calling* (Tikkun, Gaithersburg, MD, 1996).