

Imagine...

**Being Jewish
But Not
Having Any-
one to Be-
lieve In...**

Imagine...

**Going to
Synagogue
Out of
Tradition &
for No Other
Reason...**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

**The Truth of 3
Anti-
Semitism ...
Why Now?**

Romans 4

1:16 TTJF

Pledge

**Tzedakah 4
Ministries in
Canada &
Jerusalem**

Being Jewish without God...?

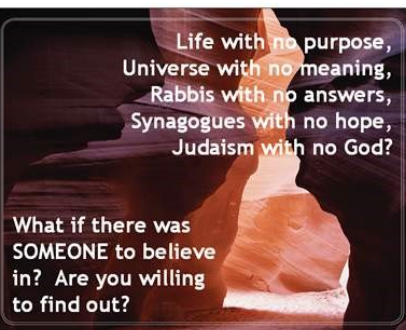
At the 2015 Jewish Learning Fest in Dallas, I attended two interesting sessions. The first was called **"Atheist or Agnostic: Does God Really Exist."** The next seminar was entitled **"What's the God You Don't Believe In?"**

Do those seminar titles surprise you? It shouldn't considering that approximately 80% of Israeli Jews would consider themselves secular. It shouldn't considering that 35% of American Jewish people belong to the Reform denomination and the new leader of the Central Conference of American Rabbis is a woman and a Lesbian. By the way, the CCAR is responsible for the ordination and theological education of Reform rabbis in the United States. It shouldn't when it was announced recently that the new Reform Jewish prayer book for the High Holidays will include optional statements that allows someone to contradict the idea that God is our Shepherd (Psalm 23) and allows someone to openly question the very existence of God.

It shouldn't when one considers some of the information that I myself gleaned from my Sunday at the Dallas Jewish Learning Fest this March ...

- Half of the Jewish attendees at the "Atheist or Agnostic" session considered themselves to be agnostic
- The other session offered those in attendance a connection to God that was through a third-party such as nature or relationships with other people but nothing directly or personal such as through prayer
- A rabbi in a third session plainly stated that modern Judaism doesn't live by the words of the Bible and that the Judaism that is practiced today is only 2,000 years old and was created in reaction to the destruction of the Temple

I recognize that **Tzedakah Ministries** has painted a bleak picture of the irreligious reality of many Jewish people today. However, it is necessary that this ministry not "sugar-coat" the real religious truth for Jewish people today. **They are lost — spiritually, emotionally,**



(article continued on page two)



*There are
Jewish men
and women
and children
today who go
through the
motions of
Judaism...*



Being Jewish without God...? (continued)

and eternally unless they hear the truth of Messiah Jesus. And they will never hear the truth that there is someone to believe in and that worship can be more than tradition ... unless they hear the truth from Christians and churches.

Therefore, there are Jewish people today walking around with the mantle and label and heritage of Jewish but have no connection to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. There are Jewish men and women and children today who go through the motions of Judaism but have no connection to the eternal truth that "The Lord is THEIR shepherd" if they would only believe. There are Jewish people today who are frightened and burdened about the future (see next article) but have no hope or security because they have no God to believe in...



We who are Christians and churches are blessed with a connection to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We who are believers in Jesus know the truth that "The Lord is OUR shepherd," especially in the darkest nights of our souls. We who are blessed to know Jesus as our Messiah can be concerned about the future but confident in knowing that Revelation 22 tells us already who wins ... the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We must share the truth of Messiah Jesus ... today! Passover is quickly approaching and many of you will be reading this issue of **Tzedakah Times** as the Seder is being observed in millions of Jewish homes around the world. However, what will they truly be observing except motions and traditions? For as I was told by one Jewish man just this week, that the concept of joy and Passover are not to be considered synonymous. These words broke my heart and I hope they break your heart as well. They break the heart of God because to truly celebrate Passover is to truly experience the joy of Messiah Jesus.

But how can the Jewish people know that to believe in Jesus is ultimately Judaism Realized unless they are told? But how can the Jewish people know that their heritage is more than motions and traditions unless the Word of Truth is preached to them? But how can the Jewish people know that Judaism can be about the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit unless the beautiful feet of us who already know go and tell them?... Romans 10:14-15. Shalom!

Acts 20:24,

Amy Downey (Director)

The Truth of Anti-Semitism ... Why Now?

