



*Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963*



**Kevin Geoffrey**  
President, MJMI

**W**ith summertime in full swing, I would like to begin by thanking you for remembering MJMI with your generous giving, especially over the next few months. As people become involved with their busy summer plans, ministries like MJMI often see a corresponding drop in donations. It is reassuring to know that

the Father has MJMI well in hand during this season, and that he is using people like you to further the cause of seeing all Israel saved!

Last month I mentioned that as part of MJMI's long-established vision to cultivate, aid and expand the world-wide Messianic Jewish movement that I would be writing my own report based on last year's Pew Center survey, "A Portrait of Jewish Amer-

icans: Findings from a Pew Research Center Survey of U.S. Jews." My analysis from a distinctly Messianic Jewish perspective will be a vital tool for those passionate about the salvation of Israel, because it will provide a realistic view of those we are trying to reach for Yeshua. Having recently completed my initial examination of the survey data, I thought I would share with you some of the more interesting—and startling!—findings.

## An Emerging Portrait of Jewish America

The survey begins slowly, with questions about politics and social issues. Not surprisingly, American Jews are largely registered Democrats (55%), not including the 28% who are Independents that heavily lean Democrat (70%). As for political views, American Jews are largely either liberal or very liberal (44% of religious Jews, and 56% of secular

Jews). At the time of the survey, almost two-thirds of American Jews highly approved of President Obama (versus a 50% approval among average Americans), and had an extremely high net level of acceptance of homosexuality in society—eighty-two percent (versus 60% among average Americans)! Add to this the vast majority of survey respondents considering "justice" and "equality" to be essential to what it means to be a Jew, and we begin to see a picture of the American Jew that appears to be very much the antithesis of the average evangelical Christian or Messianic Jew. Our political and social worldviews seem to be galaxies apart.

But we should realize that our political and social views are informed by our beliefs, and the most important of these is our belief in God. The survey also revealed that American Jews are considerably less



## Update from Israel

This month, I received an update and photos from Aviel, one of our ministry friends in Israel, who shared about the continuing work God is doing. He wrote, "This month was so fruitful! The Lord gave us His mercy as we started the Alpha course. At the first meeting, we had about seventy people, and the second had seventy-five. God is touching these people in a special way and opening their hearts to the Good News, and many of them have already begun attending our congregation. This Alpha course is the fruit of our humanitarian work and the sight-seeing tours that we host every month. God also gave us the chance to take sixteen young men on a trip and share the Good News with them, and it was so powerful. God opened their hearts, and some of them received His truth."



likely than the average American to believe in God. So it is not surprising—though it is concerning—that 66% of religious Jews agree that a person can be considered Jewish even if he does not believe in God (that number rises to 75% among secular Jews).

Now, from a Scriptural perspective, Jewishness is an ethnicity, and cannot be changed regardless of what one believes. But we also need to realize that truly essential to Jewishness is chosenness by God. So, for the Jewish people to disbelieve in the One who set them apart *as the Jewish people* is the ultimate in identity crisis. Even more ironic is that virtually the same number of religious Jews say a person *cannot* be considered Jewish if he believes that Yeshua is the Messiah. **Therefore, according to the majority of American Jews, it is not necessary for a Jew to believe in God, but a Jew who believes in Yeshua—God in the flesh—is no longer considered a Jew!** This illustrates an enormous chasm in understanding.

Finally, as a father, I think one of the most disturbing set of statistics has to do with Jewish children. First, a mere 20% of American Jews have had three or more children. This points to a major population growth issue (married couples need to have at least three children in order to have even moderate population growth). Second, compared to 55% of U.S. households, a staggering 73% of Jewish households have no children under the age of 18! In short, the Jewish American is aging and dying without a generation to replace it. Jews in America are not only failing to pass on a Scriptural faith to the next generation, but are failing to replenish the next generation in the first place. Regardless of what American Jews think or believe, it is utterly irrelevant if we eventually fail to exist at all. Yes, a remnant will always be preserved, but our people are not called to be a light that is on the verge of being extinguished—we are called to be a shining beacon that draws all nations to God.

## What It All Means

Even a cursory analysis of the Pew Center survey points to a declining American Jewish mindset and peoplehood. As one of those American Jews myself (not by the Pew Center's standards, but by God's), I am grieved that my people have strayed so far from the teachings of our fathers, and the

Word of our Creator. If my mindset is at all representative of Messianic Jews in America, then the Messianic Jewish community is worlds apart from our Jewish brothers and sisters—and time is running out to reach them for Messiah. **I estimate that if trends hold, American Jews will be virtually 100% secular—that is, having no desire to find and walk with the God of Israel—in only four generation's**

**time!** How can we reach a people for Messiah, if they don't even acknowledge the God who made them?

My friend, I hope this brief look at the Pew Center's survey has demonstrated how crucial it is for us to understand the people we are trying to reach, and how writing a comprehensive report of the survey from a Messianic Jewish perspective can help accomplish that goal. Will you please partner with me to help bring this information to my fellow Messianic Jewish leaders, so that we can collectively learn how God wants us to proceed in our efforts to lead our Jewish brothers and sisters back to

Him—and, ultimately, to their Messiah?

Your financial donations not only help us to fund the work of those who are sharing Yeshua with Israelis, like our friend Aviel (see sidebar on front), but it will help me to fulfill the mission of MJMI by bringing vital tools and resources to the Messianic Jewish movement. **Your gift of \$10, \$25, \$100 or more helps to make this possible.** Please use the enclosed card and envelope or visit [www.mjmi.org](http://www.mjmi.org) to send your much needed donation today, and prayerfully consider becoming a monthly ministry partner, so that we can know that we should count on your support each month. Thank you for being a part of the MJMI family!

“For I was praying—I myself—to be accursed from the Messiah for the salvation

of my brothers, my relatives according to the flesh, who are יִשְׂרָאֵלִים, Yis'raeliyim [Israelites]—whose is the adoption of sons, and the glory, and the בְּרִיתוֹת, b'riyot [covenants], and the תּוֹרָה, Torah-giving, and the עֲבֹדָה, 'avodah [service], and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom, according to the flesh, is the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed to the ages, אָמֵן, amen!” (Romans 9:3-5)

For the sake of the Messiah,



Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI

