

TZEDAKAH MINISTRIES
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Tzedakah Times

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- HUNDREDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CAME TOGETHER TO PRAY FOR THE FIRST DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SALVATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE (2013). WILL YOU JOIN US ON JANUARY 16, 2014, FOR THE NEXT DAY OF PRAYER?
- 2013 COULD BE A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE. WILL YOU BE A PART OF SHARING THE TRUTH OF JESUS WITH THEM?

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Is Kehillah the Key to Jewish Evangelism?

The picture to the right is the fulfillment of a dream! I am standing on a cliff (called Mount Precipice) outside of Nazareth. Yes, I was able to spend the New Year's in the Holy Land of Israel!

It was one of the greatest experiences of my life! And if you read the ministry's blog written in Israel, it has created within me an even greater burden, if possible, for the Jewish people. I saw God's Chosen Ones in their Promised Land and was heartbroken by their spiritual darkness because so many of them do not know Jesus. They have a nation, a community (kehillah), but not a Messiah.



In February, I saw the concept of kehillah (community) play out during the Jewish Learning Fest in Dallas. After surviving an attempt to have all the believers (Jewish and Gentile) in Jesus removed, I spent the rest of the week listening to the lectures/seminars and observing how the Dallas Jewish population move and operate and live as a true community. They all know each other. They all depend on each other and the thought of one (or more) of them becoming believers in Jesus frightens them as it would disrupt the flow and the comfort and the safety of the community.

In fact, one of the presentations I attended the rabbi spoke almost exclusively about the idea of community. He used the Torah portion for that week (Exodus 25:1-27:19, Terumah) to make the point that Jewish people do Jewish by coming together. His ultimate questions, and this could be reflected by the picture I was able to take at the Wailing Wall of ultra-Orthodox men praying together, were simply: (1) How does



one person balance community needs vs. individualism? and (2) What does one person owe to the community?

These questions might seem odd to a world that craves individuality and a generation that communicates through Facebook and not face-to-face;

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To Equip His Church To Reach His People



“However, it is in **kehillah** that we could develop a key that will open the door to large-scale Jewish evangelism.”



Is Kehillah the Key ...? (continued)

since, the Jewish **community** has held the Jewish people whole as a unit for 2,000 years. From the Diaspora of AD 70 to the present, the **community** has enabled the Jewish people to survive even when in the outside world away from the **kehillah**, as they faced hatred and bigotry and death.

However, it is in **kehillah** that we could develop a key that will open the door to large-scale Jewish evangelism. It will require Christians and churches to break away from comfort zone mentality. It will force those of us to return to the Biblical model found in the book of Acts, in which **community** was priority #1 in the life of the new believers (Jewish) in Jesus.

Beginning in Acts 2:41 through Acts 6:7, we can see how the new Jewish believers “were together” and “had all things in common.” I believe this could also be the key to Jewish evangelism today ... Christians and churches need to establish unique and Jewish-focused **kehillat (communities)** so that the new Jewish believers can find a “replacement” for the community that they are going to lose once they make public their faith in Jesus.

I can testify to Jewish people who are afraid to believe in Jesus because it would cost them their **community**. We need to offer them not only eternal life through Jesus but also a communal life here on earth. Messianic congregations are one approach, but only if they are doctrinally sound. Traditional churches also need to be involved as they are the ones who most often have the resources and facilities available to establish a Messianic Jewish Community Center (Kehillah Center) to replace the JCC that no longer wants them.

I realize this is a large-scale project that I am forecasting; however, it is a necessary one if we hope to live out the Romans 1:16 mandate. We cannot ask Jewish people to lose all connection to their Jewishness, if for no other reason than Jesus was Jewish and He never stopped being Jewish. Therefore, we need to begin on a small level by perhaps following the idea of Victory Baptist in Weatherford that has a once-a-month event that is Jewish-focused. Perhaps we could begin to host our own **MESSIANIC** Jewish Learning Fest?

It could even begin on a smaller level such as Christians opening up their homes and lives to Jewish people who are curious about Jesus but afraid of the cost. If they are allowed to feel safe in a believing **community** atmosphere, then believing in Jesus and strong discipleship is a natural progression. Are we willing to take up this project so that God’s Chosen Ones can know Him? It will expand our **kehillah** as well ... and that could be a good thing. Shalom!

Acts 20:24,

Amy Downey

The Newest “New” Heresy on the Block: ANOCHI

The picture below is one that my new friend Julie Campbell took at the Garden of Gethsemane. I had been praying and crying over the spiritual lost condition of the Jewish people and she caught this picture of me in what I would describe as “grief mode.”

