



The Seven Affirmations

The King's University (TKU) and the Seven Affirmations



by David Rudolph, PhD
Director of Messianic Jewish Studies, TKU
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When I began serving as the Director of Messianic Jewish Studies at The King's University (TKU) in 2015, I was told that the school had an institutional commitment to Paul's vision of the "One New Man" made up of Jews and Gentiles in Messiah as described in Ephesians 2. This was part of the DNA that Pastor Jack Hayford, the school's founder, instilled in the college and seminary from the beginning.

Pastor Jack wrote some years later that a "primary mission" of TKU was "to love, affirm, and stand with the Jewish people and Israel, especially at this politically strife-filled season of history." It also became clear to me

that the university was committed to the principle of "To the Jew First," a vision that Pastor Robert Morris embedded in the university from the time the university became an educational ministry of Gateway Church. Although the university lived out this primary mission and vision, and had a vibrant Messianic Jewish Studies program, there was nothing in writing that concisely communicated to the students, staff, faculty and prospective students the nature and scope of what "One New Man" and "To the Jew First" meant. It struck me that the TJCII Seven Affirmations beautifully expressed the contours of what the university had long stood for and lived out. Moreover, Pastor Jack had been one of the first Christian supporters of TJCII!

After Rabbi Marty received from the Lord the vision for TJCII, he traveled to Israel in March 1995 to seek Pastor Jack's wisdom in the matter. At that time, Pastor Jack was teaching at a Messianic Jewish leadership conference in Jerusalem. After one of the sessions, Rabbi Marty went up and said, "Dr. Hayford, the Lord has given to me, what I believe, could be a very important vision. May I share it with you?"

Rabbi Marty recounts:

His response was, "Let's have lunch tomorrow." The next day I had lunch with Jack and his wife and presented him with a written copy of the vision. He read it, then turned to me and responded, "Marty, this is from God."

We talked about it during lunch and he offered his 100% endorsement...Jack made that commitment to TJCII even before we had formed a TJCII Executive Committee! I returned from Israel feeling confident that the vision of TJCII was indeed a vision from the LORD.



Pastor Jack was the opening speaker for the first TJCII consultation in 2003. And in 2009, through Pastor Jack's leadership as president of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (which represents globally more than 66,000 churches [including a number of Messianic Jewish congregations]), ICFG became the first larger denomination to endorse the Seven Affirmations statement. Pastor Jack has been a champion of TJCII from its inception.

In light of Pastor Jack's endorsement of TJCII and given that the Seven Affirmations articulated so well the nature and scope of the school's perspective on matters related to the Church and the Jewish people, and given that Pastor Robert and Gateway Church had already endorsed the Seven Affirmations a year earlier, I went to the president of TKU and requested that the board of trustees consider affirming the Seven Affirmations.

On September 18, 2016, the president signed the Seven Affirmations statement on behalf of the board, making TKU the first Christian educational institution in the world to stand in solidarity with TJCII's vision for Jew-Gentile unity, diversity and reconciliation.

We are grateful to TJCII for providing us with the words we needed to communicate in an understandable and passionate way what was already in the DNA of our school, thanks to Pastor Jack and Pastor Robert.

The Seven Affirmations are a gift from God and enable us to pass on a legacy of blessing to future generations at The King's University. Thank you, TJCII!

1. Jack Hayford, "Allowing the Spirit to Refocus Our Identity," in *Unity: Awakening the One New Man* (ed. Robert F. Wolff and Don Enevoldsen; Chambersburg: Drawbaugh, 2011), 20.

2. *Toward Jerusalem Council II: Vision, Origin and Documents* (TJCII, 2010).
<http://tjcii.org/the-kings-university-and-the-seven-affirmations/>



40'000 Membership Church endorses the 7 Affirmations

by Wayne Wilks, Jr, Ph.D.

“We know of no better document than the 7 Affirmations of TJCII for Gentile Christians to affirm the Messianic Jewish community and God’s restoration among them.”

Gateway Church is a multi-campus congregation in the Dallas-Fort Worth area founded by Robert Morris in 2000, with a current active membership over 40,000.

Pastor Robert established Gateway Church on the conviction that the Gospel is “to the Jew first” (Rom 1:16). We believe this was not only a historical priority, but is a present priority knowing God’s covenantal faithfulness to Israel and the apostolic pattern in the Book of Acts. We encourage other pastors and leaders to prayerfully consider applying “to the Jew first” in their context or missions’ strategy. We also encourage churches to make it a goal to set aside a tithe of the tithe (1%) for the Messianic Jewish community and Jewish outreach. Jesus said that “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mt. 6:21 NIV). Hearts follow where treasure is sown.

