

What's in a Mission Statement

By Mark E. Benjamin

Mission Statement

To help fill the void in the Jewish individual by teaching fellow Christians about Jewish beliefs and customs. Whereby giving the believers more understanding of their own Jewish heritage and equipping them with the ability to better relate to the Jew. Therefore, resulting in an improved opportunity for bringing the Jewish people to Jesus Christ the Messiah.

What does all that mean? Fantastic question, ready for the answer? ...Beats me, I just typed it into my laptop. You have to admit one thing, it sure sounds cool. Like just about every other mission statement I have ever seen, after you read it you walk away saying, "Wow! I have no idea what that was about, but I sure can't wait to see what the Lord is going to do there." I have the same reaction after reading my own mission statement too. I can't wait to see what's about to happen next; how the Lord is going to work through this. But, I'm also not so sure I understand it as a whole. Let's break it down and see what we come up with... That way we will both know what it means.

"To help fill the void in the Jewish individual..."

First off, you and I can't DO anything. We may think we can or it may seem like we do things. But we really can't. (Job 31:23 (NAS) "...and because of His majesty I can do nothing." Matt 19:26 (NIV) ..."With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.") It is only through God's allowance do we DO anything. We must be content in helping to do what we can. It is not we that bring someone to Christ, but we can help in preparing the way to Him.

The void is in all of us. Even after we are saved and in Christ, we still have a void. Yes, it is much more apparent before our rebirth, but it is still there afterwards as well. We still feel that emptiness deep inside, that longing to be truly with Christ. That void will only be filled when we meet Him face to face. But the void in us all before we have given our lives to Him can, and must, be filled before that last day. This is the void that we wish to help in filling.

All people must be saved and all must hear the Word of God. The focus of this ministry is the Jewish Nation. Notice I did not say Israel. That is only part of the Jewish Nation. True, it is the homeland and where the capital and government reside. But, the Jewish Nation is also in every other country around the world. It is daunting to think about saving an entire nation. When each individual is saved then the nation itself will be saved. Hence, we must focus on the Jewish Nation, one individual at a time.

"...by teaching fellow Christians about Jewish beliefs and customs. Whereby giving the believer more understanding..."

I'm sure we have all heard before "with knowledge comes power, and with power comes responsibility." To learn something new can be a wonderful thing. It can also take a lot of time and energy. As Christians, we should always be looking to learn more. To learn more about what is written in His word, learn more about each other, learn more of His will in our life. God made us with incredible minds; they are one of the many gifts He has given us. We should not take that

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gift for granted, lest He take it away. Once we have learned what it is God would have us to know, we need to use it for His glory. (Luke 11:33 (NIV) "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.") We are called to use what we have learned, to let our light shine, it's our responsibility.

But why learn Jewish beliefs and customs? That question will be answered as this article moves along. So tuck that one aside for now and be patient, I will explain. For now I'm sure we can see no harm in learning these things. That isn't to say we neglect or replace our time to learn more about Christ and God's will, just to learn these new things. But isn't much of the Jewish beliefs and customs already in the first half of our own Bible? Of course it is, so you can do both at the same time. It's like a two-for-one sale – we all like those.

"...of their own Jewish heritage..."

In case you haven't realized it yet your heritage as a Christian is the same exact heritage as the Jew. Our Old Testament is the same as the Torah. The story of David, Abraham, Moses, the creation, the flood, all of it, is the same for both the Jew and Christian. Unfortunately, many Christians think that the word "old" in "Old Testament" means unnecessary. How absurd. Did not the very one that we say we follow, Jesus, observe ALL of the Holy days out of the Old Testament? (In case you're struggling on that – the answer is yes He did.) Let's not get mired into the "Law verses Grace" debate here. We can go beyond and above that now. Plain and simple; the Old Testament is still part of the Bible you have in your church and still needs to be reckoned with. God didn't throw it out, Jesus didn't and neither do the thousands of copies printed every day, so neither should you or I. (Matt 5:18 (NAS) "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.") The last time I looked heaven and earth are still here, so not all is accomplished yet – so none of it has passed away.

Notice that I call it "heritage". We all have a family heritage; (I'm going to go out on a limb here but I bet you have parents, and they had parents, and so on). Some of our heritage is good, some bad, some of it we know about inside and out and some of it we have no idea that it ever took place – but all of it makes up who we are. Same thing with our Spiritual heritage. The Bible is full of wonderful stories and some that aren't so nice, many we know and still there are things that we find and say "when did that get put in there?" Just like our family heritage, our Spiritual heritage is important too. It's our past. You would do well to know and learn from it.

"...and equipping them with the ability to better relate to the Jew. Therefore, resulting in an improved opportunity..."

Besides trying to learn something new, we should also try to become more relatable to others (1 Cor 9:20 (NIV) "To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law."). That's not to say we become like others or succumb to their ways of thinking. We simply are able to become more open to others for them to approach us. Common grounds to start communication, some catch phrases or jargon, understanding of where the other person is

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coming from and why they think the way they do. If nothing else you'll impress your friends the next time you play a trivia game with how much you now know.

The more we become approachable, the more opportunities will arise, and the more you will be able to help in spreading the Gospel to those you come in contact with. Sounds logical, and fairly easy doesn't it? Just think about your reaction when someone comes up to you and starts to talk about a subject you feel strongly about or an activity you love to do. You open right up, even if you don't know the person.

"...for bringing the Jewish people to Jesus Christ the Messiah."

All people of the earth need to be saved. I realize that no one on this earth is better than any other and no one is more important than someone else. But there are already plenty of missions that target the inner-city, or the one in prison, or the starving of Africa. The Jewish people are still God's chosen. The Jews have fought the fight of the LORD for a very long time now. This mission is to target those Jews. The ancestry of our Lord, *Y'shua ha-Mashiach*.

Therefore,

Our mission statement is the opening paragraph... Oh, now I get it. I just can't wait to see what the Lord does here! Amen!