

"MISSION BRIBERY"

"15 THOUSAND DOLLARS AND FLIGHT TICKETS ABROAD OFFERED BY MISSIONARIES TO DISTRESSED FAMILIES IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY: YAD L'AHIM HAS SET UP A FUND TO RESCUE THE FAMILY." A missionary couple visited the home of A., a distressed head of family since he was invalided, who resides in Kiryat Nordau of Netanya, and made the offer on condition that they agree to baptism in the Sea of Galilee, and as an interim step enrol their 3-year-old son in the French School in Jaffa. The information reached "Yad L'Ahim", the anti-mission society, just as the family were about to take up the offer, according to Aharon Kornfeld, the organization spokesman. The organization has also hired a lawyer to represent the family in a court hearing related to their indebtedness and have promised to set up a fund for helping the family out of its distress. The family head, Amram, a former truck-driver, have two young children. (HATSOEH; EREV SHABBAT, 9.11.84) The missionaries in Israel, in their hunt for souls, especially in Ramla and other development towns, are offering Bibles at nominal prices. Parents of school children having difficulty in supplying their children with school books rejoiced at the possibility of obtaining Bibles at cheap prices, but their joy was shortlived when they discovered that it included the New Testament and several tracts as well. (EREV SHABAT 9.11.84) A couple in Netivot is threatening to convert to Christianity if their housing problem is not solved. Nissim Amar, 26, and his wife, have been frustrated by their inability to secure proper housing since their marriage. As a result, they have decided to forsake Judaism and emigrate from Israel, and they have met with the leader of the Mormon Church, Daniel Rona of J'lm, and next week Church representatives are due in Netivot to make the required arrangements. They were also directed by housing officials to a local rabbi, but they claim they obtained no relief from the rabbi. The rabbi has denied any knowledge of such an appeal to him, and the housing authorities claim they are doing everything possible to help the young couple. ("ALITON, NETIVOT" 10.10.84)

NETANYA: A number of residents in Kiryat Nordau of Netanya have organized to curb "the Christian assault" mounted by a neighbourhood family of missionaries who are systematically campaigning for converts to Christianity among their neighbours. This week a number of residents knocked on the door of the family and forcefully demanded that they leave the neighbourhood and cease troubling their neighbours. The missionary family used the incident to prove to the police that they are "persecuted." (HAMAHANEH HAHAREDI 12.9.84; ALSO SEE SELECTIONS No.125 p.3, "NIGHT TIME ATTACK") An exposé of the Hoaldrige Family appeared in EREV SHABBAT (10.10.84) with photos of Pat Hoaldrige, the exterior of their flat and a designated structure at Rehov Sikolow 60 for a place of worship. The Hoaldriged are not the only missionaries in the Sharon area, A. Ben-Zippori of the journal, reports. David and Lisa Loden of Neve Itamar, who direct a "Messianic Congregation" there, also engage in public musical Gospel dissemination of a missionary character. Loden informed a researcher from "Yad L'Ahim" that "we use music to proclaim the Gospel...also a number of believers working with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, who are also able to speak with other members of the orchestra." He claims that about a thousand people attended performances last year. The Lodens are not satisfied with public performances, but appear often at ulpanim, especially linking up with new immigrants. In Netanya at the Ulpan Akiva a maintenance man who was appraised of their "visits" angrily broke one of their guitars and warned them not to return. The Lodens often make trips abroad, especially to Germany.

