



Caspari Center



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Board of Directors

as of 01.01.2020

Chairman of the Board

James Galvin

Board Members

Vegard Soltveit

Per Reinert Eriksen

Magnus Riska

Howard Bass

Blessings, Challenges and Decision-making

2019 was a year of blessings, challenges and decision-making for the Caspari Center. We are grateful to all our partner organizations and partner churches for standing with us in prayer and financial support in 2019. We are sorry to see one partner church leave us. Trinity Lisle Lutheran Church, which has supported the Caspari Center since 2012, decided to withdraw their financial support in 2019. We are thankful for their many years of partnership.

The biggest change in 2019 was the Caspari Center International Board's decision to become more "local". The Caspari Center Board's new model is to include four local Israeli board members and three international board members. We are currently searching for the right local people to join our board. We will also be looking for an Israeli CEO to take over, at the end of my term.

In 2019, the Caspari Center, in cooperation with the Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel (NCMI) and Youth With A Mission (YWAM), hosted a Bible School group of 14 Norwegian students for the second time. The Bible School, "FIRST: Israel", is intended for young adults, aged 18-35. The duration of the program is eight weeks. The Bible School has consistently received very positive reactions from participants, and has great potential. The next "FIRST: Israel" Bible School will take place in the autumn of 2020.

The ALEF program is a series of interviews geared toward Israeli non-believers who are interested in the faith. It was finalized and launched in March 2019. This project

was primarily funded by NOREA Media Mission. The numbers of YouTube views so far is 774 in total for all the videos.

Caspari Center Jerusalem

International Director

Elisabeth E. Levy

Israel Director

Alexander Goldberg

Administrator, Editor, Graphics

Jennifer

Project Coordinator

Rita

Director of International Studies

David Serner

International Studies Program Coordinator

Sanna Erela

International Studies Program Coordinator

Terho Kanervikkoaho

Librarian

Maria Kanervikkoaho

Bookkeeper

Sheila

Media Review Editor

Nomi Pritz Graham

Note: Last names omitted by request.

We've had some changes among our staff members in 2019. While most of our staff have remained, Maria and Terho Kanervikkoaho (FLM) returned to Finland at the beginning of the summer.

The Caspari Center hosted one international course in 2019, "Discovering Jesus in His Jewish Context", in November of 2019.

We continued interviewing pastors for the updated version of the "Facts & Myths About the Messianic Congregations in Israel" book originally published in 1999. Approximately 70% of the interviews had been completed by the end of 2019. We expect to have carried out the remaining interviews by March of 2020. The Caspari Center Director of International Studies, David Serner, gave a lecture on the "Facts & Myths" project at the most recent LCJE conference in Toronto, Canada, in the summer of 2019.

Our local work has continued to build on the ministry of the past few decades. Under the leadership of Alec Goldberg, we have continued to provide valuable training for Shabbat School teachers from all over the country and to develop Bible teaching programs in partnership with Medallion and supported by NOREA Media Mission and Sansa. Our project coordinator, Rita, has worked tirelessly to put together a new online training course for Shabbat School teachers and parents.

In 2019, the Caspari Center published one online double issue of the Mishkan journal in July, and in partnership with others, one online edition of the Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Settings (JJMJS), also in July.

The ongoing challenge to balance the budget remains. The main impediments remain the weak Norwegian krone (as compared to the strong Israeli shekel) and the decrease in donations in the US.

We have reduced costs in the US, although we were still unable to transfer money from the US to the ministry in Israel by the end of 2019 (by comparison, in 2018, we transferred \$5000).

We have been privileged to experience many blessings in the year that has passed. We trust that the Lord will continue to provide resources, staff, and opportunities for our ministry in Israel, and for our partners around the world. We hope that the Caspari Center organization, our partners, and our many supporters around the world will continue to work together in order to strengthen and serve the body of Messiah in Israel and the worldwide Church in the years to come.



Yours in Yeshua haMashiach,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth E Levy".

