

TAPE

Aug. 13, 1976

Dear Rabbi Jamm,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as president of Yeshiva University. May it lead to great things both for you and the University.

Reading recent reports of your interest in relating Judaism to modern issues prompted me to write to you.

I had a minimal Jewish education but about 15 years ago "returned" to Judaism & have been reading much on Jewish life & values since then. I am presently a member of Young Israel of S.I., consider myself a "Committed" Jew, have 3 children receiving Jewish (Yeshiva) educations, and am trying to involve my Shul & children's Yeshiva to a greater extent in current issues. I am currently teaching courses at Staten Island Comm. College relating to ecology, nutrition, & world hunger. I am trying to gather material relating Judaism to these issues and would appreciate hearing of people

working on these problems or learning of relevant references.

Coming from a socially conscious, activist, searching background I have been very frustrated by many of the things that I have found in orthodox life (in addition to the many positive factors and values):

narrowness of view;

bigotry; little evidence of a prophetic voice;

little interest in relating Judaism to

current issues & using Jewish values to improve society;

little interest in reaching out to

uncommitted Jews;

overemphasis on ritual at the expense of ethical values;

Sometimes my frustration is so great that I feel that it is only outside of Judaism that I can make contributions to current issues. But I really hope that I can play some role in showing how Jewish wisdom can be applied to help solve modern problems. Any ideas or suggestions that you may have would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you & best wishes for much success with Yeshiva U.

Very truly yours

(Assoc.
Prof.
SICC)

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