

"THE MISSION"

TIBERIAS RABBI SENTENCED FOR ANTI-MISSION DISTURBANCE: Rabbi Machluf Adin, Director of the "Yad Rambam" seminary in Tiberias has been sentenced in Tiberias to three months imprisonment plus six months suspended sentence for disturbing a missionary conference in Tiberias and making threats against them. (HATSOEBH 21.6.84) The sentence passed by Justice Oded Gershon against Rabbi Adin has brought together all the religious circles in Tiberias, who are now consulting with legal advisors for ways to react. The rabbi's attorney, Aminadav Yavor, told "EREV SHABAT" that he intends to submit an appeal to the District Court against the severity of the punishment, which has caused shock among Jewish religious circles and joy in mission circles. A spokesman for the anti-mission society YAD L'AHIM, which also participated in the campaign against the Mission in Tiberias, reported that they will also be weighing steps to be taken in reaction to the sentence. Meanwhile, dozens of young religious seminarians have this week initiated a petition campaign against the severity of the sentence, which will be forwarded to the Minister of Justice Moshe Nissim.

It should also be noted that our issue dated 20.1.84, "EREV SHABAT", under the heading "REVELATIONS ABOUT THE MISSION IN TIBERIAS", identified the residents of the settlement "Yavneel;" namely, David Greenberg and his companions, who was mentioned at the trial (of the rabbi) as the one who had been threatened by Rabbi Adin. The disclosure caused a storm in the local council at the time because of the fear of missionary activity taking place in their area. (EREV SHABAT, BNEI BRAK, 29.6.84) SEE ALSO SELECTIONS Nos. 118/119.

FOUR ANTI-MISSION ACTIVISTS JAILED: Judge Uzi Sivan of the Jerusalem Criminal Court has imposed unprecedentedly heavy sentences on four "KACH" members (Rabbi Kahana's movement), including prison terms and heavy fines. The sentences stemmed from two incidents, one involving a notorious Christian missionary Van der Hoeven, head of the so-called Christian Embassy, the most sophisticated and dangerous of the missionary groups in Israel, and the second involving the notorious Committee of Solidarity with Beir Zeit University. Rabbi Meir Kahane condemned the judge for trying the four youths, not on their individual merits but, as members of "KACH". "Not only is that against all legal systems, but the sentencing to prison of Jews who fight against missionaries and PLO supporters is a mirror of the madness taking place in the State of Israel." (JEWISH PRESS BKLYN NY 25.5.84)

KFAR YONA CRUSADE: Large posters on public billboards some two months ago stirred up this quiet settlement, warning of the danger of missionaries working to convert Jews "in exchange for a mess of pottage." Briefly it was the talk of the town, but quickly enough it was all but forgotten, except for Haim Ben-Dor, a local postal clerk, who appealed to two rabbis to help him curb missionary activity in Kfar Yona, which he claimed was only in abeyance following the publicity. A committee was set up, headed by the local rabbi, Uzi Schweitzer, with information supplied by the anti-mission YAD L'AHIM society. According to Haim Ben-Dor, several local families have been taken by the Baptist faith and "JEWS FOR JESUS"; namely, Yitzhak Azuz and his wife Ruth, a convert to Judaism, former members of Kibbutz Shefayim. Yitzhak works as a part-time gardener for the local Youth Centre and Council. According to Ben-Dor, Yitzhak has distributed copies of the New Testament among the children at the Youth Centre. "It's dangerous to allow such people to come in contact with children," he says. Yitzhak Azuz refused to speak to the newspaper's correspondent.

According to Ben-Dor, Rami Danieli, who is a neighbour of Rabbi Uzi Schweitzer, and two others, Yaniki and Ramon-Dov Hejaz, are preaching Christianity. The mission headquarters in Netanya is at Neve-Itamar in the home of David & Lisa Loden, musicians who perform as volunteers before new immigrants. Other missionaries are the Baptist minister Hoaldrige and his wife Judy, from Rehov Ben-Yehuda, who recently set up a Baptist chapel on Rehov Sokolow. These two couples maintain close ties with "their flock" in Kfar Yona. It appears that these do not have to be baptized inasmuch as they claim they are the true Jews who believe in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah of the seed of King David. Loden denied the charge that he uses his choir to spread Christianity. "I am a Jew and believes in Jesus, like tens of thousands of other Jews, but I'm not willing to be interviewed," he stated.