Elisabeth Eriksen Levy
International Director



ISRAELI PROGRAMS

EQUIPPING ISRAELI BELIEVERS & CONGREGATIONS FOR SERVICE

Shabbat School Teachers' Seminars

Since 1997, Caspari Center has been organizing training seminars for Shabbat school teachers. The seminars bring together Shabbat school teachers from all over the country and provide them with an opportunity to meet together for training, fellowship and encouragement. Since 2004, the seminars have been held twice a year. We've also held smaller annual Russian-language seminars for teachers in the north of the country every year since 2009.

The first national seminar of the year was held on May 31st at the Beit Asaf congregation premises in Netanya. We had 85 participants from 28 different congregations. The seminar topic was "Building the Tools: the Fear of God". The main lecture was given by Meno Kalisher, and the main workshop was given by Sarah Marantzenboim. Lecturers of the elective workshops included Eti Zadok, Orit Kashtan, Shiriya Yahav and Shirin Basha.



The second national seminar was held on December 13th at the Beit Asaf congregation premises in Netanya. There were 77 participants from 26 different congregations. Yossi Ovadia taught the main lecture, "Building the Tools: Spiritual Preparation for Lessons", and the main workshop was given by Debby Nalbandian and Sarah Marantzenboim, together. Elective workshop lecturers included Alina Theodor, B.U., I.M. and Alon Kashtan.

“ So appreciative of the professional, high-level lectures. ”
- N., Shabbat School Seminar participant

“

What a blessing to gain knowledge in child psychology and to learn practical teaching tools that I can apply to my children's Bible classes. Thank you so very much!
-S., participant of Shabbat School Seminars

The Russian-language seminar was held on March 1, 2019, on the premises of the Shavei Zion congregation in Haifa. We had 28 participants from 8 local congregations. A.S., a veteran high school Bible teacher, lectured on the following two topics: “The Disciple Is Not Above His Master” and “Tricky Issues in the Tanach”. Y.N., an experienced Shabbat School teacher, gave a third workshop.

As usual, the various Messianic publishing houses, including Caspari Center, and children’s ministries attending the national seminars were provided with tables to present their books and materials for teachers, parents and children. The national seminars were held in Hebrew, with translation into Russian. The seminars were, as always, very well received. These seminars continue to be a vitally important meeting place and resource for people working in children’s ministry in Israel.

Online Bible Courses

In November, we launched a new online course, “Lord, I Want to Teach!”, primarily for people who are involved in teaching children in Israeli congregations, but also for parents. The course is produced in cooperation with Medallion Publishing (CMA), and supported by NOREA Media Mission and Sansa.

“

The course is very helpful in preparing children's lessons and even helpful at home, with my own children! I love that the videos are short and that the speakers teach in such a clear, concise manner. Thank you!

- S., online course participant



The first pilot group of 36 students from 14 congregations will be learning the 20 most essential topics over the next two years. Every month, the students are taught one topic in the following format: they watch three concise video lessons on the topic, complete the homework assignment provided by instructor, and finally, at the end of the month, they participate in an online meeting with the instructor to review everything. We have already received a lot of very positive feedback on this course from our participants.

“

While I have experience studying and researching scripture, I had no previous training in instructing children aside from the experience I had teaching my own children. This course has given me practical tools and a deeper understanding, both as a teacher and as a mother.

- T., online course participant

Bible Teaching

Israel Director Alec Goldberg continued to record weekly teachings for Oasis Media (www.oasis-media.tv) in 2019. We entered into a partnership with this ministry at the end of 2013. Oasis's Russian-speaking audience numbers approximately 19,000 viewers.



All in all, Alec recorded 24 programs in 2019. The recorded TV sessions with Alec are periodically promoted on the Caspari Center Facebook page and we provide a link to them on our website.

In addition, most of the Caspari Center staff members taught classes at the joint YWAM/NCMI/Caspari Center “First: Israel” Bible School (please see International Study Programs for more on this).

“

Forgiveness is difficult, but you explained it so well, and it helped me beyond words.

