

LCJE President's Report  
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Sunday, 2015 August 16

Psalm 125:1-2 [ESV]

*Those who trust in the Lord are like Mt. Zion,  
Which cannot be moved but abides forever.*

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
So the Lord surrounds His people  
From this time forth and forever.*

The Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism convenes our 10<sup>th</sup> international quadrennial conference with the reading of Scripture and a prayer.

We are gathered within those mountains surrounding this City of Jerusalem. In this setting, the good news of salvation in Yeshua was unsealed at His empty tomb. Excitement built in nearby neighborhoods with the first word that "He is risen." After that Passover week, and again 50 days later, after the Shavuot event at the *Sha'ar Yaffa* (Beautiful Gate), new believers carried that gospel (*besorah*) message out from this community into the Jewish Diaspora. The message penetrated the nations that were once far from the grace of God. It has transformed the lives of Jews and Gentiles, yours and mine. Yeshua has changed the world.

Historian Kenneth Scott Lattourette said, "As the centuries pass, the evidence is accumulating that, measured by His effect on history, Jesus is the most influential life ever lived on this planet."

That same good news of Yeshua is reaching Jewish generations in our time. We are energized by news of what the Lord is doing in our day. We are blessed to reflect on what has already been done. We have renewed hope for what is yet possible.

I am reminded that the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism is the only international network of Jewish evangelism efforts in the world today. We are mission workers, denominational delegates, congregational representatives and interested partners. Among us are mission executives, area leaders, field workers, theologians, Missiologists, practitioners, teachers, mobilizers, specialists and general missionaries. We welcome observers, and our guests, our brothers and sisters in Messiah Yeshua.

Others before us have met in similar conferences. Those first believers who returned to this city with reports of the gospel outbreak among the Gentiles up north in Antioch; do you think they realized the impact of their discussions? They certainly didn't know that they were writing chapter 15 in *The Acts of the Apostles*.

What if, those workers who attended the Jewish mission conferences in the early 1900's could have known the enormous tragedy that would befall the Jewish people by mid-century? Their reports by the 1930s, tell us that many saw what was coming. And how privileged we are, who followed them through the 1970s, to witness subsequent Jewish spiritual awakenings in North America, Europe, Eastern Europe and here in Israel.

What will others benefit from our reports this week? Think about how you can further the work of Jewish evangelism. Look for those new ideas, methods or partnerships. Pray that the Holy Spirit provides wisdom and faith to trust Him for whatever shall do after this gathering.

*What have we been doing since High Leigh?*

What has our network accomplished since the 9<sup>th</sup> International LCJE at the High Leigh Conference Center in 2011? First, our relationship with the larger Lausanne Movement has improved and our connection is strengthened. We have been fully embraced as one of the 36 Issue Networks of the Lausanne Movement. We reciprocate by sharing the Lausanne logo, web link and the words, "Connecting Influencer and Ideas for Global Mission" on our website.

The Lausanne Board of Directors has invited Bodil Skjøtt and I to serve as Senior Associates for Jewish Evangelism. We function as liaisons and communication links with the Lausanne Movement and our LCJE network. The presence of Michael Oh, Lausanne Executive Director/ CEO, and Grace Matthews, Vice-Chair Lausanne Board of Directors, is a bright signal of the closer working relationship between the larger international movement and our network.

The North American LCJE network continued to meet annually between 2011 and through 2015. In 2014 alone the Israel LCJE network met in Tel Aviv. The European LCJE network held two conferences. Its 10<sup>th</sup> conference in Kiev, Ukraine, proved to be an important time of fellowship in the face of mounting political strife in the region. A subsequent conference was held in the fall to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Messianic Movement Restoration in Kishinev, Moldova.

In October, the South African network held its bi-annual meeting in Cape Town with 150 attending. The LCJE Japan prayer network celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with September meetings in Osaka and Tokyo. Reports from these and gatherings of the networks Latin America and China have been reported online at lcje.net and in the LCJE *Bulletin*.

At the 9th International Conference, your International Coordinating Committee was asked to arrange a fourth LCJE CEO's conference. That was in May of 2013 in Basil, Switzerland with 37 participants attending. They discussed social and political contexts of current Jewish evangelism ministry. Key discussion topics included the use of Internet and media for evangelism, women in Jewish ministry and how to serve and include the next generation in Jewish evangelism. At our 35<sup>th</sup> year, the LCJE network is an important subject at all of our conferences.

### *What We Will Do Here in Jerusalem*

So that's where we have been active. Now for a reminder of what we will do here. Our five-fold network activities are stated in our charter.

- Share information and resources
- Study current trends
- Stimulate one another's thinking on theological and Missiological issues
- Strategize on a global level so more Jewish people will hear and consider the good news of Jesus
- Arrange consultations that will be useful to those engaged in Jewish evangelism

Our general meetings this week are where we hear reports from the ICC and provide feedback about network business. We will elect the four members of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) to do official business on behalf of the network. Those four members are the International Coordinator, the President and two Members-at-Large. Rules and procedures for nominations and election are available online. You will also be electing regional coordinators in separate gatherings of your area networks.

*How will we relate to one another?*

Our purposes state that we are here to share and study, stimulate and strategize together. You will note that none of those purposes states that we are here to *synchronize* our efforts. God has called each of us to serve Him. We all do that with many unique capacities, methodologies and...personalities.

We can all rejoice and agree that Jesus is the only Savior of Jews and Gentiles. No one can come to the Father but through Him. We delight to hear what God is doing among, around and through His people.

We respect that our Lord calls each of us into our specific areas and methods of evangelism. Therefore, we need to listen to one another with patience and respect. The Lord is using each of us in our unique ministries to accomplish His purposes. As the Lord's servants, we ought to prefer one another above ourselves. We need not agree with one another. I don't expect that to happen in this life anyway! We trust that "iron sharpens iron," but we want to be careful that no one gets sliced up in the process! So, let us regard one another as servants of the Messiah Yeshua. I'm confident that He shapes each of us.

As a network, we are not trying to coordinate the efforts of all our members. That isn't one of our five purposes. We do want to connect and stimulate ideas for global mission.

I personally believe in the need for the LCJE network. I believe we need one another. I understand why Moishe Rosen said that if the LCJE network did not exist then we would have to create such a network. Even as the mountains surround the City of Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds us, His people. That is true for all and forever. I pray that He meets us all during this week. Let's pray.