



Newsletter - Messianic Jewish Alliance of Australia

December 11th 2023

CHAG SAMEACH!



WHAT'S NEW?

New President of the MJAA - David Isaacson

Shalom! I am writing this newsletter as the newly elected President of the MJAA. It is humbling to be in the position of leadership of an organisation that was established in 1927, 96 years ago! I thank the Lord and the MJAA committee for the opportunity to serve in this role.

It has been a joy to serve as Secretary and now I hand over this role to our new committee member, Ashley Crane, a Bible scholar and teacher with an international teaching ministry.

Our previous President, Brad Burman, is taking the role of Vice President and his wife, Helen, continues to serve capably as Treasurer and artist, co-directing the Messianic Jewish Art Forum.

Kon Michailidis continues to serve as an Ordinary member, bringing wisdom, experience and clarity to our decision-making processes.

We take this opportunity to thank and farewell Kon's wife Natasha Michailidis from the committee to engage in other ministry opportunities in their Sydney-based congregation, Yeshua Tsidkenu, and its outreach activities amongst the Russian community.

The committee has worked as a team with mutual support, respect and love for one another in Yeshua. We have achieved much together over the past two years and I thank every committee member for their commitment and contributions towards building the MJAA. I also thank our members and friends for their ongoing prayers and support. We could not do anything without your participation and we value your love for the Jewish people, your standing with Israel and your participation in sharing the message of Yeshua.

While we have a big vision with many programs planned, we want to maintain an attitude of gratefulness to God and one another as we serve Him together. Please send your ideas and let us know about time or talents you may wish to volunteer towards the ongoing growth of the MJAA.

While we may be a small group in Australia, we are part of a big international family as members of the International Messianic Jewish Alliance (IMJA) who encourage and pray for us as we grow in the local ministry "down under".

Attending the IMJA conference in Israel from 8-12 October this year with Brad and Helen brought home that sense of family connection with Messianic believers from the many member nations of the IMJA. We became aware of possibilities for collaborating on international projects in future.



"I love Jerusalem" A photo moment on my trip to Israel earlier this year, just days before the war with Hamas broke out.

I can let you know that we are looking into an Australian partnership with the Joseph Project, a humanitarian aid organisation set up and run by the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America. The Joseph Project makes an exceptional impact by sending containers of medical and other supplies for distribution across the whole of Israel. What better time than now to show our practical support for Israel? See: <https://mjaa.org/josephproject/>

Our expanding membership base has also been encouraging and our prayer is to see this increase. As we continue to grow, we meet many Jewish believers in Yeshua, as well as Messianic Christians who are isolated from a community that supports Israel and understands its prophetic relationship with the Church.

Sadly, we still see many of our brothers and sisters in the Lord who have adopted supersessionism (replacement theology), the erroneous message that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan, a belief that fosters hatred and resentment towards Jewish people, providing a fertile field for antisemitism to grow. We know that through prayer this can change and people's understanding can be opened to God's purpose in uniting Jews and Gentiles as "one new person" (NASB) through faith in the atoning work of Yeshua (Ephesians 2:15).

Our goal is to network with Jewish and Christian Messianic believers for prayer, fellowship, teaching and outreach, demonstrating our connectedness in the body of Messiah.

We have been blessed to link up with the Love Israel ministry this year and participate in their conference in Sydney in September. We look

forward to a continued relationship in promoting each other's work and we welcome co-operation with other Messianic ministries too.

Wishing you all a Happy Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, where Yeshua declared Himself to be "the light of the world" (John 8:12). Traditional Hanukkah foods including *sufganiyot* (doughnuts) and *latkes* (potato fritters) remind us of the oil that kept the temple light burning at the first Hanukkah. This also reminds us of God's promise to pour out the Holy Spirit on all flesh in the last days (Joel 2:28).

We trust that you will keep upholding Israel in prayer, for release of all hostages, for protection and mercy for all innocent people caught in the war, and for the light of Yeshua to be revealed in a powerful way to all involved.

It is an irony that at the first Hanukkah it was *Haman* who sought to annihilate Israel; now it is *Hamas*. As we watch history repeating itself, Psalm 83:4, written about 3000 years ago, reads like today's newspaper, with antisemitic voices saying: "Come, let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more." In the midst of this, we stand on the secure knowledge that the covenant of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will never fail. His love endures forever.

Bless Israel and be blessed!

In Yeshua our Messiah and redeemer,

David Isaacson
President, MJAA.

WEEKLY PRAYER

Our weekly online prayer and fellowship meeting continues on Tuesdays from 5.30-6.00 pm and is a blessing to many people locally and overseas. We are so glad that our Messianic ministry friends Roni and Elisheva Mechanic from Wales and artist Baruch Maayan from the Negev are able to join us from time to time. We welcome all friends from overseas to join us.

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the salvation of the Jewish people, Messianic groups, outreach to the Jewish communities across Australia and for each other.

It has been a great blessing to meet with others in diverse places, coming together in unity in

prayer, which we regard as the most important part of the ministry. If you are interested in joining us, please email Ashley at:

secretary@mjaa.org.au and your name will be added to the prayer meeting mailing list.

MJAA WEBSITE

There are some great articles and information on our website, including the Messianic Jewish Art section. Check it out at mjaa.org.au. Also connect with us on Facebook for news and articles.

