

Update LCJE South Africa
by Cecilia Burger, LCJE Coordinator for South Africa

Greetings from LCJE South Africa! I'm pleased to mention that, apart from myself, five members from South Africa are attending the conference this year – John Atkinson (CMJ), Manfred & Isit Nochomowitz (Emet Ministries) and Michael & Teresa Sischy (Jews for Jesus).

LCJE Membership

We have 17 members in South Africa – 12 in Cape Town and 5 in Johannesburg. Our members represent the following ministries committed to reaching Jewish people with the gospel:

1. CMJ South Africa in Cape Town with John Atkinson and Edith Sher

Since 2007 John and Edith have been holding quarterly half-day conferences at Christ Church, Kenilworth in Cape Town called *Roots & Shoots*. These conferences focus on the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and draw 300-400 people at a time. They also lead a weekly Bible study which is regularly attended by 70-100 people.

Edith presents a weekly radio programme called *Messiah's People* on a local Christian radio station reaching both Christians and Jews. Many people in South Africa and around the world now listen to the programme via the internet.

2. David and Jonathan Foundation in Cape Town with Jack Carstens promotes covenant friendships between churches in South Africa and Messianic congregations in Israel with the main objective to assist Messianic congregations in spreading the Good News. Recently another partner congregation, Trumpets of Salvation, led by Yacov Damkani, was incorporated as the 12th member to receive donations from the supporters of the Foundation.

To engage the public in efforts to support these congregations, the Foundation holds regular Shabbat meetings during the year. In 2014 the Feast of Tabernacles celebration was attended by over 1000 people.

3. Emet Ministries with Manfred and Isit Nochomowitz in Pretoria

They hold Messianic Shabbat services (with the aim of inviting unsaved Jewish people and reaching them with the gospel), prayer meetings (praying for the salvation of the Jewish people and Israel), teaching seminars and equipping weekends (equipping people to reach Jewish people with the gospel) in the four main cities in South Africa.

In Cape Town Emet Ministries partner with David & Jonathan Foundation and ran a teaching seminar in 2014 with the topic, "How to reach your Jewish neighbour."

4. Jews for Jesus South Africa

Michael and Teresa Sischy are running the Messianic Congregation, Beit Y'shua in Johannesburg, and the Johannesburg work of Jews for Jesus: with weekly Bible studies, Shabbat services and festival celebrations as appropriate in the course of the year. They coined three key words to embody the vision and focus for Beit Y'shua: "Word-Worship-Witness" - creating and making available opportunities for members to engage in all three.

In 2014 they also ran an evangelism seminar "reaching your Jewish neighbour" in partnership with Manfred Nochomowitz of Emet ministries.

One of the highlights of 2014 was an evening celebrating 25 years of Jews for Jesus in South Africa. At this occasion the late Maisie Pillemer, a pioneer in Jewish mission in South Africa was honoured and her biography, *Dared to believe*, was launched.

The year's activities ended on a high note with an evangelistic outreach in Cape Town

with volunteers and staff of Jews for Jesus from the USA and South Africa teaming up under the banner “Arise, shine, your light has come!”

5. Messianic Testimony with Leigh Telli in Cape Town

One of the main areas of her ministry is at a retirement home in Sea Point, Cape Town, which houses a large number of elderly, Jewish residents. Leigh has been ministering there for approximately a decade.

Leigh is often a guest on a Christian community radio station, Radio Tygerberg, and she runs an annual conference where Israeli believers were amongst the speakers for the last couple of years.

6. Simcha Ministry to Jewish People in Cape Town

Both Francois Wessels and I are members of the Beit Ariel Messianic Congregation where we participate in the life of the congregation. Francois often preaches during Shabbat services and I’m involved in helping to organise the celebration of the Jewish festivals particularly the Passover *Seder*. These celebrations provide us with the opportunity to invite Jewish and Christian friends who are not part of the congregation.

Francois is a frequent speaker on the weekly Israel programme of a local Christian radio station. Visits to Jewish friends, and efforts to share the Good News with them, as well as weekly Bible Studies form important parts of the ministry.

Simcha Ministry joined David & Jonathan Foundation in arranging meetings with Jewish believers in Yeshua and other Christians since 2012.

Prayer meetings

The distance of about 1,200 km between Cape Town and Johannesburg makes it difficult for LCJE members to meet regularly. Up to 18 months ago we had bi-monthly prayer meetings for members in Cape Town. I hope to resume these meetings again in the near future.

CONFERENCES

Since the High Leigh International LCJE conference we had two national conferences in Cape Town:

24-25 August 2012 – *He is our Peace (Eph 2:14)*

From 24-25 August LCJE SA hosted a conference with *He is our Peace (Ephesians 2:14)* as the theme. The guest speaker was pastor Umar Mulinde from Uganda. Umar Mulinde is an ex-Muslim, who survived a terrible attack on Christmas Eve 2011. His attacker threw acid into his face and he was badly burnt. He was treated in Sheba Medical Centre in Israel where doctors at one stage feared for his life, but by the grace of God he survived. He arrived in Cape Town ten days after his last operation and by that time he had already had five major operations and there were more to follow.

To hear him fearlessly proclaiming his love for God and the Jewish people inspired us all. He quoted Genesis 50: 20, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Pastor Mulinde told us that in the eight months since the attack he had reached more people with the gospel than during his entire time in ministry.

This was an unique conference bringing believers in Messiah Jesus from diverse backgrounds together. Amongst the 150 who attended there were Messianic Jews, Christians from a Moslem background and other Christians.

31 October – 1 November 2014 - *Our Journey*-Conference

In line with the theme, *Our Journey – meeting the Jewish Messiah*, we had six Jewish believers in Messiah Jesus sharing their testimonies at our LCJE SA conference from 31 Oct – 1 Nov 2014. The idea was to engage in conversation with these believers and to learn from their experiences, so as to be more effective in reaching Jewish people with the Gospel. Many people who attended became aware, once again, of the importance of sharing the gospel with Jewish people. Too often in the past Jewish people have been side-lined.

***Our Journey*-booklet**

We compiled a booklet, *Our Journey – meeting the Jewish Messiah*, available at the conference containing the testimonies of 15 Jewish believers in Yeshua, who found their Messiah in South Africa. At the moment we are in the process of collecting more testimonies. We want to reprint the book to use as a ministry tool.

I thank the Lord for the LCJE network that presents a wonderful platform encouraging co-operation between the various organisations working in the field of Jewish evangelism.