

News From
Toward Jerusalem
Council II

March 2003



Marty Waldman, Executive General Secretary

John Dawson, Chairman

Evan Thomas, Chairman

October Committee Meetings

In October 2002 the executive committee gathered for meetings in Coubron, outside of Paris. Their time together was marked by an enhancement of unity and mutual prayer, as well as a clear vision and strategy for the work ahead. Beyond the upcoming meetings in Vienna, Dallas, and Israel, they were challenged to plan toward Africa and Latin America.

The decision to meet in France represented a Spirit-led change of venue from original plans, taking into consideration the escalation of Anti-Semitic incidents in that nation. France has the largest Jewish population of Europe outside of the former Soviet Union and a comparable Muslim population. French scholars have made significant contributions to Jewish studies.

France is a key nation for TJC II. Peter Hocken commented. "The rightness of this decision was shown by the evident blessing of the Lord on every aspect of this meeting. The most obvious blessing was the welcome we received from French leaders and intercessors."

A smaller "subcommittee" met with French charismatic leaders from various churches. Dan Juster described that meeting as "especially heartening" and related that a Lutheran leader became enthusiastically supportive after hearing them share.

Some of the executive committee also met with leaders at the office of French Protestant Federation for a fruitful dialogue. This group is about to produce a document on Messianic Judaism and seemed grateful for the contact.

The committee invited leaders for an afternoon of sharing at the Coubron retreat center, and fifteen French and Belgians responded. After hearing the TJC II vision, most of them wanted more information. Some will be participating in the Vienna Consultation. The committee began to pray with them, which led into a time of deep intercession and reconciliation between Catholics, Protestants, and Messianics. Everyone was surprised and touched by this special blessing of the Lord.

Other highlights included a meeting with a Catholic theologian, Shabbat dinner and worship with a Paris Messianic congregation, and a visit and talk by Bishop Olivier who was instrumental in a reconciliation gathering at Drancy deportation camp in 1997. During World War II a large unfinished apartment complex at Drancy was used to imprison Jews, many of whom were sent to Auschwitz. The committee and intercessors visited the tiny history museum there one afternoon and stood in the rain to pray. The memorial is inscribed with a portion of Lamentations 1:12, "Is there any sorrow like my sorrow?"

Six of the committee members, including four Messianics, were able to meet with Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris. He received them warmly and spoke openly of his experience as a Jewish believer in Yeshua. His mother was detained at Drancy and later died at Auschwitz. Lustiger has written extensively about his own story and concerning the relationship between Jews and the Church.

A group of intercessors prayed at the retreat center during the committee meetings. Members of the Dallas prayer group, faithful ones from Austria, two new members from England, and Ram Zango from Burkina Faso traveled to join French intercessors, both Catholic and Protestant. The intercession group has experienced unity in past meetings, but the anointing for unity was even deeper at Coubron as they worshipped and prayed in French, German, English, and Hebrew. The French intercessors prayed to impart their passion for Yeshua to those from other nations.

The intercessory support is broadening and becoming more international. Intercessors from Hungary have expressed interest in forming a TJC II prayer group.

A Larger Tent

It is a wonderful blessing that God is bringing new contacts and opportunities for TJC II. As he is leading us to expand the tentpegs, we realize that a larger tent means more expense. Already your friendship and prayer support has been a gift to us. Would you also consider sending a financial gift in the next few months?

A New Resource

TJC II has released a new booklet, "Toward Jerusalem Council II, The Vision and the Story", written by Peter Hocken. It is an excellent resource for information and communicating the vision. It will answer questions that you or others may have about TJC II. The cost, including mailing, is \$4 US. To order copies, contact the office of the general secretary, Marty Waldman, at EGS@TJCII.org.

Updates and Prayer Requests

- * Peter Hocken will be spending more time in Vienna through March with a focus on his writing.
- * Wayne, Bonnie, and Julia Wilks are settled into a house in Cyprus, located near the Rudolphs.
- * John Dawson will be inaugurated September 2003 as the next international president of Youth with a Mission.
- * Jonathan Bernis married Elisangela Carnerio on February 22nd.
- * The Waldmans and Baruch Ha Shem congregation are rejoicing as their new building is steadily progressing. This building will be dedicated to the Lord in May. They are preparing for the North America consultation also in May.
- * Evan and Maala Thomas are back in Israel, facing the daily challenges of family life and leading a congregation with the ongoing tensions of the Intifada. For 2003, their congregation plans to be involved in outreach to those attending New Age festivals and with the Jesus video in Netanya. Sara will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah soon.
- * Leaders of Promise Keepers distributed copies of Don Finto's book, Your People Shall be My People, to 10,000 pastors at its rally in Phoenix Arizona in February 2003.

Reminders

May 12-15, 2003 North American Consultation in Dallas, Texas
October 20-24, 2003 Executive Committee meetings in Israel
May 3-7, 2004 African Consultation [tentative]

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