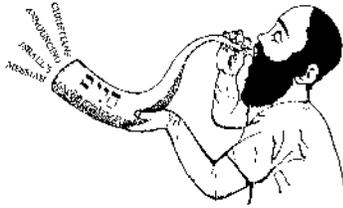


# CHAIM TIMES

The Newsletter of CHAIM, "CHRistians Announcing Israel's Messiah"

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## “AND HE WILL BECOME A SANCTUARY...”

This season we think about the miracle of the Creator of the Universe taking on human nature and being born in Bethlehem as the Redeemer of those who believe. Though it is the birth of the King of the Jews that Christians celebrate, for the Jewish community the idea of the incarnation has been a major stumbling block. It is arguably this truth, above all others, that has been hardest for the Jewish community to accept. Author Louis Jacobs expressed it this way:

**God, being God, can as little become human as He can wish Himself out of existence.<sup>1</sup>**

Is Jacobs right? Is it truly unimaginable for the Creator of all that exists to dwell among his people as a man? How *can* the Infinite One take on the limitations of a finite existence? It seems an impossibility to human thought. But the rabbis were not the first to have a problem with such an idea. Solomon, known as the wisest man who ever lived, could not figure out how a similar visitation of God could have been possible, either.

The Sanctuary, *mikdash* (מִקְדָּשׁ) in Hebrew, was to be built, as David had commanded Solomon (1 Chr. 22:19) and in line with what had been commanded to Moses. God would dwell on earth:

**And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exodus 25:8**

Solomon struggled with the concept of the infinite God dwelling among his people in a finite abode:

**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! 1 Kings 8:27**

Solomon was simply not able to comprehend how the one not contained by “heaven and the highest heaven” could dwell in the midst of His people in a mere stone house. Yet, he believed God’s promise and prayed that indeed this would happen and that, when the people of Israel would repent and pray toward the Sanctuary, they would be forgiven. That is why, to this day, there is a tradition in Judaism to face east when praying, toward Jerusalem and toward the site of the ancient Temple. Solomon also prayed that, because of the Temple, all nations would come to know Israel’s God as the only true God. The Temple was consecrated, thousands of sacrifices were made, and the people dedicated the altar for seven days and held a solemn assembly on the eighth day. This was an awesomely significant episode in Israel’s history.

Despite the seeming impossibility, God did, in fact, come to dwell in the Temple in Jerusalem. His presence was powerfully made known at that first dedication of the Temple recorded in 1 Kings chapter 8 and 2 Chronicles chapters 5-7.

We know that the Temple did not last, however. Most of Israel rebelled. After Solomon, the northern tribes split off from Judah and abandoned the Temple where the true God dwelt. They set up an alternate place of worship in Samaria. Eventually the Sanctuary was destroyed and later rebuilt, but it never lived up to the great hopes Solomon had for it. The prophets maintained the vision of an exalted Jerusalem with streams of people from all nations flocking into it and desiring to walk in God’s ways.<sup>2</sup>

Isaiah foresaw a day when God would not just dwell *in* a sanctuary among His people —He Himself would *become* the sanctuary:

**He will become a sanctuary, and a stone of offense, and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Isaiah 8:13-14**

God would not only become a *sanctuary* for those who believe —he would also become an offense, a stumbling block, to those who would not. Peter quoted this verse when speaking to the early Messianic believers.<sup>3</sup> God Incarnate surely had this in mind, as well, when he spoke of his death and resurrection. Jesus said:

**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.... I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.<sup>4</sup>**

**Jesus described His incarnation as a temple. If God can come and dwell among His people in a temple of stone and wood, why can’t He come and dwell among His people in a temple of flesh and bone? Why is one possible and not the other?**

During Hanukkah our Jewish friends will, for eight days, celebrate the rededication of the Temple during the period of the Macabees.<sup>5</sup> We have something even greater to celebrate because “something greater than the Temple” has come. Immanuel, God among us, has come to God’s people. Let us joyfully sing: “Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel!”<sup>6</sup>

### Notes:

1. The Jewish Religion: A Companion, Oxford University Press, (c) Louis Jacobs, 1995. Found online at: www.myjewishlearning.com 2. See Isaiah 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-4, and Isaiah 56:7 3. 1 Peter 2:7 4. John 2:19, Matthew 12:6 5. See our web site for more information about Hanukkah, which falls on December 19 this year at sundown. 6. See Isaiah 7:14

# CHAIM MINISTRY UPDATES



In years past our December newsletter always had news about our growing family, that is, our own personal family. Now we have three teens on the verge of adulthood. As time has moved forward, our ministry family has grown as well.

