

"THE MISSION"

**MOBILE EXHIBIT:** "Yad L'Ahim," the Orthodox anti-mission society in Israel, is preparing a mobile exhibit of missionary material, which will include photographs of local missionaries and computerized information about the alleged 4,000 missionaries at work in Israel, for exhibition around the country. It is now conducting its annual fund-raising drive during the week when the portion about Amalek is read in the synagogues, Exodus 17:8-16. (Regional journals, 16.3 & 23.3.84)

**ANTI-MISSION CAMPAIGN:** Reports on anti-mission campaigns in Israel appeared in several foreign newspapers. The Swiss-German-Jewish weekly in Zurich (20.1.84) carried a feature article headed "THE BATTLE AGAINST THE MISSION" in connection with an Orthodox Jewish educational project in Zicron Yaacov. THE NEW YORK TIMES carried one feature article on the issue: "JEWS BEGINNING CAMPAIGN AGAINST CONVERSION" (28.1.84 NYT News Service) and "CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES IN ISRAEL COMING UNDER FIRE" (18.3.84 Staff Writer Norman Kempster) and subheaded: TARGET OF MILITANT ORTHODOX JEWS, was carried by the LOS ANGELES TIMES. The articles referred to attacks on the Tiberias fellowship, the Messianic Assembly, Jerusalem, and referred to the heavy barrage of criticism directed against PROJECT KIBBUTZ, INTL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM, and "Fundamentalist Protestants in Israel". Christian sources cited (ICEJ, "Church of Redeemer" pastor Lundblat, Messianic elder Victor Smaija of J'lm),<sup>AND</sup> anti-mission agencies (Yad L'Ahim, Shmuel Golding) and Dan Rossing of Dept of Christian Communities in the Israel Min. of Relig. Affairs, a religiously observant Jew, who stated: "The Gov't by all available means discourages missionary activity." Ora Namir, Committee Chairperson of the Knesset Education Committee (Labour), stated: "I am for guarding religious freedom (and) against violence of any kind...Still, the children of Israel have to be protected" (from missionary activity).

**MISSIONARY MENACE?** Two letters were published in the JEWISH WEEK (New York, 27.1) relating to the mission problem, one by Rabbi Chaim Pearl of J'lm decrying "scaremongering and falsification" and the "stirring up of a frenzy of anti-Gentilism;" the second letter from George Rushfield of Flushing, N.Y. decried the downplaying of the missionary threat by Chaim Bermant (MISSIONARIES IN ISRAEL NO THREAT, 13.1.84) whom the letter writer accused of being guilty of providing "another example of secularist diatribes against the religious Jews of Israel." An Editor's Note was appended to the letter: "Chaim Bermant is himself an observant, religious Jew."

During a fund-raising campaign in the U.K., Rabbi Ephraim Groundland, publicity director for the anti-missionary Yad L'Ahim group, charged that European missionaries and churches supporting them wish to preach the Christian Gospel to Soviet Jews, hoping many will soon escape to Israel and spread Christianity on their arrival. Although Soviet-Jewish scientist and Orthodox Professor Herman Branover has made similar claims, Soviet Jewry campaigners could not confirm these allegations. (JEWISH TELEGRAPH, MANCHESTER, ENGLAND 9.3.84)

**MISSION IN TIV'ON:** A four-part exposé of an alleged plot by German-Christian missionaries (so-called) to obtain land and a house for establishing a Childrens Home in Tiv'on in Galilee was reported in the JEWISH PRESS (BROOKLYN NY between 9.12.83 and 30.12.83) involving Dr. Gisela Finger and Gotfried Muller, owner of Bruderschaft Salem in West Germany. The Childrens Home project fell through, but the house and land were bought and signed over to the group, and presently occupied by Dr. Finger who claims to be guided by God in her involvement in the project.

