

A Cry to the Church

We are a gathering of followers of Jesus. We come from many nations, from many Church traditions and from the Messianic Jewish community, both in Israel and in the Diaspora. We met in Jerusalem, September 12–14, 2006 under the auspices of the Toward Jerusalem Council II Initiative (TJCII)* and the Olive Tree Fellowship of Jerusalem. The purpose of our gathering was to pray together and, through repentance, to seek reconciliation with the Lord and with each other. From this gathering we issue the following cry to the Church worldwide in the name of TJCII:

1. Please hear our cry for recognition of and fellowship with our Messianic Jewish brethren. As Jews they have come to faith in Jesus as Lord, Saviour and the Messiah and seek to live out this faith in communities whose worship, teaching and lifestyle are distinctively Jewish.
2. Please hear our cry that one day there will be a Second Council of Jerusalem at which the leadership of the Church from the Nations ("Ecclesia ex Gentibus") will recognise and enter into full communion with the resurrected Church from the Circumcision ("Ecclesia ex Judaeis") annulling all the decrees and legislation against the Jewish expression of the Church.
3. Please hear our cry that for such a Council to take place, all the Churches from the nations must be led by the Holy Spirit into a process of corporate repentance for:
 - all forms of anti-Semitism;
 - all enforced assimilation of Jewish believers into the church communities of the nations, into their cultures and into their ways of thought;
 - all forms of replacement teaching that God has rejected the Jewish people and that the Church has taken the place of Israel;
 - all deeds that contributed to the near extinction of Jewish belief in Jesus.
4. Please hear our cry for the restoration of Jerusalem to the fullness of its divine purpose and potential:
 - as a prophetic city central to God's redemptive purpose;
 - as a city of authority in the worldwide Body of Christ;
 - as a city of reconciliation that will be a blessing to all the nations.
5. Please hear our cry to all the Churches to rediscover their Jewish roots.
6. Please hear our cry for this reconciliation in Christ between Jewish believers and believers from other ethnic backgrounds and church traditions. (see Eph. 2:14-15). This will be a fulfilment of the prayer of Jesus in John 17: 21 and will lead to a new dynamic for unity among the Churches and believers from the nations.
7. Please hear our cry that this work of reconciliation will usher in great progress in spreading the Gospel and in the restoration of justice among the divided peoples of the world. (see Romans 11:11-15).

We pray that the response to our cry may contribute significantly to this already growing movement of reconciliation, both corporately and personally, between the disciples of Jesus, the Jewish disciples and the Christian disciples from the nations.

* See www.tjci.org. Dutch translation: 0185 on www.stucom.nl.