Do the two couples (the Hoaldriged and Lodens) have ties with one another? Officially, the two will tell you unequivocally that they don't know one another, but there are many threads linking them together--the Baptist Village, postboxes in the same area, Yitzhak Azur and his wife Ruth, Rami Daniel...all have a common aim. (EREV SHABBAT 10.10.84)

RAMAT HASHARON: A series of eight clippings in Hebrew, Yiddish and Roumanian (mainly between 3.10.84 and 5.10.84) appeared in the Israeli press about missionary activity in Ramat Hasharon. The missionary sect is part of an international network with one of its centres in Manjaoun in South Lebanon. They offer huge sums to families of limited means in order to encourage them to send their children to mission kindergartens. These shocking facts were presented this week before the plenum of the Municipal Council of Ramat Sharon. The young people who presented testimony before the Council and who had been formerly part of the sect asked to remain anonymous lest harm befall them. A reporter from Yediot Akronot (Haym Broida) stated that in Ramat Hasharon there are at least two sects operating, one the Emin sect, the other a missionary sect preaching Christianity. The Municipal Council has (MORE)

decided to hold another hearing in the matter and to discuss proposals for dealing with the phenomenon.

LYDDA (LOD): A series of eight clippings and one radio excerpt from the morning newscast dealt with the storm stirred up in Lod over the activities of the missionary sect "Jehova's Witnesses" and their alleged successes. A special committee has been set up to combat the missionaries. ^{Religious} The Council Head, Yaakov Bucharis, described the missionary activity as a "terrible blow to Lod," and added: "We are interested first of all to bring the matter to the attention of the public. From a legal standpoint our hands are tied, and we can only engage in an information campaign against this phenomenon, which must be uprooted wherever it exists." One of the sectarians, a cleaning woman in a local school, told the authorities, including a local rabbi with whom she was asked to speak, "I believe in God in my own way, and no one is going to tell me how to believe." She insisted that her beliefs do not make her any less Jewish, but she decided to resign her position voluntarily in the face of charges that she constituted a negative influence on the children. An Orthodox Jewish youth group in town is campaigning for the removal of the sectarians from town. "We have a list of Jews who have been blinded by the sectarians," Bucharis stated in anticipation of an intensive campaign, including house visits, circulars and placards. The missionaries are said to be mainly "apostate Jews" of Persian, Tunisian and Indian origin. Mayor Maxim Levy also has stated forcefully that the municipality would not permit the economic crisis to be exploited by the Mission for its purposes.

TIBERIAS: A suspended sentence of three months was laid upon Rabbi Machluf Eden, an anti-mission activist in place of the original sentence of three months imprisonment. The ruling was handed down in the District Court which criticized the local court in Tiberias. (EREV SHABAT 2.11.84)

EBENEZER HOME, HAIFA: Four articles appeared in the press concerning the Nursing Home "Beit Even Ezer" in Haifa. (SEE ALSO SELECTIONS No. 125, page 3 BEIT EBENEZER) A news article in MAARIV (31.8.84) headlined: YAD L'AHIM IN HAIFA CLAIMS: NURSING HOME BAPTIZES JEWS INTO CHRISTIANITY (SUBHEAD: DIRECTRESS STATES 'THIS IS A CHRISTIAN INSTITUTION ONLY, WE HAVE NO BAPTISMS AND NO JEWS...') The article also quotes municipal sources as denying any referrals to the institution. The deputy directress, a Finnish person, stated that it was an institution for Christians only which housed Christian Arabs, Armenians and persons belonging to various Messianic congregations who came to the institutions as Christians in every sense. "There may be some of the residents who were Jews in the past," she stated, "but they arrived here as Christians." Asked whether she knew of any Jews who had been baptized in order to be accepted by the institution, she replied that the place was designed for Christians, "and we don't probe into people's past actions." SHEARIM (14.9.84) reported that the place was licensed for Christians only, and for a certain period this condition was met, but that afterwards aged Jews were accepted and baptized. A Haifa welfare official visited the home at the request of YAD L'AHIM and discovered that there were Jews in residence, although the management tried at first to deny this fact. After this was made known to the public and YAD L'AHIM investigators tried to visit the home, the staff made it clear to them that they were not interested in the visits of Orthodox Jews.

A generally sympathetic feature article on Beit Even Ezer appeared in a local Haifa newspaper, accompanied by photographs of Pastor Høyland, the directress H. Mia, a volunteer, several of the residents, the therapy room and the courtyard. Quoting both sides of the controversy, the article concludes: "About one thing there is no place for dispute, and that is the fine and dignified treatment the aged receive at Even Ezer...and in these times when the younger generation tramples the older generation under foot, that is also something." (Avi Kfiri) 7.9.84.

