

SIMPSON'S ISRAELOLOGY AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

**Abraham Sandler
Alliance Jewish Ministries National Committee Member
Director Awake O Israel Jewish Ministries**

Dr. Albert Benjamin Simpson, the founder of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, had a strong biblical vision to reach Jewish people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Albert Benjamin Simpson and Jewish missions in The C&MA

An examination of the history of The Christian & Missionary Alliance clearly shows the significant place that reaching Jewish people with the Gospel held in the heart of our founder Dr. Albert Benjamin Simpson, and the early C&MA family. In 1897 when The Christian Alliance and the Missionary Alliance were formed into one movement and called The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Dr. Simpson set forth his vision in the program at that formation meeting.

A copy of that program is pictured in the first printing of the book ALL FOR JESUS found after page 98 on the second page of the pictures. On Friday evening at the 7:30-9:30 p.m. service we find listed among the purposes and vision of this new movement the following statement "*Our Work for Israel and the Heathen World; The Jew First.*"

Right there in the formation of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and incorporated in their spiritual DNA are the words "Our work for Israel and the Heathen World. The Jew First." These are the words of Paul the Apostle found in Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation to everyone that believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile." Throughout the years Dr. Simpson led The C&MA he regularly kept the vision of bringing the Gospel to Jewish people before our constituency. It was also obvious that a large number of the Alliance people saw and supported Simpson's vision for Jewish evangelism.

Simpson's Israelology

The Obligation to reach Gods Chosen people

"Preeminent above all other ministries for the evangelization of the heathen world is the Great Commission. The command, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15), requires a personal ministry from man to man and for every man. **The command to begin at Jerusalem passes on to us the obligation to reach God's chosen people.** Go ye . . . and disciple all nations raises our commission to a nobler plane and makes us ambassadors for the King of kings and trustees of the gospel for every kindred and tribe and tongue. The command, Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8), lifts the outlook beyond any section of humanity, any circle of selfish patriotism and any form of religious selfishness. It makes the work of evangelization the

one supreme ministry of the Church of Christ and the one paramount responsibility of every disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you come into close touch with the risen Christ or caught the spirit of His last momentous days on earth? If so, you cannot be inactive, indifferent, or even neutral in this mighty enterprise which is the emergency work of our times and which is the one great business for which God has called us.”

As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you - John 20:21

Saturday, November 26, 2005 Days of Heaven on Earth by Dr. A. B. Simpson

Simpson did not just use words, but made sure Jewish people were included in our missions outreach overseas and at home.

Dr. Simpson not only wrote and spoke these words, he lived them out. The early magazines of the Alliance carried articles on missionary work among the Jewish people and listings of Jewish missionary organizations in virtually every issue. Names like Gabeline, Irish, and Gruen were connected to Jewish ministries.

At the Annual meeting of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Boone, IA on May 26-30, 1912 we find the following in the annual report of 1911-1912 under the heading **“Special Fields.”**

Here is Dr. Simpson’s introduction of reports from the mission field:

“Turning now to a review of particular fields our attention is naturally called in the divine order, first to Palestine.”

A report then follows of both work among the Jewish people and the Arabs. After this report reports are given regarding our other mission fields in alphabetical order.

Pages 13-15

A further report is given later in that Annual meeting by **the Committee On Jewish Work**. The Committee submits the following:

1. That if possible a small space be secured in the Alliance Weekly for the continuous presentation of facts and phases of Jewish work.
2. That Mrs. T. C. Rounds have oversight and selection of the material to be offered for such publication.

This resolution is offered—

- (1) That the work among the Jews may be constantly brought before the members of the Alliance as an essential part of our work in the Gospel.
- (2) That any members of the Alliance, who may be used of God among the Jews individually, will thus find some help in the work and know to whom to apply for literature or assistance.

Mrs. T. C., Rounds Chairman.

J. B. Thornton, Secretary.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance: the fifteenth Annual Report 1911-1912, Adopted at the Annual meeting, Boone, IA, May 26-30, 1912, page 67

In his book on Genesis Dr. Simpson spends a chapter on “Beginning of the Hebrew Race” chapter 7 p. 101-11.

