

From the President's Pen

by David Isaacson

Shalom and welcome!

The MJAA has had a very active and busy 3-month period, so this newsletter will provide updates on recent happenings and developments, first on the international front, then locally.

As we approach the Hanukkah season, we stand with Israel in prayer and support as nations of the world close ranks against God's chosen people and the land He gave them as an inheritance forever. Our prayer is for safety and peace through Yeshua our Messiah, the Prince of Peace. We know that "the government will be upon His shoulders" (Isaiah 9:6) and as nations rage for supremacy, His role as the rightful and righteous ruler of the world can never be usurped.

Witnessing the recent collapse of the murderous Assad regime, we rejoice for the possibility of freedom that the people of Syria now have to become a democratic nation, yet have a sense of wariness, knowing how easily extremism can take root in the middle east and one dictator quickly replace another.

The IDF quickly responded by striking Syria's air force, air defence system and navy to prevent hostile forces using them against Israel. All of this occurred while Israel continued to fight against Iran's many proxies on several fronts, including the media war that seeks to vilify Israel



Wishing all Members and Friends of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Australia Chag Sameach for Hanukkah. Let us continue to uphold Israel and the Jewish people in prayer for protection and salvation in Yeshua's name and may His light shine brightly into our broken world. Yeshua said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12



ROCK OF AGES

*Rock of Ages, let our song
Praise thy saving power.
You amidst the raging foes
Were our sheltering tower.
Furious, they assailed us,
But your armour veiled us.
And thy word broke their sword
When our own strength failed us.*

The powerful words of this Medieval Hanukkah song remind us that our trust is in the God of Israel and that His Word of power will prevail for His people.

for defending itself. Now that these proxies have mostly been weakened or decimated, Israel has a direct route to the Iranian “serpent’s head” which has masterminded worldwide Jew-hatred and Israelophobia.

Israel’s failure to be destroyed (the nation’s survival is prophesied in Scripture - and anyone with a Bible can verify this) has turned the tide in the middle east theatre of war.

Now the USA may take a bigger role in the next stages of the battle against world domination by Islamist extremism. How close we are to Armageddon and the actual battles of world forces described in Scripture remains for us to watch, wait and see - prayerfully!

The Iranian regime still holds to the ideologically motivated destruction of Israel (the so-called “little satan”) and its chief ally the USA (the so-called “big satan”). We feel the shockwaves of this ideology in Australia with increasing violence against Jewish people and their property with antisemitism becoming mainstream. Sadly, some political leaders are impotent and afraid to exert the rule of law to eliminate this undemocratic behaviour, while others are openly and virulently antisemitic.

Our weekly Tuesday prayer meeting, which includes a Torah study by Dr Ashley Crane and a Basic Hebrew class by Dr David Isaacson, is growing and we are happy to see more friends locally and from overseas joining us. We praise God for the increase He is bringing as we serve Him.

We receive new enquiries about the MJAA almost every week and are pleased that our reach is growing as people want to be added to our newsletter list.



Encouraging graffiti near Wattle Park in Melbourne, a ‘little light’ in the midst of rising antisemitism in Australia.



Art work by Robert Gerlach. Let’s keep praying for the protection and release of all the hostages

Our conference on 2 Nov. was successful and we enjoyed a day together (in person and online) packed with teaching by Ashley Crane, fellowship, worship, Israeli dance with Elizabeth Caldwell, art by Robert Gerlach, book promotions by Elisheva Mechanic and Annemarie Ball, and the official launch of Tikvat Shalom, Melbourne's newest Messianic community. Notably, we played personal video messages from Joel (Exec. Secretary, IMJA) and Myriam Chernoff (President of MJA Mexico), Rabbi Paul Liberman (IMJA President) and Augustin Wainberg (Argentina MJA representative), focusing on both the conference and the launch of Tikvat Shalom. We also had a personalised video message from Mario (not his real name), an Arab Christian who lives and works in the Judea-Samaria region. We also received other videos which will be posted to our website.

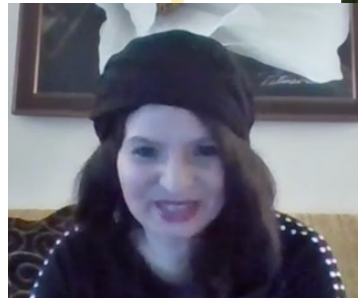
We farewelled Helen Burman, our amazing Treasurer and 'resident' artist. While we were sorry to see Helen step down from her role, we wish her well and look forward to remaining in contact in future. Brad Burman, our Vice President, resigned from 4 Dec. and we were sad to see him leave the committee, but are pleased that he and Helen will remain on as MJAA members. Brad has kept the vision of the MJAA alive for more than 10 years and we honour his pioneering work and activities to keep the vision of the MJAA active.