THE MISSION: A lengthy two-page symposium involving three YAD L'AHIM leaders (R. Menahem Schwartz, R. Shalom Beer Lifschutz, R. Moshe Porush) and Orthodox Jewish reporter A. Artzi appeared in 'EREV SHABAT' (5.10.84), dealing largely with the spreading of Orthodoxy among secular Jews and "penitents" and containing one section on Christianity and the Mission. The feature was headed: "IF THERE IS FEAR THAT A MISSION LAW WOULD OFFEND THE CHRISTIANS, THEN LET A LAW BE PASSED PROHIBITING CONVERSION FROM ONE RELIGION TO ANOTHER." In reply to the journalist's questions about missions, it was stated they were considering setting up a course which would involve "learning their books on the principle of 'Know how to reply' (to the heretic)." They estimated that 2-3,000 have fallen into the Mission net, that they invest huge sums for the conversion of Jews, (MORE)

including investments in personnel, political clout, pro-Israel activities such as that of George Otis who operates the VOICE OF HOPE radio station in South Lebanon, research institute, volunteerism, especially in kibbutzim. Those who cooperate with the anti-mission activists include kibbutz members, soldiers, private citizens, etc. The present Mission Law has no teeth, and the thousands of missionaries in Israel can easily circumvent it. They are especially determined to convert Jews in Israel because the return of the Jews to the Land of Israel is a denial of their faith.

THE JERUSALEM POST's Haim Shapiro published a feature article headed "MISSIONARIES COME OUT INTO OPEN" (8.10.84) dealing with missionaries in Israel. "The forthright declaration of missionary intent comes in the form of the MISHKAN, A THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL ON JEWISH EVANGELISM, recently published in Jerusalem by the U.C.C.I. In the words of its editor, Rev. Ole Kvarme, it is a 'clear statement that we do want to witness and to promote evangelism among Jews.' Kvarme heads the Caspari Institute, a Christian study centre in Jerusalem's French Hill, is unhappy about the words 'missionary,' 'proselytizing' and 'conversion.' 'Faith in Jesus is not something that turns a Jew into a non-Jew,' he says. 'I'm not here to turn Jews into Norwegian Lutherans such as I am.' The article goes on to describe the background to missionary activity in Israel, including physical attacks and demonstrations by Jewish extremists. Associate Editor is Rev. Walter Riggans, who says that much of the furor over the so-called missionaries is based upon the "myth that Jews can only believe in Jesus if they are coerced by unscrupulous missionaries...and the average Israeli saw us as ruthless theologically-loaded headhunters." He admits to having seen cases where people distributed tracts that were a "terribly insensitive and ignorant attack on the Jewish people," but adds that such people were always short-term visitors and not local Christians. On the other hand, he sees insensitivity and ignorance on the part of Jewish Israelis and the Church toward Messianic Jews who believe in Jesus. The consensus is that they are no longer Jewish, and their identity crisis is real and painful. "I strongly support Jewish believers in Jesus," he says. Kvarme estimates between 1,000 and 1,500 adult Hebrew Christians in Israel, many of them young people. They range from the relatively uneducated to university lecturers and come from every type of background.

The article goes on to describe dissenting viewpoints to Jewish evangelism within the local Christian and Jewish communities. Jan W.V. van der Hoeven of the Intl Christian Embassy in J'lm claims he had turned down a request to participate in its publication. Dr. George Giakoumakis of the American Institute of Holy Land Studies in J'lm, listed as an adviser to the publication, states that he has asked that his name be removed from the masthead because it is "not what I thought it was going to be." Israel Lippel, head of an institute for interreligious understanding argues that "Jews do not try to convert others, and others should understand such feelings and not try to convert Jews." He is satisfied that "practically the entire Christian establishment understands this, and only a few Jewish converts and foreigners work to destroy this understanding." Dr. Geoffrey Wigoder, acting chairman of the Israel Interfaith Assn notes that the Assn opposes organized missionary activity of all kinds towards anyone, but concedes the possibility in a democratic society of people changing their religion. Wigoder says it is important to keep a sense of proportion. "A tiny number of Jews accept Christianity while hundreds of Christians convert to Judaism in Israel every year," he claims. (END)

