

CHRISTIAN RADIO AND TV IN LEBANON...AND ISRAEL

During the months of August and September 1984 a total of 43 clippings were culled (mainly from Israeli Hebrew and foreign language press), dealing with the campaign mounted by Orthodox Jewish political and religious leaders against the "MIDDLE EAST TELEVISION STATION" ("STAR OF HOPE") and the "VOICE OF HOPE" radio station sponsored by George Otis' "HIGH ADVENTURE" ministry, the TV by the CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK (C.B.N.).

The Orthodox lobby, spearheaded by the anti-mission society "YAD L'AHIM", contend that the radio and TV programs ostensibly beamed at South Lebanese Christians are widely followed by Israeli Jews in the north of Israel and represent a blatant attempt at introducing "missionary propaganda" to Israeli Jewish homes. Among the actions taken by the anti-mission activists have been the organization of a well-publicized demonstration at "the Good Fence" along the Israeli-Lebanese border and outside staff offices of the stations in the Israeli town of Metulla near the Lebanese border. They are demanding that the Israeli Gov't take steps to end the present cooperation between the Israel Defence Force and the broadcasters and to take other measures which will effectively terminate Christian broadcasting to Israel from South Lebanon.

Tens of thousands of Israelis are said to be receiving Middle East TV, which Israeli pundits have dubbed Israel's "third channel", following the national TV channel and Jordan's channel. The TV station, originally set up by Otis, was later turned over to C.B.N., which is said to be backed by leading U.S. Evangelicals such as "Moral Majority" leader Jerry Falwell. The station transmits news, sports, comedy, Westerns and other features in English and Arabic, interspersed with Christian religious "missionary" programs, such as the "700" club, "in sophisticated and dangerous ways," according to an anti-mission spokesman. On their part, station spokesman counter that they are volunteers working for peace in the Middle East and are having an impact on the South Lebanese to the extent that terrorists have made attempts to foil their operation. "Is it conceivable that what the terrorists have failed to do will be achieved by the religious parties in Israel?" a staff member asked.

At the major demonstration against the radio and TV stations on 14.8.84 near "the Good Fence" several dozens of rabbis and their followers (about 30) bearing placards in English and Hebrew denounced the stations. Several local Israelis at the scene argued with the demonstrators, supporting the programs. The station staff refused to make direct comment on the demonstration and charges against them. "We seek to bring peace and tranquility to the region and we do not occupy ourselves with demonstrations," a staff member remarked.

A correspondent for the Hebrew daily "HADASHOT" (17.8.84) reported a four-way dialogue-dispute between himself (Hanoach Marmari), the Canadian Evangelist Grant Livingstone, "YAD L'AHIM" leader Moshe Porush, and zealot Jonatan Bender. He quoted Livingstone as a self-declared missionary. ("Every Christian worth his salt is a missionary.") Moshe Porush of "Yad L'Ahim" is described as "an intelligent young man, moderate in his formulations, the very opposite of Kahane." ("There is no Jewish station in the world that seeks to convert people from their religion to Judaism, something which is against the principles of Judaism. We have no quarrel with Christianity, only with the Mission.") On the other hand, Y. Bender is described as "hysterical," a Kahane type. ("The New Testament is an antisemitic book...I studied theology in Ireland and I have proofs. Go save the souls of the drunks in Canada and the whores in Hamburg," he tells Livingstone.)

A similar article appeared in "AL HAMISHMAR" (17.8.84), which noted some of the positive sides of the Christian station and the support behind it of U.S. Christians. "There is no doubt that the dispute stirred up again by the ultra-orthodox organization is not helping the image of Israel in Christian eyes, even if there is truth in the charge about Christian propaganda. The immense value to Israel derived from these two stations supported by some 20 million Christians far outweighs other considerations," the writer, Yehuda Tsur, concludes.

"DAVAR" reporter Shimon Weiss quoted on 23.9.84 from letters of appreciation reportedly received by the TV station from enthusiastic Israeli viewers, including one by an I.D.F. officer who was said to have accepted faith in Jesus as a result of the telecast. The ultra-orthodox Jews are only playing into the hands of the station operators, the writer claims, by highlighting the religious programming which, he believes, (MORE)

most Israeli viewers have been ignoring, but who will now be curious to watch because of all the publicity given to it by Jewish religious oppositionists.

Meanwhile, the anti-mission society is planning other steps in its campaign against the stations, in addition to demonstrations, such as organizing a mass petition to the Gov't to put a halt to its cooperation with the stations, ^{and to initiate} an information effort to persuade the Israeli public to boycott the stations. A news item in "HAARETZ" (21.8.84) reported that transmission was being improved, along with the quality of the films, and there would be a reduction in religious programming on the TV station, while Hebrew subtitling would be introduced for the films. (COMPILED FROM VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES--4½ clips.)

ANTI-MISSION PROTESTS IN JERUSALEM

The YAD L'AHIM group state that recently the activity of the missionaries in town has increased and that they have established centres in Ussishkin Street, Bar-Kochba Street and at two other points already operating in the city. They conducted three protest vigils opposite each one of the sites being used by the missionaries. Moshe Porush, chairman of YAD L'AHIM, stated that according to information he has, many "soldiers" have recently joined the ranks of the missionaries in town. A protest vigil was also conducted in front of the Baptist Church building which was burnt down two years ago and has not yet been restored. (PHOTO WITH PLACARDS: PLEASE DON'T SAVE US!!" BEING HELD BY FEMALE PICKETS.) KAUL HA'IR--21.9.84. A longer description of the event appeared in the ultraorthodox daily HAMODIYA (21.9.84) headed "PROTEST VIGILS AGAINST THE MISSION STATIONED YESTERDAY AT FOUR FOCAL POINTS IN JERUSALEM." Additional description of the four points were provided, such as: Some ten young women carried placards against the Christian mission in front of the Narkis Street Baptist congregation. Two new missionary centres are: NETIVYA, a centre for Jewish apostates at 16 Narkis Street, and the Caspari Centre, an institute for the preparation of apostasy programs for the Jewish people, at Bar Kochba Street, 91, on French Hill.