In particular, an article by Brad Burman is recommended to anyone interested in an in-depth study of the tri-unity of God from the perspective of the Tanach: <https://mjaa.org.au/tri-unity/>. You can also watch a video seminar by Ashley Crane titled "A Brief History of Antisemitism."

ART FORUM

This exciting new project has been gathering interest amongst Messianic artists across Australia and around the world. Our goal is to discuss the nature and impact of Messianic Jewish Art and its potential to engage the Jewish community in dialogue about the life and work of Messiah Yeshua.

Our recent trip to Israel led us to meet many new artists who would like to participate in the forum. It consolidated our ideas about continuing this movement within the local and international alliances.

Messianic Jewish art workshops are being planned for the near future and we have added an art gallery to our website.

If you are an artist, or know someone who might be interested, we'd love you to join us. The forum is held bi-monthly with the next one scheduled for 25th January 2024. See the website for details: mjaa.org.au/arts

RECIPES

Hanukkah is a time to enjoy some traditional Jewish festival foods like latkes and sufganiyot. Here is a link to guide you to some authentic recipes: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/hanukkah-recipes>

CONGREGATIONS

We are in the process of adding the details of Messianic congregations to our website. Please contact us in the meantime for more info.

If you live in Melbourne, or are visiting here, you are invited to attend a newly formed Havdalah fellowship in East Bentleigh that meets fortnightly on a Saturday evening. Please send an email to secretary@mjaa.org.au for more information.

Eph. 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. (ESV)

MEMBERSHIP

The MJAA is a membership organisation which aims to unite Jewish and Gentile believers in fellowship and mutual support. We welcome members from all Australian locations and congregations. We are affiliated with the International Messianic Jewish Alliance, which has chapters in 16 nations. If you would like to join us, please go to mjaa.org.au/membership for more information. A summary of the rules of membership from our constitution is below:

1. A person is eligible to be a member of the MJAA if they are:
 - (a) a natural person (a human being) who is at least eighteen years of age
 - (b) a citizen or permanent resident of Australia
 - (c) in agreement with the Aims and Statement of Belief and has expressed this in a written declaration or equivalent
 - (d) has been nominated for membership of the association as provided by clauses 4-7
 - (e) have paid their membership fee for the current year (or had their fee waived by the management committee) see clauses 14-17.
2. Membership is divided into two categories being membership (voting) and membership (ordinary):
 - (a) A member (voting) is a person also who has, or had, at least one parent or grandparent who is identifiably Jewish or is the current husband, wife or child of a member
 - (b) Membership (ordinary) is open to any person who supports our aims as in Point 1 (c) above.

Please contact us for more information.

TESTIMONY

One of our members shared this testimony after attending Dr Ashley Crane's online seminar titled "A Brief History of Antisemitism." The seminar was hosted by Rabbi Larry Greenhaus from Keren Ohr Messianic Synagogue in Bloomingdale, Georgia (USA).

Many thanks for granting me the opportunity to attend this excellent seminar.

Personally, I am deeply ashamed of the so-called Christian Churches' history of hatred against God's chosen people. Having been born in South Africa and raised in the Reformed Church I could never understand the logic behind replacement theology and antisemitism. My upbringing as a farmer's son never made provision for such nonsense.

All my life, since about the age of 6, I was blessed with Jewish friends. The last friend I had when leaving South Africa was an elderly lady, who never became a Christian and told me many times to treat Christians with caution, because of their intense hatred of the Jews.

Here in Australia, I "automatically" joined the Reformed Church of Australia. What a shock to discover that the pastor and his elders were 100% antisemitic. I was criticised for being a student of the Israel Study Centre, which was a wonderful and fruitful time of my life when I gained excellent insight into Jewish insights into scriptures. As a result of this I could no longer tolerate the Satan inspired influence of the Reformed Church and tendered my resignation. I am grateful that our LORD led me to the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Australia and pray for His blessing on the good work you do in His Name.

If you would like to watch the video of the seminar, here is the Youtubelink:

<https://youtu.be/1k6VoV84yIU>

Thus says the LORD: "If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored, then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD." Jeremiah 31:37

MJAA Newsletter Editorial Team:
David Isaacson, Lindy Isaacson, Helen Burman.

ART



This artwork by Helen Burman depicts the identity of Yeshua as the suffering servant of Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9. "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted." (Isaiah 53:4)

Daniel 9:26a says: "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off (killed) and will have nothing."

As the suffering servant who would die for the sins of His people as the Lamb of God, Yeshua paid the price of atonement and reconciliation for Jews and Gentiles

DAILY NOSH

Joel Chernoff, General Secretary of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America, has kindly given permission for us to include extracts from his book "The Daily Nosh" in our newsletter.

Nosh is a Yiddish word for a light snack and in this context it is a short meditation that provides spiritual nourishment and encouragement. This nosh is from 10th December.

Galatians 3:6-9. Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to Him as righteousness," so then the faithful are blessed along with Abraham, the faithful one. (TLV)

Nosh: Living by faith is seen by God as righteousness. God promises that the same determined faithfulness in our lives, as exemplified by Abraham, will be rewarded with God's supernatural favour and blessing all the days the Lord gives us here on earth.

The book can be purchased on Amazon::
<https://www.amazon.com/Daily-Nosh-Joel-Chernoff/dp/0578999056>