

**Twenty-Eighth North American LCJE Meeting  
St. Louis, February 28-30, 2011**

**International LCJE Report 2011  
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Greetings in the name of our Messiah. Special greetings to those who participate in a North American LCJE conference for the first time. I hope you will feel welcome and that what we are engaged in may also be relevant and existential for you. What gathers us are things related to the salvation of Israel through faith in Jesus. We invite you to reflect on this together with us. We want to include those of you who are new in this fellowship.

The theme for our conference “Until He Comes” has been taken from the Apostle Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. In the Greek original these are the last words in verse 26 in chapter 11. As insiders, and in this context here in St. Louis, I suppose we understand the words in the following way: “He” is Jesus, of course. He will return at the end of days in power and glory. Until he comes, we will share the gospel with Jewish people, indeed we must!

The context in the First Letter to the Corinthians is, however, the Lord’s Supper. “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” Every time we participate in the Lord’s Supper, we also proclaim Jesus’ death. The problem in Corinth is, however, that they celebrate the Lord’s Supper “in an unworthy manner” (11:27). The rich members of the congregation gobble down their own food without regard for the poor among them who have no food. The social elite in the congregation have caused divisions. They celebrate the Lord’s Supper on the conditions that prevail in the larger community with its boundaries between poor and rich (11:17-22).

But Paul is not going to accept that. He has taught the Christians to celebrate the Lord’s Supper with the Passover Meal as his model. As a Jew – and not least as a Jesus-believing Jew who has Christ as “our Passover lamb (5,7) – he knows that no one must be excluded when the Passover is celebrated. All have a place in the fellowship. Likewise when the Lord’s Supper is celebrated.

So the celebration of the Lord’s Supper is also a proclamation of Jesus’ death. Jesus’ death applies to all; at his death a new covenant has been made, which is for Jew and gentile, male and female, slave and free – and consequently poor and rich. The manner in which they celebrate the Lord’s Supper in Corinth is therefore a sin against that which Jesus’ death aims at: a congregation which is one body (10:17). That Jesus’ death is proclaimed until he comes is a reminder that the congregation is not yet at the finishing line.

Nor are we. “Mission accomplished” belongs to the world to come. May we – until he comes – be kept from harming the cause of the mission among the Jewish people through disagreement and divisions among us. May we – until he comes – be determined by an urge to proclaim the death of the Lord, in the light of the resurrection, and be able to distinguish between essentials and inessentials in our testimony to the Jewish people. And may we – until he comes – always include the Jewish people in the mission task and not keep them outside, which large parts of the Christian church do today. I am going to return to this issue.

**LCJE Update**

I will make this LCJE Update brief. It allows me time to focus on the two world conferences on mission that were held in 2010, one hundred years after the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910. Were Jewish people included in the church’s mission commitment at these two conferences – or were they left out?

But before that, I want to mention the following: Most LCJE chapters have held conferences in the course of the year, as informed about in the LCJE Bulletin and on LCJE's homepage. Available on the homepage are a number of papers from these conferences, which is a resource that you should not deprive yourselves of.

At the moment the number of LCJE agency members is 26 and a few are on the way. The latest new agency member is "Tzedakah Ministries", USA, The number of individual members is somewhere between 100 and 150. The reason why I cannot be more precise is that quite a few who were members in 2010 have not yet paid for 2011.

It costs money to send money. LCJE's bank in Denmark has raised its fees for handling foreign checks so much that when an individual member sends the annual membership dues of USD 25 on a check, all that remains for LCJE is about 7 dollars! At an unofficial LCJE ICC meeting tomorrow, March 29, we are going to address that challenge. At the same meeting we shall discuss LCJE's future leadership. At this coming summer's international LCJE conference there will be elections of ICC members as well as area coordinators.

As a network LCJE has existed for more than 30 years. We have had many indications that LCJE has been an encouragement for many who have been involved in Jewish evangelism. I see no reason to close down LCJE. But the day when a majority believe that LCJE is *a matter of course*, we will have a problem. May we manage to get young people to understand the importance of this international network and be willing to put in time and efforts to carry on the LCJE network for the sake of the salvation of the Jews.

This is the third time LCJE-NA has its annual conference in St. Louis. The first was in 1990 and the second in 1999. I have a clear recollection of the one in 1990. It was my first visit to the USA at all, and it was the first time I represented LCJE as coordinator. It was on that occasion Moishe Rosen taught me an important lesson about money and accountability in LCJE – a story I am not going to tell you now. The reason I bring up Moishe Rosen's name is also that he passed away since the last LCJE meeting (in Atlanta). Moishe Rosen's importance for LCJE has been enormous, and we honour him for that. He wanted LCJE to be the place where mission leaders at the highest level in their respective organizations met. Since the first meeting in 1984 he participated in practically all North American meetings. His last one was in Phoenix in 2009. All honour to Moishe's memory!

At the meeting in 1990 in St. Louis, the Willowbank Declaration from 1989 was behind us. This important mission document on Jewish mission and evangelism was discussed. Behind us was also the Lausanne II Congress in Manila, which some members of LCJE participated in. Ahead of us was the Fourth International LCJE Conference in 1991 in Zeist, Holland. The plans for this were presented.

At the meeting in 1999 in St. Louis, we also had an international conference ahead of us, namely the one in August 1999 at Hofstra University in New York.

So it seems that whenever there is an LCJE meeting in St. Louis, it is accompanied by international conferences. It is the same this year, with the international conference in England later this year and Lausanne III 2010 behind us. It is of course be a coincidence.