**MISSIONARY INQUIRY:** One of the Mission activists in Jerusalem by name of Menahem Benhayim, a spokesman for the Intl Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, and editor of the Messianic Jewish periodical "B'SHUV", recently addressed the anti-mission department of Yad L'Ahim, requesting anti-mission propaganda under a pseudonym, this was reported by the Organization spokesman, Aharon Kornfeld. The activists are indeed accustomed to surprises, he said, but this time their surprise was great when they received a letter signed "B. Hayim", POB 7329 Jlm, a postbox number which immediately aroused their suspicion as being familiar to them. The letter read: "I read in the press about your activities and I am interested to have your informational material relating to the battle against the Mission." Kornfeld relates that last week another missionary appeared in their offices and was himself surprised that he was immediately identified by the activists there. (SHEARIM 2.3.84; also "JEWISH PRESS" 4.5.84 under heading "MISSION NOT ACCOMPLISHED")

PRO & CON: "JEWISH PRESS" (27.4.84) reprinted the UCCI Liaison Committee letter to the JERUSALEM POST condemning fanaticism in the light of "the recent harassment of persons of evangelical and Protestant background meeting for prayer in Tiberias...and the strange, almost irrational attack on Muslim and Christian homes and establishments in Arab areas." This was followed by a reply by Sylvia Vickers of "Yad L'Achim" charging <sup>that</sup> the UCCI is a representative of "only a fraction of the missions operating in this country" (and listing the member bodies and the aims of the UCCI "to spread the Gospel throughout Israel"). "The UCCI's hysterical and excessive outrage is unwarranted. We were not told 'to turn the other cheek.' However, contrary to what has been written and said about us, we do not indulge in either physical violence or abuse. To do <sup>so</sup> would merely make martyrs out of the missionaries, and we have had enough trouble from the one who died nearly 2,000 years ago. We offer a brief resume of some of the Jewish missionaries currently working for the UCCI in Israel."

The list follows: MENACHEM BEN-HAYIM (Israel Secy IHCA, one of oldest UK missions), a news correspondent for Evangelist Louis Kaplan's JEWISH VOICE, also writes for AMBJ and Paul Taine's VINEYARD, was official representative of messianic community at Billy Graham sponsored Lausanne Conference on Reaching Jewish People (copies of report available from YAD L'AHIM). REV. BARUCH MAOZ leads Messianic Church for Jews Cong. in Rehovot, owns HAGE BEN PRESS, currently translating and printing special TEE programs for Israel. REV. YOSSE BEN TZVI, baptized and ordained by Lutheran Church in Israel, holds Messianic meetings at 22 Pilihovsky St., Telaviv, also works for TEE, the director being Rev. Ole Kvarme of the Finnish Church, resides on French Hill, where Caspari Centre located. DAVID & LISA LODEN, Christian charismatics, a cult movement, write, perform and distribute evangelical music and literature, and work among ulpanim, absorption centres, promoting Christian missionary art. They lead Natanya Messianic Congregation for Jews, are Israeli citizens, converted to Judaism. YANETZ, a printing and publishing house in J'lm owned by Victor Smadja, leader of Messianic Assembly in Israel, a "church" for Jews on Prophets St., a former Jew, printer of Messianic literature. BROTHER SOLOMON OSTROVSKY, Plymouth Brethren Church in Jaffa, known for a number of Messianic publications. DOV CHAIKIN, a translator, works for Christian and Hebrew-Christian community in Israel.

ON MISSIONARIES: Shmuel Golding reports on activities of Jerusalem missionaries on the basis of reports published in <sup>two</sup> publications, one of the FRIENDS OF ISRAEL GOSPEL MINISTRY, about "JOEL OF JERUSALEM" who reported entering a religious school in his neighbourhood where "I was able to give my testimony and witness to the class and teachers for about an hour, and then for another hour or more we had an open discussion and they asked many questions...His Word is alive and powerful—even in a religious Jewish school in Israel." The second reference is to "THE FIG TREE", the newsletter of Mr. & Mrs. Taine, reporting on home meetings, Bible studies, counseling, baptism. (JEWISH PRESS: 27.4.84)

WARNINGS AGAINST FANATICISM: "It is not me, but you and your children and grandchildren who will suffer," Jlm Mayor Kollek told a group of Orthodox Rabbis in describing what he called the growing tendency towards religious extremism. The Mayor told the Israel Chapter of the Rabbinical Council of America that moderate Orthodox Jews, as well as others, were being victimized by ultra-Orthodox fanatics. He said that the problem of Christian proselytizing had been vastly exaggerated. (JLM POST 20.2.84, Haim Shapiro) Under the heading, "A GROUP OF LUNATICS," VIATA NOASTRA (TELAVIV) denounced those arrested for involvement in plotting attacks on Muslim and Christian sites. (9.3.84) A feature article in the Jerusalem weekly IN JERUSALEM (13.4) was headed: TERROR EXPERTS TELL POLICE: FANATICS CAN BE STOPPED, LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING." The police must keep Jewish extremists under surveillance if more terror attacks on Arab and Christian targets are to be prevented, the article began.