- Viewer of Oasis Media TV

ALEF

This project, developed by Alec Goldberg and funded by NOREA Media Mission, is a series of roughly 30-minute interview-style testimonies of 6 Israeli Messianic believers. The people we sought out to be interviewed for this project are native Israeli Jews, the first in their families to come to faith. As such, they've had to deal with the typical Jewish hindrances to faith in Jesus, not only unassisted by the people closest to them, but in some cases, opposed by them.

The videos were uploaded in March of 2019. (Note: Five of these videos have been made public; one of them has not, as the subject of the interview was not yet able to go public with his testimony.) We uploaded them to YouTube, embedded them on our website, and advertised using Google Ads. They have received a total of 774 views. From March 10, 2019 to January 1, 2020, our advertising campaign garnered 150,366 impressions and resulted in 907 clicks, taking people to our Hebrew webpage where the videos are embedded. We spent a total of 2,108 NIS on the ad campaign.



“

The topic of honoring parents has interested me for a long time now. I really look forward to watching more.

- Viewer of Oasis Media TV

The Caspari Center Open Lectures

Open Lectures have been held once a month during the academic year at the Caspari Center for decades. The lectures have been in English, semi-academic in nature, and have covered a broad range of theological subjects. Lecturers have included local academics, as well as visiting scholars from abroad. As attendance has lessened over the years, we aimed to hold lectures that might have broader appeal to a larger audience.

In 2019, we held three such special lectures:

- April 28 discussion: Pastor David Parsons (ICEJ) and Rabbi Emanuel Gentilcore held a debate entitled “From Disputation to Understanding”. There were 47 participants.
- May 17 seminar: Susan S. Schmidt, Ph.D. spoke on the Hebrew Scriptures for the first part of “How Did the Bible Come to Us?”. There were 19 participants.
- September 13 seminar: Michael Langlois, Ph.D., lectured on the Greek Scriptures for part two of “How Did the Bible Come to Us?”. There were 9 participants.

The “Taboo” Forum and Bnot Yeshua

In partnership with Machaseh, a non-profit charity association, the Caspari Center has embarked upon two new pilot projects, the “Taboo” Forum and Bnot Yeshua.

There are many tragic, complex, difficult situations that we all encounter in life, even as believers. The Caspari Center and Machaseh recognize that there is a need to address these issues which aren’t always spoken about in congregations.

Our first “Taboo” Forum meeting took place on November 26th. This was a panel discussion with three panelists (Father David Neuhaus, Reverend David Pileggi and Messianic pastor and psychologist Yonathan Almeida) on the topic of domestic violence. 18 participants attended the discussion, which was held in Hebrew and also in English.

Bnot Yeshua is a forum for believing women of all ages and all backgrounds: Messianic Jews, Christian Arabs, or other Christians who are neither Jewish, nor Arab. We wanted to create a place for women to feel welcome to share their life stories and make connections with other believing women.

The first Bnot Yeshua meeting was planned for December, but had to be postponed following an unforeseen emergency. (It took place in January 2020.)



Lectures for Tour Groups

In 2019, we received a number of visiting tour groups, primarily from Norway, but also from other countries including Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Asia.

Some of the groups came to the Caspari Center, and some were met by Caspari Center staff at their hotels. Most received an introductory lecture on the Messianic movement in Israel today and an orientation about Caspari Center's ministry. All told, 507 people visited the center (2018:490).

Recorded Lectures

Shabbat School seminars and lectures continue to be recorded. The lectures are also uploaded to the website, making them accessible for streaming for people around the world.

Neither the “Taboo” Forums nor the Bnot Yeshua meetings are recorded. In both these settings, participants speak very openly about sensitive personal matters, and it's important that people feel free to share. We want to protect people's privacy and therefore we do not record these meetings.