He refers to Abraham who became the head” of a separate people, chosen out of all the families of men, to be the special depositories of divine truth and the witnesses for God and the true religion throughout the coming ages; and also to form a clear genealogical line for the advent of the promised Seed.” P. 101

Simpson in speaking of “The Call of Abraham” quotes the seven unconditional promises to Abraham and his descendants. “Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great ; And so you shall be a blessing ; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3

Again Simpson writes “To them also (Jewish people) we owe the divine law, . . . and, indeed all we know of the true and living God.” P. 105 (Christ in the Bible: Genesis) He also says, “Let us never forget, as we look upon the Jew, that he is the brother of Jesus of Nazareth, and has given to us our precious Savior and dearest Friend.” P. 105

Dr. Simpson goes on to say, “They are distributed in almost every nation under heaven, as an evident part of the divine plan in their future destiny. . . . Should they be converted to Christianity, there is no instrumentality on earth that could so suddenly and effectually be made available for the evangelization of the entire world.” P.110

It is clear that Simpson’s biblical perspective and spiritual and physical outworking of the biblical mandate to bring the Gospel to Jewish people resulted in a great prayer and missionary focus both in Palestine (called then) and America.

Jewish Work Through the Years: The Christian & Missionary Alliance

1887: <http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/annual-rpt1897-8.pdf>

“Our work in Jerusalem is under the direction of Miss Dunn, assisted by Miss Brown and Miss Ford. The work in Jerusalem is among the Syrian and Mohammedan women, and some of the Jews. There is, however, a more bitter prejudice against Christianity among the Jewish element in Jerusalem than in any other place, and the work of Jewish evangelization is slow.

The Missionary Crusade, Annual Report of the Missionary Alliance/October 1892
<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/annual-rpt1892.pdf> p. 41 - 44

Palestine and the Jews - **there is no movement in the world more wonderful than the extraordinary awakening which has taken place among the scattered millions of the**

Hebrew race. This movement has various features. In the first place, it is a persecuting movement, and they are being driven from the lands of their exile by cruel oppression. At the same time it is a progressive movement. Never was this race so prosperous and so influential, leading in almost every department of commercial, industrial, and national life, and awakening the jealousy and suspicion of despotic governments on account of their strangely-increasing influence. It is a movement toward Palestine and great numbers are flocking into that land, and wonderful improvements have taken place every day until now it is announced that in a few months express trains will be landing passengers at Jerusalem, and the real estate market of Palestine today is becoming the most active in the world. But more important than all this, it is a Christian movement. Very considerable numbers of Hebrews are embracing Christianity, and the Hebrew New Testament is being scattered by hundreds of Thousands and eagerly read. In Russia, Austria, North Africa, Jerusalem and even in America, there are very marked religious movements showing that the heart of Israel is beginning to turn to their true Messiah. In the city of New York, Mr. Warszawiak has become the centre of a very remarkable Jewish awakening, and has been preaching for two years to an audience of over one thousand Hebrews every Saturday, with many inquirers and converts who have stood the test which for these people is always so severe. The Alliance has a share in this good work in the city of New York. We have three missionaries laboring in connection with Mr. Warszawiak,

Sixth Annual Report of the International Missionary Alliance October 1893
<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/annual-rpt1893.pdf> p. 15-19 Review of the Respective Fields.

Palestine and the Jews. **Beginning at Jerusalem, as was the Apostolic order; and so we will begin our review at the source whence divine life and light have flowed to the nations.** Palestine is not fully opened, as yet, for missionary work. The population is limited, and the political disabilities and obstacles are very great. The land groans under the Turkish yoke, and missionary work is liable to suspension at any moment, should the hostility of the Government be awakened. Altogether, we have at the present time, seven workers among the Jews, and we commend God's ancient people to the love and prayers of all who have begun to understand their very important place in the plan of the ages, and in God's wondrous working today.

1894: report of Jewish "convert", studying in London for the ministry.
<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/annual-rpt1894-5.pdf>

Finally, we have to thank God for the marked Jewish movement, which is one of the signs of the times, and which is rapidly peopling the land of Palestine with its own race and preparing the way for the restoration of Israel and the coming of the Lord.

1899: <http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/annual-rpt1899.pdf> p. 27, 28 At home: **In the home field many of our Alliance people are earnestly engaged in mission work among the Jews.** We publish in our appendix a special report of the excellent work of Miss Cole and Miss Meinder in the upper part of New York City.

