



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Itching Ears???

Jesus and the Apostle Paul did not hesitate to expose, confront, and bring to light the truth about people who were either teaching false doctrine or endangering the cause of the proclamation of the Gospel. Of course Jesus' main targets were the Jewish religious elite of His day who put religion in front of the truth of God.

The rabbis of Jesus' day built rules and regulations around Judaism that created barriers to knowing God personally and through faith. It was not the law that Jesus attacked (after all Jesus was the author of the law) but the misappropriation of the law by the religious leaders. We are all powerless (religious or not) to follow God's law righteously. That's why Jesus came as the Jewish Messiah to the Jewish people.

The Apostle Paul indicted those who put law before grace and faith; and also those who were in doctrinal error. In his battle for the truth of the gospel and the proclamation thereof, he corrected, reprovved, and even condemned those with whom he had differences. He would separate himself from people if the situation required it, and at the same time lovingly pleaded with those in error to turn from their ways and back to the truth. Paul even said that some preach the gospel with pretense, but that whether in pretense or in truth he was glad that Jesus was being proclaimed.

I am in a difficult position in Jewish ministry. **More people in the Christian world are capitalizing on the Middle East conflict, the study of Jewish roots, the plight of underprivileged Jewish people in other parts of the world, and "prophetic" events to build their ministries and organizations.** And many Christians are buying into it, some of it real, some of it hype, and some of it dangerous to the cause of Jewish evangelism.



Wanting to be like Jesus and Paul to the best of my ability I feel it necessary to address some of the issues, give my take, and even give warning to those of you who care about our ministry to the Jewish community as well as who care about the truth of God's Holy Word.

There is a bit of a danger on my part from giving warnings about other ministry leaders in my prayer letter. However, **I have given my life to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. And danger to that desire and vision is a danger that needs to be exposed even if there is a cost.**

There are two organizations that are funded mostly by Christians who have a heart for Israel and the Jewish people who do damage to the cause for which I work. **Those organizations are Christians United for Israel led by John Hagee and The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews Led by Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein.**

John Hagee, who began Christians United for Israel in San Antonio TX in 1978, is a powerful supporter of the State of Israel. His organization is the largest organization calling itself Christian (although organizations are not Christian only people are) that stands politically with the State

of Israel. Their massive annual budget, mostly funded by evangelical Christians, goes to politically stand with Israel as a nation and fight anti-Semitism, both very important and worthy causes. However, there are problems of which every Christian should be made aware.

Christians United for Israel is a political organization and not evangelistic. Not only do they avoid a proclamation of the gospel to the Jewish people, John Hagee does not believe Jewish people need Jesus to go to heaven. Of course John Hagee would never overtly admit to this but it does not take a theological scholar to understand his position. His ministry would not exist if he proclaimed the message of Jesus to the Jewish people. They would not support him.

When John Hagee began CUFI he made an agreement with the Jewish community in San Antonio that if they joined him for a Night To Honor Israel he would guarantee there would be no evangelization of them by CUFI then or ever. He would never have gotten his overwhelming support by the Jewish community unless he made that agreement with them. The proclamation of Jesus to and for the Jewish community is forbidden by CUFI at any of their events. Jesus is not lifted up to the Jewish people. Even more tragically his underlying Scripture passage from Isaiah, "*For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,*" is a passage about bringing the truth to the Jewish people, something that is withheld from them by Christians United for Israel.

For the sake of my people I will not remain silent. My people need to hear the truth about Jesus. Christians United for Israel does not help our cause. Attention and support is directed away from the proclamation of the Gospel in the direction of support of the Land and people (again worthy causes).

The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews is an organization that does hu-

manitarian work in Israel and advertises themselves as fulfilling prophecy by taking Jewish people and flying them to Israel out of Russia and then giving them humanitarian aid. There is a great need for humanitarian support of Jewish people in Israel. But at what cost to the Gospel?

The director of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ), Yechiel Eckstein, is a Jewish non-believer in Jesus and is vehemently opposed to the proclamation of the gospel to the Jewish people.

