

NOTE TO READERS: The material in NEWS CLIPS is abstracted from mainly Israeli media sources relating to news and comments of interest to Evangelicals. Some of these sources are extremely hostile to mission work, to Messianic Jews and to the New Testament. The editor requests that readers take this into consideration when reading NEWS CLIPS, nor does he vouch for the accuracy of the reports abstracted below.

"THE MISSION"

CAUTION: MISSIONARIES AT WORK!: Two local Galilee weeklies (Upper Nazareth and Safed) published warning notices concerning missionary activities in Safed. The orthodox community of Safed is astir over the distribution of the New Testament among local citizens. In addition to the book, a letter was received stating: "Jesus is the Messiah; his shed blood cleanses me." Recipients were asked to sign the following commitment: "I hereby accept Jesus the Messiah as my personal Saviour."

Several of the letters have reached the desk of the Chief Rabbi of Safed, Shmuel Elijah, and one came to an 8-year-old boy from a girl overseas asking to correspond in order to learn Hebrew, and included a copy of the New Testament. The rabbi is investigating the missionary agents behind the letters. He also noted that a local prisoner reported that a Christian fellow-prisoner had offered him \$40,000 if his family would study in a Christian school in Nazareth. (10 Apr 92)

The following week, in a satirical column, Amos Santhaus wrote a sarcastic paragraph headed "CAUTION: SAINTS." "What's all the noise about? Isn't this what Habad (the ultra-orthodox hassidic sect which "evangelizes" secular Jews for its brand of Judaism) does?" (17.4.92) Several similar stories appeared about letter writers seeking penpals for learning Hebrew and enclosing New Testaments. The Chief Rabbi asked recipients to burn them along with the unleavened bread at the approach of Passover in line with the verse: "And you shall burn (or purge) out the evil from your midst." (10 Apr 92; also HATSOFEH, 13.4.92)

The ultra-orthodox daily HAMODIYA (10 Jun 92) reported complaints by citizens around the country over missionary propaganda placed in their post boxes and demanded that the postal authorities refuse to deliver such mail. They were informed by the central post office in Haifa that such mail must be delivered. "Would the postal authorities agree to deliver letter bombs if they were asked to?" they responded angrily. Meanwhile, it has been learned that a missionary organization in Los Angeles, U. S. A. is behind the mailings.

MISSIONARIES & RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS: Practising Christians among Russian immigrants are attempting missionary activity at the cultural center for Russian immigrants at Strauss and Prophets Streets in Jerusalem, Rabbi Eliyahu Essas, a former refusenik, has warned. They also organize tours to Christian sites. The Jerusalem Municipality has promised to stop these activities, he stated. (IN JERUSALEM, 23.4.92)

The ultra-orthodox daily HAMODIYA (12 JUN 92) reported from anti-mission sources in YAD L'AHIM that Alex Feidishenko, a Russian

immigrant 1-1/2 years in Israel, has been designated chief of the massive evangelism campaign in Haifa, which is being financed by the Finnish missionary organization PATMOS (which provides free dental care to immigrants and free lessons in Christianity) and is coordinated by the Netanya "Asaf" congregation and "Grace and Truth" Assembly led by the missionary Baruch Maoz and Evan Thomas of Netanya. These men do not deny their ties with Feideshenko, but they refuse to provide details about the campaign, even in the secular press. The placement of this new immigrant to head up the campaign is "a dangerous precedent, which is a clear indication of the new policy of the missionaries to trap mainly new immigrants," Rabbi S.D. Lipschutz, chairman of YAD L'AHIM stated, adding: "The transfer of funds from overseas to missionaries must immediately be halted." He termed such transfers an offense against freedom of religion and conscience, which should be anchored in law.

UNDERCOVER OPERATION: Ultra-orthodox young seminarians have disguised themselves as secular Jews wearing jeans and sporting stylish haircuts and have been penetrating missionary sects with sophisticated photographic equipment, Adar Avishar of MAARIV reports (27.4.92). Recently, the "undercover unit" uncovered a missionary group with which a missing kibbutz boy was entangled. They succeeded in getting "the prodigal" back to his father. The present target of the "undercover unit" is the group working among Russian new immigrants who promise material help "followed by visits to churches and reading of the New Testament and finally help in obtaining visas to other countries," says a member of the unit.

A longer article by the same writer, with a photo of missionaries leading children in song near a Christmas tree, taken by the "undercover unit," appeared in MAARIV on 10 May 92. The writer claims that the unit includes men from elite army corps, some trained by U.S. private detective bureaus, and the unit also cooperates with the U.S. "Black Lightning" group and other U. S. black groups. Moshe Friedman, the YAD L'AHIM spokesman, claims the unit has been operative for three years and is comprised of ultra-orthodox men disguised as secularists who have penetrated deep into the missionary structures; they are also penetrating the mystical sects.

ANOTHER KIND OF MISSION: Dozens of complaints about religious coercion or preaching in public schools have been submitted to a committee investigating the teaching of Judaism in the non-religious state school system. The secularist organization HEMDAT has gathered up the complaints, which vary from rebukes to children in whose homes there are no Hebrew prayer books, threats of divine punishment for failure to fast on Yom Kippur to complaints about arithmetic and other textbooks and worksheets using Jewish religious categories for teaching non-religious subjects. "It appears that all the state schools are exposed in one way or another to religious preaching," the writer concludes. (KAWL HA'IR, 15.5.92)

MISSION--TIBERIAS: Dozens of Tiberias residents in the neighborhood where the missionary day school PENIEL is operating have signed a petition organized by the anti-mission activist "EL HAI" founder Rabbi Yossi Mimran, which calls on the municipality to reject the request of the "apostates" behind the school to change the character of their building in order to conform to zoning regulations. The petitioners

3

accuse the SHAS (ultra-orthodox Sephardic) party man holding the Education post in the Municipality, Rabbi Zvi Cohen, of negligence in failing to close down the school. (YOM HASHISHI, 8 May 92)

Meanwhile, the local weekly paper (KAWL HA'EMEK V'HAGALIL, 17.4.92) reported that the above-mentioned Rabbi Yossi Mimran has been served again with a warrant for his arrest because of failure to pay debts to the banks which loaned his anti-mission society large sums on the basis of promises by the municipality to budget funds for his work, which failed to be implemented. In the past he was bailed out by the mayor and public figures, but the banks no longer accept the promises of budget funding. The writer of the article, Dan Haiman, claims that ultra-orthodox sources attribute Mimran's predicament to infighting within the orthodox communities.