1900: <http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/annual-rpt1900.pdf> p. 23, 24

The sixth branch of our Jewish work is the New York Mission, where Miss Cole and Miss Meinder, assisted by Miss McInnes, are laboring among a Jewish population of 350,000. There have been many inquirers and some hopeful conversions. A weekly meeting for prayer has been held in Berachah Chapel. The needs of the work are:

- (1) Much prayer and love for Israel.
- (2) A home and chapel in Jerusalem.
- (3) A man specially fitted for the work in Jerusalem.
- (4) That God will raise up native helpers.
- (5) Prayer for the health and safety of our missionaries.
- (6) Prayer for the opening up of the district of Jenin in the valley of Jezreel, where there are ninety villages with no laborers, in utter spiritual destitution.

1918-19 <http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/min1919rpt1918.pdf> p. 70, 71

3. It is further recommended: That a special course for the training of workers among the Jews be organized. As far as we know, there is no such course in operation anywhere in the world and, **believing that the events of the last days center around the Jew, the importance of such a step is obvious.** Prophetic teaching greatly enhances interest in the Jew. Dr. Simpson died in 1919, but the vision and work to reach Jewish people with the Gospel went on.

1927: <http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/min1928rpt1927.pdf> p. 138, 139

Jewish Work: **The Jewish work deserves special attention, not only because it is “to the Jew first” that we are sent but also because of its unique place in the work of the Palestine mission.** We have already mentioned the baptism of one Jew during the year. Many other enquirers have been dealt with. We thank God for some of the encouragements of the past year in the Jewish Department. It has sold more Bibles and New Testaments than all the rest of the field put together. **The reading room for the Jews has been better attended than any other reading room throughout the entire field.** The religious services held each Saturday afternoon have sustained good attendances throughout the whole year. Miss Butterfield’s experience in the colonies most certainly testify to the fact that right methods, coupled with prayer and Christian living, hold promise of producing results among Jews everywhere. We should not overlook the fact, also, that God has furnished two splendid men to carry on the evangelistic work among the Jews, whose equipment is not merely in language ability, but in the spirit with which they tackle the Jewish work and endeavor to make it a fruitful branch of the missionary enterprise in Palestine.

1929: <http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/annual-report/annual-rpt-1929.pdf> The "Jewish Department", pages 90-105

In Hebron, although the age-old antagonism to Christ's divinity and Messiahship is still strong, there is an unprecedented willingness on the part of Jews to hear about Jesus. Some seem eager to receive the Gospels. God is preparing them for the return of their King. When He comes, the nation will be homesick no longer!

Story of the C&MA:

<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/miscellaneous/story-of-the-cma.pdf> p. 34- page 33 of actual document, year 1900, audit from April 25

OUR MISSION FIELDS--PALESTINE

"Beginning at Jerusalem," is the divine order. Then from Simon's house, with the heavenly vision and commission to go forth into all the world. The eyes of the world are upon Palestine. It is the pivotal point upon which the diplomacies of nations will turn. **But overall is God's eye, and the time is near when this land and people will be the centre of His thought and plan for the ages.** The pioneer of the Alliance was Miss Lucy Dunn, of Pittsburgh, and one of our best students of the Training Institute. She sailed in February, 1890, and for about a year labored alone in that land, presenting the truths so dear to our hearts. She soon was recognized as a Bible student and teacher among the other missionaries and English-speaking people, and her home, "Bethel," became the house of God to many of His children. **Jerusalem - Our aim has been, "To the Jew first, and also to the Gentile."** This has been the hardest year among the Jews; for they have persecuted bitterly all who have tried to work among them. However, we get into some of their houses, and have many opportunities for individual conversation with those who come to our home for private purposes. For about half the year we have held a class for Jewesses. Our evangelist, Melki, has been with us a little more than a year. He visits among the Jews, Christians and Moslems.

