

Caspari Center

www.caspari.com

Supporting Jewish Believers in Jesus through Education and Research

Transitions

Spring 2007

For the first time since the Early Church nearly two thousand years ago, a generation of Jewish believers in Jesus who grew up in Israel is reaching maturity. This emerging generation will transform both the Messianic community and the nation of Israel.

God is calling leaders to guide the future of the Messianic movement from among this generation. They will look at their context differently than their immigrant parents and the majority of their mentors, who embraced faith in Yeshua as adults. Their experience will reflect the perspective of indigenous Israelis, fully immersed in their culture and their Messianic community.



This is truly a historic moment for the Messianic movement in Israel, and for the global Body of Messiah. As this emerging generation of Israeli leaders grows, we will grow with it. Their creativity, innovation and connection with Israeli culture will provide dynamic new opportunities for ministry. What can we do to continue our investment in Israel's future leaders?

First of all, I am excited to announce that I will be relocating with my family to Israel. Historically, the International Director of the Caspari Center lived in Israel, and only moved to the Chicago area in 2002 in order to launch the US branch. Now that our US branch is capably directed by our North American Director, Kathi Graham, it is time for me to return to Israel and work with the Israeli team to develop new ministry initiatives. My family's goal is to move to Israel in early August.

Second, our Israel Director, Lisa Loden, will retire in June after many years of effective service to Caspari Center as a mentor, teacher, and leader. She will continue serving the Messianic community in Israel in a variety of leadership roles, and her retrospective in this newsletter shows how much the Messianic community has grown during her tenure. Now we have the responsibility of working with our Israeli leadership team to recruit Lisa's successor, as well as the privilege of growing with that person's vision for ministry in Israel.

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Globally, cross-cultural ministry is taking an exciting turn, as international partners collaborate with national leaders to share resources and expertise. In many ways, the emerging generation will set the pace for our ministry in the future. Their passion for the Gospel will chart our course as together we bring the resources of Messiah's Body to a field that is truly ripe for harvest. By working together, we can demonstrate the amazing truth of Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."



We invite you to be a part of what God is doing in Israel. Your financial support and prayers are having an impact on the growth of the Israeli Messianic community. During this time of transition, we are especially thankful for our entire network of donors, prayer partners and volunteers. Together, we are making a difference.

Steve Engstrom, International Director

Caspari Center

North American Vision

by Kathi Graham, North American Director

The vision of our North American branch is to equip the Church to support Jewish mission and the Messianic community in Israel. In Acts 1:8, the Lord says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We want to help you become informed and involved in Jewish ministry—whether in Israel or in your own neighborhood. We would love to visit your church, Sunday School class or home group to give you the latest information on the Messianic community in Israel, or provide a fascinating study of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith.

Whether you want to plan a tour of Israel or to develop an informed way of praying for the Jewish people, Caspari Center staff and resources are here to help you make the best choices.

Contact us today to schedule a visit, and to find out how Caspari Center can help you participate in supporting the dynamic growth of Jewish believers in Jesus—in Israel and around the world.

Media Review

We recently received the following letter from the Forum Against Discrimination, a non-profit organization which aims to centralize efforts to fight discrimination against minority religious groups in Israel.

We have been receiving the Caspari Media Review for more than two years. The Media Review enables us to be updated on anti-missionary activities in Israel and take legal steps against these groups. Without the updates of the Caspari Media Reviews we would be unaware of much of the discrimination taking place and would have to go through dozens of media articles in the religious newspapers, which are normally not seen by the Jewish non-Orthodox community, in order to find the information. We look forward to continue working together.

The Forum works closely with minorities—including Israel's Messianic Jews—to put an end to hate-groups such as Yad L'Achim and Lev L'Achim (anti-missionary organizations). Will you help us continue to be a resource for this important work? Caspari Center relies on the contributions of our friends to publish the Media Review. Subscribe online at www.caspari.com/mediareview, or go to www.caspari.com/donate to help support this work.

Tours to Israel

Ancient and Living Stones

Experience a spiritually significant tour of biblical and historic sites with unique opportunities to interact with "Living Stones"—modern-day Jewish believers living in Israel. Our tours are safe, affordable, and led by licensed guides who share our faith.



Tours scheduled for 2007:

- Nov 2-11 from Chicago
- Nov 9-18 from Indianapolis

Contact the Caspari Center U.S. office for details on these or to learn how to schedule a tour for your group.

Israel Alive!

Did you know that Caspari Center sends out a free monthly email newsletter? *Israel Alive!* includes news from Israel, informative articles, reflections by a Jewish believer in Jesus, up-to-date ministry opportunities and more.



Read previous issues and subscribe today at www.caspari.com/enews.

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redesigned website
www.caspari.com**

A 20 Year Retrospective

by Lisa Loden, Israel Director

I clearly remember the day, more than 20 years ago, when my husband and I were visited by two beloved brothers from Jerusalem. One of these brothers was the director of the newly formed Caspari Center for Biblical Studies in Jerusalem, and the other was a scholar who was already busy writing books for the new center.

As they spoke of the need for theological training in Hebrew for the fledgling Messianic community, I felt my heart stirring. Here was a ministry with passion and vision to serve Hebrew speaking Israeli believers. That was when I came on board with Caspari and became a teacher/mentor in this innovative new program. Every two weeks for a period of several years, I would travel by bus to a remote location where three to five students had come together to study the Bible using Caspari's newly developed Telem (an acronym meaning "Program for Messianic Study") books.