There are rumours that Ramon Hejaz was baptized during a visit to Holland, but his family don't know what happened to him in Holland. Ramon, age 20, lives in Netanya, and is friends with the missionaries. His father relates: "I'm miserable over Ramon. even though I don't wear an Orthodox skullcap on my head; my Judaism is in my heart... (MORE)

I never asked Ramon to be Orthodox; but Jesus?! That hurts me very much. I asked him to come with me to the sages of Miron on "Lag B'Omer" (a rabbinic festival between Passover and Pentecost), but he refused, saying he doesn't believe in them." His brother Avi says, "He doesn't believe in Jesus any more, doesn't believe in anything, and neither do I believe." It appears that Judy Hoaldrige of Netanya had a powerful impact on Ramon, who served as a mother figure for him after his mother was killed in an auto accident. According to Avi, she gave Ramon 300 dollars before she left on a journey.

The local council head, Epi Derai, is not overly worried. "It's a tempest in a teapot," he says, "and it doesn't justify pushing the panic button; a few Christian families in town who have the right to their beliefs." One of the rabbis thinks otherwise: "One must distinguish between a Christian who lives by his faith and a missionary who preaches belief in Jesus. Yitzhak Azuz is employed as a youth leader, and his contact with children can have very grave consequences." The council head insists: "At the moment there is no open missionary activity and there is no need for action." The local rabbi is more concerned: "True, the missionaries in Kfar Yona are quiet now, but the problem exists. The trouble is that they are Jews who are quite proud of their Judaism. They claim that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, and herein is the danger. It bothers me that Azuz works in the Youth Centre and tells stories to the children. He is a very likeable person and he has a strong influence on the children, who identify with such a man. True, the Youth Centre management checked out the material that Azuz presents to the children and found no fault with it, but I'm concerned that the children will be influenced by him." (KOL NETANYA-HADERA, YE DIOT AKHRONOT SUPPLEMENT, 8.6.84) NOTE: A Yiddish-language journal (DER YID) from New York also carried a brief news article on the Kfar Yona "mission" (6.4.84). Also see SELECTIONS No. 121, page 1, middle.

KIBBUTZ MISSION: A follow-up on the JERUSALEM POST article about an investigation into "PROJECT KIBBUTZ" involving Christian volunteers on kibbutzim (SEE SELECTIONS 122, p.8) appeared in the Ultra-Orthodox daily SHEARIM (11.5.84). Cautiously worded, the article quoted a kibbutz spokesman as confirming that a committee of four were investigating charges, such as appeared in the JLM POST article, about the allegedly cultish behaviour of the group. The spokesman stressed that the group avoids conversionist activity among kibbutz members. Nevertheless, a backup group in England, PRAYER FOR ISRAEL, claims in its publication that there has been some "soul-saving" of kibbutz members.

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL: In a response to the JLM POST article (on PROJECT KIBBUTZ) by Ken Burnett of PRAYER FOR ISRAEL, he denied that P.F.I. (which screens candidates for P.K.) requires "missionary-minded" volunteers, or that the no-dating policy was any more than "a discipline by which to be single-minded in serving the need and cause of Israel." The fact that the approval of pastors and in most cases that of parents is required prevents the development of any "cultic practices" unbeknown. P.F.I. is not a missionary group by definition or practice and the charge of "soul-saving" reports is "a complete fabrication," as are "reports about conversions of kibbutz members." The article was said to have "completely misrepresented" the work of PROJECT KIBBUTZ. In his reply to the letter, Haim Shapiro, the JLM POST correspondent who wrote the article, rejects the statement that P.F.I. is not a missionary group, and refers to material in his possession "aimed at converting Jews, records testimony of Christians intent on converting Jews and supports Christian-Hebrew groups in Israel." (JLM POST 28.5.84)

UCCI: Extensive quotations from items appearing in EREV SHABAT about missionary activity translated into English have been published in a missionary periodical, produced by the roof organization of the missionary bodies in Israel (V.C.C.I.). It is distributed among the "soul-hunters" so that they may know they are being tracked (quite closely) by the "Yad L'Ahim" activists. (EREV SHABAT 25.5.84)