Tiberias missionaries are preaching the doctrine of Jesus to deprived families under the guise of birthday celebrations, according to SHAS municipal councillor Rabbi Rafael Cohen. He charges that he has received many complaints about the matter, but he can do nothing without proof, and those involved fear to speak lest harm befall them. Meanwhile, he has passed the information on to EL-HAI, headed by Yossi Mimran, who has begun to follow through on it. (KAWL HA'EMEK V'HAGALIL, 1 May 92)

"A TINY ELECTRONIC COMPONENT": Five orthodox newspapers published between 13th and 8th May the same article beginning "a tiny electronic component," describing the "dangerous" micro-chip invention being produced by Galtronics of Tiberias, the missionary enterprise which last year won the prestigious Kaplan prize for their contributions to Israel. The revolutionary invention is being hailed by missionaries as making missionary literature outdated, and it is being readied for distribution of Gospel messages on miniature tape recorders around the world. The most dangerous aspect, however, is its forthcoming distribution among new immigrants from Ethiopia and Russia in their languages. Nevertheless, the anti-missioners are preparing their response in the form of Jewish religious messages and music in similar electronic micro-chip devices.

ARAB LAND FOR MISSIONARY CENTER: The ultra-orthodox press sounds the alarm concerning an impending land purchase from Arab owners in East Talpiot, Jerusalem for the construction of a "giant missionary center," in cooperation with the Messianic Jews. Based on information supplied by the anti-missioners of YAD L'AHIM, one report notes that negotiations are under way for the site, which will overlook the Holy Temple area, rabbinical seminaries and vast sections of the New City of Jerusalem. Groups of "Messianic Jews" from Israel and the U. S. have succeeded in raising respectable sums of money for closing the deal with the Arab landowners, which will have a far greater expanse than the Mormon campus on Mt. Scopus.

The Jerusalem Municipality has been alerted and asked to thwart the efforts of "the soul-hunters" in good time, while anti-missioners have demanded building permits be denied the U. S. businessmen behind the project. Two of them are "Messianic Jews" from Texas, leaders of local congregations, under surveillance by YAD L'AHIM since they arrived in Israel, and have been pressing forward on their ambitious project.

Concerning the site chosen for the construction project, a decision was made about two months ago at a meeting of Messianic congregational leaders at Kibbutz Ramat Rahel, among them the two prominent Messianic missionary congregation leaders named David Katz and Mel Cohen. Katz has even applied for Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return and aims to set up an Israeli amuta (non-profit organization) to advance their missionary aims.

YAD L'AHIM has already appealed to the Israel Ministry of Interior to prevent the "very dangerous missionary David Katz," also known as "the TV missionary," from obtaining Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return. He also has ties with the missionary congregation NETIVYA in Jerusalem, and is in the process of setting up an amuta under the name of RO'EH YISRAEL (Shepherd of Israel). HAMODIYA, 2 Apr 92; 26.5.92 / YATAID HANE'EMAN, 2 Apr 92; 27.5.92.

In an editorial article on the subject the following day, YATAID referred to the report as a "reminder on the eve of elections" of the importance of electing a strong "United Torah" list which can foil the schemes of the "disreputable" Christian group known as "Messianic Jews." The writer continues: "Everyone knows the danger of this new missionary project, as the soul hungerers seek to poison the hearts of Israeli youth, raised without Jewish roots and values." (28.5.92)

DANGER ON MOUNT ZION: The decision of the construction committee of the Jerusalem Municipality to authorize an expansion of Christian institutions on Mt. Zion has aroused widespread public opposition to an enterprise which is clearly to be a missionary center resembling the Mormon missionary center. Several distinguished rabbis have raised their voices and pens against the project, expressing astonishment that orthodox politicians on the committee approved the project without consulting with the Ministry of Religious Affairs. (HAMODIYA, 29.5.92)

MESSIANIC JEWS NOW: The Messianic Jews are also striking roots in the Israeli ultra-orthodox Jewish community, penetrating Jewish study centers and seminaries, and are even about to set up a "Messianic Yeshiva." It has been learned that the roof organization of the U. S. Messianic Jews has plans for a seminary to train "Messianic leaders" along the lines of the ultra-orthodox seminaries, but in distinction to their ultra-orthodox peers, their students will serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in order to win favour with the Israeli public.

The anti-mission ultra-orthodox group YAD L'AHIM has learned that a wealthy U. S. Messianic Jew has contributed \$400,000 for setting up the "Messianic Yeshiva." The anti-missioners claim that about \$800,000 has been invested in Messianic propaganda for Israel during January and February 1992, and that five members of the Israel government have expressed support for the Messianic project, "LET MY PEOPLE IN," aimed at opening Israel's gates to Messianic Jewish immigration. They are also distributing clothing and groceries among new immigrants through 35 Messianic Jewish congregations working in Israel. (DAWAR, 5 Apr 92, Noah Zebuluni; also HATSOFEH, 5 Apr 92)

In a similar article published in the Jerusalem weekly YERUSHALAYIM on 10 Apr 92, writers Tamar Friedman and Yohai Hakak note that the Messianic Jewish missionaries are distributing Russian and Amharic Bibles among new immigrants at absorption centers and ulpanim (Hebrew

language seminars) as well as by adverts in local weeklies. Also noted was a circular letter signed by Burt Yellin, General Secretary of UMJC, in which he described large shipments of clothing to Israeli Messianic Jewish congregations in Israel for distribution to new immigrants.