We also encourage pastors and leaders to sign and endorse the “Seven Affirmations of Toward Jerusalem Council II (TJCII).” Our Gateway Church eldership has signed it as has our leadership at The King’s University (TKU) at Gateway. TKU was founded by Pastor Jack Hayford and is an accredited educational institution also offering a Bachelor’s, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry in Messianic Jewish Studies.

We know of no better document than the “Seven Affirmation of TJCII” for Gentile Christians to affirm the Messianic Jewish community and God’s restoration among them.

We believe TJCII is a key instrument in God’s hands to help Gentile believers reconnect to Israel and the Messianic Jewish community.

by Wayne Wilks, Jr.

<http://tjcii.org/40000-membership-church-endorses-the-7-affirmations/>



Messianic Jewish Bible Institute Board of Directors endorses the 7 Affirmations

by Nic Lesmeister, President/CEO of MJBI

“As I travel the world engaging with Christians, Messianic and non-Messianic Jews, the 7 Affirmations of TJCII are a resources I constantly reference as a beginning basis of relationship with other leaders and influencers.”

I vividly recall a conversation that I had with my father when I was nine or ten years old. It was an early winter evening in my rural hometown in Minnesota. We were walking down a frozen alley to Saturday evening mass at the Catholic Church, where my family faithfully attended.

I turned to my dad and asked him about the Jewish people. My hometown was far away from any Jewish community, and I had never interacted with a Jewish person. But I was curious about them after reading the story of Anne Frank. Almost as soon as I could finish my question, my dad answered very pragmatically that “Catholics are the new Jews, Son.”

I was stunned and perplexed by his answer. “How on earth can an entire group of people simply be superseded and assumed by another group of people entirely unlike them?” I thought in bewilderment.

Ten years later, through the ministry of Pastor Don Finto, I came to realize that the Jewish people were not replaced by any group of people – Catholics, African, Chinese or Baptist! I have been on a journey to understand the blessing of Jew and Gentile identity in the Body of Messiah.

A relationship with Towards Jerusalem Council II has personally and professionally enriched me, and I am unable to imagine how my current position leading the Messianic Jewish Bible Institute (MJBI) would be possible without TJCII's great theological influence.

As I travel the world engaging with Christians, Messianic and non-Messianic Jews, the Seven Affirmations of TJCII are a resource I reference as a beginning basis of relationship with other leaders and influencers. In fact, I keep a stack of the Seven Affirmations in my carry-on and in the console of my pickup truck. Whether I am in Texas or Zimbabwe, the Seven Affirmations powerfully and succinctly help me guide others into this same great revelation of Jewish and Gentile identity, which I received from Don.

Recently, Dr. Wayne Wilks and I were working in Warsaw, Poland to bring Messianic ministry and education into a local church and seminary. In late 2017, we taught the Seven Affirmations to key Christian leaders in the Polish capital. Six months later, MJBI is launching the first Messianic Studies seminary degree in European history with these brothers and sisters. The Seven Affirmations are the main pillars of this new, accredited degree program. Similarly, one of the largest evangelical churches in Poland has signed and affirmed the Seven Affirmations, and have started a monthly Messianic Shabbat service in their church, led by many Messianic Jews.

From Japan to Poland and beyond, the Seven Affirmations are touching the hearts of major Christian church leaders. This is truly a renewed move of the Holy Spirit to reawaken believers to the beauty of Jew and Gentile identity in the Messiah.

Because of the diligent, trusted work of TJCII, we are seeing Messianic ministry expand into places once thought impossible. I am grateful and humbled to be a part of advancing this movement around the world. There are few movements and ministries making such a natural and eternal impact as TJCII.

I am forever grateful to the Lord for changing the direction of my life through TJCII and Pastor Don Finto. I pray that your life is similarly impacted by the meaningful ministry of TJCII.

By Nic Lesmeister

<http://tjcii.org/the-board-of-director-of-mjbi-endorses-the-7-affirmations/>



Boris Grisenko has been the Senior Rabbi (pastor) of KJMC from the very beginning. Rabbi Boris is also the Vice Chairman of the Ukrainian Interchurch Council and holds an Honorary Doctorate in Theology from CLST (Christian Life School of Theology).

Kiev Jewish Messianic Congregation (KJMC) was born shortly after first Festival of Jewish Music and Dance, organized by the mission "Hear, O Israel!" (Jonathan Bernis), which took place in Ukraine in 1994. KJMC has grown over the years and today numbers more than 2,000 people. The congregation is comprised of Jews and non-Jews, all of whom have accepted the Lord Yeshua ha'Mashiach (Jesus Christ).