*Thank you for doing this! These panel debates
open a much needed channel of discussion. They
are pioneering!*

- "Taboo" Forum participant



INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMS

Over the past few years, we've developed different programs for visiting students, pastors and scholars to study in Jerusalem. We wish to offer a variety of teaching programs that would take advantage of the Caspari Center resources, the unique setting of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and the many contacts the Caspari Center has among Messianic, Christian, and Jewish individuals and organizations in and around Jerusalem, on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

In 2019, we offered four different study programs and one internship program.

"Discovering Jesus in His Jewish Context" Study Tour

The first Missiology course, geared toward pastors and mission workers, entitled "Jesus the Jew: A Light to the Nations" took place in November 2012 and has been held approximately every two years since its inception. In 2018, the course was renamed "Discovering Jesus in His Jewish Context". The purpose of the course is to introduce people to Jesus through the lens of his Jewish background and culture, and also to the land of Israel and to modern-day Messianic Judaism.

The most recent "Discovering Jesus in His Jewish Context" course took place in November 2019. The course had 13 participants, in addition to some locals who joined for most of the course.

"First: Israel – Back to the Roots" Bible School

In 2018, the Caspari Center, in partnership with NCMI and YWAM, held a pilot project called "Experience Israel – Back to the Roots", a Bible School intended for young adults aged 18-35.

In the fall of 2019, 14 students from Norway participated in the Bible school program, renamed "First: Israel". The course consisted of five weeks of teaching in Jerusalem (at the Caspari Center and also at the Advent house), a week of hiking the Jesus Trail, and two weeks of volunteering at Nazareth Village.

Individual Study Programs

No student took part in the Individual Study Program in 2019.

”

Excellent through and through. Wonderful and cutting-edge material of ultimate significance. And a beautiful context - Jerusalem and ha'aretz - in which it all unfolded!

- from a review of a "Discovering Jesus in His Jewish Context" participant

Accredited Courses

In cooperation with MF Vitenskapelig Høyskole, the Norwegian School of Theology, the Caspari Center has been hosting an accredited M.A.-level study program focusing on biblical archaeology and history, every two years. Since 2011, the Caspari Center has hosted four of these accredited four-week courses. The Caspari Center staff plans the content of the course in conjunction with the teaching staff from Norway, and organizes the logistical details. We had planned for a spring 2020 course, but the school cancelled it as not enough students had enrolled. Currently, the future of this program is in question.

Internship agreement with the Rothberg school, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

At the end of 2018, the Caspari Center signed an internship program agreement with the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The University has a formal system by which internships are available to students in return for credits. The interns should work a minimum of 8 hours per week. The Caspari Center internship program became available to students in the spring of 2019.



PUBLICATIONS

Facts and Myths

The "Facts and Myths About the Messianic Congregations in Israel" special Mishkan edition (Issue #30-31) was a survey of all the Messianic congregations in Israel, conducted by Bodil Skjøtt and Kai Kjør-Hansen and published by the Caspari Center in

1999. After years of deliberation, the decision was made to produce an updated version of the book. In 2017, David Serner began contacting leaders and pastors in the local Messianic movement, in order to obtain their support and to determine the extent of any resistance to the project. We began interviewing the pastors in 2018, at which point Alec joined the project. By the end of 2019, 70% of the interviews were done and we plan to complete the interviews in the spring of 2020 and publish the book before the end of the year.

Mishkan—A Forum on the Gospel and the Jewish People

This biannual, semi-academic, theological journal dedicated to biblical and theological thinking on issues related to Jewish evangelism, Hebrew-Christian/Messianic-Jewish identity, and Jewish-Christian relations has been published since 1984.

Mishkan has been distributed for free to subscribers since 2017 and all issues are freely available uploaded to our website. Every year, four ministries (Danish Israel Mission, Jews for Jesus, Chosen People Ministries and Amzi) donate \$500 to contribute to Mishkan expenses.

The members of the Mishkan editorial board include Richard Harvey, Rich Robinson, Raymond Lillevik, Judith Mendelson Rood, Elliot Klaymann and from the Caspari Center staff, David Serner, Sanna Erela, Elisabeth Levy and Terho Kanervikkoaho (editor-in-chief).