SUFFERING FOR GOD'S LOVE: Accompanied by a grisly caricature of lurking demons, the Histadrut daily DAVAR (13.4.92) published a feature article by Naomi Lapidot about "thousands of Messianic Jews living and working among us in secret, fearing attack, complaining of discrimination and persecution. Are they innocent victims of religious intolerance? Not quite - or not entirely. Avi (pseudonym) was dragged into one community by his wife, but is now preparing his exit, for good reason." Following are some other "gems" purporting to describe Messianic Jews:

"Most of them are careful not to be identified, among other reasons, because of their ties with Messianic Arabs who are hostile to the State of Israel. It's not easy to penetrate the community of the Messianic Jews and almost impossible to hear from their lips honestly and openly what are the principles of their religion and lifestyle. One must find someone who was swept unwillingly into the sect and is not at peace with his membership in the sect in order to gain a firsthand insight into the principles of Messianic faith and the lifestyle of the believers. Avi (pseudonym), 37, an engineer living in the north, married to a second-generation Messianic Jewish wife, is such a person."

Avi says: "The Messianic Jews are sure the world will be destroyed and only believers in Jesus will survive; therefore, it's their duty to try to drag everyone they encounter under the secure umbrella of the Messiah. What restrains them from public preaching is the fear of being exposed and losing their source of livelihood. Usually they locate people in crisis...to be a Messianic is to live a double life...an ascetic life, almost monastic; watching TV, reading newspapers are out; and all kinds of entertainment, such as films and theatre, good food, attractive clothes, makeup for women are abomination; in short, all the pleasant things of life are from Satan and must be shunned like fire....

"There are Messianic children who have never experienced the flavor of a birthday party at home, since gifts and sweets are from Satan, who has control over this world and is helped by a company of demons...the fires of hell are lurking in every corner...the nonbeliever in a family is subject to continuing pressure from the esoteric and internally conflicting group aspiring to live as Jesus lived 2,000 years ago, and the group hits at him in the name of absolute truth and justice, just like the Inquisition in its day."

THE PRODIGAL SONS: AN ULTRA-ORTHODOX PERSPECTIVE: The Hebrew daily HAMODIYA (17.5.92) carried a full-page feature article by Yosef Lavee, with a photo of an orthodox Jew, finger up-raised, arguing with a young man (Richard Harvey) wearing a "Jews for Jesus" T-shirt. An angry, emotion-laden article, it is largely based on the report of Canadian correspondent Patrick Martin, based in Israel, and published in the "GLOBE AND MAIL," which is purported to be "the most important Canadian newspaper." According to the article, "the Messianic Jews are in the

first line of activity" for promoting Christianity among Jews. Lavee considers Martin a relatively balanced correspondent since he quotes "instructive details about what is going on in the general fields of mission activity in Israel."

Wayne Hilsden of the KING OF KINGS congregation in Jerusalem is cited: "Jews have reason to suspect Christian activity in view of the history of the relations between Jews and Christians....I am here to build bridges to the Jewish people, as an ambassador of love for 1,000 Canadian churches." Nevertheless, Chuck Cohen, a "Messianic Jew," and "apostate," is a leader in the KING OF KINGS worship, and "apostates" or "Messianic Jews" are found in other congregations; at least six in Jerusalem use Hebrew as their language of worship.

The story of Ron and Aliza Nesher, U. S. Jews who emigrated to Israel, is described, and the work of the anti-mission YAD L'AHIM in forcing them to move and go "underground" when they refused to be persuaded to abandon their Messianic faith. Meanwhile, they are importing Christian "volunteers" to help needy Jews, but really to provide openings for causing Jews to apostacize.

The impact of anti-mission activities has reportedly led certain church officials to shy away from mission activity. Thus, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem has "shut the doors of the church to Jewish immigrants from Russia." Even more significant has been the step of the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, who has withdrawn his patronage from mission work among Jews. Michael Bulman, the Anglican church leader in Jerusalem, has called this decision "a serious obstacle," and he hopes that "Jewish believers in the (Christ Church) congregation will not feel abandoned because of the Archbishop's declaration." Bulman remains confident that their activities will continue on a "lower profile" and by "other means." He concludes: "We have a large number of Jewish believers who will fill our places. To a certain degree, it may be said that our work is complete."

SPIRITUAL HOLOCAUST: "They are atoning for the physical Holocaust by ... a spiritual holocaust." Under this heading, the ultra-orthodox weekly SHEARIM published an expose of the Messianic moshav YAD HA SHMONAH (4 May 92) in the Jerusalem hills. Founded by Finnish Christians as a memorial to the eight Jews turned over by Finnish police to the Gestapo during World War Two, (YAD HASHMONA means "Memorial to the Eight") the moshav has become a center for Messianic Jewish missionary activity. The writer, pretending to be a casual visitor, describes his encounters with Gal, a 26-year-old Israeli Messianic Jew, who came to believe at 18 while in the Israel Defense Force (IDF). Gal escorted the visitor around the settlement interspersing the tour with remarks about his faith, while the "visitor" asked leading questions about Jews who believe in the Nazarene.

The reporter also mentioned one David Kadosh, a garage owner in Giv'at Shaul, who had once been in touch with the moshav through a Finnish acquaintance living there. He had attended meetings and observed other Jews in attendance until they realized "what they had fallen into." Eventually, Kadosh became an ultra-orthodox "penitent." He had warned the reporter not to visit the moshav in the garb of an orthodox Jew.