**The Man, the Movement & Mission compiled by Dr. Charles Neinkirchen, pg. 88
May 1987**

"What are the signs of His coming? A great falling away, and new and dreadful forms of evil. Surely, these signs are prevalent enough now to make the most careless thoughtful. Unbelief and skepticism prevail among all classes of society even invade the pulpit. New and hideous forms of evil are becoming so common as scarcely to excite surprise. The spirit of devils working miracles is already going forth. Spiritualism, in all its subtle and insidious forms, is filling our land. **A distinct movement of the Jews toward Christ and toward their own land is one of the most emphatic signs of the end.**"

Pg. 166: Neglected Fields page 157 of actual document taken from The Christian and Missionary Alliance: The Twenty-Third Annual Report (1919-1920)

I will not undertake to picture these fields to you. The head of the Foreign Department, fresh from a visit of the fields, will lay this picture before you. It is to each of these neglected fields that our founder felt the Lord would raise up a movement. Let the Lord catch us up and give us a vision of our own fields. See them stretching over sixteen great areas. There they are, from the roof of the world, Tibet, through Central China, through

Southern China, through the great fields of Annam, through the Philippines, the West Indies, Sudan, Congo, and Jerusalem. **Oh, Jerusalem! Look at Jerusalem. Look! Be sure that this year the Alliance looks at Jerusalem! The long expected day has come. The children of Abraham are marching toward the land.** The doors are open. Not only the Jews, but the speculator, the tourist, the pilgrim will enter in multiplied hordes.

Our task is stupendous, but we have an almighty Christ with all power given unto Him both in heaven and in earth. Let us drive our foundation so that we may lay on them all the needs of these sixteen great fields of open doors and blessed opportunity.

<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/miscellaneous/man-movement-mission.pdf>

The Gospel in All Lands, August 1881

Pg. 6 <http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/downloads/gospel-in-all-lands/gospel-in-all-lands-1881-08.pdf>

Missions to Jews have sometimes been represented as a failure or a mistake. But what other mission, it may be asked, is more certain to prove in the end a blessing to the Church herself, or is better fitted in the meantime to keep alive her faith in the "exceeding great and precious promise" of the Word of God? Encouraged by these promises, and convinced that the Gospel she commissioned to preach to all nations is "the power of God unto salvation" to the Jew as well as to the Gentile, let her go forth to all her work in the mission-field with a whole-hearted faith in God, and in due time He will crown her efforts with an abundant and effectual blessing.- Church of Scotland Missionary Record.

Pg. 15 **Why is there not a more general interest taken among Christians in the subject of the Jews? How can there be any apathy and question as to the duty of laboring and praying to bring the Jews around us and amongst us to the same faith, and love, and hope with ourselves?- Rev. .Donald Fraser**

Article Feb. 22, 1941, Alliance Weekly, Jewish Work section, Board of Managers Meeting on January 16, 1941, work superintended by Mr. Morris Gordin, son of chief Rabbi of Chicago, read story, pg. 3

<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/alifepdf/AW-1941-02-22.pdf>

Copy of page 3 of article: Check box picture on pg. 14 – give to the Jew first!

Never have the hearts of Jews been so open to the gospel as they are today, and certainly this is the time to strike for the evangelization of the Jews in this great city where Jewry has its largest population. [New York City, NY]

This advance program will require additional funds, and **we trust that all true lovers of Israel will take this matter upon their hearts for prayer and giving.** As usual, gifts in support of the work should be addressed to our Treasurer, Rev. William Christie.

AT ITS meeting of January 16, the Board of Managers took action to expand its Jewish work in New York City. The Board's committee representing this work was augmented by the addition of Rev. D. J. Fant who was named as chairman; other members of the committee are Rev. William Christie and Rev. S. W. Mc-Garvey. There will be two centers of evangelistic endeavor: the Times Square Messianic Center with meetings held in Fellowship Hall of the Gospel Tabernacle, and the Bronx Messianic Center occupying our uptown mission property. The superintendency of the work is being assumed by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gordin who will be assisted by a number of mission workers. A more detailed announcement of our plans for the expansion of this work will be given shortly in THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY. Mr. Gordin has had a most remarkable experience. He is the son of the late Chief Orthodox Rabbi of Chicago, was formerly Press Commissar of the *Communist International*, and later Attorney General of the Odessa State Revolutionary Tribunal. He has traveled the long journey from absolute darkness to glorious light, taking the various steps from outright atheism, through various philosophical systems, to the truth as it is in Jesus. He speaks with authority on Communism, Fascism, Totalitarianism, Atheism, Anti-Semitism, and Nazism. He has served for a year on the staff of the Moody Bible Institute and has appeared on the platforms of various prophetic and fundamentalist conferences throughout the country. We expect to publish articles from his pen later in THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY.