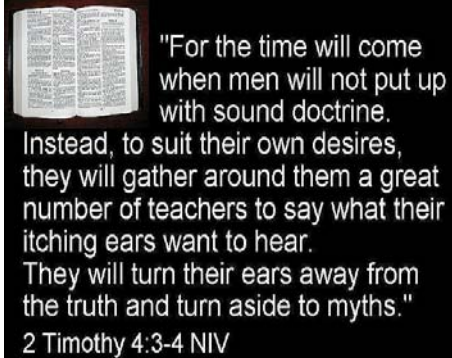
In an article in the Jerusalem Post on October 21st, 2010 he says, *"I have always had one red line: that I would never work with any group involved in missionary activity targeting the Jewish community," insists Eckstein. "However, if there are groups that believed in the end of days or that all the Jewish will eventually turn to Jesus, but in the meantime they see it as their obligation to share with us a love for Israel, then that is acceptable to me. I still have my red lines today and I will never work with groups like Jews for Jesus or Messianic community."...*

Yechiel Eckstein raises hundreds of millions of dollars a year from well meaning evangelical Christians who want to help the poor and underprivileged in Israel. I was recently speaking to a Christian lady who did not know either that Yechiel Eckstein was not a believer in Jesus, that he was opposed to the Gospel to the Jewish people, or that he supports efforts to undermine ministries like ours who share Jesus with the Jewish community.

Over the course of our conversation we figured that over the past 10 years with his annual budget nearly a billion dollars has been raised to bring Russian Jewish people to Israel and to help poor people in the land of Israel. I asked her how many flights would a billion dollars buy and if the money was being used effectively why the same infomercial is being shown on Christian television and the Fox News Channel.

The answer is obvious. Yechiel Eckstein is an expert fund raiser and many unaware Christians take the bait. Can God use it for His glory? Of course! But oh that some of that well-meaning support would go to the advancement of the Gospel to the Jewish people!

I would ask everyone who supports



the cause of the gospel of Jesus to the Jewish people to consider the enormous cost of getting embroiled in other causes, no matter how good, that distract from the message of Jesus to the Jewish people, or to any people. We are surely called as believers in Jesus to help the poor, care for the homeless, take care of the widow and orphan, and provide for those in need. However, if we neglect the message of Jesus in the process, we are no better than the world around us.

Our ministry is committed to one thing. We are here to bring truth to the Jewish people and to believers in Jesus who care about the Jewish people and Israel. So what is a Christian to do? **There is a dilemma. Let me give you some ideas.**

- **Support Jewish evangelism first. Our first and primary calling is to take Jesus to those who need Him.** Please give this letter to anyone supporting CUFI or IFCJ. If they are not supporting a ministry actively sharing Jesus with Jewish people they should be. If you are supporting one of these organizations please reconsider sending support to a mission, like ours. Then if you want to support a ministry doing benevolence work in Israel our ministry has suggestions.

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- **Investigate the ministries you support.** This should be a no brainer. However millions of dollars are donated by well meaning Christians who do not investigate the organization that they support. Sometimes money is not being used for the intended purpose or even worse, is being used for the opposite of the intention.
- **Be very wary (not paranoid) of any group teaching Jewish roots, or using Israel, the Jewish people, or holocaust survivors to raise funds.** Its kind of humorous I would warn you about ministries teaching Jewish roots because I do! However we teach Jewish roots for the specific purpose of helping Christians pray for the Jewish people as well as equipping gentile believers to more effectively share Jesus with their Jewish friends in a culturally relevant way. It's a way we do evangelism and proclaim the gospel.
- **Please call us for direction.** We receive calls almost every day from Christians researching other Jewish ministries and Messianic congregations. We are here to point you in the right direction.

I have written this letter to give information not to tell you where to give your support. I hope the challenge has been given graciously. I care about my Jewish people and about Israel. **But most importantly we stand for the proclamation of the gospel "to the Jew first and also to the gentile."** Romans 1:16 Thank you for standing with us.

Thank You!!

The signs of the times point people to matters of eternal significance. Jewish people are asking questions. We are helping to answer them. Your prayers and financial support make our ministry possible.

As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of the Lord.

In His service


Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries

