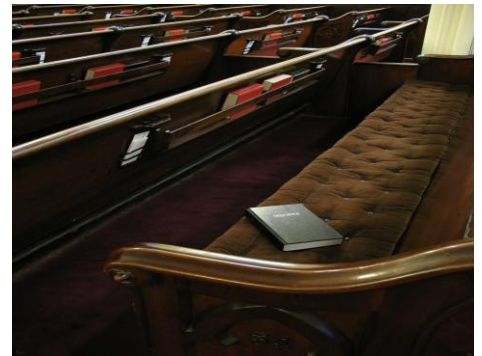


The Local Church and Jewish Evangelism

A Jewish believer who is also a friend of mine has given me permission to share a portion of his plan for “reaching THE JEWISH PEOPLE through the local church”. And since that is the purpose of Tzedakah Ministries, I thought it was important to share this information with you. So the majority of the credit for this article must go to “Jonah”. Thanks (Todah)!

The first three suggestions provided by Jonah are pretty obvious but also often overlooked by the local church. **FIRST**, teach and preach from the first 39 books of the Bible. Think about that suggestion for a second and reflect back on the sermons you have heard and/or preached over the last year. How many were based on a passage from Genesis through Malachi? Probably not many and that leads to a second reason. **SECOND**, learn about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. For example what is the most likely reason Jesus went to the Temple when He was 12 years old? Perhaps Jesus was participating in a rite that all Jewish boys participated in when they are about 12 or 13 ... it was Jesus’ Bar Mitzvah. Jesus was becoming a “Son of the Commandment” and one of the tasks of this ceremony is to interpret a passage of Scripture for the people. Hence, the reason why the rabbis and priests would even bother listening to a 12 year old. Does this not give you more insight into the passage that you previously might have considered? **THIRD**, “teach about God’s heart for the Israel and the Jewish people”. The church must run from and respond to the errors of replacement theology and dual covenantalism before the local church will begin to have a Gospel heart for the people to whom the Gospel was first given. Romans 1:16 is always true. Why don’t we act like it still is?



I have just begun to scratch the surface of Justin’s suggestions. Future issues will provide more hints and strategies for Jewish evangelism and the local church. However, I pray that this first taste of “helpful hints” will begin the process of your church becoming more engaged in reaching the Jewish people with the Gospel.

In fact, this entire issue is really all about the local church and Jewish evangelism. For where there are God’s Chosen Ones the churches of God must be ready, willing, and able to do something about their need to receive Jesus as their Messiah. For if we don’t, no one else will.

(article continues on page two)



The Local Church and Jewish Evangelism (article continued from page one)

Please pray for Tzedakah Ministries over the next few months as the ministry is blessedly busy and much work must be done for Jewish evangelism in 2009!

Please pray for Israel for as I am finishing this article the world as a whole is beginning to turn against the nation. What a tragedy but something that was foretold many millennia ago. Pray! Shalom!

Acts 20:24,



Amy Downey

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Jewish Population in American Cities ... There Are Jewish People Everywhere!

Jewish Population in American Cities ... There Are Jewish People Everywhere!

Recently Tzedakah Ministries ran across a chart (<http://www.jewishdatabank.org/AJYB/AJY-2007.pdf>) that details the Jewish population in the major Metropolitan cities. As could be expected New York leads the way with almost 1.5 million Jewish residents. However, the following information, as to where Jewish people live in these United States, might come as a surprise to you.

One of the major arguments this ministry hears against Jewish evangelism is “Our church cannot be involved in Jewish evangelism because there are no Jewish people in our community.” The ministry’s first response is ... regardless of whether there is one or one million they still need Jesus as their Messiah. Right? The second response is ... you might be surprised as to how many Jewish people are living in your neighborhood. Therefore, I decided to share the Jewish population of some non-so-traditional places with you in this article.

For example, the Jewish population of Birmingham, Alabama, is 5,300. In fact, two Jewish believers came from Birmingham; however, one was shunned by a Baptist church in the city for his ethnic heritage and did not receive Messiah Jesus until he moved from the Bible Belt to the “Windy City” of Chicago. The other man became a believer but not because of the Birmingham churches.

Atlanta, Georgia, has a Jewish population of 119,800. Indianapolis, Indiana has 10,000 Jewish residents. Here is the Jewish population for a few other American cities: Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas – 16,000; Louisville, Kentucky – 8,700; Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota – 40,200; Omaha, Nebraska – 6,100; Cincinnati, Ohio – 22,500; Portland, Oregon – 25,500; Memphis, Tennessee – 7,800; Salt Lake City, Utah – 4,200; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin – 21,100. This is a grand total of 253,000 Jewish souls!

So why were these cities chosen as opposed to some others such as Boston or San Francisco? Well, we know that there is a large Jewish population in Boston (200,000+) but did you expect there to be 4,200 Salt Lake City Jews ... in the heart of Mormon country? If churches joined together to reach the Jewish community of Salt Lake City just imagine what the potential impact for reaching the Mormon community might be? Only God knows. And we might be surprised by His plan if we as Christians and churches simply obeyed the command of Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; and Romans 11:11.

Another reason why these cities were selected is that these represent twelve states that Tzedakah Ministries has not yet visited. Would you pray that pastors and churches in these states would open their eyes and have this ministry, or any Jewish ministry designed to equip the local Christians in the work of Jewish evangelism, in their churches? For what might happen if the Christians in these states opened their heart (and their Bible!) to Jewish evangelism?

Jewish Population in Selected U.S. Cities (http://www.jewishdatabank.org/AJYB/AJY-2007.pdf)	
Birmingham, Alabama	5,300
Atlanta, Georgia	119,800
Indianapolis, Indiana	10,000
Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas	16,000
Louisville, Kentucky	8,700
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota	40,200
Omaha, Nebraska	6,100
Cincinnati, Ohio	22,500
Portland, Oregon	25,500
Memphis, Tennessee	7,800
Salt Lake City, Utah	4,200
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	21,100

Ministry Calendar

- March 1, 2009 – “Jewish Women and the Gospel (GC4 University Class), First Baptist Church, Forney, Texas
- March 8, 2009 – “Testimony Presentation (a.m. service),” Fairview Baptist Church, Indianola, Mississippi
- March 8, 2009 – “Jesus in the Passover (p.m. service),” Fairview Baptist Church, Indianola, Mississippi
- March 9, 2009 – “Jesus in the Passover (Associational Minister’s Meeting for the Mid-Delta Baptist Association),” West Drew Baptist Church, Drew, Mississippi
- March 11, 2009 – “Jesus in the Passover (Wednesday service),” Hernando Baptist Church, Hernando, Mississippi
- March 21, 2009 – “Mothers of the Messiah (Ladies Meeting),” Northside Baptist Church, Garland, Texas
- April 5, 2009 – “Jesus in the Passover (a.m. service),” Immanuel Baptist Church, Perkins, Oklahoma
- April 9, 2009 – “Jesus in the Passover Dinner (Maundy Thursday Service),” Northlake Baptist Church, Garland, Texas
- April 10, 2009 – “Jesus in the Passover (Good Friday Service),” First Baptist Church, Kyle, Texas
- April 12, 2009 – “Jesus in the Passover (a.m. service),” The Crossroads Christian Center, Broaddus, Texas
- April 26, 2009 – “The Church and the Holocaust (a.m. service),” Hope Community Church, Longview, Texas
- September 25-27, 2009 – “Jewish Evangelism Conference (The Homeland Conference),” First Baptist Church of Mira Mesa, San Diego, California

SCHEDULING TZEDAKAH MINISTRIES ...

If you want to schedule Tzedakah Ministries for your church, Sunday School class, ladies meeting, college group, etc., just email the ministry at info@tzedakahministries.org or call the ministry at 972-977-2389. Tzedakah Ministries will make it happen and is excited to share the need for Jewish evangelism with people who believe in the promise of Romans 1:16 and Romans 11:11!