MESSIANIC JEWISH CEMETERY: The well-financed missionary Baruch Maoz is demanding the right to set up separate cemeteries in Israel for members of the Messianic Jewish sect along the lines of private cemeteries which the kibbutzim have set up, and which conduct their own burial services. Maoz accuses the religious establishment of conducting funeral services lacking in dignity or consideration of the families of the deceased. He disclosed that at present the "Messianics" are obliged to conduct special memorial services for their dead at the close of the traditional funeral services in order to give expression to their faith in "that man" (Jesus).

Among the reasons he gives for setting up separate cemeteries for sect members, who have turned their backs on Judaism (having been baptized into Christianity and adhering to the New Testament), are the burial societies, the rabbis, the makers of gravestones, "who all eagerly await the financial remuneration which they have learned to claim from the family of the deceased." He claims there may be a legal battle necessary in order to obtain a cemetery for the "Messianics," and he expects that there will be three cemeteries near the major cities, which will contribute to "the strengthening of the Messianic community and its development." The matter will be discussed at the next conference of the Messianic missionaries. (EREV SHABBAT, 12 Jun 92 Yossi Klein)

The Ministry of Religious Affairs is planning to set up a national cemetery for non-Jewish Russian immigrants, an estimated 100,000 persons not qualified for Jewish burial. The location - somewhere between Ashdod and Askelon - has not yet been disclosed for fear of ultra-orthodox reactions. Uri Mor, Director of the Christian Section of the Religious Affairs Ministry, underscored the necessity of an early solution to the problem in view of the limited space in private cemeteries. The attorney for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Deuel Pelli, hailed the decision as a positive step. (HADASHOT, 3 Apr 92)

ANOTHER FORM OF CHRISTIANITY: In an interview with Amnon Levy, Rabbi Yoel Cohen on 17.4.92 stated that Rabbi Schach is an inventor of a new religion, exactly the charge that Schach has made of the HABAD Lubavavitch rabbi; that already when he was born, "he began to illuminate the whole world, alongside the community of Israel, and all the souls of this generation are nourished by it." This is exactly what the Christians say about the birth of Jesus. HABAD is a new form of Christianity, which differs from the previous forms chiefly with regard to the name of the Messiah Redeemer. The old-line Christians claim his name was Yeshua, while HABAD claims his name is Menahem-Mendel. (HADASHOT, 30.4.92)

ANOTHER FORM OF MESSIANISM: Gerasimov, spokesman of the former USSR, is now Russian ambassador to Portugal. Questioned in a BBC radio interview about the future of Russia and its economy, he replied, "The old Soviet Union had Messianic zeal and ideology, which it exported around the world. Now we want to be a normal nation." (19.6.92)

ETHIOPIAN JEWISH CHRISTIANS: Three Ethiopian brothers whose application to fly to Israel in Operation Solomon was revoked at the last minute on the grounds that they were Jewish Christians have

appealed to the Israeli High Court of Justice for recognition of their right to emigrate to Israel under the Law of Return. They reject the argument that they are Jewish converts to Christianity. This is the first such case the High Court has heard in this matter. Justice Shoshana Netanyahu has turned the petition to a panel of three judges and has asked for a response from the Attorney General. Attorney Dr. Michael Corinaldi is representing the petitioners. (HA'ARETZ, 1 Apr 92)

The brothers claim that their Jewish status was changed by the Israeli consulate in Addis Ababa on the basis of a ruling in the Israeli Ministry of Interior that all residents of their native village Tamerget had converted voluntarily to Christianity. The petitioners deny that they or their parents had converted to Christianity, and point out that 35 Ethiopian Jews from the same village have emigrated to Israel, including close relatives of theirs. (DAVAR, 31.5.92)

The High Court has issued an order nisi obliging the Interior Ministry to show cause within 45 days why the three Ethiopian families (about 50 persons) represented in the petition were not allowed to immigrate. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry has sent a top official to Ethiopia - Israel Kimchi - to look into the status of the Fares Mura, the so-called Christians of Ethiopian Jewry. (HA'ARETZ/JERUSALEM POST/DAVAR/YEDIOT AKH/HATSOFEH/HADASHOT, 1 Jun 92)

The General Director of the Aliya Division of the Jewish Agency, Arnon Mantever, in the course of a press conference, warned that there would be demonstrations in Israel in support of bringing the Fares Mura from Ethiopia, but expressed doubt as to their eligibility under the Law of Return. (AL HAMISHMAR, 29.4.92)

Israelis and Americans are exerting heavy pressure on the government to bring Fares Mura from Ethiopia to Israel in opposition to those familiar with the situation. The biggest surprise is that among those fighting for the immigration of the Christianizers are Gush Emunim members (Jewish orthodox militants of the Land of Israel movement), whose approach to the issue is motivated by "Messianic" considerations. The Ethiopian government, on the other hand, views the activities of these American and Israeli groups as intervention in the internal affairs of Ethiopia. The Jewish Agency regards their activity as damaging, arousing false hopes among the Fares Mura sect, many of whom have sold their belongings and are impoverished. (HAMODIYA 22.5.92)

A three-page feature article in DAVAR on Ethiopian Jewish history from medieval times to the present focused on the debate whether the Fares Mura had voluntarily converted to Christianity or had been pressured to do so for economic or physical survival. (12 Jun 92) Micah Feldman, in an interview given to HA'ARETZ (7.6.92), denied that Ethiopian Jews were ever forced to convert to Christianity. "The massive conversion of Ethiopian Jews began a century ago and the main reason was economic. From the 17th century onward Jews were not permitted to own land," he stated.

