



DAY of PRAYER for the PEACE of JERUSALEM

Stewarding Relationships

Protocol for hosting Jewish religious and political leaders for DPPJ

The Lord is moving in our day and His Spirit is drawing the attention of the Church and the world towards the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. In the midst of this, there are unprecedented opportunities to begin and to cultivate genuine relationships with the Jewish world. In response to this and the approaching Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem, Eagles' Wings would like to offer some suggested guidelines from our experience as we have sought to prayerfully steward these types of relationships with integrity and honor the Lord in all we do.

Historical context: *How do we (the Christian world) look to the Jewish world?*

Unfortunately the Church has a shameful history in regards to our dealings with Jewish communities. The Church, prior to and proceeding the Reformation, has been guilty of humiliating, isolating, expelling, forcibly converting and even massacring Jews, not to mention our near total silence during the Holocaust. To a people with a very strong collective memory our invitation to relationship, cooperation and solidarity can be intimidating and misunderstood.

Objective and Motivation: *What are doing and why are we doing it?*

The reason why we are reaching out to the Jewish community, in the context of the Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem, is to communicate our belief in God's eternal covenant with them, our love for them as people, and our support for the nation of Israel...that she has a right to exist and that she has a right to defend herself. Our motivation is not conversion. **It's extremely important that this theme is consistent throughout the services in which your guest - either religious and/or governmental - attends.** *Special music, worship songs, prayers, the message, and all other elements of their involvement and exposure to the service should remain within the context of the primary goals and motivation of the Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem.*

We are not avoiding the name or the person of Jesus since it is through His love that we know The Father's heart for the Jewish people and for His land (Joel 1:6, 2:18, 3:2). We are however, declaring - in both word and deed- solidarity with the Jewish people whether they become Christians or not. Why? God's covenant with the Jewish people is totally unconditional, and as Bible believing Christians, our support and protection for them is based upon that "ever-lasting" unconditional covenant and our obedience to God's Word, not upon their decision to follow Christ. Our Watchmen on the Wall Training Manual has a whole chapter devoted to "Frequently Asked Questions by Jewish people," which we recommend you read as you nurture Judeo-Christian relationships.

Effective non-confrontational communication: *What to say and what not to say.*

As we begin and cultivate relationships with the Jewish community it's important for us to be mindful of our language and the content of our dialogue. Many of the terms that are common place and widely understood amongst believers may be a ground for misunderstanding, so please choose your words carefully and please don't speak "Christianese."

Protocol for government officials: *Preparations in accommodating special guests.*

In the case that you are privileged to host a government official and/or any representative of the Israeli government, please be prepared for the appropriate accommodations. Arrange for exit and entrance to and from your facilities and for movement through them, in secure areas away from large crowds and high traffic. If possible, please have a private room where your guest can wait until they are ready to participate in the service; this is especially important for churches with two services.

Protocol for Rabbis and other religious guests: *Etiquette with religious guests.*

It would be good to incorporate the guidelines from dealing with government officials when accommodating religious guests. In addition to those preparations you should have kosher food, with plastic wear and disposable plate ware, in the private room that you have prepared. Orthodox men do not touch women other than their wife so handshakes are not appropriate when greeted by or introduced to a woman. There are varying degrees of Orthodox observance from ultra-orthodox to modern orthodox and this may not apply to everyone however it's best to assume that it is the case and allow your guest to lead.

You may find it helpful to visit this link below which deals with kosher etiquette.

<http://www.mazornet.com/jewishcl/Kosher/kosheretiquette.htm>