

## **Investing in Israel**

By Jonathan Bernis

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AS A MESSIANIC JEWISH BELIEVER, I am grateful to evangelical Christians for being Israel's best friend. Evangelical Christians have done much to support the modern State of Israel and have been responsible for helping tens of thousands of Jews return to their homeland.

Having said that, I want to address how Christians who love Israel and Jews determine where to invest their money.

Although I am appreciative of the millions of dollars donated each year, I am grieved that much of the money goes to organizations that directly oppose Jewish evangelism. In fact, some of the funds are given to anti-missionary groups that resist the gospel and persecute Messianic Jewish believers.

Let me give you one example. Rabbi Yechiel Z. Eckstein, founder of the prominent organization International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, raised more than \$50 million last year from a database of 400,000 evangelicals to help needy Jews in Russia and Israel.

Much of the money donated is a result of infomercials that air on Christian TV and feature music by well-known Messianic artists. The programs give the impression that Eckstein is a Messianic Jewish believer. Nothing could be further from the truth.