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## A Remnant Rising

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro



In many of the countries where Ezra International is currently working our representatives experience a sad phenomenon. When they enter a Jewish home they discover that for the first time in the life of this Jewish person a Christian is showing kindness to them. Let that sink in for a moment.

I recently returned from leading another tour to Israel. Without exception these tours include the Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem. Every time I visit there I'm reminded of the darkest side of humanity. Sadly, the Christian world did almost nothing to prevent these horrific events and even more tragic is that so many Christians share culpability.

How was this possible? Why were Christians so silent at best and complicit at worst?

You see, Christianity suffered a tragic anti-Semitic divorce from our Hebraic roots around 1700 years ago. The Disciples of Yeshua (Jesus) and the subsequent followers of The Way were very much a part the culture of their day. It's quite shocking to many Christians to realize they can only trace their traditions back to around 300 years after the disciples had all died. In an attempt to unify his kingdom, the Roman Emperor Constantine recreated Christianity into something more suitable to his pagan empire. This split caused a rift between Christianity and the Jewish people that has caused pain and suffering for the Jewish people to this day.

Tragically the protestant reformation did nothing to repair the breach and some might argue it only made matters worse. Martin Luther, among other things advocated for synagogues and Jewish schools to be burned. He called for Jewish homes to be destroyed and their books and belongings taken from them. He advised that Rabbis should be

forbidden to teach under threat of death and that Jewish people should only be allowed to perform menial jobs or ejected from the country.

These recommended policies conditioned and framed the thought process of Christian Europe for the 400 years preceding the Holocaust. Is it any wonder why so few Christians protested the Nazi policies that eerily mimicked Luther's recommendations? To many Jewish people the word Christianity remains synonymous with the Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, Russian Pogroms and the Holocaust.

What these Christians failed to understand is stated clearly in the following words of the prophet Zechariah.

***“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her. “Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain. “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’ Says the LORD of hosts. “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, I will save My People from the land of the east and from the land of the west; I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My People and I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.’ (Zechariah 8:1-8)***  
The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob never forgets nor breaks His promises. The failure to recognize this simple yet extremely important truth has led to deadly errors in Christian theology for far too many years.

But today there is a remnant rising! Everywhere I go I find a new spirit within the heart of Yeshua's (Jesus') true disciples. A people who understand the word of God and are responding accordingly. Our Representatives are so dependent on this remnant. **Ezra International could not rescue Jewish people from the eastern Ukrainian war-zone without the support of its donors. We could not return Jewish families to Israel from all over the world without people who care, and we could not restore hope if a “remnant” of believers were not making the difference today.**