An article by the POST's Bonn Correspondent, Wladimir Struminski, details the campaign of a German Protestant clergyman, Dr. Friedrich Hasselhoff, to terminate missionary work among the Jews. He helped bring about a 1980 decision of the Rhine Protestant Synod forbidding missionary work among the Jews. The abolition of mission work should be based on the premise that "Jews have a direct connection with the Creator in their own right without the mediation of Jesus," he argues. Prof. Heinz Kremers, a leading theologian, says the fear of a loss of Christian identity, as a consequence of the mission ban, is even found among members of Nes Amim in Western Galilee, a Christian settlement in Israel. A prominent member of the village left it after failing to accept fully the rejection of mission. (JLM POST 6.11.84) The same article, in Hebrew translation, also appeared in DAVAR on 11.11.84)

"FREEDOM OF WORSHIP BUT NO MISSIONARY ACTIVITY": Under this heading, HAMODIYA (22.10.84) carried a lead article which in relatively moderate language called for a cessation of all missionary activity among Jews in Israel and an end to the exploitation of Israel's principles of freedom of worship or ^{USING} professed friendship for Israel as a guise to engage in conversionist activities among Jews.

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"SOUL HUNTERS": A reader of MAARIV (25.10.84) quotes Jesus' words, "BE HARMLESS AS DOVES AND WISE AS SERPENTS," to explain how the missionaries interpret these words to justify deception in hunting souls for Christianity. They also claim to be "lovers of Israel," but so did the Inquisitors in Spain, such as Tomas de Torquemada, who was of Jewish origin, and who claimed he only burnt Jews out of love for their souls so that they might be saved. And where were all the missionary organizations in the Free World during the Holocaust, and why was their voice not heard by us? he asks.

CANADIAN MISSIONARY: Rabbis throughout Israel have received packets sent from Ontario, Canada with missionary material sent by a Dutch woman, M.M. Bruce of Mixdale. She has prepared material in nine languages, including Yiddish. She operates from No. 8 Pylon Place, and sends material prepared by the Lederer Foundation of Baltimore. (Photographs of the Yiddish New Testament and a letter and notice addressed to the rabbis are included in the story written for EREV SHABBAT on 26.10.84 by Shulamit Tanami.)

"TROUBLE SHOOTER": A two-page feature in colour with photographs of a baptismal service off the shore of Nanariya is described in a MAARIV edition of 24.10.84 by Naftali Kraus. Based on an interview with Malka Sneinen of Petah Tikva, a "trouble-shooter" for YAD L'AHIM, the article describes various successes and failures in dealing with mainly young Israelis who have gotten involved (usually romantically) with Arabs, Druze, Gentiles...and Jewish missionaries.

PROJECT KIBBUTZ: The Ministry of the Interior has refused to extend the visas of the leaders of the PROJECT KIBBUTZ movement, which supplies Christian volunteers to kibbutzim, and has informed them that they must leave the country. While the reason given is that tourists cannot remain in Israel indefinitely, it is believed that the real reason is the increasing suspicion about the motivation of the "PROJECT", which is believed to be missionary, notwithstanding denials by the movement's leaders. "In bringing Christian volunteers to the kibbutzim we want to atone for all the sins of Christians against the Jewish people," one of the leaders stated.