ALLIANCE WEEKLY FEBRUARY 22, 1941

Article March 8, 1941 "Enlargement of our Jewish Work" by Rev. David J. Fant, pg. 4:
<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/alifepdf/AW-1941-03-08.pdf>

Jewish work for 21 years, as of this point

AT ITS last meeting the Board of Managers took action to enlarge the scope of our Alliance ministry to the Jews in New York City, and to intensify our efforts toward Jewish evangelization. A committee of the Board was formed consisting of Rev. William Christie, Rev. S. W. McGarvey, and the writer, who was asked to serve as chairman. Since undertaking the work at the Gospel Tabernacle in New York, I have personally become conscious of the tremendous challenge that the two and one-half million Jews in this great metropolis presents to us. Exiled from many nations with a world as their enemies, and disillusioned concerning the hopes they had entertained of solving their national problem through some radical and revolutionary idea, their hearts have become wonderfully tender and open to the gospel. ...

It is not so well known that for the past twenty-one years we have conducted a Mission in the Bronx, New York City, which for many years was in charge of Rev. Joseph R. Lewek. Now recently we have added to this a center of evangelism in connection with our New York Gospel Tabernacle, and **it is our purpose to make a more intensive effort than ever before to reach the Jews with the message of life.** Our program touches three great Jewish centers : Palestine, Israel's hope and the answer to his national prayer; Times Square, the commercial center of Jewry in New York City; and The Bronx, in upper New York, where is located the world's largest Jewish residential population. Our work is concentrated on evangelism and includes gospel preaching, personal testimony, Bible teaching, a Messianic open forum, women's work, children's work, house-to-house visitation, open air services, distribution of the Scriptures.... We believe

that this advance program will meet with an enthusiastic response on the part of our Alliance constituency. It calls for a greatly increased budget, not only to meet the requirements of our enlarged staff but also the repairs and redecorating of our Bronx Mission, and we commend this need for your prayerful consideration. The brethren mentioned in this article are available to churches in a reasonable radius of New York to present the needs of our work. To others we shall be glad to send descriptive literature. Please send your gifts in support of the work to Rev. William Christie, our treasurer.

In New York City the Alliance conducts a mission, Beth Dorshe Emeth, in the Bronx - the densest Jewish population in the world.

In Palestine the Alliance conducts a mission for the Jews in Jerusalem, the center of the nation's hope.

In these days of Israel's sorrow, give the Gospel to the Jew first!

Address contributions and correspondence to

The Christian and Missionary Alliance

260 West 44th Street New York City

Alliance Weekly February 22, 1941, p.126

Article July 4, 1942 Alliance Weekly, pg. 7,

<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/alifepdf/AW-1942-07-04.pdf>

“Open air preaching on streets of NY” Notwithstanding **the powers of darkness which are blinding Jewish souls everywhere we praise the Lord for the many receptive hearts that are receiving the precious gospel message gratefully.** The countless tracts, Gospels, and New Testaments which are being received and read by hungry hearts among God's ancient chosen people attest the fact that these are momentous days for fruitful Christian labors. . . . May we all of "the body of Christ" reiterate daily with agonizing zeal the great prayer of Habakkuk 3 : 2: "O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."

“New” Jewish Work, Philadelphia, “Alliance Weekly” 1955

<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/alifepdf/AW-1955-02-02.pdf>

A NEW center for a Christian witness among the Jews has been established.

Inspired by the effective work being done in The Bronx Messianic Center, New York City, Rev. George Gruen was persuaded that God would have him open a similar center in Philadelphia, Pa. After being graduated from **The** Missionary

Training Institute at Nyack, N. Y., this young man spent nearly four years working with Rev. and Mrs. Donald W. Byers as a part of the consecrated staff laboring in the Bronx.

