

# An Appeal for Unity

August 1-2, 2006, in San Antonio

As disciples of Messiah Jesus, our highest priority is to be transformed into His image even as we proclaim the Gospel first to the Jewish people and also to the nations in love and in unity. We rejoice with the psalmist in the hope of brothers dwelling together, and serving together, in unity. The LCJE—NA is a network of congregations, organizations and individuals engaged in Jewish evangelism. We seek a broader coalition with the messianic congregational movement recognizing that obstacles to such unity have been erected by some both within and without our constituency. Therefore we present this initiative toward greater unity in order that the Good News of Messiah may be communicated more effectively. As members of the LCJE—NA, meeting in San Antonio, April 18, 2007, wish to express our affirmation of the messianic congregational movement as well as some of our concerns.

## **OUR AFFIRMATIONS:**

1. We praise God for the growth of the messianic congregational movement and believe that it witnesses to the faithfulness of God to preserve a believing remnant among the people of Israel.
2. We thank God that the existence of messianic congregations is a visible and identifiable expression of Jewish faith in the Messiah and believe that they serve as a powerful force to counteract the ever-present tendency toward the assimilation of the Jewish people.
3. We thank God that messianic congregations help to preserve and transmit Jewish identity and heritage to the next generation of Jewish believers and believe that they are especially suited to fight against anti-Semitism within the Church and the world.
4. We praise the God of Israel that messianic congregations serve in the important task of making the Church more sensitive to the Jewishness of Jesus and the Jewishness of the New Testament and believe that they provide a bridge to promote understanding between the Jewish people and the larger Christian community.

Therefore we support the messianic congregational movement and pray that God would bless it with strength and growth to be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

## **OUR CONCERNS:**

1. We view with concern that some believe in the possibility of a right relationship with God apart from a conscious personal confession in this lifetime of Jesus as Messiah and Lord.
2. We view with concern that some non-Jews believe that they can become better believers or deepen their spirituality by converting to messianic Judaism or by adopting certain rabbinic practices that are non-biblical.
3. We view with concern that some within the messianic movement are not properly emphasizing active Jewish outreach.
4. We view with concern that some within the messianic movement inaccurately accuse the evangelical community of engaging in pagan practices.

Therefore we encourage the messianic congregational movement to prayerfully consider our concerns and to continue toward transformation into the image of Messiah Jesus.

Having expressed our affirmations and concerns, we call upon messianic congregations and the entire body of Messiah to do the following:

1. Train and equip its members to sensitively evangelize the Jewish people wherever they are.
2. Encourage Jewish believers to retain, cultivate and nourish their Jewish identity.
3. Teach and promote the biblical mandate for non-Jewish believers to provoke the Jewish people to desire Jesus as their Messiah by their holiness and godly conduct and by proclaiming the Good News.
4. Denounce any expression of anti-Semitism and reject unequivocally both the theology that teaches that God has rejected the Jewish people and the theology that Jewish people may find acceptance with God apart from faith in Jesus.

Above all, we call upon Jewish and Gentile believers to join in humility and mutual respect for the various expressions within the Body of Messiah as a sign of the truth of the Good News of Jesus that the world may know Him and the One who sent Him.