KNESSET EDUCATION C'EE: The Agudas Yisroel representative, M.K. Shmuel Halpert, has demanded that laws be enacted against the 4,000 missionaries active throughout Israel to convert Jews from their religion. A representative of the Ministry of Justice at the Education Committee hearings, however, claimed that existing legislation in this area was sufficient. M.K. Ora Namir, chairing the committee, warned that every action against mission institutions was liable to cause a chain reaction in the Christian world against Jewish institutions. (MAARIV 12.6.84) A longer article from a very different angle on the same committee hearing appeared in HAMODIYA, organ of Agudas Yisroel, (13.6.84), which reported the appeal of the committee to enforce existing mission laws relating to bribery, children in non-Jewish schools, and information about mission activity. A minority report by MK Halpert and Yehuda Perah called for registration of all missionary institutions and supervision of their accounts, the appointment of a special person in the Gov't to deal with the mission problem, and the setting up of

a public council to investigate the entire problem of the missions and to present practical recommendations for dealing with it. MK Halpert also claimed that no action was being taken by the authorities to enforce the anti-bribery law or the truancy law involving "thousands of (Jewish) children studying in mission institutions. He proposed legislation forbidding the education of children belonging to one religion in the institutions of another religion, forbidding all missionary preaching, and the registration of missionary institutions as amutot (non-profit societies) and the publication of the names of their pupils.

KIBBUTZ YIFTAH: At the Education C'tee of the Knesset, Nahman Raz (Labour), a member of Kibbutz Yiftah related that a group of Christian youth were guests of the kibbutz, but the group was removed from the kibbutz when it was learned that they had a secret intent to convert Jews. (MAARIV 13.6.84)

MISSIONARY HAGADDA: Additional news clips about "missionary hagaddas", Passover Seder liturgies adapted by Messianic/Hebrew-Christian groups were reported overseas. JEWISH PRESS (B'klyn NY, 15.4.84) reported a warning to Jewish public not to attend Seders hosted "by deceptive Hebrew-Christian missionary groups," and offered a "hotline...for any student wishing placement for the Passover Holiday" in observant Jewish homes in the U.S. and Canada. The Jewish Community Relations Council's Task Force on Missionaries & Cults reported on a "Jews for J...sponsoring a banquet...and invitations which read "LET'S BREAK MATZA TOGETHER." For people seeking authentic Passover seders, a contact phone number of the N.Y. Board of Rabbis is provided. The Yiddish-language journal "DER YID" (N.Y., 4.5.84), reporting on the Messianic Hagadda of "Keren Ahva Meshihit", apparently from an ultra-orthodox (and antizionist) perspective, makes an initial comparison to "the versions of the Zionist preachers" of the Passover Hagadda. (SEE SELECTIONS 122/3

FREE BIBLES: "Beware Free Bibles," the "League for Human Rights" warns the Jewish community. "The Holy Scriptures and Israel Bible Society is a non-Jewish proselytizing organization (which) through their free offer hopes to entice people onto its mailing list. The letters from the Society list a Hawkesbury, Ontario mailing address." (JEWISH PRESS 8.6.84)

SHLOMO GEZ, NAHARIYA: A year after he was baptized, Shlomo Gez (27) of Nahariya was asked to be immersed again in order to marry as a fully-recognized Jew. Christian missionaries had baptized Gez at the Nahariya seashore. According to his ID card he remained a Jew, but when he recently sought to wed according to the rules of Judaism, the Nahariya Rabbi Dr. Aharon Keller referred him to "Yad L'Ahim" and to the Rabbinical Court in Haifa to provide him with a certificate attesting to his return to Judaism. In the near future he will probably have to undergo another immersion, but in a mikva (a Jewish ritual bath) for returning to Judaism.

It was also reported (in the same news item) that Yad L'Ahim has been distributing a "black list" among marriage registrars and burial societies with the names of some 300 Jews who have accepted the Christian religion and in whose ID card there has been no change recorded from Judaism. (HADASHOT TE LAVIV 18.6.84)

SAFED: Tens of social workers gathered this week in Safed to study the topic of "The War Against the Mission and Christian Preaching," organized by the Union of Social Workers and initiated by David Badin, a Safed social worker. He claimed that the main victims of the missionaries are the sick, the elderly and the poor "who are our responsibility." Taking part in the conference are anthropologists, social workers, public figures and activists of Yad L'Ahim, and each one will explain the damage of the missionary enterprise from his perspective. (EHEV SEABAT B'NEI BRAK : 29.6.84)

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES IN ISRAEL: In a feature appearing in "JEWISH PRESS" (B'klyn NY) "ON MISSIONARIES" by Rabbi Shmuel Golding, excerpts from the writings of Christians living in Israel were quoted: "Under the heading BIBIE DISTRIBUTION, Shlomo Hizak (now pastor of the Mount of Olives Bible Centre) writes: 'Several rooms in the building are used for mailing thousands of Bibles and other literature to Jews & Arabs. There are now some 40,000 addresses in the files...It has been possible to send out over 5,000 Bibles to people behind the Iron Curtain from our centre in J'lm. A further 300,000 copies of books specially prepared for Israel have recently been printed in Hebrew and other languages, and...we have been able to have our own printing press operation....Meetings are held every week in Christ Church near Jaffa Gate in J'lm...Salem Fanous has meetings in Ramleh. We also have good cooperation with the different established denominations in Israel...'" (13.4.84 page 14)