Most of the world hoped that the flag to the right and all that it represented was buried in May 1945 along with the corpse of Adolf Hitler. The fall of the Third Reich and the end of World War II should have put an end to the hatred and anti-Semitism that this flag represents ... right? However, and in 2015, the bigotry, the insanity, and the evil of anti-Semitism is sadly and tragically alive and well.



From the Kosher market massacre in France to the attacks in Denmark, European anti-Semitism is growing with each passing day. The American Jewish community is growing more concerned as the subtle tinges of anti-Semitism is increasing. From the more blatant attempts to ostracize Israel with the Boycott-Divest-Sanction (BDS) movement on college campuses across the USA to the recent attempt to prohibit a UCLA Jewish college student from being on the Student Government board just because she was Jewish, anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism is rearing its ugly head even here in America.

In fact, every time I visit the Dallas Holocaust Museum I can see where Holocaust denial graffiti has either been painted over or applied on the museum walls. **Tzedakah Ministries** has not been invited to speak in churches because some churches just do not care about the Jewish people. Yes, there is even anti-Semitism in churches, especially as the movement to side with the Palestinians in the Israeli-Arab conflict is growing inside the walls of the Christian church.

Therefore, I was not surprised when I attended two recent Jewish events on the subject of anti-Semitism in the world. There was a visible level of fear in the room, especially among the older men and women in the room, as one can sense they were imagining a return of the flag to the left. However, I was almost surprised by the question that was raised by almost everyone in the room. For while there were the typical questions of ... "What can be done?" "Who will stand up for the Jewish people?" There was also the question of **"Why now ... after 70 years of relative quiet is it all coming back?"**

The Jewish people in the world today are searching for the answer to this question. Two recent articles, one in the liberal magazine *The Atlantic* and another in the online Jewish journal *Tablet*, are asking. Yet, they do not have the answers. The ADL and the AJC, two Jewish organizations designed purposely to secure peace for Jewish people around the world, do not have the answer to this question. However, the answer can be found in the words of Matthew 24-25; 2 Timothy and the book of Revelation.

For, and regardless of your eschatological view, the Bible tells us that in these last days, the world will once again turn against the Jewish people. The world will once again seek to destroy the Jewish people for this is Satan's only recourse as he seeks to prevent God from keeping His covenant promises with His chosen people. **It won't succeed**; however, the spiritual damage done to the Jewish people could be eternally catastrophic. **UNLESS** ... Christians stand in the gap and share Messiah Jesus with them. **Will you be one who stands in the gap ... TODAY?**

**...anti-Judaism and
anti-Semitism is
rearing its ugly head
even here in America**



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#Romans116TTJF Pledge

Tzedakah Ministries is asking for our friends of this ministry for Jewish evangelism to take a small step for the Jewish people. A small step that could prove to be a huge beginning for Jewish evangelism in churches around the country.

The ministry has created a pledge link in which we are asking individuals and/or churches to simply sign a statement affirming that they believe that the strongest measure of supporting the Jewish people and Israel is to hear the Gospel of Messiah Jesus. Obviously, a small step that we are asking people and/or churches to take but if they will take this small step ... then perhaps they will take the next step and share their faith with the Jewish people that God places in their path.

Will you be one of those who signs this pledge? Go to <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/rom116ttjf-pledge> to find out more!

Tzedakah Ministries in Canada & Jerusalem!

שָׁלוֹם, יְרוּשָׁלַם; יִשְׁלֹו, אֶהְיֶה.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. (Psalm 122:6)



Beginning this April, **Tzedakah Ministries** will be traveling in 2015! This April, I (Amy Downey) will be representing Tzedakah Ministries at the meeting of the LCJE -NA in Vancouver, Canada. Additionally, I will be leading the breakfast meeting of the Messianic Academics during the LCJE-NA meeting. The Messianic Academics Breakfast is vital as we are seeking ways to be a more visible presence in the evangelical academic world. A presence that is lacking at the moment but one that is necessary to remind Christians and churches that Jewish evangelism must become a missiological priority in the 21st century. A lot of responsibility and **Tzedakah**

Ministries covets your prayers!

This August, Tzedakah Ministries will be returning to Jerusalem! The ministry will be returning for the international meeting of the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism (LCJE) and I will be presenting a paper before this distinguished group of individuals. The paper will focus on developing an action plan for creating community (*something which I have shared with all of you*) for Jewish people who want to believe in Jesus but fearful of the loss of community in their lives. Please pray during the week of 16-21 August 2015 for **Tzedakah Ministries**!



To Equip His Church To Reach His People