In addition to the appearance of "Jews for J-s-s" groups on the streets and the distribution of missionary material in great quantities, alongside the massive infiltration of Jewish and non-Jewish missionaries from abroad, the YAD L'AHIM people have decided to share with the broader public its anti-mission struggle by means of a series of activities, the first of which was the stationing of protest vigils at the four mission centres in Jerusalem. Three of these centres are almost solely aimed at Jews, but the fourth one (the Baptist Church), although many non-Jews are part of it, is a dangerous missionary centre.

In Jerusalem there are many additional mission points, such as, for example, "The Holy Scripture Centre" of the apostate Shlomo Hizak, the Anglican club on Shivtei Yisrael Street, "Beit HaMevaser," the coffee bar on 33 Prophets Street, and others, all of which will be spotlighted at later dates. More than 2,000 Jewish apostates are living in Israel today, among whom are "believers" not linked to missionary activity, while others are engaged either wholly or partly in missionary work, and are assisted by a large "import" of foreign missionaries scattered about the country, in Absorption Centres and ulpanim (Hebrew-language seminars), in kibbutzim, hospitals, etc., exploiting every possible occasion no matter how unrealistic to infiltrate "the Gospel", beginning with radio and TV stations (from South Lebanon) to preachments to hitchhikers. The main targets are people in distress, whether economic or emotional and spiritual, among young people, new immigrants and the like. (A shorter article on the subject appeared in ERV SHABBAT, B'nei Brak, 21.9.84, which included a reference to the Messianic Assembly on Prophets Street, "which stands behind the YA NETZ Publishers, who have recently increased their promulgation of missionary material coming from their printing plant in huge quantities." The article also noted that YAD L'AHIM was making an urgent appeal to ban all conversionist propaganda and to plug the loopholes in the mission law enacted six years ago.)

JEW FOR JESUS: A member of the movement "JEW FOR JESUS"—Jews who believe the Messiah has come—debating with a passerby on Dizengoff Street in Tel-Aviv. (PHOTO of Yaacov with "Y'SHUA" T-shirt in AL HAMISHMAR 22.8.84)

MESSIANIC SECT AGAINST TAX EVASION: "TAX EVASION IS A FORM OF THEFT," so states a tract distributed on Friday by the Messianic sect in downtown Jerusalem. The only address listed was P.O.B. 75 Rishon LeZion. "If everyone were paying taxes faithfully, the tax burden would be reduced, inflation would go down, the economy would be healthier, consciences would be cleaner, there would be enough money for education, welfare and development...and God would bless us because tax evasion is a (MORE)

form of theft, and God commands: "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," the authors of this amazing tract proclaim. The members of the Messianic sect identify themselves as "Jews and Israelis who believe in God and see in Him the basic essential of this world and of our lives. We believe in the Tenach (Old Test.) and in the New Testament, and we do not think that anyman must be dependent on another man in order to know the will of God, whether that man be a great rabbi or a pope. Everyone can read the Holy Scriptures, study it, understand it, and know it."

Passersby receiving the tracts on the central mall in Jerusalem engaged in debates "with these crazies of the Messianic sects who are bringing calamities upon the people of Israel," as per Joseph Elkayim, a Jerusalem merchant. On the other hand, Yitzhak Cohen, a high school student, declared: "If they are working to get people to pay taxes, what's bad about that?" (Cad Leor, YE DIOT AKHRONOT, 26.8.84)

NIGHT TIME ATTACK ON MESSIANIC JEWS: In the dead of night a nightmare came down upon Tamara Ronen and her three daughters, ages 9 to 17, a "Gentile" woman who was a victim of ultra-orthodox extremists who the night before last attacked their Kiryat Nordau cabin in Netanya with a hail of stones, smashed the windows, injured one of the daughters and struck with the fist the dazed mother. The story of this family with a Jewish father and a Russian-born mother (who claims she was enrolled as a Jew by "mistake") has already been published in "MAARIV". The couple is divorced and the children live with their mother. Marina Ronen, age 17, an attractive ginger-haired girl, described the incident:-

"It was 11:00 at night, and Mother was asleep when we heard a knocking on the door and dogs barking. I asked who was there, and they replied, "Open up, we are the police." Tamara got up to look out the window, where she saw a group of young men with skullcaps and sidecurls who looked like yeshiva students. "After they gave a warning that if we didn't open the door, they would force it open, they threw something." The glass was shattered and fell on the bed, and Dina, age 12, was injured by broken glass. At that moment four young men tried to break in, and Gila, age 9, broke out in weeping. Marina opened the door and the four tried to force their way in. "One tall fellow punched Mother and they threw stones into the house, and then the neighbours came out and the attackers fled." A neighbour was asked to call the police, who told her to come in the following day to register a complaint.