The two members of the Special Commission sent to Ethiopia to investigate the situation of the Fares Mura, Rabbi Moshe Waldman and Israel Kimhi, reported some of their findings after a month-long stay in Ethiopia which included visits to 100 Ethiopian villages. "We made

a most thorough investigation and have come to the conclusion that these are people who are now living as Christians in every sense. It is possible to return them to Judaism, but it isn't a simple process," Rabbi Waldman declared. They proposed that their restoration to Judaism be accomplished in Ethiopia. (MAARIV, 15.6.92) The report claimed there was "a conspiracy of lies" with many of the Fares Mura claiming they had never converted to Christianity and they were traditional Jews or secular. Certain people in Israel who knew it was a lie have been spreading it nevertheless, although now they admit this and have expressed regret about it. (MAARIV, 18.6.92)

Several dozen Ethiopian immigrants demonstrated in front of the Office of the Prime Minister for the immediate immigration of the Fares Mura to Israel. Organized by a special society established over this issue, the demonstrators vowed to continue their campaign "at all costs." They rejected the proposal to restore the Fares Mura to Judaism in Ethiopia before bringing them to Israel as too lengthy a procedure. If they need to be reconverted, they demanded it be done by Ethiopian Jewish clergy in Israel. Meanwhile, M.K. Shulamit Aloni joined in the demand for their immediate immigration on the basis of family reunification. "The Law of Return is a secular law and it is not for the rabbis to be involved in its application," she stated. (AL HAMISHAR/HATSOFEH/YEDIOT AKH./JERUSALEM POST/HADASHOT, 17.6.92)

The full report of the Israeli commission investigating the matter of the Fares Mura is about to be submitted to the Israeli Chief Rabbinate and to the government commission set up to study the matter. Excerpts were cited in various news reports (as noted above). (HA'ARETZ, 17.6.92)

"The National Religious Party (NRP), in correspondence with leaders of the Ethiopian Jewish community, has expressed full support for the campaign to bring the Fares Mura to Israel, and will implement this support in various ways. (HATSOFEH, 22.6.92) The NRP has taken several steps designed to persuade Ethiopian immigrants to vote for it in the upcoming elections. It has demanded coalition negotiations on the issue of the immigration of the Fares Mura. Furthermore, it has promised to coordinate with the Chief Rabbinate steps to restore them to Judaism, and to require the government to assist them while they are in Ethiopia by providing food, medical care and Jewish education until they are brought to Israel. (HA'ARETZ/AL HAMISHMAR, 23.6.92)

A two-page feature article on the issue summarizing the situation to date, with personal interviews and photographs, appeared in the Haifa weekly KAWL-BO (29.6.92) under the heading, "Don't Call Me a Christian."

ARAB CHRISTIAN MURDERED: The JERUSALEM REPORT (2 Apr 92) published a report on the confession of an arrested "Black Panther" gang member who took part in the murder of Nablus ambulance driver Hani Salfin on suspicion of collaboration with the Israeli authorities: "We asked him to come with us to the Christian cemetery and put him in a room used as a monk's cell, made him kneel down and blindfolded him. During the interrogation, we beat him with clubs all over his body. We beat him harder when we found out he was Christian. He died from the beating."

CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS (NRB): Leaders of the American NRB representing 800 Christian radio and 300 TV stations, the backbone of Christian religious broadcasting in America, are now in Israel investigating the possibility of holding their annual conference in Jerusalem. David Clark, NRB president, is leading its executive committee in talks with the Minister of Tourism and officials of the Ministry. The conference usually draws some 4,000 participants. (MABAT, 18.5.92)

The scheduled date for the NRB conference in Jerusalem is 1996, marking the Third Millennium since David captured the city and made it Israel's capital. Rafael Farber, Tourism Ministry representative in North America, who accompanied the delegation, remarked: "The visit of the Executive Committee to Israel is in itself an achievement." (MAARIV, 22.5.92) The NRB committee concluded an eight-day visit by meeting with P.M. Yitzhak Shamir, who invited them to hold their convention in 1996. Earlier they heard entertainer Pat Boone appeal to U. S. Christians to visit Israel. (JERUSALEM POST, 26.7.92) Brief reports also appeared in DAVAR and YEDIOT AKH. (27.5.92)

EDUCATION PROGRAMS: Dr. Raymond Carlson, head of the General Council of Assemblies of God and three other senior church leaders arrived last week to consider developing a continuing education program for the church's 30,000 ministers. (JERUSALEM POST INTL., 23.5.92)

EVANGELICAL SUPPORT: In a sharp letter about evangelical support for Israel, Rev. Robert Shreckhise of Springfield, Missouri, explained the decline in popularity of Pres. Bush as "simply reaping what he has sown. As an Evangelical Christian and a supporter of Israel, I express what I believe to be the opinion of many of us when I say to Mr. Bush that we will not forget!" He recalled the promise of God to Abraham (Gen. 12:3), the suffering of the Jews "even at the hand of so-called Christians," the hatred of Arabs, and the "double-dealing and chicanery over the loan guarantees." (JERUSALEM POST, 28.6.92)

MAN OF PEACE: Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek was given the title in the Incan language of "An Important Person to whom it is Given to Bring Peace to the World," when he met with members of 12 native American tribes, representing 5,000 churches across the Americas. The chief group - Christian Hope Indian Eskimo Fellowship - was here on its first organized visit to Israel. (JERUSALEM REPORT, 2 Apr 92)

BAR MITZVA FOR SON OF CHRISTIAN MOTHER: The Reformed Synagogue of Ramat Sharon hosted Alex Mittelman, son of a Jewish father and a Christian mother who had refused to undergo Orthodox conversion, for his bar-mitzvah (confirmation) celebration. Rabbi Mazor of the Reformed Synagogue learned that the local orthodox rabbi refused to perform the ceremony, and invited Alex to prepare with him for the ceremony. "We also regard the son of a Gentile mother as a Gentile," the rabbi explained, "but this boy already belongs in one way or another to the Jewish people, and the Bar-Mitzva ceremony is a stage in the process of conversion to Judaism." (AL HASHARON-HERZLIYA, 12 Jun)

CHRISTIANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES DISPUTE: Pat Boone is an entertainer

and longtime Evangelical supporter of Israel, also a spokesman for the Israeli Tourism Ministry. A friend of Pres. Bush, Boone wrote the president to stress his strong support of "free immigration to Israel and the principle of absorption assistance." In response, the president noted that Israeli U. S. ties were experiencing "a difficult moment," but assured Boone that "my personal support for Israel's security and well-being remains unshakeable," and expressed the hope that the U. S. and Israel could reach agreement on conditions for the guarantees without threatening the peace process. (JLM POST, 14.4.92)

In a subsequent weekend feature article headed "Bridge-Builder Extraordinary: Pat Boone," reporter Helen Kaye noted Boone's love of Israel, "because he sees in it the incarnation of biblical prophecy (and) as an Evangelical Christian, his faith is rooted in the Bible, which he regards as revealed Truth." Boone emphasizes the Jewishness of Christianity's roots in the Old Testament and the early church. Although he professed Christian faith and was baptized at 13, he and his wife recommitted their lives to Jesus Christ later on. His daughter Cherry studied Hebrew and Jewish Studies at UCLA. "I think that anything authentically Christian is also truly Jewish, and people are beginning to realize this," he says. He sidesteps questions about the eventual conversion of the Jews to Christ; he's no missionary, though he sees himself as a "bridge-builder, bringing people together who have more in common than they know." (JLM POST, 29.5.92)

LOS ANGELES JEWISH-EVANGELICAL CONFERENCE: Tom Tugend, writing from Los Angeles in the JERUSALEM POST (5 Jun 92), reports on "tremendous disillusion" about Pres. Bush's Mideast policy. At the first Annual Christian Evangelical Zionist Congress of America in Los Angeles, Ed Steele, an influential producer of religious TV programs, stated that "Israel must not give up one inch of land." The Congress brought together Evangelical and Jewish leaders for two days of discussions, which included Ari Granot, counselor-for-church affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. (Granot also called on Cardinal Roger Mahoney of the L. A. archdiocese, and offered Israeli knowhow for housing programs and immigrant absorption in relation to L. A. ethnic problems.) David Lewis, chairman of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, a co-convener of the meeting, spoke of a common fear among Jews and Evangelicals of Moslem fundamentalists. Rabbi A. James Rudin, interreligious affairs directors for the American Jewish Committee, and co-sponsor of the meeting, concurred with Lewis that mutual stereotyping in both Evangelical and Jewish communities needs to be cleared away - of Evangelicals as "Bible thumpers and low-grade intellectuals, rednecks and Elmer Gantrys," - or of Jews as "Christ killers, scribes and pharisees, and shylocks."

More profound disagreement exists in the area of evangelizing. Rev. Lewis of the Assemblies of God, which maintains a special department with strategy to convert Jews, said he could not work to change his denomination's mission as "it would destroy my credibility; missionaries have been our heroes." Rev. Isaac Rottenberg (son of a Holocaust victim and a Christian mother) stated: "The evangelical church is in essence a missionary church," but he suggested that the missionary impulse might be left "dormant" with respect to the Jews.

WASHINGTON CHRISTIANS REMEMBER JERUSALEM: Christian friends of Israel

in the U.S. capital, led by Richard Hillman, observed Jerusalem Day at a giant tent meeting near the Capitol in downtown D.C. by prayer, proclamation of support and praise for the 25th anniversary of its reunification. Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval, who was present, heard a word of "criticism" by one of the preachers: "Why are we satisfied with the present State of Israel, when the Bible clearly fixes the boundaries of Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates?" He called on Christians to struggle and to pray. (HATSOFEH, 4 Jun 92)

"BONDS" AND BONDS - JEWS AND CHRISTIANS: In a critical analysis of U.S. Jewry, Shalom Mann, who traveled throughout America to promote the sale of Israel Bonds, underlines contrasts between Jews and Christians in respect to their attitudes to "Bonds" and to Israel. He discussed well-to-do Jews' reluctance to buy "Bonds" despite their economic attractiveness so as not to be too heavily identified as Jews while at the same time they contribute more generously to Christian philanthropies than to Jewish ones. In Kansas City, with a large Jewish population, he found most "Bonds" buyers were Evangelical Christians who believe in the Second Coming of Christ and in the importance of Israel in the end times. One such couple to whom he was introduced by the local Jewish "Bonds" sales director was more knowledgeable about Israel and its needs than the Jewish "Bonds" sales director. (MABAT, 11 Jun 92)

ECONOMIC MATCHMAKING OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS: Christian organizations are increasingly taking part in the Israeli business world, especially leaders of the U. S. evangelical movement. More than 800 evangelists (sic!) attended the 11th Int'l. Christian Prayer Breakfast in Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the Int'l. Christian Chamber of Commerce is due to hold a conference in Jerusalem with the theme: "Shalom Israel: Looking Thro' A New Trading Perspective." The week-long conference (11-18 June 92) will include lectures on immigration, business climate in Israel, prophecy, regional issues and the church and Israel. On 15 June there will be matchmaking between Israeli and foreign Christian business people, with 150 Israeli companies taking part. Speakers will include Lance Lambert of Israel, Bob Mumford (professor of Missions and N.T. Studies), and Gunnar Olson, president of the I.C.C.C., as well as Moshe Nissim, Minister of Trade and Industry, Jewish Agency official Ilan Rubin, David Litvak, General Director of the Israeli Export Institute, and Rabbi David Hartman, a leading Israeli religious philosopher. The ICCO offers various services to its members, including mediation and arbitration as alternatives to litigation, with decisions based on biblical precedent. (ISRAEL BUSINESS TODAY, 5 Jun 92).