Brad and Helen were instrumental in making possible my trip to Israel during October 2023, for which I am very grateful as it expanded my vision of the MJAA as part of an international family of alliances that are making a big impact in Messianic ministry around the world.

We received special greetings from overseas alliance leaders - our international family...



Rabbi Paul Liberman,
IMJA President



Myriam Levy-Chernoff,
President, MJA Mexico



Joel Chernoff, Executive
Secretary, IMJA



Augustin Wainberg,
MJA Argentina

A BIG THANK YOU!

A special thank you to my wife, Lindy Isaacson, for doing a huge amount of work to make the MJAA conference a success through organising, planning, buying food and resources, doing a long shift of service on the day and managing the finances successfully!

Brad and Helen have an amazing gift of working together as a couple to reach people for Yeshua in a very spontaneous way. In Jerusalem, as they did regular tourist activities, they reached out to people previously unknown to them in the streets and market places and were able to share Yeshua's love through prayer and supportive conversations.

They organised a meeting in Jerusalem and gathered new and old friends for a time of fellowship. Our prayer is for them to continue exercising this gift and bringing many to faith in Yeshua and also for renewal of their health and strength.

Join the MJAA and become an active part of a local and international family of Messianic believers. Details on our website: mjaa.org.au

As of now, we have three members on the committee and a LOT of work to do! We are in discussion with two potential committee members and request your prayers as they consider serving with the MJAA, being active in promoting its mission and fulfilling their own calling and ministry gifts.

As a volunteer organisation, we depend on the donations and gifts of members to enable us to continue the ministry so we also appeal to you to join the MJAA and become part of our local and international Messianic family.



Brad and Helen Burman at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem 2023



Brad, on the Old City wall of Jerusalem, next to a memorial statue representing one of the many civilisations (now defunct) that tried to take ownership of the land of Israel.

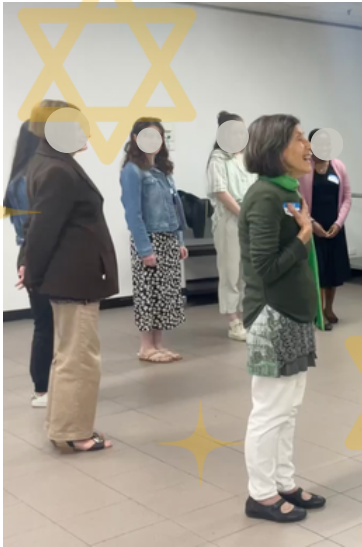


Brad in his role as President at the 2023 IMJA conference in Israel.

Merry Messiah-mas!

Christ is an English word, an anglicism of "Christos", the Greek word for Messiah (anointed one). The Hebrew word for Messiah is *Moshiach*. A Christ-ian is a Messiah-ian, or follower of the Messiah, the Moshiah, Christ. To be true to the original meaning of the word, we should say Merry Messiah-mas. Unfortunately this original meaning is lost, along with the Jewishness of Jesus the Messiah. A church is a place of gathering to worship the Jewish Messiah, although He is most often stripped of His true identity and most times is the only Jew in church. Let's pray that He is not only welcomed as Saviour, but also in His full Jewish identity as Messiah, Son of David, Son of God.

Some MJAA 2024 Conference Highlights



Elizabeth Caldwell leading worshipful Israeli dancing



Annemarie Ball sharing about her soon-to-be published book, "My Heart for Israel"



Robert Gerlach painting "on the spot" illustrating Romans 11, the grafting of Jews and Gentiles into the olive tree by faith in Yeshua



A poignant occasion as participants dip a finger in paint and place an imprint on a prayer map for Israel, painted by Robert Gerlach



Elisheva Mechanic shares about her book "Following the Jewish Jesus"

Mario (not his real name), an Arab Christian from the Judea/Samaria area, shared his testimony of faith in the God of Israel and his (sometimes gruelling) experiences living amongst extremist anti-Israel views, both from the church and from Islamists.

Dr Ashley Crane Teaching

Ashley Crane has been active in his teaching ministry in WA which is expanding rapidly on the east side of Australia, with speaking, teaching and seminar engagements in churches. Ashley is the main teacher at Tikvat Shalom and we are very blessed to have his scholarship, understanding of Biblical history and expository teaching in our local community.

Ashley is available locally and internationally for in-person and online Biblical teaching, theology, preaching, understanding the roles of the church and Israel, as well as church leadership training. If you'd like to be added to Ashley's email list to find out more, you can request this at: ashley.crane@gmail.com



Ashley teaching at the MJAA Conference 2024 - an intensive day of in-depth learning



Ashley leading the Havdalah liturgy

Towards Jerusalem Council II (TJCII)

FREE CONFERENCE, SYDNEY, 5-7 March 2025

Towards Jerusalem Council II is a movement started by Texan Messianic Rabbi Marty Waldman. The vision as stated on their website is:

“TJCII is an international and interdenominational movement, aimed at reconciling Jewish believers in Jesus (Yeshua) with believers from the nations in the one Body of Christ, a reconciliation which will be officially promulgated by all representatives of Christian churches and Messianic Jews at a future Council in Jerusalem.”