This period in the life of Caspari Center was very blessed. Caspari sent mentors all over Israel. Courses were held in Eilat, Afula, Netanya, Jerusalem, Jaffa and Tel Aviv. A significant proportion of today's Israeli Messianic leaders studied at one time in the Telem courses.

As the Messianic community grew, more and more congregations came into existence, and the need for teaching in remote locations diminished. As a result, Caspari sponsored fewer courses. At the same time, we began to see our teaching materials being used in home groups in these new congregations.

In the late 1980s and 1990s, Israel had large waves of immigrants coming from Russian speaking countries. A number of these Russian immigrants were believers in Yeshua. These believers were very bold in their witness, and as a result many more Russian immigrants came to faith in Yeshua. They quickly became a part of the Messianic community, and by 1999, 43% of the believers in Yeshua were native Russian speakers. From that time, Caspari has worked to translate and publish all new study books in Russian and to translate existing study books into Russian as well.

Beginning in 1999, Caspari Center refocused the local work on the "next generation." We were seeing an

increasing number of children and young people growing up within the community. Numbers of them were having great difficulty remaining in the faith of their parents. We took this as a challenge, and began working intensively with the adult generation—for the sake of the children. We expanded the work of our seminars for Shabbat school teachers, began working with the Ethiopian believing community, and four years ago started a practical Leadership Training course.

It has been a joy to see the numbers of teachers attending our now twice-yearly seminars for Shabbat school teachers. When we went from once a year to twice a year, we thought that attendance might drop. The opposite occurred, and attendance at these seminars is averaging around 125 each time. Caspari is becoming better known in the Messianic community, and with each seminar we have two to four new congregations sending representatives.



Since its inception, I have had the privilege of designing (with the help of our great staff) our leadership training program, Hearts to Serve. This program is now in its fourth year and is one of our most successful programs ever. Feedback from the students indicates deep levels of impact on their lives and ministries. We work with young, new, and emerging leaders from a broad spectrum of the Messianic community. In this course we have students from many backgrounds: native Israelis, Ethiopians, Russians, Arabs, Anglo-Saxons, Eastern Europeans, etc. The course itself is a cross-cultural experience; it embodies the beauty and diversity of the Body of Messiah in Israel.

As I look back over the past twenty-something years with Caspari Center, I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to help develop such a vital ministry. For me, working with a multicultural, multigenerational staff of men and women, Jews and non-Jews, all with the same heart for ministry, has been an unparalleled experience. The fellowship and prayerful atmosphere of Caspari Center, as well as the work we are doing to strengthen and equip the Messianic community in Israel, will remain in my heart. I will miss the people and the work. My prayers are for the ministry to grow and expand, and to continue being a resource for the Messianic community in Israel and a bridge to the churches worldwide.

Support Caspari Center

The Caspari Center sincerely values your support of the work we are doing to strengthen and grow the Messianic movement in Israel, as well as increase the world-wide church's awareness and understanding of Jewish believers in Jesus. In the past year, you have helped us serve over 150 Israeli leaders from over 30 congregations with strategic programming for leadership development and congregational growth.

We now offer direct withdrawal and online donation options through our secure web site. You can specify any amount you wish to be deducted automatically from your credit card or checking account, and spread your donations out quarterly, monthly, weekly or bi-weekly through this plan.

To set up your giving plan, please go to www.caspari.com/donate or call our North American office at (630) 668-3328 for assistance.

What is ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) and why is Caspari Center a member?

ECFA is an accreditation agency founded in 1979. Members are monitored to assure you, the donor, that our communications and fundraising are truthful and comply with the highest standards of full disclosure with no conflict of interest. The standards are listed on the website (www.ecfa.org). Watch for their seal when deciding where to place your donations.



Pray with us...

- That the light of Messiah will shine among the Jewish people, drawing many to salvation
- For God's blessing on our programs in Israel and the Diaspora
- For Israel's growing community of believers
- For God's provision and guidance for new staff
- For the Engstrom family on their move to Israel
- For the peace of Jerusalem

Headquarters

PO Box 147
Wheaton, IL 60189, USA
Phone: (+1) 630.639.1292
FAX: (+1) 630.668.6473
Email: HQ@caspari.com

Israel

36 Jaffa Road, PO Box 46
Jerusalem 91000, Israel
Phone: (+972) 2.623.3926
FAX: (+972) 2.625.1933
Email: Caspari@caspari.com

North America

PO Box 147
Wheaton, IL 60189, USA
Phone: (+1) 630.668.3328
FAX: (+1) 630.668.6473
Email: CaspariUSA@caspari.com

Mishkan Subscriptions

Phone: (+1) 630.668.3328
Email: Mishkan@caspari.com

Web Site

www.caspari.com

Online Store

www.caspari.com/store

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Walking with Jesus through the Jewish Calendar

Walking with Jesus through the Jewish Calendar allows you to see Jesus in his Jewish context as it guides you from the Fall feasts through Pentecost. This discussion-based study for adult Bible classes and small groups is designed to further your biblical understanding as well as introduce you to modern-day Jewish believers in Jesus.

The study can be used in a variety of formats and by various denominations. The comprehensive leader's manual enables groups and individuals to use the material without any special training, and we provide a number of support tools, such as CDs, DVDs and online assistance.

Available at www.caspari.com/jewishcalendar