In 2019, one double issue was published, “Jerusalem”. Mishkan subscribers currently number 442 (2018:335).



Many thanks for this recent issue of Mishkan!

The focused caption immediately caught my attention, and I read all the articles with great appreciation – being enlightened and challenged at the same time ...

Congratulations and God’s blessing and wisdom as you continue this significant ministry!

Journal of the Jesus Movement in Its Jewish Setting

The Journal of the Jesus Movement in Its Jewish Setting—From the 1st to the 7th Century (JJMJS), is an independent online peer-reviewed journal, which covers various topics pertaining to the history of the Jesus movement, its Jewish background and character, and its relationship with the wider Jewish context.

The JJMJS is the only journal which focuses on issues related to the Jewish background and character of the early Church and the interaction between the Church and various Jewish traditions.

Current members of the editorial board include Prof. Torleif Elgvin, Prof. Rainer Riesner, Dr. Anders Runesson, Knut Høyland (managing editor), and Wally Cirafesi (editorial secretary). The first issue was published in October 2014, and the most recent JJMJS volume (the sixth) was published in July 2019.

By 2019, JJMJS had 963 (2018:782) people subscribed to the journal, and the journal had 4,071 unique visits.



Media Review

The Media Review is a weekly summary of articles in the Israeli printed press that deal with Messianic Jews, Christians in Israel, Christian-Jewish relations, missionary and anti-missionary activity, and many more topics. The Media Review is sent to subscribers free of charge via email. All clippings are categorized, registered, and archived at the Caspari Center. By the end of 2019, the Media Review had 1285 subscribers (2018:1039).

In addition to being emailed, the reviews are also published on the Caspari Center website, and posted on the Caspari Center Facebook page. Nomi Pritz is the general editor of the Media Review, Elisabeth Levy is editor-in-chief and Jennifer proofreads and fact-checks.

Jewish Believers in Jesus

The "Jewish Believers in Jesus" (JB) project proceeds under the leadership of Dr. Reidar Hvalvik and Dr. Oskar Skarsaune. Volume Two (Spain 500-1300) is scheduled for publication in 2020, with Oscar Skarsaune (Norway) as the sole contributor. The manuscript was completed by the end of 2019 and is being reviewed. The other contributions intended for Volume Two will therefore be published in the third JB volume.

Library Resources

The Caspari Center library remains an important part of our ministry in Jerusalem. Some of our library users avail themselves to our books, journals and newspaper, while others enjoy coming to a quiet place to read and study and work on their laptops.

There is, however, still potential for making the library and its resources more available and better known among students in Jerusalem. By the end of 2019, we had 12 active registered library users (2018:19), not including staff and volunteers. We had 409 registered library visits (2018:197), and 58 books were checked out (2018:101).

Book Sales

All told, 760 books, journals, bookmarks and CDs were sold in 2019 (2018:396). The bestseller was Martha's bookmarks (668). The bestselling book of 2019 was the booklet on forgiveness in Russian, written by Alec (18 booklets sold; 2018:38).

USA: Blessing & Supporting Jewish Believers in Jesus

Without a doubt, God is moving in the lives of his chosen people, as more and more of them are finding a personal relationship with Yeshua the Messiah. Serving God as a Messianic believer in modern Israel is typically costly. Our brothers and sisters need our help and encouragement.

The vision and purpose of Caspari Center's US branch is to heighten awareness of the special needs and concerns of our Messianic brothers and sisters, particularly those who worship in Israel's 250 Messianic congregations. As US believers learn about these needs, our desire is to motivate them to link their hearts with these brothers and sisters by praying for them, supporting Caspari's ministry among them, and considering the possibility of visiting them.

Through our mailings, prayer guide, Bible studies, and church partnerships, a growing number of Christians in the United States are getting involved in God's work among his people in Israel. Caspari Center is grateful for the partnership of those who stand with us in this exciting work. Together, we are expressing God's love to his people in Israel.

It is Caspari Center's privilege to provide a variety of resources which will help Christians learn about and engage in the Jewish roots of our faith and our calling to reach the Jewish people with the gospel.

