



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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## Hatred Of Jews

**O**n Saturday morning, October 27th, in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, a crazed gunman entered Tree of Life Synagogue and massacred 11 Jewish congregants. It was the deadliest attack on Jews in the United States. Ever. The tragic shooting has weighed on the mind of every person who has any regard for the right to live, to express one's faith, and to exist in a free society.

The fact that my people, Jews, were targeted merely because they were Jews, hit especially hard. Many Christians have Jewish friends. True Christians have a love for the Jewish people, our Jewish roots, and understand the significance of the Jewish people in God's heart and God's plan.

**Pittsburgh hit me hard. I am Jewish.** My wife and I have spent time in Pittsburgh in that neighborhood. We have ministered there. We have friends who grew up there or have family in Pittsburgh. **My own Jewish family is in shock. The question is, "WHY?" We say, "Never Again," but it keeps happening.**

The gunman said he "wanted all Jews dead." I guess attacking and killing a few Jews was enough for him to make a statement to many about his depraved desire and vitriolic animosity.

**Unfortunately antisemitism is nothing new. Hatred of the Jews has existed since the beginning of their existence as an ethnic group.** Biblical history and modern history is filled with those who want to "get rid of the Jews." Pharaoh, Haman, the Philistines, Antiochus, the Crusaders, the Czars (Pogroms), the Spanish Inquisition, Hitler, the PLO... the list goes on.

**We know that antisemitism is anti-**



**Christ. Jesus was Jewish, He wept over his people, and longed to gather them under His wing. Antisemitism originates in the pit of Hell. Satan, God's ultimate enemy, wants every Jew gone because the Jewish people have a special place in God's heart and plan.** They are, as an ethnic people, an example of God's faithfulness to his promises and covenants. An enemy of the Jews is an enemy of God... of Jesus. Period.

**After the horrific event our ministry stood with the AJC (the American Jewish Committee) to get as many out the following weekend in solidarity with the Jewish community.** My wife and I attended two synagogues in Marietta, GA. We had a group of 18 faithful believers with us. People who love the Jewish community and wanted to show their love. Our Christian support was welcomed as a testimony to those synagogues.

**The #ShowUpForShabbat weekend was a success.** At the two synagogue services we attended people of all color, nationality, and religion were in attendance. Muslims. Christian youth

groups. Jews and non-Jews alike.

**Our ministry stands for the message of Jesus to our Jewish people first and foremost. We also stand with our people in the midst of hatred, evil, and attempts to destroy us.** So what can we do? How should we respond?

### Understand Antisemitism

**Despising the Jew is nothing new. It isn't going to go away. In fact the contempt will in all likelihood increase.** As Christians we need to understand when and how that animosity began, how it has manifested itself through the millennia, and how we can address it biblically. Hatred is ungodly and unbiblical. Hatred of the Jewish people is a bit more profound. The source is the same. Satan. His hatred for them runs deeper. Because Jesus was Jewish.

**Tragically most Jewish people root the history of modern antisemitism in Christianity.** Anyone who visits a Holocaust museum anywhere in the world can see where the misunderstanding lies. Jewish people take others at their word. So if someone calls themselves a "Christian" and at the same time says they hate Jews or want to rid the world of the "Jew problem" then Jewish people hear that... and believe it. Look no further than the KKK or the modern "Neo-Nazi/Christian Identity" parties.

**My people misunderstand Jesus, in part, because the church has not done a very good job of "provoking them to jealousy." (Romans 11:11)** Instead the history of the "church" and the Jewish people is littered with hurt, pain, and persecution. Rather than "provoking to jealousy" we have "pushed away in the name of Jesus."

Of course those of us who know and

love Jesus also know that He came to His own. That the Jewish people have a special place in God's heart and plan. That Jesus wept over Jerusalem and wanted to "gather them under his wing as a mother hen gathers her chicks." The Apostle Paul agonized over "those of his own race...the people of Israel." **Paul would have given his own salvation for theirs. And we know that Israel and the Jewish people play an important role in the consummation of the Kingdom. Jesus will return to establish his throne in Jerusalem.**

Understanding and combating anti-Semitism is key. We're here to help.

### Build Bridges Of Understanding

**If you have a Jewish friend offer your condolences for the Pittsburgh massacre.** Let your Jewish friend know that you want to understand how difficult it is to be a group targeted for destruction just because of their ethnic background. This is true for any persecuted group of people no matter their religious or ethnic allegiance. **As believers in Jesus we need to care for and love those who are persecuted. Jesus did. So ought we.**

Make sure that you extend gestures of friendship to your Jewish friends during their special holidays and events. A gift basket for the Jewish New Year, a card for Hanukkah, a gift for Passover, will go a long way to let your Jewish friends know you care about them, as Jewish people.

**If you don't have a Jewish friend then involve yourself in any Jewish community in your own area.** It's a great way to let them know you care.

Our ministry has had volunteers clean up a local Jewish cemetery, volunteered and ministered in Jewish nursing homes, and helped synagogues clean up their property. Here in Atlanta we have local Jewish Community Centers. Christians are welcome to take classes to learn about the Jewish people or volunteer for special events.

**We have also had individuals and churches adopt a synagogue to pray for them and learn about them and their neighborhood.** You may attend synagogue yourself just to pray and to engage yourself, as a Christian, with Jewish



people. Synagogues are open places to learn and grow. The most important part of understanding another is engaging in their life. Open communication is key. **Jesus did it. So ought we.**

Let us know if you need help or have questions about how you might engage with or serve the Jewish community locally or abroad.

### Involve Yourself In Jewish Ministry

**Supporting Jewish ministry is not an option. It's a mandate.** For you. And for the church. Whether you have a Jewish friend or live near any Jewish community, if you love Jesus you have a Jewish Messiah living in your heart. **Engaging in ministry to the Jewish community begins with loving, caring, and praying. It also involves giving.**

**We need your prayers and support. The Jewish people have given us so much.** If it were not for them we would not have the church. Our bibles. Communion. Baptism. Salvation. Or Jesus. They've given us so much. **The greatest gift we can give back to them is the gift of Jesus. That's what we are doing.**

We know that true, lasting, and eternal peace, can only be found in Him...the One and only true Prince of Peace.

### How to Contact Us

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## Thank You!!

Our ministry is here to encourage you to pray for the Jewish people and to help them hear the message of Jesus.

**As always, thank you for caring enough, and trusting us enough, to send us back to the Jewish people with the love of Messiah Jesus!**

In His service,

  
 Murray Tilles...for the staff and for those in Israel...we're looking to the future!!



JOIN US FOR A LIFE CHANGING TOUR OF ISRAEL IN OCTOBER OF 2019!! PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS...

## Year End Giving

**Light of Messiah Ministries is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS. We are also members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.**

**All gifts to Light of Messiah Ministries given by December 31, 2018 will be received by January 31, 2019.**

**Please know that all gifts are greatly appreciated. Please contact your financial advisor for any gifts of stocks or other assets.**

**Thank you for standing with us to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus!! God bless.**