Several years ago we were delighted to have Rev. Rick Anderson join us. He has been a great blessing and a wonderful addition to our ministry.

On Nov. 4 Fred & Jean Klett celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Rick came to us as a somewhat confirmed bachelor. He was open to whatever the Lord had for him, but felt that it might be the Lord's will for him to remain a bachelor.

Well, things have changed. We have a wonderful announcement—Rev. Rick is getting married! Rick always told me he wanted to marry only if he was truly sure he found the right woman, one who would have a sweet disposition and who would be a help in the ministry. Well, he hit the jackpot! I first met Linda at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia while teaching a Sunday School class. Linda had been directed to me because she speaks Russian and has had past involvement in Jewish ministry. She has gotten involved with the Russian speaking PCA church plant we are partnering in. It was there that she and Rick met.



**Rick and Linda** have set a date next June to be married! They like to go fishing together, both literally and figuratively. They enjoy salt water fishing at the New Jersey Shore. (I told Rick that a woman who will go fishing with you is definitely

“a keeper!”) Linda and Rick also “fish” together in a spiritual way by doing evangelism together. Linda’s ability to speak Russian really comes in handy! Here is a recent report:

*Linda and I visit apartments together to speak to Russian Jews. We're using the color glossy booklet Ultimate Questions in Russian to give out. We then invite prospects to a discussion group held a mile away. The advantage of using the booklet is that I'm able to use the English translation while the prospects attending read the Russian, with Linda translating what I say.*

*A local pastor has been a great help as we seek to getting this NJ outreach off the ground, and Rock of Israel PCA pastor Ilya Lizorkin has offered to speak to a group of serious inquirers once we have about 10 people. Linda translates for me at the door. Some Russians have already expressed an interest in coming, including Sofia, a Russian Jew from Uzbekistan. This method of face to face pre-evangelism is more effective than the phone calling I've been doing thus far. I look for good things to happen from our efforts. Linda's knowledge of the Russian language and culture is invaluable for this.*

We rejoice in what the Lord has been doing! God has brought us Rick, and now He has brought Linda to Rick as the perfect mate to

help in his calling. We also rejoice in **Todd and Sandi York** who volunteer with us in Birmingham, Alabama, and **Al Michlin** who volunteers in our office, and for your partnership with us through prayer and financial support. **Thank you and may God bless you in the coming year.**



Todd and Sandi York are our “Southern Outpost” couple. Please pray for them as they juggle work, family, and Jewish ministry in Birmingham, AL. Todd says they have a boy “on the way!” He wants to know the Jewish way to say “Yee Haw!”

## International Jewish Evangelical Fellowship

May 13-15 2004 in McLean, VA. Cost: \$115, \$95 for a spouse. Theme: Judaism and the Gospel. Judaism's views will be compared with the biblical Faith and that Faith will be proclaimed in a warm, devotional and academically competent manner geared to address our contemporary situation and motivate us to serve God better. **Participation is by invitation. Contact the CHAIM office for more information.**

### HUDSON TAYLOR AND JEWISH MISSIONS

Hudson Taylor is one of the most outstanding figures in the history of missions. This great missionary pioneer brought the gospel to China and founded the China Inland Mission. His devotion to the cause of Christ is legendary. **Did you know Hudson Taylor made Jewish ministry a priority?**

Each year on January 1 he would send a check to John Wilkinson of the Mildmay Mission to the Jews in England with the notation: “To the Jew first.” In turn, John Wilkinson would send a check in support of Taylor's work in China with the notation: “And also to the gentile.”

CHAIM is dependent upon the generous gifts of those who believe in our work. We need your support. Will you follow the example of that great missionary to China by supporting Jewish missions? Start 2004 right! (And we won't turn it down if you help us a little in December of 2003, either!)

**Please clip and fill in the form below and send it to pledge support for CHAIM's outreach to the Jewish people.**

### YES! I WILL FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF HUDSON TAYLOR AND SUPPORT JEWISH MISSIONS STARTING IN 2004!

I will pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month / quarter / year (circle one) to help the ministry of CHAIM.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_