A follow-up article dealt with "another active missionary, Pastor Rob't Lindsey of the Narkis St. Baptist Church. When a year ago his church was burnt down, he told the Jewish

nation that he and his church do not believe in proselytizing the Jewish people...Here are some extracts from an interview with Rev Lindsey found in a book "BELONGING" by Jas. Mc-Neish (p. 169): 'After I succeeded in getting through to all these obtuse Jews, give me another thousand years and I'll make them missionaries to the world!' (p. 173): 'I preach here without restriction. I have been here for so long, I feel an insider. Yesterday we had a service with perhaps 12 or 15 Jewish people participating. Tomorrow we will have a baptism, two people to be baptized, both Jewish. (p.175): 'There is a fellow, a government official, coming to the services. The other night he said he had decided that he had no other option than to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.'

"Avraham Yaacob is an old man in traditional garb, with a long white beard, specializes in speaking to Yeshiva lads, particularly penitents, about Jesus. He is a kindly old man, charismatic and very convincing, and often takes part in Church services, and claims to have won several Yeshiva students to Jesus and baptism." (20.4.84)

"Another very active group in J'lm is the Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. On the back pages of their monthly magazine is the regular newsletter of their men in Jerusalem, Joel....In his lengthy article Joel describes how he managed to become a guard in the religious school 'not far from home for one day by standing in for a neighbour. 'There were many children present from 13 years of age and above and also many teachers...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 which I was pleased to answer. It was like an impossible dream, like going behind an Iron Curtain, there to proclaim the truth about the living, loving, soon-returning Saviour. His Word is alive and powerful--even in a religious Jewish school in Israel.' (There follow excerpts from an article in "THE FIG TREE" (Jan-Feb.'83, p.4), the newsletter of Mr. & Mrs. Taine, describing a home Bible Study, open house for the poor and aimless, and the baptism of a 79-year-old Jewish man.) 27.4.84.

A half-page three-column article headed "A CHRISTIAN IN A JEWISH STATE STUDIES", by Yaakov Rodan, Mideast Bureau Chief of JEWISH PRESS, appeared on 1 Jun 84 (p.52) describing a Christian in an Absorption Centre Hebrew ulpan (language seminar); the activities of the Christian Embassy, Project Kibbutz, the work of Rabbi Shmuel Golding against missions, the Beth Shalom movement, and there are references to the Hebrew-Christian movement and the anti-mission law. "Still, Israeli officials publicly play down the extent of the missionary activity, but some make it clear they don't approve...Daniel Rossing, head of Christian relations for the Min. of Religion, said: "Missionary activity does not fit in well with our goal to have mutual respect for all members of society." Others say some of those accused of being missionaries have lent much-needed financial and political support to Israel. Beth Shalom missions headed by Wim Malgo have given nearly ten million dollars to Israeli institutions.

Some officials are upset by the charges of Jews who oppose these Christian projects. They point out that whatever missionary efforts these groups allegedly undertook failed. "Look," an official said, "anybody who calls himself a good Christian is going to try to spread his religion. We should expect that." But not all Christians would agree. Ake Skoog, head of the Swedish Theological Seminary in J'lm, says Christian missionary activity is "theologically wrong" and "morally stupid." He believes reports of missionary activity are exaggerated, but agrees with many Jews that avowed Christian supporters of Israel are now in the forefront of the effort to convert Jews. "I think Israelis should take a good look at those people who suddenly proclaim their undying friendship for them," he said. (END EXCERPTS)

"THE LOVE BOMB: DEALING WITH THE MISSIONARY THREAT IN ISRAEL": "The Jewish Observer" (New York, NY) in its April 1984 issue devoted seven full pages, including eight photographs, to a feature article by Mrs. Nehama Consuelo Nahmoud, a Jerusalemite, to "the missionary threat". Beginning with the 1980 Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization in Thailand when the so-called "love bomb" was introduced as a major technique in evangelization of Jews, it continues with tales of missionary success and counteractions by such experts as "Dr. Samuel Golding" and "Yad L'Ahim", who apparently provided the main material for the article. "Experts estimate around 2,000 now pray with Christian evangelical groups, while 10,000 more are caught in non-Christian cults." Golding is said to have "a large staff of workers--actually undercover agents...and paid investigators (who) are efficient. The Golding archives occupy a room to themselves where there are hundreds of files on missionaries..."