Marina Ronen, who wears a cross around her neck, told MAARIV that she and her family belong to the sect of the "Messianic Jews" who believe in Jesus. Netanya police officer Shalom Arica stated yesterday, "The police are giving the matter high priority. This is simply hooliganism, and an investigator has gone to inspect the site and to take testimony." He expressed surprise at the charge that the police had not arrived immediately on the scene. (YE DIOT AKHRONOT 24.8.84)

BETH EBENEZER: "YAD L'AHIM SPOKE SMAN: MOST OF THE RESIDENTS AT THE CHRISTIAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME IN HAIFA ARE JEWS, SOME OF WHOM HAVE BEEN BAPTISED IN A BAPTISTRY AT THE SITE." A new method for converting Jews has recently been exposed by the "Yad L'Ahim activists in Haifa. As the result of a thoroughgoing investigation it has become clear that most of the old men and women in the Christian nursing home "Ebenezer" on Meir Street in Haifa are Jews despite the fact that the urban construction committee determined 12 years ago that the building permit would be granted for service to the Christian population only. Some of the Jews there were baptised into Christianity in the baptistry in the building while others who have not are under pressure and regularly attend worship services in the adjoining churches and "celebrate" Christian "festivals" alongside Jewish feasts.

"YAD L'AHIM" in Haifa has dispatched urgent letters this week to the Mayor, Mr. Arye Goral, members of the Municipal Council, the Chief Rabbis, Members of the Knesset, and others, calling for an investigation how Jews have come to be sheltered in a Christian nursing home set up by the World Lutheran Society some 15 years ago. The organization also proposed that the supervising agency of Nursing Homes refuse to renew the licenses of Christian nursing homes unless they are restricted to Christians. "It is inconceivable that Jews, sometimes from lack of alternatives, should spend their last days in the shadow of the cross," a press release issued by "Yad L'Ahim declared last night. They have decided to organize stormy demonstrations against the Nursing Home, which is engaged in soul hunting, if there is no immediate action taken by the proper authorities. (HAMODIYA 30.8.84)

MISSION TO THE RESCUE: "Two days ago two people who identified themselves as missionaries offered to help me by sending me to Canada and setting me up there...on
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condition that. I convert to Christianity along with my three daughters," so related Edith Harpaz, who is facing an eviction order from her home on Nordau Street in Tel-Aviv after she lost an appeal to the High Court who ordered her to return the flat to its owner. She has threatened to set the flat afire with herself and her children in it. Last week an attempt to implement the eviction order was frustrated by Harpaz who locked herself in.

The day before yesterday the missionaries arrived, she states. "I was happy that someone wanted to help me." The pair who spoke to her were Ruth and Hans, who said they were from Scotland, and they asked her to keep the matter secret. "I felt that this might be the solution for me. I'm not religious and am not observant of Judaism, and just by chance I was born Jewish...The main thing is that someone cares for me and my daughters." The woman gave her a picture of the Virgin Mary and four medallions for herself and her children. When she told the story to friends, they advised her to contact Jewish religious institutions who might help her. She then approached a rabbi on the street, who put her in touch with Uri Zohar (the comedian turned rabbi). "It doesn't matter who helps me, so long as I find shelter for me and my daughters," Harpaz says. (Edith Harpaz is divorced from the actor Shraga Harpaz.) YEDIOT AKHRONOT
Reporter: Nehama Duak 21.8.84

"ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST": Mordecai Zweegi, head of a family, without a place to live, tells "MAHANE HAREDI": "A MAN CAME FROM JERUSALEM AND OFFERED ME A TICKET OVERSEAS AND A FLAT ON CONDITION THAT WE AGREE TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY." The story of a family forced to leave a flat and find temporary shelter in a store-room where the head of the house works is related. After the problem was publicized, Mr. Zweegi reported a visit made by a mysterious personage who offered him and his family a flat and a new home overseas. "I was shocked and immediately asked the man to leave." He took leave of ^{him} quickly. Zweegi refuses to give details about the man. "He made me swear not to disclose his name to anyone, which I did, and therefore I cannot reveal his name." Meanwhile, he is afraid that his situation is deteriorating if no help is found. "Perhaps some righteous person will read your paper about my problem and will take an interest," he says. (Israel Kleinman in "HAMAHANE HAHAREDI, JERUSALEM 5.3.84)

"SOUND AND FURY": Two items, one in DAVAR (29.8.84) and one in "HATSOEHEH" (18.9.84), deal with threats to "go to the Mission" if aid is not forthcoming from school authorities. The first case involves a resident of Safed in Galilee, father of four children who were refused admittance to a religious school because he is not a Sabbath-observer and ^{has} kept his shop open on the Sabbath. He claims he is in dire financial straits, and if help is not forthcoming he will emigrate to France and convert to Christianity. The second case involves 15 Tel-Aviv parents who are threatening to enrol their children in a Christian school in Jaffa, St. Joseph's, if the school authorities insist on transferring the children under the terms of an educational reform plan. The local director of education expressed dismay and doubt over the threats, and he claims he gets about 800 threats of this kind each year.

MISSIONARY BEN CHAIM: In reply to the letter sent me about the missionary Menachem Ben Chaim, I had no difficulty upholding the veracity of my original article. It seems that my information concerning the missionary activities of the notorious convert who calls himself Menachem Ben Chaim was correct beyond any shadow of a doubt. Out of respect for the JEWISH PRESS readers, I personally went down to YAD L'ACHIM HQ and asked to see their file on Mr. Ben Chaim. I was given a sheaf of pamphlets, bulletins and circulars with his byline, all of them blatantly proselytizing in nature. He is, in fact, the secretary of the Hebrew Christian Alliance, has contributed to the publication of "Christian Witness to the Jewish People and did--as I reported--approach YAD L'ACHIM thro' a pen name soliciting antimissionary material. After this was exposed in local newspapers, he wrote a letter actually admitting his use of the pen name, knowing that he would not have otherwise received information....M. Weinbach, J'lm. (JEWISH PRESS 20.7.84)