### **Ninth International LCJE Conference 2011**

We are looking forward to this summer's international LCJE conference at High Leigh Conference Centre north of London, August 7-12, 2011. It will be the ninth in the line of international LCJE conferences and the third time we meet in England. This also happened in 1983, in Newmarket, and in 1986 in Easneye, at All Christian Nations, not many miles from High Leigh. High Leigh is situated in rural and idyllic surroundings and has, over the years, hosted several conferences on Jewish mission.

The theme of this summer's conference is "Mission and Jewish Evangelism – Always and Everywhere". The Bible reflections in the mornings will take their starting-point in Hebrews 11-12:3, the main addresses in the evening will focus on the Great Commission – partly on "out of Zion" and partly on the four "alls" of the Great Commission in Matthew chapter 28. Participants in Lausanne III will share with us the inspiration they brought back from Cape Town.

Apart from that we hope to have made up a programme that can appeal to both head and heart and stimulate the theological and missiological reflection for us who are involved in Jewish mission and evangelism, encourage us and inspire us with new courage and boldness to continue the work which we believe God has called us to do, and create new possibilities for cooperation, and not least make us rejoice in the work that is actually being done for the sake of Israel's salvation through faith in Jesus.

As with earlier international LCJE conferences we are going to have many speakers, about 50, but others will also get a possibility to take part through discussions and conversations, through short spontaneous contributions and responses to the papers or at "the late-evening options" or invite to their own gatherings about matters they have a special interest in.

And of course this LCJE conference will also have an element of humour and laughter.

Program and registration form are available on [www.lcje.net](http://www.lcje.net) – we have decided to set an upper limit to the number of participants, why it is a good idea to register asap, if you want to make sure that you will be admitted.

Personally I am looking forward to the conference with a feeling of expectancy. I have participated in seven before this, and I have always returned from the conferences encouraged and renewed in the calling to continue Jewish evangelism.

Welcome to High Leigh in August 2011.

### **When one member of the LCJE family suffers – Greetings from LCJE Japan**

When I, as international LCJE coordinator, welcome a new member, I often use the words "Welcome in the LCJE family". Many of us can testify that the fellowship about Jewish evangelism through LCJE has also resulted in a fellowship on the personal level, where we share each other's joys and sorrows and pray for each other when we suffer, for this is what a family does!

I will take time to share with you a moving mail from Charles Klingensmith, Chapter President for LCJE Japan, which is addressed to all LCJE people throughout the world. We know about the many disasters that the Japanese people are suffering under because of the earthquakes, tsunami and subsequent leak of radioactivity. This is the greeting which I received from Charles Klingensmith in mid-March.

#### *Greetings from LCJE JAPAN – Pray for us!*

Shalom in Messiah Yeshua to all LCJE people throughout the world! With one voice united in thanks, LCJE Japan is deeply grateful to you for your fervent prayers for Japan and its people and church in the aftermath of the horrendous sadness of earthquake and tsunami on March 11. We are greatly encouraged that you are walking with us in prayer as the country begins slowly to count the many losses we have suddenly been made to endure. We will need you to keep walking with us far into the dark future.

As I sit at my desk at home after a day of exhausting meetings, it is the fifth night after this catastrophe, March 15. Almost all information available to the public is still general, not specific. Until now we have been breathless at the geographical scale of the earth's shaking and the water's destruction. Toward the end of this week we will begin at last to hear specific numbers, which will grow ever more horrible as we hear more. Gruesome numbers of dead will each represent a life cut off too soon.

Lists of names will be made public. These lists will not be completed for years, as bodies are found in unexpected places time after time. Survivors will never get over this. Many names and bodies might never be matched. A nuclear catastrophe will bring consequences that are wholly incalculable this night. This earthquake (and the many frequent and very large aftershocks that are still shaking many different regions), this tsunami, and this nuclear failure will fundamentally change Japan: its politics, its culture, its way of going about ordinary daily life. Will the Japanese people really start to listen to the gospel now?

Since I first heard the tsunami warning sirens wailing in my city of Wakayama on the Pacific coast last Friday afternoon, the Word of God has been challenging me to trust God's plan for this country and for my own ministry. My biggest prayer concerning this disaster is that none of it go to waste, that God's purpose be accomplished in all points. "Thy will be done" has never sounded more urgent to the ears of Japan's Christians than now.

Fairly early in his ministry, the apostle Paul understood, "that through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Last Friday morning who would have imagined what was only a few hours away? For us down in Wakayama, the earthquake and tsunami that the northeast of Japan received had long been predicted for us. Who's next? Now we know what it will look like. Of course disaster planning here too has been going on for years, assuming an earthquake of magnitude somewhere around 7. Last week's has been remeasured as 9.0. Some missionaries have started flying out of Japan this week, ordered out by their embassy due to fears of radiation exposure. Our prayers go with them as we say goodbye. For me, Nehemiah is the man to listen to, "should a man such as I run away?" (Nehemiah 6:11). And Job, "shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:10). These are questions we can only answer for ourselves. Lord, let me give the right answer, every day.

There's no day like today, another day in the Land of the Living. A day to talk about Jesus, to listen to Him, to cling to Him. And to share Him with people around us here who need Him, and who do not know that they need Him. Pray for us! Join us!

We will heed Charles Klingensmith's appeal: "Pray for us! Join us!" I have asked Theresa Newell to lead us in prayer.

With this I end my report. Although it is not as announced in the program, I will now give an update on how Jewish mission/evangelism was included, or not included, in the two mission conferences that were held in 2010 in connection with the celebration of the centenary of the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh 1910. It is, in my opinion, essential for the LJCE family to be informed about these matters.