

# TZEDAKAH TIMES



## Tzedakah in Japan...!

In many ways, this article about Tzedakah Ministries' trip to Japan could be written with a series of pictures. Opportunities to connect with amazing Christians from all corners of the world. The invitation to share the vision of Tzedakah Ministries with East Asian churches and Christians in Tokyo is not something I will soon forget. However, I believe I can best explain what happened for Tzedakah Ministries in Japan through a few carefully chosen pictures.

The picture to the right is of me in a Tokyo cemetery. Now if you know me and my love of history, I can often be found in the oldest section of a cemetery; however, this one is special for a variety of reasons. The gravestone is for the 19th century missionary Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky. Yes, this great missionary and Bible translator for the Chinese people was a Jewish believer in Jesus. He lived out the entirety of Romans 1:16 with his life — “to the Jew first ... also to the Greek.” Schereschewsky who began his life in Russia and was supposed to become a rabbi ended his earthly life in the Far East sharing the truth of Jesus. What an encouragement for this Irish Baptist preacher's kid from West Texas who now travels the world sharing Jesus to Jewish people!



The next picture (see page two) again touches my love of history and evangelism. This blessed 80-year-old man came up to me after I was finished speaking in

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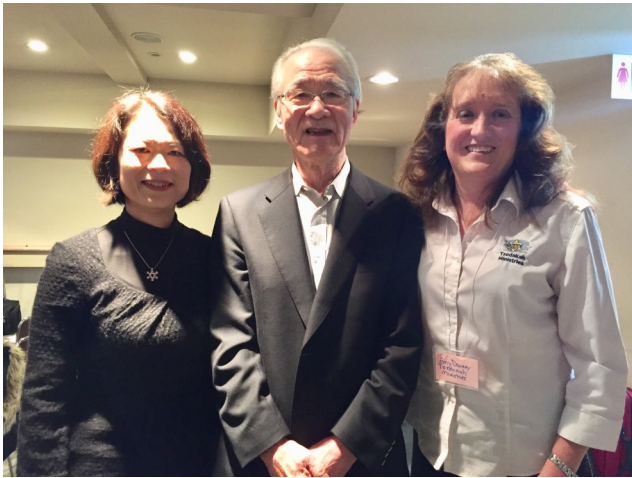
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Tokyo with his daughter to share me his family's story. He is a second-generation Japanese Christian and both before and during World War II his family and church prayed for the salvation of the Jewish people and for the restoration of the nation of Israel. He wanted to meet me personally because I had discovered the story of Japanese Christians undergoing great persecution during World War II for their support of the Jewish people and I expressed my appreciation for their

***...they long to see the Jewish people come to faith in Messiah Jesus because they know it will assist them in reaching the lost 99.5% of their land.***

loyalty to Biblical truth in my Tokyo presentation. Incidentally, they were loyal to Biblical truth even while the rest of Japan was worshipping Emperor Hirohito and the United States was setting up quotas to halt Jewish immigration. What an honor it was to meet this family!

This third picture is one I found almost by accident in Osaka one morning. This small Buddhist shrine is for anyone to stop and say a quick prayer for luck, fortune or whatever might be on their mind that day. For you see, 99% of Japan is lost at this moment and only 0.5% of the Christian population is made up of what we would call Evangelical (the other 0.5% are Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc). But it was a portion of this 0.5% that Tzedakah Ministries met while in Japan and they long to see the Jewish people come to faith in Messiah Jesus because they know it will assist them in reaching the lost 99.5% of their land.

I was humbled and amazed by the heart of Japanese Christians. We even now are seeking how we can partner with them in their Jewish evangelism work in Asia. Please pray for us as we seek ways to help them. Shalom!



**Dr. Amy Downey  
Director/President  
Tzedakah Ministries**



# Hanukkah 2017

Tzedakah Ministries recently hosted 125+ of our closest DFW friends for our 1st Hanukkah Celebration Dinner! It was a joyous occasion of dreidels, latkes and Hanukkiah's. It also was a time when we share the truth of what Hanukkah should be all about...

For many focus on the original story of Hanukkah which occurred in 167 to 164 BC when the Maccabees defeated the Greeks. And while that is a great part of the story, it is only half of the REAL story. Tzedakah Ministries knows it is crucial to focus on the "rest of the story" that includes Jesus' proclamation of just who He is (John 10:22-31):

*And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. (KJV)*

Yes, Jesus celebrated Hanukkah as the word translated into English means — dedication! And it was at this setting that Jesus responded to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" with the answer of the ages in verse 31 — "I and my Father are one." It was at the Feast of Hanukkah that Jesus stated that He was not only Messiah but that He was also God Incarnate.

In other words, Hanukkah is one very important holiday to Judaism and Christianity! This truth is interesting as recently a Judaism professor at UT-Austin tried to discount Hanukkah as a minor holiday. She tried to explain that the recent rise of observance was tied to Jewish jealousy of trees,



gifts and Christmas. The ministry emailed her to discuss her perspective in light of John 10:22-31 but she has not yet responded back...

But what is important as this moment is that you understand the importance of Hanukkah because even though the holiday is passed ... the truth of Jesus' claims about Himself is forever true. And that is what I shared with those who attended the Hanukkah Dinner. We must share that Jesus is not only Messiah but also the truth of His deity and divinity.

Yes, it is one of the mysteries of the ages but it is a glorious mystery to touch, enjoy and behold. And Jesus chose in the words of the UT professor "the minor holiday of Hanukkah" to reveal it to the world. We can reveal this truth every day of the week ... and we should. Chag Sameach!



# Ministry Vision...

Tzedakah Ministries is unique in many ways — including the fact that we are constantly searching for new and visionary ways to reach Jewish people with the Gospel.

This year in 2017, the ministry launched the evangelistic website to Jewish Millennials called **Explore Messiah...?** ([www.exploremessiah.com](http://www.exploremessiah.com)). In the coming months and years, we hope to continue the expansion of reaching out to Millennials with a face-to-face outreach called **CAFÉ Kehillah** which will be a Bible study outreach for Jewish and Christian Millennials.

This will not be your typical Bible study and/or “church plant” but will seek to reach those who are lost (Jewish young people) and have been lost by churches where they are. Please be in prayer for this vision and come back often for more info.

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## Schedule & Calendar

Every January 1 is a blank slate in many ways. We begin anew and that includes Tzedakah Ministries. The calendar of the ministry is starting to fill out for the ministry including a week in January in New York City; a couple of Wednesday nights in February in Ennis, Texas; and a weekend in Muleshoe, Texas, in March! However, we will always make room on the Tzedakah Ministries' calendar for your church and/or small group.

From Georgia (April) to Alaska (July), this ministry will go anywhere and everywhere to share Messiah Jesus with Jewish people and to equip Christians and churches to do the same. All you have to do is to contact the ministry by phone at either 972-977-2389 or 214-356-6080. You can also reach Tzedakah Ministries at [info@tzedakahministries.org](mailto:info@tzedakahministries.org).



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