BETH SHALOM CANCELLATION: A continued flow of clippings from the Jewish media abroad and from Israel report on the campaign to thwart the erection of a world centre for the Beth Shalom Christian Zionist movement in Gilo, a Jewish neighbourhood near Bethlehem. Some of the campaigners abroad included Rabbi Rubin R. Dubin of the JEWS FOR JEWS ORGANIZATION, POB 6194, Miami Beach, Fla. 33154.

The project was canceled following strong opposition by Orthodox Jewish residents of the area and supporters abroad who charged it was a missionary front. Meanwhile, the organization announced that it was freezing all <sup>aid</sup> projects in Israel except financial support for Assaf Harofeh Hospital.

**HAIFA MISSION:** M.K. Ora Namar, who chairs the education committee of the Knesset, (LABOUR) was quoted in the Histadrut daily DAVAR (20.2.84): "About 100 Jewish children are being educated in the Jaffa Mission, and it appears that their parents do not intend to remove them, because the educational facilities of Tel-Aviv are inadequate to meet the material needs of the families."

**MISSIONARY YESHIVA:** The missionary organization MAOZ says it intends to open what it calls a yeshiva so Israelis don't have to leave the country to "learn the Bible in an intensive manner." The organizer of the project is a well-known missionary in Jerusalem, and the move comes as missionary activity has been stepped up in the Jewish State. (JEWISH PRESS, B'KLYN NY, 16.3.84)

**"THERE'S A LIMIT":** A representative of the "Yash Gvul" ("THERE'S A LIMIT") movement in opposition to Israel's involvement in Lebanon, has called on the Bank Supervisor to investigate how a Coalition M.K. (Ronnie Milo) learned and published the fact of a contribution made to the movement by the Presbyterian Church in the amount of 5,000 dollars. He claimed the fund was to aid the families of conscientious objectors to Lebanese service. (AL HANISHMAR 3.4.84) The Jerusalem Ultra-Orthodox journal (12.4) headed its report on the church connection, "LEFTIST MOVEMENTS IN ISRAEL RECEIVING AID FROM MISSIONARY SOURCES", and described the Presbyterian Church as a worldwide missionary enterprise, reporting that the Israeli recipients claimed that other leftist groups were receiving similar aid from "foreign sources."

**MISSIONARY HAGADDA:** A flurry of reports/ <sup>appeared</sup> mainly in regional papers and in MAARIV, during the week preceding Passover, "exposing" the Hagada produced by the Messianic Assembly of Israel, with photographs of the cover and selected quotations relating to the integration of New Testament themes. The "information," supplied by Yad L'Ahim, included reports that the booklets were being sold or distributed free of charge among new immigrants, the poor and tourists. A Haifa supplement of YEDIOT AKHRONOT (13.4.84) gave prominence to one of the benedictions related to "our Righteous Messiah, our Lord Yeshua," publishing it in full with coloured borders. MAARIV published a follow-up article (22.4.84) by Naphtali Kraus, with an insert highlighting the Cup of Communion, "the New Covenant in my blood." The address of the publisher is also supplied: KEIEN AHVA MESHIMIT, POB 10382, JLM, and the text is analyzed from a strictly Orthodox and hostile perspective, and at one point a comparison is made to the U.S. Reform Jewish haggada.

**JEWS-FOR JESUS AD CRITICIZED:** The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York has reaffirmed its determination to press newspapers and magazines that have run advertisements recently from JEWS FOR JESUS either to desist from such advertising in the future, or to print a disclaimer that would make clear the intent and nature of the sponsoring organization. It expressed dismay that major publications, including the N.Y. TIMES, TIME MAGAZINE, and NEWSWEEK deemed it fit to carry a full page ad by the so-called JEWS FOR JESUS. (A photocopy of the ad, headed "Y'ISHUA SAID, 'I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD'", accompanies the article.)

In a reply to the JCRC objection, Sidney Gruson, vice-chairman of the N.Y. TIMES Company, wrote: "I think the proselytic nature of all the ads placed by JEWS FOR JESUS is clear... THE TIMES prints a great deal of controversial or cause advertising in the belief that a policy of open advertising plays an important part in maintaining a free press." (LONG ISLAND JEWISH WORLD, 13.1.84) ALSO JEWISH WEEK NYC 11.12.83

**SYNAGOGUES VS CULTS:** THE JEWISH HERALD (JO'BURG S.AFRICA 17.1.84) in a full-page report on alleged cult activity, and featuring photographs of Hebrew-Christian material, referred to a recently-formed Committee for Cults, chaired by psychologist Alan Zimler under the sponsorship of the Federation of Synagogues.