GRANT LIVINGSTONE: Please note that you have unintentionally done a service to the Christian missionary cause in Israel by publishing the "supportive" letter of Grant Livingstone (29.6). G.L. is a leading missionary in the Galil, a fact well-documented in the files of Peilim (YAD L'ACHIM)...His pro-Israel stance is a cover. Be careful. Interview him when you are next in Israel. David Bedin. (JEWISH PRESS 27.8.84)

KEN BURNETT: Ken Burnett is a Jew who converted to Christianity. I do not doubt that the Int'l Christian Embassy in J'lm does good and helpful work, but I cannot believe that any Christian group--let alone one with which Mr. Burnett is associated--has abandoned efforts to convert Jews. Mervin A. Elliott, London. (JLM POST 9.9.84) MORE

ARE YOU CONSIDERING CHRISTIANITY? "JEWISH FAITH WORLD WIDE" is an organization dedicated to providing the factual Jewish response to Christian missionary teachings. Our approach is both logical and calm. We are specialists, well-versed in the New Testament and missionary interpretations of Hebrew Scriptures. Our individual counseling service is free of charge, private, informal and strictly confidential...based on Scripture only. Contact: Michael Drazin, JEWISH FAITH WORLD WIDE Inc., POB 788 TIBERIAS. (Advt. in JLM POST 3.8.84) This and similar advt. 24.8.84. (JLM POST)

CATHOLIC CHURCH REFRAINS: With a broad sweep Rabbi Yaakov Spivak briefly attempts to discuss Christianity (7/27). He seeks to protect Jews and Judaism from the claims of such groups as JEWS FOR JESUS, and has no room to include other varieties of Christianity. Catholic Church officials have refrained from promoting religious dialogue with the Orthodox Jewish community out of deep respect for your stated position on this....and refrains from any proselytizing directed toward the Jewish community. Also, Catholic moral values on such family issues as homosexuality, abortion, and birth control are in full accord with Orthodox Jewish beliefs. Such personages as Rabbi (Dr.) Irving Greenberg have recognized Christianity as a true religion and outgrowth of Judaism—for Gentiles....which makes every true Christian eternally indebted to the Jewish people, for thro' you comes redemption. (Rob't J. Bonsignore, Bklyn NY)

MISSIONARY PROPAGANDA: We have just completed reading a ^{JEWISH PRESS B'KLYN NY 9.8.84} recent edition of a magazine named "THE NEW ISRAELITE"...published by a division of the 7th Day Adventists in Manhasset, N.Y. The lead article is entitled "WHAT THE JEWS OWE MARTIN LUTHER", by a Clifford Goldstein (which) alone is enough to alert any thinking Jew...(and) the publishers had the hutzpa to send the magazine gratis to our Synagogue. I strongly suggest that all Synagogue Bulletin editors alert their congregants to the nature of this publication. (Brody, N.Miami Beach, FLA) JEWISH PRESS 9.8.84

WAR ON MISSIONARIES: Rabbi Yaakov Spivak, Exec. Direc. of EMES, announced the appointment of Larry Levey as full-time Director of Field Operations. Levey, an attorney, was the former head of campus evangelism for a leading Hebrew-Christian group...Levey, who gave up a law practice to lead anti-missionary activities, has fascinated audiences with the story of his former missionary activities designed to convert Jews to Christianity, and his subsequent return to traditional Jewish beliefs..EMES activities will include extensive programs on college campuses throughout the New York area. For more information, write: EMES, POB 122, Monsey, NY 10952. (JEWISH PRESS BKLYN NY 10.8.84)

HITCHHIKING CAMPAIGN: There is evidently no limit to the places missionaries will try to infiltrate in order to spread faith in "That Man." From various sources it is reported in recent weeks that they have begun distributing missionary material among I.D.F. soldiers at intersections and hitchhiking posts...sometimes the tracts are disguised as "pocket books" whose contents written in poor Hebrew become evident only after leafing through them. It isn't known who is behind this "campaign," but one of the active Protestant churches in the USA is referred to....(EHEV SHABBAT 7.9.84)

NORWEGIAN MISSION: The Jewish Community Relations Council's Task Force on Missionaries and Cults has sounded a warning of an active new missionary group in New York. The Norwegian Mission to the Nation of Israel, faced with opposition in Israel in their attempts to Christianize the Jews, has decided to branch out into the Jewish communities in New York and Paris. The Norwegian media has advertised the Mission's expansion. The Mission has been proselytizing for approximately 100 years in Israel, Rumania and Norway. In Israel, it is represented by the Lutheran Church in Jaffa. These self-proclaimed "Jewish messiahs" customarily gather both in Jaffa and near the "merkaz k'safri" (sic.) in Jerusalem for Bible study. Their intention to become active among students in Ramat Aviv, a community near Tel-Aviv University, has also become public knowledge...Any additional information regarding the Norwegian Mission should be directed to the Task Force...(JEWISH PRESS 14.9.84)

ISRAELI TASK FORCE: Israel is waking up to the dangerous influence of missionaries and cults that have made serious inroads in its cities, kibbutzim and college campuses. A Task Force, comprised of Gov't officials and private organizations, was formed to combat the proliferation of Hare Krishna, Scientology and other proselytizing sects throughout Israel....The Mormons...believe their future is "embodied in their unification with the Jewish community." The newly-formed Task Force will serve as a monitoring force on missionary activity as well as provide educational programs for the community that will publicize the problem and propose solutions....The newly-formed Task Force hopes to reverse the trend of frenzied missionizing attempts throughout the country. (JEWISH PRESS 13.7.84)