Several hundred local businessmen met foreign Christian entrepreneurs in an effort to promote joint ventures, organized by the ICCO, a pro-Israel evangelical Christian network worldwide. (JLM POST, 16.6.92)

CHRISTIAN LITURGY: In a feature article by Malcolm Lowe, a New Testament scholar, headed "Removing Wrongs From Christian Liturgy," the writer deals with attempts by the church to eliminate all malice toward Jews in Christian worship. Lowe notes many positive declarations and liturgical modifications by Catholic and Protestant churches for "the elimination of all forms of malice in speaking and teaching about Jews and Judaism (and of) attempts made to remove all suggestion of anti-Judaism from Protestant and Catholic liturgy." He cites a number of

modern examples, comparing this to ancient expressions of hostility to Jews and Judaism especially during Holy Week. He also credits the fact that "most major churches have given up overt missions to the Jews altogether." He concludes: "Much has been done by some churches to eliminate the teaching of contempt towards Jews, and much remains to be done." (JERUSALEM POST, 17.4.92)

Fr. Peter H. Madros, holding "a Ph.D. in biblical theology and in biblical sciences," who lives in Beit Jalla, responds to what he sees as an unbalanced approach to tensions between Jews and Christians, and especially Catholics. "Persecution of the Jews is anti-Christian and anti-Evangelical," but so is "oppression against any person or people, including Palestinians," he writes. The Vatican has made efforts toward "reconciliation and rapprochement" with the Jews, "but a similar attitude in world Jewry towards non-Jews does not seem to be recorded" (as in Vatican II). "Furthermore, from reading the Acts of the Apostles, one realizes that it was mostly the Jews who waged war against the newly-born church, in the Holy Land and in the Diaspora." The Catholic Church believes that "there was more than one holocaust - a Lebanese and a Palestinian holocaust," and Israel is not completely innocent in these "holocausts." Many "evangelical" denominations openly provide financial and moral support for the Jews, Israel and Zionism ("which compromises and harms the Arab Christians") and they ignore the presence and rights of "fellow" Palestinians. He cites a Jewish writer who, he claims, "dared to affirm that something in some Jewish attitudes contributed to their being rejected and persecuted." (JERUSALEM POST, 26.4.92).

In a response to the Madros article, Greer Cohen Stuart, a theological adviser to the Netherlands Reform Church, expresses "deep appreciation" for Dr. Geoffrey Wigoder's answer to Madros, published on 28.4.92 in the "POST." Stuart accuses Madros of "outright denial of historical facts and whitewashing the black pages of Christian history." He also denounces the use of "Holocaust," in referring to the Lebanese and Palestinian issues, as "a very serious abuse," and adds: "Nothing happening in this area is comparable to the planned extermination of the Jewish people by the Nazis." He charges that "Fr. Madros' article only supports those sectors in the Jewish community who are convinced that dialog with Christians will lead nowhere because of Christian unwillingness to accept history and to repent." (JLM POST, 6 May 92)

LEIBOVITCH-DUBOIS ENCOUNTER: The Hebrew daily HA'ARETZ (17.4.92) devoted four full pages in its Passover-Sabbath Supplement to a "confrontation" between the radical orthodox Jewish lecturer and scholar, Prof. Yeshayahu Leibovitch, and the Dominican monk and philosopher Marcel Dubois. Filmed in Jerusalem for a TV series in eight parts for worldwide distribution, the "confrontation" is described as a dialog "between friends on the subject of Judaism facing Christianity," relating to topics such as old age, death, women, abortion, euthanasia, the Holocaust, Messiah, Jewish Christians. The writer describes an encounter between a young tract-distributing "Jews for Jesus" Israeli and Prof. Leibovitch - "an expression of disgust and angry thrusting of the tract at the Sabra youth." Leibovitch, at 89, is a personal friend of Dubois, a retired philosophy professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, who has privately studied the medieval Catholic philosopher Aquinas with Prof. Dubois. Leibovitch regards all

14

Messiahs, including Jesus and "the rabbi from Brooklyn," as "false messiahs."

"CRYPTO-JEWS": In a two-page feature article, Arlynn Nellhaus described a phenomenon of Southwest U. S. culture which has come to light within the past decade: Hispanic Catholics who are descended from Jews pressured into conversion by the Inquisition, and in varying degrees retain memories and customs from their Jewish past. Many live as "crypto-Jews," outwardly practicing Roman Catholics (sometimes in the most extreme forms, such as "flagellants") but secretly practicing Jewish customs, including circumcision, abstaining from work on Sabbath and not eating pork. Stanley Hordes, a University of New Mexico professor in Albuquerque, who studied the crypto-Jews in 17th century Mexico, has become the authority on crypto-Jews in the U. S. Southwest. (JLM POST Magainze, 29.5.92)

CROSS REMOVED: The Ministry of Education has instructed the Educational TV Network to remove from its Bible Quiz Program a scene which includes a priest wearing a crucifix on his chest, but the matter is under discussion. (MAARIV, 5 Apr 92) In a sarcastic response, an editorial writer imagined what would happen if a scene with a rabbi on French TV was edited out because he wore a Star of David. (MAARIV, 6 Apr 92; also 13.4.92)

CROSS & STAR: HA'ARETZ (1 May 92) published a report on synagogues in Europe where Jewish congregants were destroyed in the Holocaust. A number have been converted into churches, but the Jewish symbols have been retained - the Star of David, the Holy Ark, Hebrew inscriptions, and one in Hungary has become known as a "house of worship for every man," with Judaism and Christianity co-existing, symbolically manifested by the Cross and the Star of David.