<http://tjcii.org/?team=boris-grisenko>



Rabbi Mark Kinzer shares the vision of TJCII in Bogota, Colombia

Dr. Mark Kinzer is the Rabbi of Congregation Zera Avraham in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Born in Detroit in 1952, Mark was raised in a Conservative Jewish home and became an adherent of Messiah Yeshua in 1971. Mark is Senior Scholar and President Emeritus of Messianic Jewish Theological Institute.

Last April, I represented TJCII at the third international gathering of the Global Christian Forum (GCF) in Bogota, Colombia. This was the first time the GCF has invited a Messianic Jew (identified publicly as such) to attend their forum. Given TJCII's ultimate goal of gaining recognition for Messianic Judaism among all the

world's churches, this was a significant milestone.

To understand why this is the case, one must first become familiar with the Global Christian Forum. The GCF brings together representatives from every imaginable segment of the Christian world. Attendees came from more than fifty countries, and included many denominational leaders.

What an extraordinary opportunity to speak about Messianic Judaism, and about the vision of TJCII! Interest in these subjects was high, but the pre-existing knowledge-base was low. We still have much that remains to be done before we see a universal acknowledgement of Messianic Jews in the Body of Messiah. But this event was a major step in that direction.

Some of my most memorable conversations were with Pentecostal friends of Fr. Peter Hocken of blessed memory, who was a central figure in the work of TJCII. They had heard about TJCII from Fr. Peter, but none of them had seen the Seven Affirmations or TJCII's *Vision, Origin and Documents* booklet. I distributed copies of these important documents, and they all seemed genuinely grateful to receive them.

It was a privilege to attend this remarkable gathering, and an even greater privilege to do so on behalf of Toward Jerusalem Council II and the entire Messianic Jewish community. May the seeds planted in Bogota bear a rich harvest!

By Rabbi Mark S. Kinzer, Ph.D.

<http://tjcii.org/rabbi-mark-kinzer-shares-the-vision-of-tjcii-in-bogota-colombia/>



Discovering TJCII

Nancy is a nurse and works part time as a hospice Nurse Practitioner. She and her husband, Chester, live in Georgia. She was born and raised in a Jewish family. Nancy is one of the founding members of the TJCII prayer group in Augusta, Georgia and has recently come to the fullness of faith as a Messianic Jewish believer in Yeshua.

Shalom! This is Nancy from Augusta Georgia. I was born and raised in a Jewish family. Like many Jewish families, we were secular, but celebrated the Jewish holidays. I remember dressing as Queen Esther on Purim and parading around the synagogue with all the other Esthers. My parents sent me to Sunday school at Temple Beth Shalom, where I first read the bible stories and heard about "G-d". I was so interested in "G-d" that I spent lots of time in my bedroom talking to Him and building a relationship.

When I was nine, Jesus made His presence known to me in my bedroom. I told Jesus he must have made a mistake coming to visit me because I am Jewish! It was clear there was more to Jesus than I was being told. Many years would pass before I would learn about Jesus and accept Him into my heart as my personal savior. Not having of knowledge of Messianic Judaism, I entered the gentile church thinking it was the next logical step. I mistakenly thought believing in Jesus meant I was no longer Jewish.

The church worked for a while and I learned a lot, but a longing for my Jewish heritage, holidays and traditions would often arise. I was careful to gently push it down, thinking that being in the church meant that I had to move past Jewish things. In fact, I was told by a Catholic priest that the church was the new Israel, so it was ok to put aside my Jewish past.

G-d has a way of changing our direction and placing us on the true path. In June of 2015, I attended the TJCII Leadership Consultation at Baruch HaShem Synagogue in Dallas, Texas and I have never been the same.

Listening to the speakers reconnected me with my Jewish heritage while learning about Messianic Judaism. Each attendee received a copy of Don Finto's book "*Your People Shall Be my People.*" I cried as I read about the long and painful history between the Jews and the church. While grateful for my time in the church, it was time to leave and stand in my true identity as a Messianic Jew.

At the TJCII Leadership Consultation, I caught the TJCII vision for authentic unity that allows for the full expression of the One New Man spoken of in Ephesians: a vision that serves to hasten the second coming of Yeshua.

Uniting Jew and Gentile through prayer, repentance and reconciliation to heal the painful history between Jews and the church is the most important work of our times. It is both a pleasure and a privilege to be part of this movement of the Ruach HaKodesh.

By Nancy Andrews, DNP, FNP-BC

<http://tjcii.org/discovering-tjcii/>



The International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC) endorses the 7 Affirmations

Doug Beacham is the General Superintendent and Presiding Bishop of IPHC. A global denomination with executive offices in Oklahoma, IPHC is committed to the TJCII Vision and the 7 Affirmations.