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JEWS FOR J—: Moshe Rosen, founder and head of Jews for J—, has arrived in Israel with 40 of his cohorts and immediately ran afoul of the newly-formed Task Force instituted to combat missionizing Israel. The YAD L'AHIM and other member organizations that make up the Task Force have begun a close watch of the actions and movements of Rosen's group. They intend to keep a one-on-one surveillance of the missionaries who are in the midst of a worldwide tour....An anti-missionary law in Israel presently prohibits the payment of money to someone for changing his or her religion, but the election environment could induce party leaders to make concessions that would result in stricter enforcement of the law. (JEWISH PRESS : 20.7.84) Summertime has for the last few years brought out large numbers of Jews for Jesus in the streets of New York City. Each day thousands of alluring, upbeat pamphlets are distributed by the members of this group, claiming that faith in Jesus is a Jewish belief...that the acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah is the fulfillment of Judaism...a notion repugnant to concerned Jews....Clearly, Jews for Jesus is not a Jewish faith....After so much pain caused by the church toward the Jews throughout the millennia, one might expect that in the post-Holocaust world, missionary activity aimed specifically at Jews would be condemned in the harshest terms. Mervyn Adler, NYC (JEWISH PRESS 9.8.84)

A RESPONSE: Two columns in the feature VIGIL by Rabbi Yaakov Spivak appeared in the JEWISH PRESS (BKLYN NY 20/27-7.84) as A RESPONSE TO MISSIONARIES. Quoting from pamphlets published by EMES, the Jewish anti-mission society, it cites traditional arguments against the claim that Jesus is the Messiah or that one can remain Jewish and believe in the Messiahship of Jesus or the divinity of the Messiah.

"MESHIKHA YIDDIEN": The Tel-Aviv-based Yiddish-language journal published (20.7.84) an abridged version of the "HAARETZ" feature about "MESSIANIC JEWS" by L. Galili. (SEE SELECTIONS No. 121, pages 4 to 7.)

WAR AGAINST APOSTACY: "DER YID" of New York (22.6.84), an ultra-orthodox Yiddish journal published a bitter diatribe by Eliezer Epstein against the work of "missionaries and apostates" in the State of Israel with lengthy citations from the Lausanne document "CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE" in the context of anti-Zionist and anti-Israel emphases. (Theodore Herzl is mentioned, with a Hebrew imprecation following. "May the name of the wicked rot.") Israel and Zionism are attacked as hotbeds and bedfellows of "Mission" and apostacy. The same journal published an angry editorial headed "THE PLAGUE OF MISSION" on 20.6.84.

"TO FIGHT THE MISSIONARIES": Noah Kliger, who claims to be non-observant of Judaism without any intention of becoming an orthodox penitent, calls for a war against the missionaries, and cites, among other reasons, the affair of the divorced wife of the well-known actor (SEE "MISSION TO THE RESCUE", bottom page 3 herein.)

"Freedom of religion is one thing, buying souls with money and other base means is something altogether different...." (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 9.9.84)

In the Tel-Aviv weekend supplement of YEDIOT AKHRONOT (31.8.84) Ariele Ringel-Hoffman interviewed Tel-Aviv Rabbi Yedidya Frankel, as follows:- Twice in recent weeks the Mission offered its assistance to distressed families, Edith Harpaz, the divorced wife of actor Shraga Harpaz and the Zugi family of Ramat Amidar. Does this not worry you? A: It is a most dangerous matter, and not only for the religious community but for the entire people of Israel, that people are willing to change their religion, and the Mission exploits their distress. Q: Is this help not given on condition that there is conversion to Christianity? A: Yes, they demonstrate good will and humanitarianism and exploit it for other purposes. I can understand a humanitarian approach if it is not exploited for buying straying souls. Q: Do you not think that at least part of the guilt lies on the shoulders of those who have abandoned them to the Mission? A: I don't believe it. We aren't living in the wilderness and everyone can find a solution (to his problems)...We are only dealing with two families here. Q: Are you active in the fight against mission activity in Jaffa? A: It is written, "Let every man walk in the name of his God." I do what I can, and all the people of Israel must see the danger. We are a small people in danger of being liquidated. (END INTERVIEW)

THE MISSION AS AN ANTI-SOCIAL FACTOR: A brief article in HAMODIA (19.9.84) cites recent threats by various Israeli Jews to "go to the Mission" if their needs are not met as proof of the fact that "the very missionary presence undermines the foundations of society..."

POLICE ACTION: Several years ago the police occasionally troubled the mystical sects and those called "Messianic". Various complaints received by the police prompted them to conduct investigations, but they found no violation of the law in most cases. Since then, only one body has continued to disquiet the sectarians, the ultra-orthodox members of YAD L'AHIM, who are battling the Mission. According to them, all these sects are nothing more than emissaries of the Mission. Now, with the completion of the report of the Dept of Education on these sects, two years in the making, it appears that the time of quiet for the sectarians is over. The police will apparently operate in two ^{main} areas; on the suspicion that several of these groups are committing fraud by receiving large sums of money for participating in the lessons and activities of the sects, and the possibility also being investigated is to outlaw some of these groups. It is almost certain that groups like the sect founded by the poetess Rina Shani, who died in India last year, can no longer operate in Israel. At present the complaints of parents, husbands and others will receive the immediate attention of the police. Meanwhile, the final report of the Dept of Education is being awaited. (YE DIOT AKHROT 14.8.84)

"JEWS FOR JEWS": Rabbi Reuven R. Dubin is not resting on his laurels. He is concerned about giving responses to the dynamics which exist in Jewish life. The problem troubling him is the matter of the Mission. The rabbi has also been influenced by the report of Ora Namir in the Knesset which deals with the increase of influence of missionaries and various sectarians in Israel on Israeli youth. The rabbi has responded by setting up a new body called "JEWS FOR JEWS," a reply to "JEWS FOR JESUS." ("OUR ISRAEL," NEW YORK HEBREW PAPER, 16.8.84)