"Yad L'Ahim's combat techniques include publishing--booklets with pictures, addresses and methods of various missionary groups and cults, and a regular bulletin. When a missionary is rumoured to be in a given neighbourhood Yad L'Ahim may send an investigator posing as a prospective client, to check him out, and also interview neighbours about their suspect's lifestyle. If he has a regular job, the organization may inform the missionary's employer of his extra-curricular assignments; landlords are often influenced to evict the troublemaker. Sometimes a photograph of the missionary and handbills with a picture and description, similar to an FBI "WANTED" poster, is put into all the mailboxes in the neighbourhood. Other times, a missionary may find a row of pickets outside his house carrying placards announcing "This is a missionary."

Every Jew who has espoused Christianity does not necessarily belong to "Jews for Jesus," the name of a San Francisco-based demi-cult headed by Moshe Rosen. There are Jews in nearly all the churches in Christendom, and they are called "Hebrew Christians" or "Messianic Believers." These Jews either volunteer or are recruited for missionary work in Israel, which complicates the missionary mess in several ways.

The Messianic Assembly of Israel is one of three small Hebrew Christian groups. Run by a Dr. Backhouse and Victor Smadja, an apostate Jew, they have an office, warehouse and printshop at Rehov Dina Monetta 3, Talpiot, J'lm, and are in league with another group called "OPERATION MOBILIZATION," who run a bookstore in Haifa. The Bethesda Congregation, 59 Allenby Road, Haifa, has a special prayer service on Shabbat for new Soviet Jewish immigrants. The Rehovot Church Messianic Cong., Derech Yavne 52, is run by Rev. Barukh Ma'oz, who has a printing press in his apartment and is now writing a course on how to missionize Jews in Israel in collaboration with the Immanuel Lutheran Church in TelAviv-Yaffo.

Stories about missionaries in the Israel Defence Forces, on the roads picking up hitchhikers, at the Christian Embassy in J'lm, in Project Kibbutz and Kibbutz Shalom, at New Immigrant Absorption Centres and in the Jerusalem "Musrara slum, not far from the border of Mea Shearim (ultra-orthodox) neighbourhood" are provided from the files of Yad L'Ahim and Shmuel Golding, with information about how to contact the anti-missionaries in Jerusalem, and their counterparts in New York, Los Angeles & Miami Beach, Florida.

ANOTHER VIEW: Jewish journals in Jacksonville (Fla.), Minneapolis (Minn.), Omaha (Nebr.) Toronto (Canada), Winnipeg (Can.) and Johannesburg (S.Af.) reprinted an article by Carl Alpert of Haifa giving another view on missionaries in Israel. Excerpts follow: We have been asked if there is any truth to the assertion that Christian missionary activity in Israel is becoming a serious threat, a claim which is causing near panic among some North American Jews. It is true that there is missionary work in Israel. British evangelical societies have operated among the Jews of Palestine for more than 150 years. We do not see indications of any unusual increase in this ongoing missionary activity. What has increased is the anti-missionary publicity. New organizations and PR activity of certain individuals give the impression that there has been a sudden spurt in proselytizing. The spurt has been in the counter-missionary work, leading to the impression that terrible things have been happening. We wonder to what extent the alarmist exaggerations of the anti-missionaries have the same purpose (as the exaggerated publicity given by Christian missionary groups to the occasional and rare conversions, encouraging financial sources back in the U.S.A. to send more money to save more souls).

To cite these (conversions) as indication of a great and menacing wave of missionary activity is to render a terrible disservice in that it also condemns every warm-hearted Christian who may express an honest "love" for the Jewish people. Our own extremists feel that the most effective way to combat proselytizing is to prevent any contact between Jews and Christians. Missionary activity is not illegal in Israel. This is a democratic country and Christians are free to propagandize for their faith just as Jews are free (with much greater success) to propagandize for their faith. What is illegal is to offer money or other tangible inducement to change one's religion. Much more serious in Israel is the trend toward cults among the youth. The young Jews who have fallen victims to these number in the hundreds. In summary: There is missionary work here; it is occasionally successful, but the only real upsurge is in the renewed public relations program of the Jewish religious groups which combat the missionaries. So long as the activists do not succumb to hysteria, their educational efforts (promoting Judaism) merit support. (END EXCERPTS)

Several Letters to Editor in the JEWISH PRESS (B'klyn NY) and the JEWISH ECHO (Glasgow, Scotland) called for action against Christian missionaries. A letter in "YAD LAKOREH (Jerusalem) cited "Yanetz Quality Books, POB 7352 Haifa" as a sophisticated missionary publisher which advertises in the daily press.