Meanwhile, several kibbutzim (Dan, Yiftah, Gonen and Gadot) have stopped accepting PROJECT KIBBUTZ volunteers, but others (Minara, Sde Nemanya, Ayelet Hasnagar, Hulata, HaGoshrim and Dafna) continue to host the volunteers. The attorney representing PROJECT KIBBUTZ, A. Michaeli, has appealed to the Director-General of the Ministry of the Interior, Haim Kubariski, and asked to meet with him in order to discuss the issue. An investigation by the central organization of the kibbutz movement has been undertaken. While several members of the kibbutz movement have issued statements denouncing the "PROJECT" as "fundamentalistic," fanatical" and promoters of a conversionist eschatological vision (MAARIV 14.10.84), Beno Roda of Kibbutz Dafna, writing in "UPPER GALILEE" (No. 20/84) defended PROJECT KIBBUTZ and reported the results of a committee which had investigated the charges against the "PROJECT," as follows:-

"We do not see sufficient basis or a moral right on the basis of the material furnished us to declare the volunteers unfit for our kibbutzim...We have derived great pleasure from their presence, and we are interested in having an additional group. The "JERUSALEM POST" published two articles against them, and some kibbutz members even cited the organization YAD L'AHIM, an extremist Jewish religious group which is waging a relentless campaign against them." The writer added his personal opinion to the report, and noted that the opposition to the group has come from "a vociferous minority," and compares it to the

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anti-Jewish propaganda from which Jews suffered in the Diaspora. The writer cites the high moral standards of the volunteers, their excellent work ethic, their patience and congeniality in relations with the people around them. "For many of the members they set an example which is hard to compete with," he concludes.

"GLEANINGS FROM GOLDING": "After he became a lecturer in Jewish history at Istanbul College, he founded a monthly magazine, reaching 40,000 Turkish Jews. In addition, he became active on behalf of Soviet and Syrian Jewry. While he was trying to rescue two Syrian girls fleeing from Syria, a Turkish citizen was killed. Rabbi Golding received a 10-year sentence for manslaughter. After seven months in a Turkish jail, he escaped and made his way to Israel....(JEWISH TRIBUNE LONDON, 17.8.84)

"NEWSWEEK" CITED: As to the country's law against offering material benefits for conversion, NEWSWEEK recently reported on an investigative report to the Knesset which stated that "missionaries offer financial assistance to poor Jewish families...evangelists have offered Jews money and foreign vouchers..." Rev. Bob Lindsay of the Baptist house in Jerusalem, reporting in print his intentions to convert Jews, included his proud boast of two successful Jewish baptisms. This information has been made public, though Mayor Kollek and his office, for all their "vigilance," showed no apparent concern. (Peylim Organization Yad L'Ahim, in JEWISH PRESS, B'KLYN NY 12.10.84)

SENSITIVITY: "We are witnesses to a worrying extremism in Israel, albeit its dimensions are small, and we are doing everying possible to prevail over it. Yet the world must remember that for generations we were the victims of extremism and violence," Mayor Kollek of J'lm told a group of pilgrims, U.S. friends of Israel, attending the conference organized by the Int'l Christian Embassy in J'lm. "There is great sensitivity to missionary activity, whatever the motives may be, and you should know that there is justification for this, especially in the generation that the Jewish people was bereft of six million of its children," he told them. (HAARETZ 16.10.84)(ALSO TWO OTHER PAPERS)

"TABERNACLES": Five clippings concerning the FEAST OF TABERNACLES Christian celebration organized by the I.C.E.J., and Jewish opponents to the celebration, appeared in the Hebrew press (14-15/10/84). The anti-mission society YAD L'AHIM called on Gov't officials not to appear before the 5,000 strong group because of their alleged missionary aims. Opponents charged that even if they are not working for Jews to convert, they desire that Jews should believe in the Messiahship of Jesus in the manner of the JEWS FOR JESUS movement. An encounter with U.S. singer Sandra Sheskin on an El-Al plane discloses that she claims to represent thousands of American and Israeli Jews who believe in the Messiahship of Jesus.