In October 1953, with his wife and child, he moved to Philadelphia. The evidence of divine approval and blessing upon the work he has done has been recognized by the

Home Department of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, and as a result, both encouragement and financial support have been given to aid in bringing the vision to

fruition. In its December meeting, the Board of Managers unanimously approved the request of the Home Department that this work become officially a project of The

Christian and Missionary Alliance. The center is located in the Wynnefield, Overbrook section of West Philadelphia. Three regular meetings are held each week, and some

persons have been converted. **This step is in keeping with the vision which The**

Christian and Missionary Alliance has had from the time of its inception. Not only

have missionaries been sent to evangelize the Jews in the land of Israel, but a deep sense of responsibility toward those in the homeland has come to focus in the Messianic Center. The establishment of another such center in response to that vision should encourage much believing prayer that **like faith and vision will result in the opening of work among Jewish populations in many other cities.** Financial support for the Jewish work at home is not received from the General Treasury of the Society, but the support comes entirely from special funds received for this purpose. Contributions for this should be plainly marked as such when sent to the Treasurer.

Article on "Jewish Conference Held" Jan. 19, 1966 pg. 17,

<http://www.cmalliance.org/resources/archives/alifepdf/AW-1966-01-19.pdf>

Jewish Conference Held Rev. Jackson H. Cox, pastor of the Alliance Church of Mount Vernon, N. Y., reports that the congregation was greatly stirred during a recent one-day conference on Jewish work. The executive committee plans to hold such a conference regularly on the first Sunday of December. Speakers for the unusual occasion were: Director of the Bronx Messianic Center, Rev. Charles Pennington and the staff: the Misses Lois Wood and Carolyn Anthony, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Sandler and Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Gillis. Rev. Pennington brought the morning message and presented the challenge of the Jewish ministry in both New York and Philadelphia, where Rev. and Mrs. George Gruen work. A highlight of the evening service was the testimony of Mr. Sandler, who found the Messiah in the Philadelphia center. Slides of the various phases of the work were shown and a team of young people from Nyack Missionary College who assist in house-to-house visitation each Sunday afternoon also participated. A pledge for Jewish home missions was received and with some cash gifts amounted to \$1,020. Mr. Cox reported that this brings the total missionary pledge of the Mount Vernon congregation to \$6,529, an increase of 53 percent over the previous year. **"We have realized the privilege and obligation we have of witnessing to God's chosen people," writes Mr. Cox, "and that the Scripture is true: "I will bless them that less thee"! Blessing will come to the church and the individual who recognizes this."**

Current Alliance Jewish Missions at Home

Sometime in the late 70's the New York Bronx Messianic Center was closed as the remaining two missionaries were no longer able to continue. Carolyn Anthony retired for health reasons. Lois Wood retired to return home to care for an elderly parent in 1979.

Rev. and Mrs. Gruen resigned and left the C&MA Jewish Ministry In 1978, and went full time with Truth For Israel, of which Rev. Gruen is Director and President of the Board of Trustees.

Rev. and Mrs. Abraham Sandler were appointed as Alliance missionaries to Jewish people in America 1964. They were assigned to the Bronx Messianic Center in New York City. After almost three years the Lord led the Sandlers to move to Philadelphia

and establish a new Jewish work there in 1966. They worked in the Northeast section of the city where there were 150,000 unreached Jewish people. They began making contacts and established a weekly Bible study in their home. Jews and Gentiles were being saved and the work was outgrowing the home with 30+ people coming weekly to the Bible study.

The idea of planting Jewish congregations was not considered at that time. Jewish believers were to be brought to an Alliance church and become part of the congregation. However after attending a few months some of the Jewish believers began to leave the church. They liked the people and the teaching, but they felt they could not be Jewish there and could not invite their unsaved Jewish families and friends to the church.

The Sandlers sought the Lord for a solution to this problem. We felt we should try an “experiment.” We would begin a weekly service in our home and try it for six months. If it went well Abe would report it to the C&MA national Jewish ministry committee. If it did not go well we would simply stop the meetings. The meetings went well, it grew, and Jews and Gentiles were worshipping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and our Messiah Yeshua in a culturally Jewish way. At the end of six months Abe met with the Jewish committee and reported the meetings and how well they were going. The committee was not happy. One even suggested we were getting under the law and putting up the middle wall between Jews and Gentiles. I explained that both Jews and Gentiles were part of the congregation, Jews and Gentiles were being saved, and the group was contributing money to the Alliance missions funds. Apparently I said the right things because they decided I could try it for 12 more months and then it would be reviewed. After the year and another very good report, the committee decided that planting Messianic Jewish congregations would be part of our Jewish ministry.