As the leadership of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church reflected on the Seven Affirmations, we realized that our movement had been supportive of the Affirmations from our understanding of Scripture.

I attended a TJCII meeting years later at Baruch HaShem Synagogue in Dallas, Texas and I was introduced to Rabbi Marty Waldman. I also met at this meeting friends of mine, Jack Hayford and John Dawson. What I heard at that meeting inspired me. To my surprise, at the close of the meeting, the leaders of TJCII asked me to consider walking with them for a year to determine if the Holy Spirit was leading in my joining the leadership team.

Throughout that year I continued to read of how the Holy Spirit is calling the body of Christ to repent of, and reject, the replacement theology that has dominated almost every branch of Christendom since the second and third centuries of the Christian era. As I met with the leadership group in the home of Marcel Rebiai in Jerusalem, I was humbled to be among godly people representing the cross-section of global Christianity. The warm hospitality, engaging conversations, and authentic prayer and prophetic ministry touched me greatly. The diversity of experience among us is rooted in our common experience as followers of Yeshua.

I joined TJCII because of my firm conviction that reconciliation among Jewish and Gentile believers in Yeshua is key to the manifestation of God's blessings to the world. I believe we are at historic crossroads where leaders across the body of Christ are being led by the Spirit to reassess theological perspectives of Holy Scripture. The Holy Spirit is opening doors for me to share TJCII with the larger Pentecostal tradition (which is my experience) and among others in the body of Christ.

The International Pentecostal Holiness Church responded positively to the Seven Affirmations because we believe they accurately reflect what the Bible teaches regarding Israel, Jews, and Gentiles. We believe the Seven Affirmations call God's people to expressions of fundamental unity and reconciliation that will be sources of blessing to the world.

by: *By Doug Beacham, Superintendent of International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC)*

<http://tjcii.org/the-international-pentecostal-holiness-church-iphc-endorses-the-7-affirmations/>

THE SEVEN AFFIRMATIONS

STATEMENT FOR CHURCH BODIES TO AFFIRM THE MESSIANIC JEWISH MOVEMENT.

Consistent with the principle established in the original Jerusalem Council of Acts Chapter 15 regarding respect for diversity in the Body of Christ concerning Jewish and Gentile identity, we do make the following affirmations:

1. We affirm the election of Israel, its irrevocable nature and God's unfinished work with the Jewish people regarding salvation and the role of Israel as a blessing to the nations.
2. We affirm that Jews who come to faith in the Messiah, Jesus, are called to retain their Jewish identity and live as part of their people in ways consistent with the New Covenant.
3. We affirm the formation of Messianic Jewish congregations as a significant and effective way to express Jewish collective identity (in Jesus) and as a means of witnessing to Jesus before the Jewish community. We also affirm Jewish individuals and groups that are part of churches and encourage them in their commitment to Jewish life and identity.
4. We affirm our willingness as an ecclesiastical body to build bridges to the Messianic Jewish community; to extend the hand of friendship and to pray for their growth and vitality.
5. We affirm our willingness to share our resources with Messianic Jewish congregations, mission organizations and theological training institutes so as to empower them to fulfill their God-given purpose.
6. We affirm our willingness to be a voice within our own ecclesiastical structures and spheres of influence against all forms of anti-Semitism, replacement theology (supersessionism) and teaching that precludes the expression of Jewish identity in Jesus.
7. Finally, we affirm that as Jewish and Gentile expressions of life in Jesus grow organically side by side with distinct identities that God will be glorified; that the Kingdom of Heaven will be advanced and that the vision of "the one new man" in Ephesians 2 will unfold as part of the original Abrahamic blessing to the nations.



We were so privileged to have Dan and Patty Juster in Brazil to lead a week-long conference in July 2018. Over 100 people attended the conference and received teaching on the plan of God for Israel, the Church, and World Redemption!



We praise G-d for multiple successful conferences and roundtables in 2018 led by or attended by our TJCII Asia leaders!

Please pray for:

- 1 The 3rd Israel Theology Colloquium to be held in South Korea on October 8. The theme of the colloquium will be: "How has the Church Council dealt the issue of the Jews in history?"
- 2 The consolidation of TJCII Asia in the midst of the diverse activities of each member.
- 3 Blessings and wisdom for the entire TJCII Asia team as plans are being made for 2019.
- 4 The TJCII vision to continue to spread and strengthen in all of the nations of Asia and Indonesia.
- 5 Dr. Jeong Jacob Lee, TJCII Asia Coordinator, who will participate in our upcoming TJCII International Leadership Meetings in Jerusalem in October.



Toward Jerusalem Council II – www.tjcii.org

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