MISSIONARY SUMMER CAMP: Soviet Jews in Brighton Beach (Brooklyn, N.Y.) are being warned for the second year about a missionary summer camp that is trying to attract their children. English-language flyers for the Evangelical Baptist Camp in Ashford, Conn., accompanied by an information sheet in Russian, have been distributed in the seaside B'klyn neighbourhood during the last month. About 125 Soviet-Jewish youngsters attended the camp last year, says Rabbi Picus, director of the Jewish Community Council of Shorefront, and about 20 Jewish children converted to Christianity during last year's camp, he says. About 25,000-30,000 Soviet Jews live in the Brighton area. The camp's recruiting efforts are being conducted by Beth Bar Shalom, a missionary organization. This has apparently spawned another missionary camp. Leaflets advertising a JEWS FOR JESUS camp were distributed last week in Manhattan. (JEWISH WEEK N.Y. 8.6.84)

LONDON CAMPAIGN: London Jewry is the target of an intensive missionary campaign spearheaded by the "Jews for Jesus" organization but supported by a wide range of evangelizing groups, with backing from Christian and "Hebrew Christian" institutions in Israel....Behind the new missionary drive directed to the Jewish community is a group called the Lausanne Consultation for Jewish Evangelism (LCJE) which has held a number of international consultations of Christian and "Hebrew Christian" missionaries in an endeavour to make their evangelising efforts more effective. They have established what their co-ordinator, Rev. D. Harley of Easneye, calls a task-force... The group met last year in Newmarket when 52 delegates representing 17 missions to the Jews, and a number of so-called Messianic congregations attended. Backing the group is the United Christian Council in Israel which has just published the first issue of an intended semi-annual journal entitled MISHKAN from POB 116, Jerusalem...and is published by HAGEFEN PUBLISHING of Rishon-le-Zion. (JEWISH CHRONICLE, LONDON, 27.7.84)

JFJ IN BIRMINGHAM: Grave disquiet has been occasioned for Birmingham Jewry thro' a meeting held at St. Luke's (Anglican) Church in the city centre by the Jews for Jesus, a missionary society. The meeting was advertised by a prominent notice outside the church and with mass leafleting both in the town and other areas of large Jewish concentration, and featured a group of Americans calling themselves "The Liberated Wailing Wall." The dozen Americans involved used professional techniques to communicate the message, including repetition of phrases such as "Jews killed Christ" and "I hate Jews." The Jewish community is alarmed at the fact that the church authorities appeared to be at least complacent, if not acquiescent, at what was blatantly an attempt to foment anti-Jewish feeling, (notwithstanding) concerted attempts by leading local churchmen in recent months to counter antisemitism by acknowledging that its roots can be detected in parts of the New Testament. (JEWISH CHRONICLE, London, 24.8.84) REPORT: D. GOODKIN

Sir,- As one who was present at the recent meeting of JEWS FOR JESUS in Birmingham... may I correct some of the factual errors and distortions of David Goodkin's reporting. The presentation was designed NOT to show the "inadequacies" of the Jewish community.

The message to non-Jews was to warn AGAINST the dangerous evil of antisemitism, the exact opposite of "fomenting" it. The drama exposed such wrong attitudes in Christians--"What if they say 'the Jews killed Christ'? is a rebuke when put in its context. The statement "I hate Jews" was not said even once, yet alone repeated, despite the imagination of your reporter....The description of the meeting as "blatantly an attempt to foment anti-Jewish feeling" is an execrable lie. We may be Jews for Jesus, missionaries, whatever you choose to call us, but we are honest in intention and practice, and unlike your reporter have no reason to be afraid of telling the truth. (Richard S. Harvey, 40 Mountfield Rd. N3) Four other letters by persons who had either attended the same JFJ meeting in Birmingham or elsewhere or had met with others who attended denounced the CHRONICLE report as "misrepresenting," and supporting the JFJ performers. One letter, however, ^{WAS} by "a Christian (who) was appalled to read that American "missionaries" calling themselves Jews for Jesus were allowed to use a church in Birmingham for their monstrous antisemitic campaign. (The letter gave no indication that the writer had attended the actual meeting.)

(JEWISH CHRONICLE, London, 6.9.84, headed "WHAT WAS SAID IN BIRMINGHAM".) The following week (14.9.84), a letter written by Rabbi M. Singer of Birmingham, began: Your correspondence on what may or may not have been said at the recent meeting of JEWS FOR JESUS in Birmingham deflects our energies from the disturbing fundamental characteristics of this organisation. (The rabbi then makes five points why "Jews for Jesus" is "a semantic contradiction," why Christians should not missionize among other faiths, the "predatory" nature of missions, especially in Israel, alludes to two persons mentioned in the original report; the mother of a son who committed suicide allegedly "caused by the unsolicited and virulent interference of missionaries" and the fact that the Bishop of Birmingham (Hugh Montefiore), "a descendant of that holy Jewish soul of Sir Moses Montefiore, can in any way be associated with such activities."

MAL IGNANCY: Under the feature heading "VIEWPOINT", "the Malignancy of the Missionaries" is discussed in the BIRMINGHAM JEWISH RECORDER (Sept. '84), with especial focus on the JEWS FOR JESUS meeting held in that city recently. An abbreviated report of the JEWISH CHRONICLE account also appears in the same issue under the heading, "JEWS FOR JESUS' INTENSIFY ACTIVITIES."

