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Tzedakah Times

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Do you
have pret-
ty or ugly
feet? Find
out how to
have truly
beautiful
feet in
God's eyes
(p. 3).

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Jewish Evangelism in the Millennial Generation

If you have not heard the news, we are living in the post-Christian world. It is not simply because of the Supreme Court decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legalized same-sex unions (FYI — I have made a decision that **Tzedakah Ministries** will not call this concept by the word “marriage” as only God can define what He established in Genesis 2). The Supreme Court simply put an exclamation point on the direction the world has been going for quite some time. We are living in a post-Christian world due to the fact that Christians/churches have failed to teach the **Millennial Generation**.

But just what is the **Millennial Generation**? Some simply will attempt to define this generation by when they were born (post-1980) and how tech-savvy they are or how often they are in Social Media. Others such as the Pew Research Center note that this generation is on the whole more politically liberal than previous generations and also more “highly accepting of societal changes such as the greater availability of green products and more racial and ethnic diversity.” In other words, and as my dad who died in 2000 once said, we must recognize as Christians and churches that while the message of the Gospel must never change the methods of reaching this generation must change.

This changing reality is especially pertinent on multiple levels as it relates to Jewish evangelism. On one hand, the future and current younger pastors who fit within the millennial milieu want to be engaged actively in mission work. In fact, a recent survey I saw stated that 84% of Millennials want to do some sort of service work whenever they travel abroad. However, and on the other hand, they often struggle with what service means and even what missions mean. Younger Christians who have been raised in a post-Christian situation subjective environment struggle with the absolutes of the faith and Scripture. The bottom-line absolute of John 14:6 is recognized as true for most evangelical Millennials; however, they do not want to admit out loud to their friends.

(article continued on page two)



Bahai



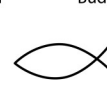
Buddhist



Buddhist



Christian



Christian



Confucian



Confucian/Taoist



Hindu



Judaic



Judaic



Judaic



Islamic



Sikh



Shinto

To Equip His Church To Reach His People



We are living in a post-Christian world due to the fact that Christians/churches have failed to teach the Millennial Generation.

Millennial Generation (continued)

They would prefer a world of subjective universalism ... even if they won't admit it out loud. Therefore, the idea of Jewish evangelism sounds intriguing to many young Christian pastors but the idea of telling a Jewish person individually or the Jewish people as a collective whole they are destined for an eternity apart from God without Messiah Jesus creates a high level of discomfort. This issue of faith struggles is evident in the writings of a high-profile former evangelical who wrote *Love Wins*. In fact, Rob Bell in his Millennial naiveté decided that any God he worshipped would have to be a universalist. This is appealing to Millennials because the God of Love is more fun than the God of Justice — because they don't understand or haven't been taught that true love requires true justice.

Additionally, and because the **Millennial Generation is very concerned over social justice issues**, the Jewish people and Israel often suffer in comparison to the plight of the Palestinian people on their Social Media devices. This is why the Boycott-Divest-Sanction movement I wrote about in the last issue is growing not just on college campuses but also in our Christian denominations. Millennials have a tendency to “root for the underdog” and blame the successful for the plight of the weak. Therefore, younger pastors often turn away from the idea of Jewish evangelism ... just when the Jewish people need them most.



For there is a younger Millennial generation of Jewish people as well. A generation who need Jesus desperately. A generation who are abandoning their faith (36% of Jewish people under the age of 35 state their religion as “None”) because Rabbinic Judaism offered a lot of rules and little hope/faith/love. Many abandoned Judaism as a formal part of their life when they left their Bar/Bat Mitzvah party but they still long for something to believe in more than a legacy or tradition.

So we as Christians and churches have reached the metaphorical fork in the road. We are in the ***Millennial Generation***. We have the truth of Messiah Jesus but our future/current young leaders often struggle with absolutes. We also have Jewish young people who are searching for answers. We must therefore begin to find a way to change our methods while never changing our message. We must find a way to remain relevant in a world that is searching for relevance. Shalom.