**ANTI-MISSION YOUTH CAMPAIGN:** The 23rd cycle of the "People's Seminary" (Yeshiva La' Am") was launched in 12 development towns with the aim of reaching youth for Orthodox Judaism and aiding Yad L'Ahim in the war against the Mission in the north. (HATSOFEH 26.4.84)

MORE

**MISSION HISTORY:** Several articles appeared in the Hebrew press dealing with missionary work in the Holy Land in the past. A sympathetic full-page feature article about Johann Ludwig Schneller, "a kind-hearted German missionary" of the 19th century, appeared in the Jerusalem weekly "KAWL HA'IR" (4.5.84). His work with Arab orphans is especially noted. KOL YE'USHALAYIM (16.3.84) published a research article about Elisabeth and James Finn, the celebrated British Consul and his wife in Ottoman Jerusalem who, among other things, were sometimes suspected of missionary intentions in their extensive interventions on behalf of the Jewish population. Their connection with the Abraham's Vineyard project for aid to indigent Jews was also noted. THE JERUSALEM POST MAGAZINE (27.4.) featured an article on Jerusalem hospitals, noting in its lead: Competition has led to many positive developments. At least three Jewish hospitals originated in Jerusalem because missionary groups threatened to monopolize the lucrative "spiritual and physical health business of Jerusalem's misfortunates." (The hospitals are: Hadassah, as successor to the Rothschild Hospital on Prophets Streets, Misgav Ladach, Bikur Holim.) In addition, the doctor who directed the Shaarei Zedek Hospital, was employed by German Jews to counteract the influence of missionary health services.

#### HEBREW CHRISTIANS AND MESSIANICS

**IR OVOT:** (HAAHETZ:13 Sept 83) The leader of Ir Ovot, Simha Pearlmutter, who has been declared a dangerous person by the ultra-orthodox community in J'lm, has obtained an order nisi to prevent the transfer of his minor son into the hands of his estranged wife. She has charged that, although he now leads an Orthodox life style, he continues to preach to the settlers in his Arava location belief in Jesus the Nazarene. Pearlmutter has denied the accusations made by his wife.

**DANIEL RUFISEN:** On Friday, 4.5.84, at 4:00 p.m. the VOICE OF ISRAEL broadcast a program about the rescue work of the convert Daniel Rufeisen during the Holocaust. The program editors, however, did not rest at the telling of the rescue work, which was certainly commendable, but detailed the personal story of "Brother Daniel", how Shmuel Rufeisen, in the face of the sufferings of the Jewish people, found refuge and comfort, not only in a monastery, but in the teachings of Jesus, and became a Catholic priest by name of "Brother Daniel." (The article then goes on to attack the attempt by Rufeisen to obtain Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return--in 1962--the support of his claim by former Justice Haym Cohen, who also appeared on the program, and the "attitude of contempt and hatred toward the Jewish people held by the Christian Church with isolated exceptions." It is clear that someone who formerly belonged to the Jewish people has found his happiness in the Christian Church no longer belongs to the Jewish people. "He may be a citizen of this country with full rights, but he cannot be considered a Jew," the writer concludes, asking what was the purpose of this "damaging" broadcast?

(HATSOFEH 14.5, Dr. Yehuda Moriel)

**CARDINAL LUSTIGER:** Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Jewish Archbishop of Paris, carried a giant wooden cross on his back on a sultry Friday afternoon to the peak of Montmartre. Cardinal Lustiger is a great believer in the media for missionary purposes, and this year he decided to renew the tradition of the Way of the Cross. Notices were published throughout Paris calling on the faithful: "Jesus Christ has risen for your glory! Come and escort Him on His way during your luncheon pause." Hundreds showed up, while the bold cardinal and his company ascended with might and symbolism to the Church of the Sacred Heart. (DAVAR 27.4.84) Cardinal Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris, invited the Israeli Ambassador in France for a meeting on the Eve of Passover. They discussed ways of increasing pilgrimage from France to Israel and the problem of Israeli tourist guides, following the publishing of a critical article in "LE MONDE" on the subject. The cardinal, a former Jew, underlines on every occasion, that he has great feeling for the people of Israel and its State, and speaks Hebrew as well. He conveyed to the ambassador and to the people of Israel his best greetings for the Passover festival, and all in fluent Hebrew. (HAAHETZ : 20.4.84)