ISRAELI MISSIONARIES & LONDON CAMPAIGN: "The Messianic Jews in Israel have given moral support and assistance to the giant campaign of various missionary organizations in London which took place several weeks ago and which included an attempt to influence thousands of Jews to become 'Messianic Jews'." This was confirmed this week by Baruch Maoz who heads the "Christian Witness to Israel" society and serves as "Elder" of the Messianic Jewish Congregation in Rehovot. In a previous conversation Maoz had stated that he did not suppose that Israeli "Messianics" had also given financial and material assistance to the London campaign, but this week he was emphatic that such help could not have been given because "our congregation is too small to provide material assistance to the missionary organizations in London." (Extracts from the London JEWISH CHRONICLE about a missionary outreach in the London area are cited, and an alleged link to "Hebrew Christians in Israel.") Reverend (the usual title for a priest) Baruch Maoz told us that his organization (C.W.I.) publishes (apparently in cooperation with a body called United Christian Council in Israel) three periodicals whose aim is to promulgate faith in "that Man" as the Jewish Messiah. The members of the "congregation" in Rehovot gather each Sabbath morning and among other things, "pray" and recite a portion from the Jewish Prayerbook. According to Maoz, some 25 adults, 60% of whom are Jews, attend regularly, as well as their children. He told us that throughout Israel there are some 3,000 "Messianic Jews" belonging to 26 congregations and groups from Tiberias in the north to Beersheva in the south. They cooperate with the organization known in the USA as "Jews for That Man", whose aim is "to find ways to present our faith to the Jewish people."

Baruch Maoz (who by the way makes conversation in the most pleasant and courteous manner) stated that his organization has no link with the Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. According to him, there was only one personal connection when their attention was drawn to a fund for a Jewish girl requiring an urgent brain operation in the USA, and the Embassy sent its contribution to the bank which was collecting funds.... (EREV SHABAT (Correspondent: Yitzhak Hildesheimer) (24.8.84)

MISSIONARIES & DEAF: West Coast Chabad & Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf have joined forces to counteract the latest missionary activities aimed at hearing-impaired Jews in Los Angeles. (B'NAI BRITH MESSENGER, LOS ANGELES, CAL. 15.6.84)

LECTURES IN CATSKILLS: The Orthodox Union's New York Region will sponsor a series of lectures in the Catskills of New York State during "the Nine Days" preceding The Fast of Tisha B'Av this summer. One lecture will focus on the problems of cults and missionaries in the Jewish community. Featured speakers will be Dr. Philip Abramowitz, Director of the Task Force on Cults & Missionaries for JCRC, and Bob Kaplan, former cult leader turned businessman and student at a B'klyn yeshiva. (JEWISH PRESS B'klyn 20.7.84)

DALLAS MISSIONARY SOURCE: A missionary from Dallas who despatches letters throughout the world with much missionary material has sent propaganda to...the Yeshiva of Be'er Yaacov. The yeshiva (Jewish religious seminary) heads were astonished to find shocking propaganda full of infidelity and heresy in the envelope and an attempt to persuade one of the truths of Christianity. The envelope was transferred to the writer of "Hamahane Haharedi" (The Ultra-Orthodox Camp) in the hope that publication of the matter will influence public officials to recognize their duty to act in the matter and to see to it that in the future missionaries will be unable to operate in deceitful ways. (A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ENVELOPE SENT BY THE MISSIONARIES) ("HAMAHANEH HAHAREDI" J'LM : 22.8.84)

"POLITICAL MISSIONIZING": Under the heading "TOPIC OF THE DAY", HAARETZ reporter Lily Galilee's interview with an Israeli sponsor of public advertisements calling for national reconciliation, was subtitled: "MISSIONIZING BY MEANS OF PUBLIC NOTICES." One question read: "You insist on remaining anonymous in a campaign which has a certain secret missionizing calling. What's the meaning of the mystery which surrounds you?" (The use of the term "MISSION" here has nothing whatever to do with the Gospel. TRANSL.)

"SALVATION ARMY": In April of next year the Christian SALVATION ARMY will conduct for the first time a large international congress in Jerusalem. Brigadier James Fisher, Sgt.-Major Hans-Fisher Hugel and Sgt.-Maj. Hull have notified Tourism Min. Avraham Sharir of their intention to conduct in April 1985 an international congress in the city holy to Christendom. Groups will be arriving from 22 countries. The SALVATION ARMY is a Protestant Christian community numbering 2.5 million members worldwide whose aims are to help others, build schools and help invalids and the sick. The community has a specialty—the war against alcoholism and drugs. The Salvationists are known for their colourful uniforms and brass bands by which means they disseminate their faith. (HADASHOT, TELAVIV : 13.9.84) ALSO "DAVAR" & "HAARETZ": 11.9.84.

THE PROTESTANT CLERGYMAN VENDYL JONES & JUDAISM: "The claim of churchmen throughout the ages that God has forsaken His people Israel is absurd...The Torah and the commandments given Israel are eternal, and the attempts of Reform Jews to create a modern Judaism is bound to fail because this Judaism isn't built on "halacha" (Jewish religious law) but tries to innovate rather than following the Talmud and Shulhan Aruch (16th Century Code of Jewish Law)...The Mission which tries to hunt souls among the people of Israel must be fought, and especially the most dangerous missionaries, those Jews who have abandoned their roots and adhered to the sect of "Jews for That Man..." These remarks were not made by an Israelite...but by Vendyl Jones, a Protestant clergyman who has aroused the ire of the church and especially of the missionaries, who have hastened to term him "an agent of Satan." The central conclusion of Jones is that Christianity was destined only for idolaters...His most bitter struggle he wages against the sect of "Jews for That Man", active in the USA and comprising (Jewish) apostates. (There follows a description of Jones' background, his upbringing in a small Texas town, his mother's focusing on Old Testament readings, ^{their} resistance to anti semitism and ^{their} philosemitism.) Jones stresses the difference between love of Jews and love of Judaism. Lord Balfour and Chas. Orde Wingate supported the Jews and Zionism but opposed Judaism and believed that Christianity was the right religion....The reason for the poisonous hatred of Jews in the Christian Church was the fear of the Church Fathers that the masses would prefer Judaism to Christianity and therefore they changed the text in a number of places in their most sacred book, the "New Testament," adding several forgeries and inaccurate translations in order to create an antisemitic impression...Jones has employed the services of a computer firm in Tel-Aviv and with the most modern technology proved that the present text of Christian sacred books is faulty beyond repair, especially where it concerns Jews. (EHEV SHABAT : 14.9.84)

