

Matzevah
03/08/11

Meeting with Dr Thom Wolf
In attendance: Steven, Daniel, Kevin, Jo

Dr Thom pointed out that there is a special connection between India and Israel due to India being the first country to formally recognize Israel as a nation.

Our dilemma – How to become Jewish for the sake of Jews

Herby had talked to Steven about attending a one year training course in Israel. It is the “Introduction to Hebrew Culture Diaspora Training” which provides a systematic understanding of Jewishness. This is the training developed for people being brought into Israel to work there. It’s a great opportunity, but not practical at this time.

TW shared his opinion that a university degree may be more easily accepted in our conflicted culture. He recommended that Steven contact Andrews University and help develop his own PhD program. In doing so he could incorporate all the contacts Herby has provided, and combine what he learns on location and on line as well. TW offered to help Steven with this.

We discussed our meeting with Rabbi Michael Schudrich on April 13

We are going to learn, ask, & serve. To stand alongside as witnesses to wrongs that have been done. TW approved of this approach.

Give respect
Minister to Jews
Ask about educational references
Does Rabbi Schudrich have influence beyond Poland’s borders? He in Lithuania
Rabbi Schudrich travels between Poland, Israel, & New York. He may be the key to Israel
Ask for top 5 books to read to better understand Jewishness. (Ask of the Rabbi & other contacts)

Get permission to use quotes from those we come in contact with; Rabbi Schudrich, Jews, Poles & others who witness our work, etc

TW Quotes:

- “The power is in your story. Don’t move off of your story.”
- “A man with experience is never at the mercy of a man who only has an argument.”
- “If you can’t say it in a sentence, you don’t understand it.”
- “The promise has never changed”
- “We submit to one another out of reverence to Christ”
- “In the valley of the blind, the man with one eye is king”

Dealing with Receptive vs Hostile audiences

Receptive

Make statements

Tell them

Hostile

Tell stories (Jesus used parables)

Entice them to ask (give them a salt lick & make them thirsty)

TW recommends using an advisory board in addition to the functional board for Matzevah. The advisory members would participate in a circumstantial capacity as needed. We can invite the experts we meet to lend us their reputations and help us not to make mistakes.

Ask to pray a blessing over the work of those we come in contact with. In this way, we can partner with all we meet.

Remember, restore, reconcile. TW noted the simple elegance of this and compared it to physics where a beautiful or elegant theory is one that can be expressed concisely. It's these that people understand best and can relate to.

Action item: Steven to send Dr Thom a copy of the letter and additional documents per his request. Send to drthom@universityinstitute.in