For more information:

<https://www.tjciieurope.eu/>

Ashley and I are on the organising committee for this event and will be representing the MJAA at the conference with speaking, music and Ashley presenting an oneg Shabbat event at the close of the conference on Friday 7 March.

Join us for a stimulating time of connection and fellowship as we learn, discuss and debate how reconciliation between Messianic Jewish believers in Jesus and the church may occur.

If you are interested in attending, here is the Trybooking link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1290097>

Messianic Reflections

by Rabbi Paul Liberman, President, International Messianic Jewish Alliance

Shalom Fellow Workers,

The world is burdened by a real estate dispute in the Middle East, Israel. Does the land belong to the Jewish People, or is it the possession of the people who settled and occupied it for decades and even hundreds of years?

Usually, such disputes are settled by an examination of title deeds and other legal documents. Let's try to do that.

Who was the original owner Genesis (1:1)? It was God Himself who created all of the heavens and earth. As the inventor of the material planet, He owned all of it. In an act of generosity, he bequeathed a portion to a man and his small family. It was theirs. Some years later, this was recorded in the Books of Moses, the Torah. Is there another document to challenge that gift and designation? There isn't. Genesis 12:1 certifies this transfer. Billions of Jews, Christians and Muslims authenticate this transfer of title.

In Genesis 13:4,5 and 15:18 transfer of ownership is authenticated. This is affirmed in Genesis 17:7, when the deed was given to Isaac in Genesis 29:13 by way of inheritance. It was a gift and therefore bequeathed from father to son, as was done subsequently.

Thus, to further satisfy the issue of ownership, Jacob, the grandson, purchased a parcel of this real estate for a cash payment. Further validation is in the written records of Joshua 1:1-4. Descendants will now have official recognition that was recognised in the Middle East. The above is an early provenance and written record.

Many generations passed, but the ownership was not disputed. Military and political weakness caused temporary separation of the people from the Land., but the claim of ownership was never abandoned. Much took place during the intervening centuries, but the hope, promise and certainty was ever-present with the Jewish people.

Now we come to the more recent centuries, when the ancient Jewish people recall the promises and again say, "This is our Land" (Zechariah 10:9). No amount of coercion can cause us to abandon that which is ours.

Beyond the Scriptural mandate, there is now a new strength to enforce justice. It's the worldwide opinion of the Bible believers. We are no longer a minuscule people, but rather the millions of subscribers to Biblical authority. Our Lord has raised up myriads of Christians, who care that God's Word prevails and that the Jewish people occupy the Land given to them. So, we say to the peoples of the world, "This Land is ours". If you dispute this, then we ask you to make your legal case.

We believe God wants ours to be a gracious inheritance, whereby visitors from other places can dwell in our midst as residents and share our prosperity. However, the sovereignty must always be ours. The Land of Israel is a blessed place from which we can all benefit.

In Yeshua,
Rabbi Paul Liberman.

President
International Messianic Jewish Alliance

MJAA Passover 2025

We are starting to plan our 2025 Passover event. Watch this space for more information.

International Messianic Jewish Alliance Conferences

The IMJA has two Messiah conferences planned for 2025. If you want to find out more about attending and participating in one of these amazing events, click here: <https://mjaa.org/conferences/>

Tikvat Shalom Messianic Fellowship Melbourne



Tikvat Shalom is a young congregation in Melbourne, needing prayer, nurture and encouragement as it continues to grow. You are welcome to visit in person or online. Next meeting is Hanukkah on 28 December. Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565547915477>. Email enquiries: ashley.crane@gmail.com

Your Congregation or Ministry and the MJAA

The MJAA is an individual membership organisation, but we also want to link up with Messianic congregations and ministries for the purpose of mutual promotion through our newsletter, website and other channels. More information: mjaa.org.au/resources

MJAA Academy

We are making progress towards launching the MJAA Academy, which will be a web portal with online teaching and training on Messianic topics of interest. More information to follow as we get closer to launch.

Weekly Prayer Meetings Tuesdays @5.15pm (AEST)

We have been blessed to meet with people from across Australia, Thailand, New Zealand, UK, Israel and Ghana to pray and intercede for Israel and for the needs and growth of the MJAA in Australia.

Here is the schedule:

5.00-5.15pm - Learn Hebrew!
5.15-5.30pm - Torah Study
5.30-6.00pm - Prayer

Please invite a friend, especially those who may be in areas far from a Messianic community.

Donate to the MJAA

Thank you to all of you who support the work of the MJAA. We are a volunteer organisation and rely on membership fees and donations to grow. Will you consider supporting the MJAA so we may expand our ministry?

You can donate via our website at:
mjaa.org.au/payments