REPORTER: Yaacov Gal

VATICAN DIALOGUE: A group of Conservative Jews from Boston received red-carpet treatment at the Vatican, met with the Pope, and believe that the Catholic Church is interested in regular dialogue with the Jewish community. The visit was initiated by (MOHE)

Msgr. Jorge Mejia, Secy of the Office of Relations with the Jews at the Vatican, and the Pope told them that "I pray for Jerusalem daily," in response to their raising the matter of Israel with him. The group was taken on a tour of rare Vatican sites. "We got the feeling that Israel is on the agenda of the Catholic Church, Rabbi Richard Yellin, leader of the group, commented. "I don't know how far up the agenda, but it is an issue. The church is encouraging Jewish-Catholic relations," he added.

(JERUSALEM POST : 23.8.84)

INTERFAITH: Concerning the meeting of a delegation of the International Council of Christians & Jews with the Pope, in which I took part, there were 16 Jews and Christians from a round the world. The council works for co-existence with dignity of Jews and Christians, fights antisemitism in all its forms. In Israel it also fights against racist manifestations which, unfortunately, have been growing. All who identify with these basic aims are invited to join the Interfaith Society in J'lm. Prof. Hava Lazarus-Jaffa

(HAARETZ : 17.9.84)

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND & JEWS: A copy of the text of a speech by Mr. Henry Tankei, V.P. of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, when he spoke to the common statement between the Church & the Jewish community in Scotland, the first Jew to address the Assembly in its 424 years. In a "COMMENT" feature on the same page, the writer noted: There was no mistaking the warmth and sincerity of the welcome to the first Jewish speaker ever to address the Gen'l Assembly of the Church of Scotland...Of all the world churches, the Church of Scotland has least to reproach itself in its attitude to Jews who have found kindness and friendship here....Jews everywhere--not just in Scotland--are moved by this gesture at this time in our history. (A copy of the 9-point statement headed Jewish/Christian Consultations is attached. Significantly, there was no reference to missions in the statement, but to a common faith in One God, "the enduring centrality of Zion" among Jews, "the evil of antisemitism," human rights, materialism, and "the value of regular contact between representatives of our two communities."

was published in JEWISH ECHO (25.5.84)

THE INT'L CHRISTIAN EMBASSY: Under the heading "MISSION OF FRIENDSHIP", the JLM POST (12.8.84) published a relatively sympathetic article about the I.C.E.J. by David Krivine in the feature "CONTEXT", based mainly on an interview with Jan van der Hoeven, the embassy spokesman. It focuses on issues such as Jewish evangelism, eschatology, political and social action, and criticism by Orthodox Jewish and secular detractors of the Embassy. Ken Burnett of PRAYER FOR ISRAEL and Joan McWhirter, radio staffer are also referred to. MAARIV (24.8.84) published an article by Shmuel Katz which briefly contrasted the I.C.E.J. favourably with a very negative appraisal of the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers). THE JEWISH TELEGRAPH (Manchester, U.K. 6.7.84) published a charge by Rabbi Ephraim Groundland, public relations director of YAD L'AHIM that the Embassy is definitely engaged in missionary work.

FUNDAMENTAL ZIONISM: A lengthy attack on the "dubious alliance" between "sophisticated Jewish intellectuals" and "some of the American fundamentalist 'Christian Zionists'" appeared in the JERUSALEM POST (14.9.84) and was also printed in Hebrew in "HOTAM" (left-wing supplement of AL HAMISHMAR) on 7.9.84 and in HAARETZ (independent daily) on 11.9.84, authored by Sol Stern. Attacking fundamentalist theology as expressed by TV "charismatic Pentecostal preacher" Jimmy Swaggart and Jerry Falwell (Moral Majority Movement), the writer derides the "strange Zionism which (according to Fundamentalist eschatology) leads to the mass conversion of the Jews (while) some elements of the Jewish community in the U.S. and Israel now favour breaking bread with fundamentalists in the name of Jewish 'survival'." Stern singles out Irving Kristol writing in "COMMENTARY" as a leader among Jewish "conservative intellectuals" behind the alliance with Fundamentalist Christians. He charges that conservative politicians embraced by U.S. Fundamentalists "have helped elect many of the most obdurately anti-Israel members of Congress" and have helped defeat pro-Israel stalwarts like Sen. Frank Church. The Christian Fundamentalists also support Jewish zealot groups who want to rebuild the Temple and remove Muslim holy sites, and their extreme "scripturally delineated boundaries" and the promotion of extremism by fundamentalist preachers, "in combination with the actions of the messianic Israeli sects, could lead to murderous violence." (REPRINTED FROM VILLAGE VOICE, N.Y.)

REMEMBERING MAALOT: In the aftermath of the Ma'alot tragedy (the taking of 120 school-children hostage by PLO terrorists and the subsequent death of 22 children), Ya'acov Asulin, a survivor, one man played an important role in his recovery. Pastor Frederic Smith of Holland sent a letter to Yaacov every day. He wrote of his life in Holland and of his belief in God. Their correspondence continued four years until they met... (JLM POST : 18.5.84) EXCERPT. *** END TRANSCRIPT*** 30.9.84/mb