SUNDRIES & SECTS

SCULPTURE: A critical article in the magazine STUDIO (Jun 92) by Irit Miller reviews a retrospective of the Israeli sculptor Yigal Tomarkin between 1957-92 at the Tel-Aviv Art Museum. Entitled "Judaism, Christianity and Iron," it expresses the conflicts and paradoxes of the sculptor's life, born in Germany of a Jewish mother and a German father, yet raised in Israel. Thoroughly Israeli, yet extremely critical of Israeli life, Tomarkin grapples with his attachment to western culture.

JEWISH ARTIST BEQUEATHES ART TO CHURCH: French Jews are greatly perplexed by the disclosure that the well-known Jewish artist Ben-Zion, recently deceased, had bequeathed his valuable artwork to a Parisian church. Some of the artwork relating to biblical themes has been retrieved through intervention by the Jewish community with church authorities, and it is expected they will be housed in the Tel-Aviv "Bible House." There is no explanation available for the bequest to the church, since the Jewish community has no knowledge of the artist or his wife having ever converted to Christianity. (HATSOFEH, 1 Jun 92)

JEWISH MUSIC IN CHURCH: Several Jewish choirs devoted the Passover Week to performing in the Abu Ghosh Church with a repertoire of Jewish music! Thus, they completely ignored the history of persecution of the

Jews at the hands of Christians. Fortunately, the music critics described the event as a failure, and perhaps this will put a stop to such events. Meanwhile, the culture elite flock to the Immanuel Church in Tel-Aviv, a missionary hothouse for years, to attend concerts, as if there were no other concert halls in Tel-Aviv. (HATSOFEH, 29.4.92)

MORMON MUSIC: The Mormon choir of Utah has responded to the invitation of Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra to perform at the annual Liturgica Week in Jerusalem at the end of 1992, its first appearance in Israel (AL HAMISHMAR, 4 Jun 92). An ultra-orthodox member of the municipality, Rabbi Hayim Miller, has protested the invitation, and warned of demonstrations against the choir should the invitation not be cancelled. (HAMODIYA, 10 Jun 92) "Whoever doesn't want to listen to the choir can stay away," Mayor Kollek remarked in response to criticism of the invitation. "Just as we would not accept restrictions on the appearance of Jewish choirs abroad, so we will not agree to placing restrictions on others in this city." (KAWL HA'IR, 12 Jun 92)

JUDAISM FOR GENTILES: Former Christians who have rejected orthodox Christianity in its traditional forms have established contact with orthodox rabbis to create a worldwide network of "Sons of Noah" who are obliged to follow only seven laws rather than the 613 of traditional Judaism. They have been receiving widespread publicity in the media. (JLM POST, 28.4.92)

ANTHROPOSOPHY: Leor Gon, writing in the supplement of AL HAMISHMAR (28.4.92) as one who has strong sympathies for the anthroposophists living at the Hardof settlement and has known them personally, charges that they conceal the fact that their beliefs are not Jewish, that they believe that Jesus is the true Messiah, that acceptance of the yoke of Kingdom of Heaven is based on a Christian (and not a Jewish) perception. All this they try to conceal.

"CHRISTIAN" PASSOVER HAGGADA: The cover drawing for a traditional Jewish Passover Haggada sponsored by the National Council for the Prevention of Accidents, was discovered to be a portrait of the Holy Family, the three Kings from the East, the Shepherds, and the Star of Bethlehem, a typical Christmas drawing. It was, however, represented as the children of Israel departing from Egypt. All attempts to locate those involved in the publication have been unsuccessful. (MAARIV, 23.4.92)

JOINT JEWISH-CHRISTIAN CYCLING CAMPAIGN: A team of 250 motorcyclists (125 Jewish, 125 Christian) will conduct a special cycle campaign this autumn from Dan to Beersheva on behalf of two charitable organizations - Ravenswood, a Jewish charity to help learning-disabled children - and the Edinborough Medical Mission Society (EMMS) which operates the Nazareth Christian Hospital. (YEDIOT AHKRONOT, 13.5.92)

HIGH COURT RULING ON CHRISTIAN CALENDAR: Despite the objections of the orthodox Jerusalem burial society that the use of the Gregorian calendar on Jewish gravestones is contrary to religious law, because it would be an acknowledgement of Jesus' birth, the Israeli High Court ruled (with orthodox Justice Elon dissenting) that a gravestone may be inscribed with dates from the Christian calendar as well as contain

names inscribed in any foreign language, in addition to Hebrew. (1 May 92)

NEW TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS: In a brief letter to the Jerusalem weekly KAWL HA'IR (26.6.92), Yitzhak Shalom corrected a reference to a saying of Jesus ("The foxes have holes and the birds of the air nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head....") in an article published in the weekly. Reuven Bartov angrily responded: "Who needs this missionary propaganda? Can't we live without this disgusting thing?" (3 Jul 92) The following week there were two further responses:

Shalom responded to Reuven Bartov: "I am of the opinion that one may be a good Jew, a keeper of the commandments and free of prejudice, yet objectively able to appreciate a passage in the book of another faith. Bartov has apparently not yet reached this elementary intellectual level." M. Benhayim also wrote: "It may be that Bartov thinks he is honoring Judaism, but his words reveal bigotry and insecurity." He concluded with another quotation from the New Testament based on the words of Rabbi Gamaliel (as reported in the Book of Acts 5:38-39): "...for if this plan or this undertaking is of men, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them." (10 Jul 92)

Summarized: 18.8.92
Reproduced and distributed
by F.E.L.M., Jerusalem

Editor: M. Benhayim

File Name: UCCLIP19.792

NOTE: PHOTOCOPIES OF ORIGINAL CLIPPINGS ARE OBTAINABLE AT CASPARI CENTER IN JERUSALEM. FOR DETAILS WRITE TO P.O.B. 71099 JERUSALEM, OR PHONE (02) 286553.