As the work continued to grow permission was given to form the group into the first Alliance Jewish congregation in our history in the states. A building was rented to house the work, which again was outgrown. A large single house with significant property was purchased with the assistance of Jewish work funds in the early 70’s. It was located at 10162 Bustleton Ave. in the far Northeast of Philadelphia, PA. Right across the street from the building was one of the largest high schools in the country with 5,000 students, 3,000 of which were Jewish. The Messiah’s Lighthouse congregation grew to 80-100 people with 50% being born-again Jewish people.

In 1989 the Sandlers were given a new assignment to train, resource and assist Alliance churches and people in reaching Jewish people with the Gospel. They also were to plant new outreaches where possible. The Philadelphia congregation eventually closed in the mid 90’s

We have three Alliance Messianic Jewish congregations at this is time.

1. L'Chaim Messianic Jewish Congregation
Pastor Rev. Bruce Elman
Meeting at New Life Alliance Church
1815 Forest Hill Blvd
Lake Clarke Shores, FL 33406-6087
Phone: 561-350-6964
Email: lchaim1225@gmail.com
Web: Lchaim.net
2. Hope In Messiah Messianic Jewish Congregation
Pastor Rev. Jonathan Sacks
2093 Old Louisville Rd
Bowling Green KY 42101-9144
270-796-1995
E-mail: hopeinmessiah@insightbb.com
<http://www.hopeinmessiah.org/currentevent.htm>
3. Messiah's Lighthouse Jewish Messianic Congregation
Pastor Rev. Abraham Sandler
Meeting at the New York Chinese Alliance Church
160 Eldridge St New York, NY 10002
215-676-5122
E-mail: awakeoisraeljm@aol.com
Web: awakeoisrael.org
4. A new plant has been started in Seattle, Washington by Abe Sandler. It is led by a lay couple, David and Peggy Label. They are being trained and assisted by Abe Sandler who goes to Seattle four times a year to train and work with them in reaching the 35,000 unsaved Jewish people there.
5. We also have a Russian Jewish ministry led by Gennady Zavaly in New York City, NY. He has planted six congregations made up of both Russian speaking Jews and Gentiles.

Dr. Simpson pointed out in his day that the response of Jewish people was growing and the potential return to the Land indicated we were approaching the last days when our Messiah Jesus would return. He urged greater outreach to Jewish people stating that because of their worldwide presence they would become a powerful witness for Yeshua. We speak of the Great Commission, the command to take the Gospel of our Messiah Jesus to the whole world. In closing let me remind you that the Great Commission was given first to the nation of Israel.

Isaiah 48:12 "Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. 20 Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with the sound of joyful shouting, proclaim this, **Send it out to the end of the earth; Say, "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob."**

Isaiah 49:3 He said to Me, "You are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory." 4 But I said, "I have toiled in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; Yet surely the justice due to Me is with the LORD, And My reward with My God." 5 And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength), 6 He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel ; **I will also make You a light of the nation's So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."**

Acts 13: 44 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming. 46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 **"For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.'** "* 48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. *[Isaiah 42:6; 49:6]

We find the Great Commission given again by Jesus in Mathew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, and Acts 1:8. Who was it given to this time? Again it was to His Jewish disciples, to Israel.

Finally in the Book of Revelation chapter 7:1-9, during the Tribulation, we find an angel from God sealing the foreheads of 144,000 Jewish men; men from the nation of Israel. The name of the Lamb and of His Father is written on their foreheads Revelation 14:1. Why? What is their assignment, their mission? My opinion is that they will complete the Great Commission by preaching the Gospel to the whole world. In verse 9 we find a great multitude from every nation who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. In Revelation 14 we again find the 144,000 now in heaven singing a song only they can sing. Could it be "How I Praise You" written by Joel Chernoff? We also see in this passage the Gospel being preached by an angel among every nation, tribe, and tongue, and people.

Could it be that some from every tribe and tongue and nation were saved during the Tribulation through the witness of the 144,000 Jewish preachers? I say yes. If that is the case, then the worldwide church of our Messiah Jesus needs to make a greater investment of time, resources and manpower to win Jewish people to Yeshua, so that the 144,000 are ready at the appointed time

The Great Commission is for every follower of Yeshua to carry out; however, Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have specifically been called to that role three times in the Scriptures.