Acts 20:24,

Amy Downey (Director)



Gospel Feet ... The Most Beautiful Thing!



Yes ... Those are my feet! This unique picture was taken last summer when I took my mom on her dream vacation to see lighthouses on the Outer Banks in North Carolina. We walked along the beaches of the Outer Banks and I just had to take this picture. For as I looked down at my feet, I thought of the feet of the first believers (by the way — all Jewish) who went to the ends of the known-Roman world to share the message of Messiah Jesus. One can imagine that this was how they looked by the end of the day. Perhaps ... even dirtier.

And, yet, Paul described those feet as beautiful in Romans 10:15 because they were traveling about the world sharing the truth of Messiah Jesus with the Jews and Gentiles of the Roman Empire. I don't know about you but I have never considered feet as beautiful but that day on the Outer Banks — I began to reconsider the **beauty of feet**.

For there are some and/or many mission organizations (who shall remain nameless) who believe that we should focus primarily on extending the hand of friendship with the lost (especially lost Jewish people). They

want to be friends but will not engage in the most friendly act of all — sharing the love of Messiah Jesus with them. Their rationale ... they don't want to offend their friends even though it might cost their "friends" their eternal soul.

There are other organizations (again nameless!) who talk a good talk with their mouth or see the problem with their eyes but leave the mission needs at the table. They know the spiritual needs of Jewish people because they will talk about or they see it but they hesitate to do any thing ... because it costs too much. Literally, I have heard these mission organizations say to me that it costs too much in ROI (return on investment) to engage fully in Jewish evangelism.

There are still other mission groups who acknowledge Jewish evangelism in their mind but just cannot or will not make their feet move. That is why the Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit commends the "ugliest part" of our body ... the feet ... because it is that part of the anatomy that moves the body around.

So my parting question to you is simple — **Are Gospel feet really beautiful?** They can be smelly. They can be calloused. They can be cracked and have corns **BUT** they are indeed beautiful. They go everywhere to share the message of Jesus to those who need to hear. They travel the highways and byways and compel the people to come to Jesus. They are often stepped on and abused but they continue "for the sake of the call."

My feet in the picture were dirty from the sandy beach. However, I pray that one day God will look down at my feet and say, **"What beautiful feet you have."**

**Are Gospel
feet really
beautiful?**



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Fast Food Evangelism

Finding the perfect place to do one's "Quiet Time" is tough. A place where one can have the time alone with God so that He can speak in one's life. I have found my place and it is unusual as I am — it is crowded with people ordering fast food from orange shirt wearing employees. It is a fast food place that was founded in Texas in the 1950s and is open 24-hours a day.

For while I can listen to my music playing in my ears and search the Scriptures, I have also discovered the opportunity to be a living witness of what I am studying. There are the young workers who came to me with questions about the Bible and life. There is the older, custodian who stops by to take strength from what I am reading. There are the customers who see me reading from the Bible and smile. There is also a manager who has a Jewish wife that I am hoping for a chance to meet one day. And, yes, I have already asked him!...

New Ministry Website & New Tracts

"To Equip His Church to Reach His People"

Tzedakah Ministries takes this vision statement very seriously. It is the tunnel through which this ministry operates. Whether it is the statements that we post on Facebook or the article written for the ministry's blog. Everything that we seek to produce has to answer this question — **will this help Christians and churches in reaching God's Chosen Ones with the Gospel message?**

One of the areas that has needed an update for quite a while is the ministry's website. On your right is a template of what the home page looks like. However, and what is most exciting, the website is more user friendly for Christians, churches, and Jewish seekers. The website address has not changed — www.tzedakahministries.org — but the design and focus has!

Since the beginning of the year, the ministry also has produced new evangelistic tracts for Christians/churches to utilize when sharing Jesus with any Jewish soul (or any person for that matter). The themes range from what happens when we die to who is greater Moses or Jesus to the longest wait in Judaism ... Messiah. Important issues whether one is Jewish or not. If you would like to receive any of these tracts, please send your request to info@tzedakahministries.org and it will be sent ASAP.



To Equip His Church To Reach His People