HEBREW CHRISTIANS

An exposé headed "HEBREW CHRISTIANS GEAR UP FOR MAJOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWS IN JULY" appeared in JEWISH PRESS (18.5.84) by Julius Liebb, summarizing various campaigns said to be in the offing by various Hebrew Christian groups, such as JEWS FOR JESUS, CONFERENCE OF JEWISH MINISTRIES (Ariel, Beth Sar Shalom, Christian Bros. Jewish Ministries), AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS TO JEWS (allegedly gathering at Messiah College in Grantham, Pa.) to formulate plans for missionary efforts. Dr. Philip D. Abramowitz, director of the Task Force on Missionaries & Cult. of the Jewish Community Relations Council, claimed that behind "all this feverish activity is the missionaries' belief that the approaching millennium of the year 2,000 could bring the resurrection of Jesus if two conditions are met: the security of Israel and the conversion of as many Jews as possible." There follows a summary of Hebrew-Christian literature, somewhat garbled, the use of Jewish holidays and themes, as well as ways to counteract Hebrew-Christian activities.

MSGR. LUSTIGER: "Recently I met Msgr. Lustiger, the archbishop of Paris (who) took me aside and said in Yiddish, 'Nu, Marek, how are you? We must get together soon. Your book is an extraordinary step in the Judeo-Christian reconciliation without making any concessions.' I think the meeting was very symbolic. We didn't speak French together but Yiddish. He was born a Jew in Poland and was converted at the age of 14. He is an important person in the Catholic world--he may be pope one day." (From an interview with Marek Halter, best-selling French-Jewish author of "La Mémoire d'Abraham," an historical novel of Jewish history; in the JERUSALEM POST Magazine 18.5.84)

DANIEL RUFISEN: A two-page feature article about the Hebrew-Catholic monk Daniel Rufeisen in "YEDOT AKHRONOT" (undated), headed "BETWEEN TWO WORLDS" and summarized thereunder: "When they removed the body of Teresa Engelovitz from her grave he was ashamed of his Jewish origin. When they returned her body, he proposed as a Christian that they provide for her another restingplace. Brother Daniel Rufeisen, who stirred up a tempest in the 1960s when he asked to be registered as a Jew notwithstanding his conversion (to Catholicism), lives in a curious world between Judaism and Christianity. In church he prays in Hebrew and does not mention the Holy Trinity. He removes his clerical robe outside (the monastery) and refuses to wear a cross. In his monastic chamber at Stella Maris he is weaving the fabric of his dream of Hebrew Christianity in the Holy Land." (Amos Nevo)

The writer describes the life of the Hebrew monk, first at the Latin Church in Lower Haifa (where he offered prayer for the soul of Yaacov Levinson at the time of his tragic suicide), Rufeisen's Zionist-Jewish background in pre-war Poland, his experiences during the Holocaust when he posed as a German-Pole and worked with the Jewish anti-Nazi underground and saved several hundred Jews from liquidation until he was betrayed, his rescue by Polish men, and subsequent conversion and ordination as a monk, his appeal for citizenship in Israel in 1952 under the Law of Return, the rejection of his petition by the majority of the High Court, his friendship with the man who since became Pope John Paul II, his views on various issues relating to Catholicism, Judaism, Israel, mission, etc.

He claims that a kibbutz friend, an observant Jew (a Hebrew University professor) and an Italian professor and mayor encouraged and supported him in his appeal to the High Court. He now regrets that he did not take the advice of several Israeli officials who asked him to drop the matter before adjudication. He doesn't believe the time is ripe yet for the revival of Hebrew Christianity, and is especially critical of the Catholic Church with respect to veneration of the saints, monasticism, and various theological and practical perspectives. He is a pastor of a flock of some 500 believers in the north. "As long as the Church has not developed conditions for the renewal of Jewish Christianity and as long as Judaism does not allow for religious pluralism, there is no place for Mission," he states.

