

Yearning for Intimacy

Most Christians today yearn for deep intimacy with Christ. They want to experience His joy, but religious mindsets keep many believers from having true fellowship with Him. Instead of worshiping and praising Jesus for His grace, we collapse under the weight of legalism and tradition, and we rob ourselves of the opportunity to draw close to Him. The Holy Spirit wants to free us from legalistic rules and regulations that keep us from experiencing the Father's unconditional love. To discover how to rid your mind of attitudes that keep you from God's best for your life, watch video below.

Foundational Teachings About Yeshua

Before I took a pilgrimage to Israel in March, I was unsure of what Messianic Jews believe. Many of my questions were answered when I met believers in Yeshua from around the world on the airplane, in the Old City, at the market and in other places in Israel. Jesus destroyed the barriers that keep us separated. Because of Him, we are one body. My fellow believers in Yeshua taught me we have more in common than we know. Click below to discover what I learned.

Are Jewish Feasts the Key to Yeshua's Return?

The three Jewish holidays observed by Jews around the world include Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Passover. These holidays are not only important to Jews and many Christians; they play a significant role in

biblical prophecy. Do these high, holy days hold the key to Yeshua's return? Many believers think so. To discover why, watch video below.

Lawmakers Apologize for Describing Jews as 'Penny Pinchers'

South Carolina Republicans James Ulmer and Edwin Merwin have publicly apologized for describing Jews as penny pinchers in a newspaper op-ed piece the lawmakers co-authored.

Ulmer and Merwin, who serve as chairmen in the state's Republican Party, came under fire early this week after the article was published Sunday in the Orangeburg Times & Democrat.

The two men praised Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., for watching over federal dollars the way "Jews who are wealthy" take care of "pennies and dollars."

"There is a saying that the Jews who are wealthy got that way not by watching dollars, but instead by taking care of the pennies and the dollars taking care of themselves," the two men wrote.

"By not using earmarks to fund projects for South Carolina and instead using actual bills, DeMint is watching our nation's pennies and trying to preserve our country's wealth and our economy's viability to give all an opportunity to succeed."

The comments drew harsh criticism from South Carolina Democrat Sen. Joel Lourie, who is Jewish. "The words of these key Republican leaders are disgusting, unconscionable and represent prejudice in its purest form," wrote Lourie in a prepared statement late Monday.

Ulmer responded Monday with an e-mail to the press, in which he apologized for his remarks. "I meant absolutely nothing derogatory by the reference to a great and honorable people. I hope that anyone and all who were offended by my comment will accept my humble apology."

Merwin followed suit with a written statement. "I concur fully with the apology offered by my co-author, Jim Ulmer, and likewise beg that any and all who were offended will accept my deep- felt apology."

Lourie insisted that DeMint and South Carolina Republican Party chairwoman Karen Floyd condemn the op-ed piece and remove Ulmer and Merwin from their positions.

The two lawmakers denounced the comments, but Floyd refused to call for Ulmer's and Merwin's resignations.

"It was an offensive and inappropriate comment that Jim and Edwin have rightly apologized for. These kinds of stereotypes are absolutely unacceptable," Floyd said in a statement. "It goes without saying that some people will continue trying to exploit this mistake for political gain, but as far as we're concerned, their apology ends the matter."

Building a Secure Home

After God performed the first wedding in the Garden of Eden, He instructed the couple to build a life together, to love one another and to have children. God still intends for couples to have unity, intimacy and unwavering love for one another. Don't let challenges in your relationship rob you of a healthy marriage. To get practical solutions, click on video.

{youtube}33c-05DXnEc{/youtube}

Dead Sea Makes Final Cut in 7

Wonders of Nature Competition

The Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and one of Israel's most popular tourist sites, is one of 28 finalists in the 7 Wonders of Nature, an international online competition that grades the seven natural wonders of the world.

To reach the final shortlist, the Dead Sea beat out approximately 440 sites from 220 countries.

The competition will last through 2011, and organizers expect millions of people to cast their vote. Other natural wonders in the competition include, the Amazon River, Galapagos Islands, the Grand Canyon and Maldives.

Officials are hoping the competition will promote tourism in the Dead Sea region and raise public awareness around the world about the problems facing the sea, which has lost close to one meter of water annually for the past 30 years.

For the next two years, Israel's Ministry of Tourism will lead the campaign for the Dead Sea to be selected as one of the winners in the contest, via 14 offices around the world, websites in 11 languages, and marketing activities that will emphasize the unique attributes of the Dead Sea. (To vote, go to www.new7wonders.com.)

Positioned 400 meters below sea level, the Dead Sea is known as the largest natural health spa in the world. It is made up of black mud and thermo-mineral hot springs that ease muscular tension, improve blood circulation and alleviate rheumatic pain.

Other tourist attractions in the area include the Roman fortress at Masada, Ein Gedi and Einot Tzu Kim, nature reserves and the Qumran caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.

Prayer Makes the Difference

Soon after I graduated from college I gave my life to the Lord. Even though I grew up in a godly home, I treated salvation like a game of Russian roulette. I played around because I figured I had time on my side. Was I ever deceived!

I know today what made me drop to my knees, repent of my sins and ask Jesus into my life: prayer. My mother spent untold hours in prayer crying out to God, "Lord, save my children." She knew back then what I know now: Prayer changes things.

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Let Yeshua 'Tabernacle' in You

The Jewish holiday *Sukkot*, which is also known as the Festival of Booths or the Feast of Tabernacles, is celebrated not only in the Holy Land, but also around the world. Jews call it the "season of joy"

because Messiah was born. In biblical times, Jews journeyed to Jerusalem to commemorate the children of Israel's exodus, when God led them in the wilderness and they lived in booths. Jews today celebrate the holiday by eating, rejoicing and sleeping in decorated booths for eight days. Whether you're Jewish or not, we can all celebrate Yeshua and rejoice that He has come to "tabernacle" or dwell in us. Click below to watch video.

{youtube}l0ejs-HTAfo{/youtube}



10 Places You Should See (in Israel) Before You Die

- ✘ Nearly everyone has a special place he would like to visit during his lifetime. For many people, that place is Israel.

The mere mention of the country's name evokes a wide range of emotions, one of which is longing. For thousands of years, Israel has held great significance for people from all walks of life, and those who have a heart for the land yearn to see it.