**FAITHFUL OF TEMPLE MOUNT:** In the wake of the discovery of the Sons of Judea sect and the attempted attack on the Temple Mount, the link between Fundamentalist Christians, Messianic Jews and the sect is being explored. What is the link? In the New Testament it is related that the child Jesus was brought to the Temple Mount and consecrated to God. In his adult years he cleansed the Temple, driving out the merchants. During the last week of his life he prophesied the destruction of the Second Temple and the building of the Third Temple. The Fundamentalists are Christians who believe the Bible entirely, including the prophetic books, and in the fulfilment of the prophecies of Isaiah, Zechariah, Ezekiel. This means that one of the mandatory conditions for the Messianic process (read, the return of Jesus) is the return of the Jews to their homeland and the establishment of the Third Temple. All their activities in recent years, including the Tabernacles Feast conference last year, are aimed at the establishment of the Third Temple. They even published notices in the Israeli press in support of the right of Jews to pray on the Temple Mount.

Have they also made contributions? (Replies by Israel Medad) Personally, I have not seen much of their funds, but I did hear that they contributed funds to the yeshiva "Ateret Cohanim", where they study the Temple rituals. I also know that they encourage archaeological research on the Temple Mount in order to reconstruct the topography of the place. They wanted to help us establish an international office in Jerusalem to encourage this matter, but it didn't work out, and today we have no links with them, nor with the Messianic sect of "Sons of Judaea." Our activities are open and legitimate, and we denounce all violence, eccentricity or lunacy relating to the Temple Mount. Our contact man in Israel is Stanley Goldfoot.

Stanley Goldfoot, who are the Messianic Jews?

They are very close to the Christian Fundamentalists in the U.S.A. The Fundamentalists love them because they believe in Jesus, and they think like them that in order for Him to return the people and land of Israel are to be redeemed.

Where are they active? In Israel? In the U.S.A.?

There are thousands of Jews in the U.S.A. who believe in Jesus, and they have their broadcasting station and their own flags, and they are very wealthy. Two of them have built themselves a home in Jerusalem, and now they have a TV and radio station in Phoenix (Arizona).

Do they have ties with the Sons of Judea? It might be, but it's impossible to know.

Whom do you represent?

I have friends among the Christian Fundamentalists, and I help them but don't represent them. They are very lovely people and number close to 40 million souls in the U.S.A. But I think it is against their philosophy to be militant. All they want to do is to help Israel. They are actually better Zionists than the American Jews and have contributed money to the Soldiers Welfare Fund. (AL HAMISHMAR 9.3.84)

#### CHRISTIANS RESIDENT IN ISRAEL

**HOLY WEEK:** Christian Holy week observances reach their peak in Jerusalem with Good Friday today, Holy Saturday tomorrow and Easter on Sunday. Various Christian communities observed traditional foot-washing ceremony of Maundy Thursday. Today will be marked by processions along Via Dolorosa as pilgrims from around the world, many of them carrying crosses, retrace the last steps of Jesus. For Protestants, Easter Sunday will be observed with sunrise services on the Mt. of Olives, at the Scottish Church, and at the Garden Tomb. (JERUSALEM POST 20.4.83, Haim Shapiro) The usually quiet facade of the Armenian Patriarchate was shattered this week when violence erupted during the community's Easter celebration. Police were called in and the next day suspects were brought in for questioning. They are continuing their investigation. (IN JERUSALEM 27.4.84 Haim Shapiro)

**JERUSALEM TENSIONS:** There is in the Holy City an ongoing process of polarization nourished by various sources in which the local inhabitants are often pawns in a very complex game. There are now in J'lm three points of tension: The Jewish desire to exercise authority over the entire city, the Muslim desire to hold on to its material and spiritual possessions, and the Christian sects, notwithstanding their divisions, are ready whenever necessary to make their demands known. All this may lead to a strange coalition of Muslims & Christians in the city. (MAARIV JLM 6.1.84)