I believe if a picture had been taken of me during the Jewish Learning Fest in Dallas, my face might have reflected the same “grief mode.” I was heartbroken by many of the lectures but none more than one entitled “The Real Name of God: Embracing the Full Essence of the Divine.” I discovered in this session the depth to which the Jewish people will go in looking for meaning as long as the search does not include Jesus.

For there is only one word that I can ascribe to Rabbi Dosick’s argument that the real name of God is ANOCHI and that is HERESY! Now I have to admit that Rabbi Dosick is a very personable and warm man who walks around with a smile on his face and a skip to his step; however, he is truly disconnected from Messiah Jesus, God the Son. This reality is especially tragic as the kindly rabbi has gone beyond the edge of bad theology to outright blasphemy!



His argument is centered around a beach ball. Yes, I said a beach ball! He compares God to a beach ball and argues that because we do not know the hidden name of God, we only really see one panel or strip of Him. In order to truly have an understanding of God, we need to know His name ... of the beach ball?



Some of you might, like me, might see God’s personal name as the one He gave to Moses in Exodus 3 of “I am that I am” (Yahweh). The rabbi would disagree with us and state while we are close to God’s name, we have missed it. Dosick’s name for God is *Anochi* which is the Hebrew word for “I”. Yes, the first person singular pronoun is God’s real name.

Now before you dismiss this completely, I want to point out a true danger to this view. If God is “I”, who else is God but me, myself, and ... I? Rabbi Dosick argues that God’s name can also refer to the God source within us because we too can be God. **Heresy. Blasphemy. Death.**

This is heresy. This is also tragic because the Jewish people, especially those involved in Kabbalah, are believing this to be true. I saw them sing melodic songs in which they claim that *Anochi Elohim* which could also be understood as *I God*.

Please pray as Tzedakah Ministries seeks to prepare an evangelistic tract and apologetic response to this dangerous movement within Judaism. If for no other reason than to respond to another Anochi song that states — “One God, One World, One People, Eden on Earth.” Scared, yet?

For there is only one word that I can ascribe to Rabbi Dosick’s argument that the real name of God is ANOCHI and that is HERESY!



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Vacation Bible School ...!

As a Baptist pastor's kid (PK), I know that every summer churches began asking for the oddest things: empty bottles, discarded toilet paper cardboard tubes, and lots and lots of glue. The reason for these odd requests ... VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

It is one of the great evangelistic outreaches for children that a church can undertake. It also requires lots of planning which includes one basic question -- what should be the theme for this year?

How about Jewish missions? Tzedakah Ministries is here to help! Whether it is a one-day outreach or a weeklong event, Tzedakah Ministries is ready to join with your church's children outreach and transform everyone's mission understanding from ages 4 to 94!

Contact Tzedakah Ministries using the information in the box to the left and let's schedule VBS for your church! Looking forward to hearing from you!

In Memoriam ... Delores McNeeley, A True Friend of Jewish Missions

On January 16th, Tzedakah Ministries received the tragic news that a true friend of Jewish missions and one of Tzedakah's first board members, Delores McNeeley, had been killed in a car accident near Fort Worth, Texas. I rushed to the hospital to visit her husband Jack hoping to comfort him; however, and as is the case for those who know Jack and Delores McNeeley, Brother Jack had a way of comforting me. For even though he was going through terrible pain and the heartache of losing his friend and wife of more than 50 years, he still wanted to pass onto me the message that one of Delores greatest joys was to have the chance to do her part for Jewish missions by being on the board of Tzedakah Ministries.

I still get emotional when I think about Brother Jack's encouraging words and how much Delores meant to me on a personal level as well as a ministry level. She was there for the ministry when it was more of a dream and hope than a reality. She encouraged me and this ministry when churches and pastors seemed to believe that Jewish missions was an evangelistic outreach for the times of the disciples and not today. Delores McNeeley believed in Jewish missions and she believed in Tzedakah Ministries.

I know that I cannot possibly in the space allowed express how much I miss Delores McNeeley and how I am just a little bit jealous that she is in heaven seeing Jesus and my dad at this moment. However, Tzedakah Ministries wants to honor Delores' faith and service by never ceasing from the work of Jewish missions. We are awaiting word from Jack for his suggestions and opinion; therefore, I will let you know what those plans are in future issues of *Tzedakah Times*. It is what Delores would want and it is what Scripture commands. Godspeed Delores and thank you and I do believe that Isaiah 57:1-3 applies to you.