Study Tours to Israel: Ancient & Living Stones

The Caspari Center offers specialized tours for students of theology, pastors, Bible teachers, missionaries, and other church workers. These study tours, especially developed and organized by our staff in Jerusalem, offer a unique opportunity to deepen participants' understanding of Scripture and the Jewish background of Jesus and the early church. In addition, we offer opportunities to encounter the living stones of today, the local Messianic and Arab Christian believers who are witnesses to God's faithfulness and presence in the land of Israel in spite of political turmoil and great opposition.

These study tours provide pastors and students with new knowledge and a spiritual return to the roots of our faith, which are of great value in theological reflection, preaching, and teaching.

Partnering with Caspari Center

We are continually looking for new churches to partner with us in our work of strengthening the body of Messiah in Israel. If you or your church would like to become engaged in the work of the Caspari Center as part of your missions involvement for the Jewish people, please contact us at caspari@caspari.com.



2019 Financial Report USA

Income

Donor Income, total	\$50,513
Resource Sales	\$428
Miscellaneous Income	\$87
CC transfer	\$24,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$75,028

Expenses

Media Review	\$4,668
Administration/office	\$9,905
E-travel / Div	\$5,319
Facilities	\$48,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$67,892

NET INCOME \$7,136 (2018: -\$5,694)

Total Assets as of Dec. 31, 2019 \$91,229 (including the remainder of the 2015 estate gift, \$72,890)

The Caspari Center is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). The figures presented above in this report are an overview of the accounts of Caspari Center USA. The US and the Israeli accounts are kept separate in compliance with the legal requirements in the two countries. The Caspari Center USA accounts are audited annually by Hauser Financial Group. All figures are in US Dollars.

Partner Organizations

The following partner organizations and church bodies provided significant financial support and/or staff compensation for Caspari Center Jerusalem in 2019: Danish Israel Mission; Finnish Lutheran Mission; Finnish Lutheran Overseas Mission; LEAF (Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland); SANSA media mission; ELY (Finland); Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel; NOREA media mission; EDI (Evangeliumdienst für Israel); Trinity Lisle Lutheran Church; Redeemer Lutheran Church; Hales Corners Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The seconded staff provided is the equivalent of three full-time positions. These workers are involved in ministry project work and managerial positions.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Caspari Center can now look back at 37 years of ministry. From this vantage point, we ask the questions, "What will the future bring?" and "What will the Messianic movement look like in another 30-40 years?" Predicting the future is always a risky venture, especially in a land like Israel, where it is difficult enough to predict what will happen tomorrow, not to mention in a year, 10 years, or 30 years.

Will we continue to see growth in the movement? Will Messianic Jews be accepted as a normal part of Israeli society? Will we see a Messianic member of Knesset? Or will we see the coming of our Lord? No one can answer these questions.

What we do know is that the future is in God's hands. He is faithful to those He has chosen and as long as we are here we have a calling—to bear witness, in what we say and what we do, for our Lord, Yeshua HaMashiach! We are witnesses for Him as individuals, but also as a community.

For this reason, Caspari Center will continue to support and strengthen the body of Messiah in this land, work for unity among believers, equip young leaders for service, and engage the church worldwide in what God is doing among his people in Israel. We hope to be able to do this for many years more, until the Lord returns.

At the Caspari Center, Jews and Gentiles work side by side, united in Messiah. We partner broadly with other ministries and congregations in order to meet the needs for education and discipleship among believers. But the Caspari Center is not merely the staff, our ministry consists of many, many people around the world who pray for and support this ministry.

We welcome individuals, churches, church groups, organizations, and foundations to partner with us. Your prayers, financial assistance, networking connections, and relevant experience and expertise are needed as we continue to develop our ministry to meet the needs that will arise in the years to come.

We hope you will take the time to find out how you can get involved in our ministry. Visit our website, www.caspari.com, or contact us at caspari@caspari.com to inquire about praying, partnering, funding, or volunteering.

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