**FAITHFUL OF TEMPLE MOUNT:** In the wake of the discovery of the Sons of Judea sect and the attempted attack on the Temple Mount, the link between Fundamentalist Christians, Messianic Jews and the sect is being explored. What is the link? In the New Testament it is related that the child Jesus was brought to the Temple Mount and consecrated to God. In his adult years he cleansed the Temple, driving out the merchants. During the last week of his life he prophesied the destruction of the Second Temple and the building of the Third Temple. The Fundamentalists are Christians who believe the Bible entirely, including the prophetic books, and in the fulfilment of the prophecies of Isaiah, Zechariah, Ezekiel. This means that one of the mandatory conditions for the Messianic process (read, the return of Jesus) is the return of the Jews to their homeland and the establishment of the Third Temple. All their activities in recent years, including the Tabernacles Feast conference last year, are aimed at the establishment of the Third Temple. They even published notices in the Israeli press in support of the right of Jews to pray on the Temple Mount.

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**ANGLICAN CHURCH:** The proposal of Ariel Weinstein has been accepted that the Finance Committee of the Knesset rule on the request of the Anglican society <sup>linked</sup> to the Anglican Church (Vincent Society) to be tax-exempt with respect to various levies. The purpose of the society is stated as providing "spiritual aid and assistance to the Jewish people by means of schools and spiritual centres and religious libraries." Weinstein stated that the Israel taxpayer is not interested in granting support to any religious society whose aim is to engage in missionary activity among members of another religion. The committee will hold an additional discussion on the subject after additional clarifications are received from the Treasury. (HAALETZ : 13.3.84)

**PARK NEAR JERICHO:** The Jewish National Fund and the Ministry of Religious Affairs are setting up a park near Jericho, which will include refurbishing churches, stores and other enterprises. The site is regarded as third in the hallowed places of Christendom following Nazareth and Bethlehem. It was there that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, an event celebrated by Christian pilgrims on the 18th January. At the site are the churches of various Christian denominations. In 1985, when the work is expected to be complete, 100,000 pilgrims are anticipated. (MAARIV 29.3)

**ROOTS:** Based mainly on an interview with Sister Lucy Thorson of the Sisters of Zion order in Israel, CHRISTIAN COMMENT/OIKOUMENIKOS (JLM POST 20.4.84) reflects on the commitment of the sisterhood "to give witness by our life to God's faithful love for the Jewish people and to the promises He confided to them for all humanity...and to keep alive in the Church the consciousness that Christianity is linked to Judaism from its origin to its final destiny." Sister Lucy has lived in Israel 11 years, speaks Hebrew and teaches Christians about Jewish prayer and liturgy and the roots of Christian faith and identity in Judaism. There are 1,200 Sisters of Zion worldwide and 32 in Israel in four communities.

Catholic clergy completed a seven-month course in Jerusalem, embracing Biblical and modern Hebrew, Greek, Jewish history, archaeology, historical geography and field trips. They came from diverse parts of the world...Hong Kong, Mexico, France. (NEWSVIEW 6.3.84)

**CHURCH TOURS:** (SEE ALSO SELECTIONS 121, page 2) Reaction from the ultra-orthodox weekly Erev Shabbat (4.5.84) to Church Tours were published under the heading: "DEPT OF EDUCATION: SCHOOL STUDY PLAN INCLUDES CHURCH TOURS AND LEARNING ABOUT PAPAL RULE." In a letter to an outraged Orthodox parent, the District Director of Education confirmed that the curriculum includes study of other peoples, including chapters on the history of Islam and Christianity, as well as tours of the holy places, including churches, of other peoples. If Orthodox Jewish parents objected, they could keep their children home on days when such tours were made, the protester was told.

**PILGRIMS AND TOURISTS & TOUR GUIDES:** "I'VE FOLLOWED IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS TO ISRAEL"--so reads the inscription on the Pilgrim's Medal which will be awarded every pilgrim visiting Israel. It will be first awarded to the 150 pilgrimage organizers, clergy and religion journalists from Europe, Asia, North and South America, to take part in an international conference in Israel for the promotion of religious tourism. It will include tours of religious sites throughout Israel as well as seminars, workshops and personal meetings with local tourist agencies, and is being sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism. (HAALETZ 1.3.84) ALSO 23.3.84. a feature article about the conference, including an embarrassing incident involving the questioning of two black bishops and a journalist from the U.S.A. by the authorities at Ben-Gurion Airport because of efforts to prevent the illegal entry of members of the sect of "Black Hebrews." "HAHODESH BAMESIEK", a business monthly, published a lengthy article last summer (Aug. 83) about the dispute between Roman Catholic authorities in Israel and local tour guides over the use of clerical guides in Christian pilgrimage.

#### CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

**CHRISTIANS FACING ISRAEL:** A book review in AL HANISHMAR (22.4.84) dealt at length with the work of French-Catholic priest Michel Rameau, who, following a lengthy stay in Israel, had written a book entitled "A CHRISTIAN FACING ISRAEL, THE SERVANT OF GOD." The reviewer, Joshua Rosh, found the work profound, struggling with questions and reservations, yet clinging to basic Catholic theology while recognizing that serious distortions have occurred leading up to tragic errors vis-à-vis Judaism and Jews, which must be patiently corrected.

MORE

"THE HANGMAN & HIS VICTIM": From a feature article in HAARETZ (27.4.84) describing the encounter of a Jewish survivor of the Sobibor death camp in Czechoslovakia during World War Two with the Nazi commander there, who claimed to be a church-going Christian: "We only did our duty. It was also for us a difficult time," he told me. I asked him, "Why did you join the Nazi party?" "Because there was unemployment." My wife then asked: Did you have an internal struggle being a Nazi and a Christian at one and the same time? Did you experience an emotional confrontation within? Could you be a Christian and a Nazi at the same time?" It seemed that he did not fully comprehend her thinking. "I was always a good Christian," he responded proudly. "I was educated in the Church, and I attended Church every Sunday, accompanied by my wife and children, whom I educated in the spirit of the Church. I am still a religious person, as are my children."

THE VATICAN & JERUSALEM: The Easter Season provides the Vatican with a suitable occasion to repeat its hostile views concerning Jerusalem. The new nuncio of the Pope did not even trouble to announce his official arrival, but whenever there is any danger to the material interests of the Catholic Church in Jerusalem, the Holy See hastens to conduct a dialogue with the State of Israel's representatives, a State which does not even exist on its political map. Actually, the Holy See has given more recognition to the Palestinian claim to nationality than to the State of Israel, the former unequivocal (as last year's statement by the Pope in the context of the Lebanese War), the latter always with devious reservations. The papal nuncio, alone among the ecclesiastical representatives in Jerusalem, does not even appear at the annual reception tendered by the President of the State on Israel's Independence Day. (HAARETZ : 27.4.84, excerpts from an article by Roman Priester, "FROM THE HOLY SEE WITHOUT LOVE")

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY: Prior to his departure for Europe, members of the I.C.E.J. visited Israeli P.M. Yitzhak Shamir to express their support, stating: "We represent millions of Israeli supporters." Shamir replied: "You do not represent a State or a land, nor do you have an army or divisions, but we know we can rely on people like you, and because of you we are not isolated. This stand of yours gives us the strength to continue in our path." (MAARIV 23.2.84) ALSO "KEEPING POSTED J'LM SPRING 84" A UNIQUE EMBASSY.

A report from the U.S. Midwest has caused some embarrassment to Jewish and Israeli friends of the Christian Embassy movement, according to MAARIV (23.3.84). An Israeli student leader in Minnesota, Motti Friedman, while supporting continued cooperation with pro-Israel Christian groups like the ICEJ, has written in a report that "one must avoid any cooperation between Jews and Christians in which there may be missionary activity involved." A woman named Markell was reportedly active in pro-Israel activities while having connections with "JEWS FOR JESUS", and had stated that salvation would come to the Jews "only after they became Christians." Also a preacher John Magnuson was said to be a supporter of JEWS FOR JESUS. Both of these, however, had reportedly written to Friedman, promising to stop mission-oriented activities in the context of pro-Israel work. Friedman concluded that many pro-Israel supporters were completely sincere but there must be a distinction made between them and the others who are seeking under this guise to win souls for Christianity.

50 Jews and 30 Christians took part in a "Second Seder" sponsored by the ICEJ, a clearly missionary ploy, using a German-Christian "haggada" with supplement relating to "that Man" (Jesus). They denied that it was a missionary event, but YAD L'AHIM has abundant proof of their missionary ploys. It has also been learned that the Messianic missionary "haggada" was composed by the apostate Amikam Tavor, a well-known J'lm missionary, who some seven years ago approached Yad L'Ahim to help him return to Judaism, but later the extravagant aid offered him by the missionaries "reconverted" him. (EREV SHABBAT 27.4.84, HANODIYA 26.4.84)