The last time will be during the Great Tribulation. Therefore they must be available, 144,000 of them. I don't believe they are available yet, not 144,000 of them.

My observation is that most evangelizing of Jewish people is being done by individuals, Messianic Jewish congregations and Jewish missions groups. Some denominations have some work among Jewish people. .

Let us continue to work prayerfully, pointedly and persistently to bring the Gospel of our Messiah Yeshua to our Jewish people. And let us pray and work for the awakening of the church at large to make a greater investment to reach Jewish people in their missionary endeavors.

Dr. A. W. Tozer, an Alliance minister said,

"Salvation is of the Jews." Let every Gentile Christian remember this when he kneels to pray. Those prophets "who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you" were lineal descendants of Abraham and children of Israel. So also were the Apostles and so was Christ. The first missionaries who began to preach salvation through faith in Jesus Christ were Jews. Those disciples who "went everywhere preaching the Word" were Jews. Today the learned world knows only that about God which it has learned from the Hebrew revelation.

A Major Tragedy

There can be no doubt that every believer from among the Gentiles owes a great debt to the Jew. Any effort we may make to give the light to Israel must be considered, not as charity or "benevolence," but as the attempt to discharge an honest debt.

Our debt to Israel is not single, but manifold. We owe a debt of **prayer**. Paul said, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." If he felt that way about them then we should stir ourselves to pray after all these years. Then we owe them also an unflagging zeal for their salvation. **The Luke warmth of the Church toward the evangelization of the Jew is one of the major tragedies of history.** We are not responsible for the conduct of those who have lived before us, but we are surely responsible to do all we can in our own generation to pay the debt we owe to Israel.

Sam's Story

I got a phone call one day from someone asking me to visit an unsaved Jewish man who was in the hospital. I went to see him and when I entered his hospital room I said "Mr. Borodin." He turned and looked at me and said, "I know you, I know your mother, your father and your two brothers." Sam was an old neighbor I hadn't seen in 20 years. We talked for a few minutes when he asked me the question most Jewish people will ask if you are around them long enough. He said, "By the way Abe, what do you do for a living?" I said, "I'm the leader of a Messianic Jewish congregation, and I believe that Jesus is our promised Jewish Messiah." For two hours Sam wanted to know why I as a Jew had come to believe in Jesus.

I left and a week later they sent him home from the hospital. He had high blood pressure. His numbers were 240 over 170. They could not bring it down through medication or diet so they sent him home with the warning that he could have a stroke but there was nothing more they could do for him. I went to see Sam and his wife Florence at their home and shared with them the Messianic prophecies and showed them that Jesus fulfilled them all. I then asked Sam and Florence if they would like to receive Jesus as their Messiah and Savior. They both said yes, and I led them in a prayer of repentance and receiving of Jesus as Messiah and Savior. Then I said to Sam, "Jesus not only died to save you, but He died to be your healer, would you like me to pray for your physical problem?" Sam said, "Yes," so I offered a brief prayer and left.

Three days later Sam showed up at our service and in the middle of the service without any warning or even asking permission Sam stood up and said, "Three days ago I found out that Jesus is my Jewish Messiah and He saved me and I found out that He is my healer, my blood pressure is absolutely normal." We couldn't shut this guy up he just kept on talking. When he left he began to witness to his father, his sisters and anyone he met he told them that Jesus was the promised Messiah. In fact he talked to his father so much about Jesus his father said, "I can't believe it, my son's become the Jewish pope."

Sam said to me, "Abe you have to go and talk to my dad." I was really nervous about this because his father was one of the men of the synagogue where I grew up when I was a little boy. Sam and I prayed together and I went to see his dad. I shared the Messianic prophecies with him and why I believed that Jesus was our Messiah and one of the thrills of my life was when that 82 year old orthodox Jewish man prayed to receive Jesus as his Messiah and Savior.

One day Sam said to me I'm so thankful that I now know my Messiah and am saved, but I'm sad about one thing. "What's that," I asked. Sam said, "I'm sad that I had to wait 50 years to find out that Jesus is our promised Messiah and Savior.

"Our people are not unreachable, they are just unreached." © Rev. Abraham Sandler

Let's reach them! Now!

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