The Number of Jewish Believers in Yeshua Today

Dr. Mitch Glaser
Leon Levison
(1881-1936)

First third of the 20th century:
• 97,000 Jews in Hungary
• 17,000 in Vienna
• 35,000 in Poland
• 60,000 in Bolshevik Russia
• 20,000 in the US

Looking Back to Look Forward

The 19th Century

Johannes de le Roi (1899) – Jews baptized in the 19th century:
• 72,740 into evangelical churches
• 57,300 into Roman Catholic church
• 74,500 into Greek church
• 204,540 Total

Thompson, A Century of Jewish Missions p.264-65
First Third of the 20th Century

• 250,000-300,000 Jewish believers
• May not have included Jewish people baptized into Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches
• More than the 204,000 in the 19th century

Post Holocaust Jewish Population

In Europe only an estimated 3,642,000 remain of the total Jewish pre-war population of approximately 9,740,000 Messianic Jewish population reduced by one third?

Buksbazen:

In post-war Holland I visited a Hebrew Christian brother who told me how the Lord had wonderfully preserved many Jewish Christians through the kindness and friendship of the Dutch people. The Dutch people took a Christian stand against Hitler, protecting their Jewish compatriots at the risk of their own lives. Many Dutch people paid the highest penalty while doing it.

Hebrew Christians were rounded up by the Nazis and imprisoned in concentration camps together with other Jews. But there they were faithful to their Lord and testified for Him as long as life lasted.

Grolle:

Spies were active, but also were the illegal resistance organizations. Some hidden Jews were caught and together with their Christian hiders deported. Christian love for Israel was shown. Many a Jewish heart was moved by this. There were blessed experiences when the Lord opened these Jewish hearts. Many were converted and, in this way, not only the body but above all, the soul was saved by the grace of God.

Some hundreds of them who were hidden in Christian families gave their hearts to the Lord.

The Messianic Jewish Movement

- World War I
- Pre-World War II
- The Holocaust
- The Jesus Movement
- The Russian Jesus Movement
- Today
Evangelicals, the Gospel, and Jewish People

Representative Survey of 2,002 Americans With Evangelical Beliefs

Sponsored by Chosen People Ministries and Author, Joel C Rosenberg
Methodology

• LifeWay Research survey September 2017
• Sponsored by Chosen People Ministries and author Joel C. Rosenberg.
• Used web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, designed to be representative of the U.S. population.
• 2,002 surveys
• 95% confidence of plus or minus 2.7% error rate
Evangelical Beliefs

• The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe

• It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior

• Jesus Christ’s death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin

• Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God’s free gift of eternal salvation
71% strongly agree that sharing the Gospel with Jewish people is important

Q33: "Sharing the Gospel with Jewish people is important." n=1967
35% of those with Jewish friends have prayed for the salvation of their Jewish friends in the last week.

Q41: “In the last week have you prayed for the salvation of your Jewish friend(s)?” Asked of those indicating they have Jewish friends in Q40. n=591.
60% have not shared the Gospel with any of their Jewish friends in the last year

Q42: “In the last year have you shared the Gospel with any of your Jewish friends?” Asked of those indicating they have Jewish friends in Q40. n=588
Jewish Parents or Grandparents

- When applied to the entire population, this response provides an estimate of 870,771 adult Americans who have Evangelical Beliefs and self-report that they have at least one Jewish parent or grandparent.
The Lifeway Survey (2017)

• 2% of Evangelicals with one or two parents or grandparents who are Jewish
• By projection: 870,771
• 11% of Jews by ethnicity who have evangelical beliefs
• 40 million Evangelicals
• 7.8 million US Jewish adults, both by ethnicity and religion (Pew estimate)
• 2017 AJYB 6.85 Million
• 11% of American Jews have evangelical beliefs
Comparison Surveys
The Pew Survey (2013)

Total of 2.4 million People with a Jewish background

21% – 1.6 million people – raised in homes that are ethnically Jewish, but religiously Christian
# Estimated Size of the U.S. Jewish Adult Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jewish background</th>
<th>Share of U.S. adults</th>
<th>Estimated number (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other religion</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish and Christian</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish and other religion</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No religion</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JEWISH MILLENNIALS

THE BELIEFS & BEHAVIORS SHAPING YOUNG JEWS IN AMERICA
The Barna Survey (2016)

• According to the Pew report, millennials represent 20% of the adult Jewish community – 1,560,000
• 21% of millennials believe Jesus is the son of God – approximately 300,000 Jewish young people
• What do they mean? ...the survey does not pursue this further
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>19th Century Europe</th>
<th>Pre-Holocaust Europe</th>
<th>21st Century U.S.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Jewish People</td>
<td>9 Million</td>
<td>9.5 Million</td>
<td>7.8 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Jewish Believers in Yeshua</td>
<td>2% (200,000)</td>
<td>3% (300,000)</td>
<td>11% (900,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11% NOT 1% Evangelicals with Jewish Ethnicity

- The traditional figure of less than 1% Jewish Believers (78,000 people) in the United States is far too low
- Almost 900,000
- Where are they?
  ...primarily in local churches
- It is also possible that a large majority were raised with the knowledge of their Jewish ethnicity but identify as Christians
Messianic Ministry in the 21st Century
A New Perspective

We must recognize that we are reaching a new type of Jewish family, impacted by intermarriage, with a new perspective on Jewish identification. This should be especially understood as we lead and plant Messianic congregations.
A New Perspective

Faith in Yeshua the Messiah is not viewed as harshly as in previous generations. 34% of Jewish people say belief in Yeshua is not incompatible with being Jewish. (Pew 2013)
A New Perspective

Since the majority of ethnic Jewish believers in Jesus are in Evangelical churches we must find ways to include them in the Messianic movement that go beyond our regular programs and efforts to include them in our congregations and ministries.
A New Perspective

We must understand our responsibility to Jewish believers and their families who are satisfied with their local church but, as we are compelled by Scriptures, believe they should become more connected to their Jewish heritage and part of an identifiable remnant.  

(Romans 11:5)
Five Questions:

How can we leverage our relationships with Jewish believers in the Church for the sake of Jewish evangelism?
Five Questions:

Should we consider strengthening the Jewish identity of Jewish believers in the Church as the responsibility of Messianic Jewish leaders?
Five Questions:

How can we develop and expand our programs for children, so we can influence the next generation for the sake of Jewish continuity and our testimony of Yeshua faith?
Five Questions:

How can we re-contextualize our understanding of Jewish identity in non-traditional ways that might be more appealing to the next generation of Jewish believing families?
Five Questions:

How can we bridge the gap between the land of Israel and Jewish believers in the Church by helping Jewish young people in churches to engage with Israel?
Reach the 90%

If 11% or even 10% of individuals in the US with one or more Jewish parents or grandparents hold evangelical beliefs, then how do we reach the remaining 90% for Yeshua?

Is the modern Messianic movement prepared for the task?

We are walking towards a Romans 11:25 future!