THANKS FROM HOLLAND: Soldiers of Israel, we are confident that you have many friends in Holland who pray for the I.D.F. As Christians we owe you a debt of thanks for your risking of your lives to save others. We realize that the Vatican and the W.C.C. never have a word of thanks to you, but we simple folk are proud of you...and thankful for your courage...HERTA WEIEN HISKIN, BEIT EL AL, (MAARIV 30.1.84 Letter to Editor) HOLLAND



**PROJECT KIBBUTZ:** I am concerned about the letter from the Yad L'Achim anti-missionary organization in the JEWISH TELEGRAPH of 30th December. I have been to Israel as a tourist on 11 occasions and visited several kibbutzim. I have spoken to several young people associated with PROJECT KIBBUTZ movement and have contacted the leader more than once. I wish to deny categorically that there is an "insidious mission project." The sole desire of the work is for Israel's good. The training of the young people is with the deliberate intention of helping Israel. They are taught to be sensitive to the Jewish outlook and beliefs. In all types of organisations, overzealous and immature people can become involved, but it is their leaders who are important...Miss Joyce Bentley (JEWISH TELEGRAPH MANCHESTER ENGLAND 13.1.84) LONDON SW14 8AR

The Kibbutz Movement is investigating a Christian evangelical group operating in several kibbutzim, suspected of promoting missionary activity and which appears to have some of the characteristics of a cult. PROJECT KIBBUTZ is an evangelical Christian group with groups of some 8 to 15 volunteers at about seven kibbutzim in Upper Galilee. The volunteers agree to come for one year and commit themselves to a strict moral code--no smoking, no alcohol, no "dating." In contrast to the usual run of volunteers, who sometimes include itinerants with questionable habits, PROJECT members are committed and serious, presenting no absenteeism or drug problem, don't become sexually involved with young people from the kibbutz. Many members see them as very nice young people, an asset to the kibbutz, but others tell a different story, such as the strict control over the habits of PROJECT members. Two leaders of PROJECT KIBBUTZ, Moe Sanders and Mark Smith, admitted openly to this reporter that volunteers who leave the program are asked, and commit themselves in advance, to return to their point of origin. This, they said, is because they feel morally responsible for the volunteers, many of whom are "young and impressionable" and could be influenced by the moral laxity of the general run of volunteers. There are some PROJECT volunteers who have left the group and remained in Israel. One told the JERUSALEM POST that although she was and remains a Christian, she did not feel the strictures of the group were for her. The heavy schedule of work, Hebrew study, Bible study and prayer meetings, kept her from getting to know the kibbutz members, whom she liked very much.

One missionary group, PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL, located in England, regularly reports on their work in "saving souls," to the evident embarrassment of local leaders of PROJECT KIBBUTZ. Others are concerned about what appears to be a number of JEWS FOR JESUS in the program. PROJECT leaders emphatically deny any missionary work. If they had tried, they said, then they have a very poor "track record" of only one or possibly two conversions, while one former member is now an ob-servant Jew. They weed out anyone with obvious missionary intent. Former Jews are not excluded, but no one with a "Jewish background" has been with them for some time, they said.

Meanwhile, the kibbutz movement is reserving all judgment until it completes its inquiry. Even kibbutz members most critical of the group took pains to say they wanted any decision to be made in an orderly and calm manner, without the anti-missionary emotionalism characterizing recent attacks on a group in Tiberias. Moreover, many members are happy with the PROJECT and see its volunteers as a welcome relief. The project founder, Art Carlson, is a permanent resident who has served in the IDF (presently abroad for personal reasons). Meanwhile, Sanders and Smith say they welcome the "current flack. We need it to find out if we're just fair-weather friends." (JIM POST 4.5.84, HAIM SHAPIRO)

**MORAL MAJORITY:** The pros and cons of Jerry Falwell and MORAL MAJORITY movement in America from the perspective of the Jewish Establishment, mainly liberal and Reformed, are discussed in NEWSVIEW (JIM 15.5.84). The JEWISH ECHO (Glasgow, Scotland, 23.3.84) reports that Falwell, addressing the Jewish Agency-World Zionist Organization in N.Y.C., urged the Israeli Govt to cease placing restrictions on Christian missionaries. "We are strong advocates of freedom of religion, and feel it would be to the great advantage of the Israeli Govt to go the extra mile in the area of religious liberty." Falwell was warmly received by the audience. "Falwell is a powerful force in America," a WZO leader commented.

\*\*\* END TRANSCRIPTION \*\*\*

17.5.84/mb