"THE OTHER CREEK": "They see themselves as Jews and believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Some 2,000 in all. At Passover they read a special haggada "to the glory of our Lord Yeshua," at Purim they rejoice at the restoration of Messianic Judaism, on Yom Kippur they fast as a sign of identification with the Jews. It's not easy for them. Yad L'Achim has declared total war on them. The organization head Rabbi Porush says: When we discover a soldier reading the New Testament we immediately

notify the chaplain and his commanders..." The article, headed FAITH/WITHOUT CARDINALS, WITHOUT A POPE...THE OTHER CHEEK" by Sara Leibovitz, a three-page feature article with photographs and a box interview with Professor David Flusser of the Hebrew University headed "MORE CHRISTIAN THAN JEWISH", appeared in KOT HET ROSHEET "HEADLINE"), a weekly magazine (dated 30.5.84), and aimed to present a journalistic view of the Messianic movement. Based on interviews with Victor Smadja, Menahem Ben-Hayyim, a 26-year-old Jerusalemite Hanna, Rabbi Moshe Porush of Yad L'Ahim, as well as attendance at Bible Study (led by Warren Graham) and Sabbath worship in the Messianic Assembly of Jerusalem, the article also cites other sources, including Prof. David Flusser, who concludes that "generally the Messianics feel identified with the State and hope to be involved in the life of Israel. We should have an open-hearted attitude toward them out of respect for their Zionist inclinations and so as not to become involved in a dispute with the Christian churches (which has an ambivalent attitude towards them). Who are the Messianic Jews...Jews, Christians, a new religious group? Messianism is not a new religion. Whoever knows Christianity well understands that they are more Christian than Jewish."

"CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISTS" AND THE "JEWISH UNDERGROUND"

THE TEMPLE MOUNT: Groups of Christian extremists in the U.S. were among those funding the Underground in the territories, transferring millions of dollars to its leaders, according to Michael and Barbara Lodeen, writing in the prestigious weekly "NEW REPUBLIC". The purpose of this cooperative effort was the removal of the mosques from the Temple Mount and the erection of the Holy Temple. The writers note that the Underground leaders and their American Christian supporters believe that the erection of the Temple will hasten the redemption, which will be made possible following the War of Gog and Magog in the Temple Mount environs. Among the leaders of the Christian groups supporting the Underground in the territories mentioned by the writers are the Revs. Hilton Sutton, Jas. Bullock, Chuck Smith and Chas. Munroe, the last-named being head of the Jerusalem Foundation for the Building of the Temple (in English: JERUSALEM TEMPLE FOUNDATION). These clergymen are in constant contact with the two Chief Rabbis of Israel.

The writers also mention the name of Stanley Goldfoot as the link between the Underground leaders and the Christian leaders. He is a South African Jew who came to Israel in the 1930s. On 15.1.84 Goldfoot sent a letter to his Christian friends in which he hinted what were the Underground plans: "We are investigating a certain plan which will have important implications. This is a secret plan which I cannot detail here," he wrote. The letter fell into the hands of the Israeli Security services and helped expose the plans of the Underground. The article also tells of a pilot in the Reserves, a "penitent" (a secular Jew become Orthodox), who offered his services to take the Underground for bombing the Temple Mount. His idea was to steal an F-16, but his plan was rejected for fear that he would hit the Western Wall and would not be able to land in Israeli territory. (HADASHOT 5.5.84)

Stanley Goldfoot, who the NEW REPUBLIC claimed is the link between the Jewish Underground and Christians in the USA, lives in the German Colony in Jerusalem. Goldfoot told me that he had sent a secret letter to U.S. Christian organizations about the Temple Mount. "We are investigating something very special, which is not for publication," but the aim was to peer into the hidden foundations of the Temple; not bombing. Goldfoot, age 70, was in the Jewish Underground "Lehi" in the pre-State period, and sat in prison for it. He has strong ties with the Jewish settlements (on the West Bank) and also with the Christians, but—he says—there is no connection between the two. Gush Emunim does not want ties with Gentiles. Goldfoot knows well the fundamental Christian theories relating to the Temple, the anticipated redemption, and the war of Gog and Magog. Some of his Christian friends shrink from the heavy involvement in the redemption, which according to their faith means the destruction of 6/7 of the Jewish people, while the surviving 1/7 will build the Fourth Temple together with the Christians. Goldfoot characterizes the head of the Jerusalem Temple Foundation, Rev. Chas. Munroe, in an outburst of anger, "an absolute idiot;" perhaps to disassociate himself from him.

At the end of 1983 a secret plan was unfolded with documents and reports exchanged between Goldfoot and his Christian friends in the USA. The plan included a flight over the Temple Mount in order to photograph by means of infra-red rays for the purpose of locating hollow unknown areas and foundations of the Temple, a system which he says has been tried in archaeology and military intelligence and has been helpful in exposing tunnels, passages and other objects hidden from the naked eye. Other investigative implements were also employed in order to provide a very good picture

of the Temple interior and perhaps uncover remnants from the Temple. The cost of one such film is 50,000 dollars alone!

Goldfoot reminds me: "Everything here is moving in a certain direction, the liberation of Judea and Samaria, the Temple Mount, the settlements. There is a tremendous growing passion among people to pray on the Temple Mount." His solution is by means of politics and science. There is place on the Temple Mount for everybody, the El Aksa mosque doesn't disturb him nor does the Dome of the Rock. There is a place 100 metres northward for the Temple, and in the southeast corner a holy place for the Christians, the site of St. James' death. (HADASHOT, Yigal Sarna, 7.6.84)

INTERVIEW IN "HAAHETZ" WITH DR. HILTON SUTTON (By Lilly Galili) 8.6.84

Q In an article published in the NEW REPUBLIC in the USA, you and two of your colleagues were personally linked ideologically and financially to the aims of the Jewish Underground in connection with the Temple Mount.

A It is all a fantasy. I only learned about the story during my visit to Israel. Dr. Monroe and I are not millionaires and we could never raise such huge sums for Israel. I also doubt that my middle-class congregation could contribute the kind of money mentioned.

Q There is the saying, "no smoke without a fire." How were your names linked to the affair?

A We are Messianics who believe that Jesus will return to Israel, and this makes us brothers in expectation with those Jews waiting for the Messiah. Aside from this, Dr. Monroe is the head of the Jerusalem Temple Foundation in the USA, and I am the director. Our main goal is to bring about freedom of worship on the Temple Mount. To this end, the mosques must be removed, but not by means of terror. This will take place some time, by a diplomatic process or by Heaven, as for example through an earthquake.

Q It's not clear to me why the removal of the mosques is an essential step.

A Because the rebuilding of the Temple is inherent in the prophecy of Zechariah, but under the supervision of the Messiah. I believe in the coming confrontation with Gog and Magog and the subsequent coming of Messiah, but I cannot support anyone who will force these moves. God will determine the timing, not we.

Q Rumour has it that your present visit is linked to the Jewish underground.

A Absolutely not. I came at the head of a Christian group for the celebration of Pentecost. I am proud to be a Christian Zionist and support the right of every Jew to defend himself, but I will not support anyone who uses this as a mask for terror.

Q What do you intend doing with respect to these grave accusations?

A It is difficult to take steps against a newspaper in the USA. I will demand that they publish a corrected news report. If they refuse, we will take other steps. (END)

"MISSION TO AMERICA": "We shall demand an apology from the NEW REPUBLIC Magazine for defaming our good name by writing that we are supporters of the Jewish terror organization with millions of dollars," Mr. Hilton Sutton, one of the heads of the organization "MISSION TO AMERICA" stated at a press conference he organized yesterday in Tel-Aviv. Mr. Sutton is a U.S. radio broadcaster representing a nonprofit Catholic (sic!) Christian organization, which was set up for the purpose of humanitarian activity in the U.S. and abroad. "Our activity is aimed at bringing to the attention of the Christian public the importance of our attitude, as Americans, to the Israeli people." He added that he was presently making his 13th visit to Israel, and "I was astonished to learn that a Hebrew newspaper had printed defamatory remarks against us citing an American journal known for its leftist opinions and its sympathy for the PLO. If no apology is forthcoming, we will take legal action....There is no truth in what was attributed to us by the American journal." (HAMODIYA : 12.6.84)

(A similar article appeared in the JLM POST same date.) On 15.6.84 the JLM POST published a two-page feature article in its magazine section headed "THE TEMPLE MOUNT CONNECTION" by reporter Louis Rapaport, who "investigates links between Evangelical Christians in the U.S. and groups of right-wing Israelis." The article makes reference to general Israeli apathy to the rebuilding of the Temple, to "the messianic Jews (who) share a similar spirit with the religious extremists of all nations," to "a group of minor actors attempting to forge links between some Christian Evangelicals and zealots of Jewish religious nationalism." Mentioned are Stanley Goldfoot, Hilton Sutton, Lambert Dolphin, a physicist, Terry Risenhoover and other members of the J'lm Temple Foundation, the strengthening ties between American Jews and Evangelicals, contacts and rejections involving Evangelical and Jewish groups in Israel, and a generally negative stance taken by the reporter towards all phases of the movement, which he attributes to "religious intoxication." END TRANSCRIPTION/8 Jul 84/mb