REFORMED JEWS VS. THE MISSION: Harry Halft has been appointed the Chairman of the committee set up to combat the Mission and various sects which are "gnawing" at the life of the Jewish people. The initiative for this committee comes from the movement's leader, Rabbi Alexander Schindler. (OUR ISRAEL, N.Y. 14.9.84) Rabbi Schindler noted that the committee was set up when it was revealed that some 12% of the membership of the cults are Jewish. The main effort is focused on Jewish youth, especially on campuses around the U.S.A. (10.10.84)

PHILADELPHIA VS. MISSIONARIES: The Anti-Missionary Coalition (AMC) of Philadelphia is gearing up for a massive demonstration on Sept. 30 to sound the alarm against the "messianic" problem. "When I see that the Beth Yeshua organization has captured 400 Jews in my neighbourhood alone," AMC president Bill Maghen commented, "I realize how important it is to expose the hoax of such messianic cults. He characterized Beth Yeshua as born-again Christians who pose as Jews to ensnare Jewish souls. The march by the Coalition has received the active support of 11 synagogues in Phila, and several national organizations, including the JDL. (JEWISH FLORIDIAN, MIAMI FLA. 27.9.84)

BRIGHTON BEACH: Thousands of Russian Jewish immigrants are endangered by soul-snatching Christian missionaries. In Brighton Beach, B'klyn, numerous missions and cults ply their evil trade. In desperate response Jewish community leaders have rallied behind Beth Shifra Institutions to stem the tide. This takes massive amounts of money. Only the donations of caring Jews, alarmed at the tragic loss of our precious brethren to Judaism, keeps a struggling Beth Shifra alive! This Rosh Hashana pray for a new year of life and happiness with the merit of having helped give new Jewish life to Russian Jews. Send your generous tax deductible donation without delay! Rabbi Yitzchak Wise, Ass. Direc., Beth Shifra Inst., Bklyn NY. (JEWISH FLORIDIAN 27.9)

MONSEY, NY: Several hundred members of this largely Orthodox community witnessed a near-riot as "Hebrew-Christian" missionaries attempted to launch an evangelism campaign directly in front of the town's largest yesniva. The missionaries hurriedly fled the town in the face of a jeering crowd. "We were notified that the missionaries (from the American Board of Missions to the Jews, Beth Sar Shalom) had arrived by Rabbi Schwab of the Jewish Education Program," Rabbi Yaakov Spivak of the EMES Organization reported. "Within minutes we were on the scene, and our first task was to alert all passersby to the real nature of this group. Within about 15 minutes a large crowd had gathered, stalking the missionaries and making it virtually impossible for them to continue their deception. (JEWISH PRESS BKLYN NY 27.9.84)

"MISLEADING TRADEMARK": Two Jewish groups announced this week that on 24th September they filed legal papers with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office opposing the application of a travel agency run by Christian missionaries to trademark the name "SEE ISRAEL THROUGH JEWISH EYES." The opposition papers charge that the slogan, conceived by the A.B.M.J., is deceptive when used in connection with the travel tour service ^{AND} would induce people to join the tour thinking that it was formed under Jewish auspices. (JEWISH PRESS BKLYN NY 11.10.84)

NORTH LONDON & BIRMINGHAM: The Jewish communities of North London and Birmingham are disturbed by the recent "conversionist" activities by Christian groups. Those Christians...working for reconciliation and genuine dialogue, are equally disturbed. There is a real danger that Jews will view all Christian approach as a subterfuge for conversionism...Determined conversionism means a spiritual Final Solution, the end of Judaism, the synagogue, and the Jewish people. Such an activity is macabre. (Rev. Graham Jenkins, 17 Temple Fortune Lane, NW 11.) JEWISH CHRONICLE LONDON 17.10.84

"MESSIANIC SECT": The Hendon/Finchley Times (27.9.84) headlined a news article about a 'MESSIANIC' SECT (which) WORRIES JEWS" among Barnet borough's Jewish community; namely, the London Messianic Fellowship, led by Jewish-born missionary Richard Harvey, which believes Jesus was the messiah. A description of the Fellowship, its meetings, and reactions from the Jewish and Christian communities follow. Three letters to the Editor followed the report on 11.10.84, written by Richard S. Harvey headlined WE ARE NOT A SECT; by Trevor Zucker headed FACTUAL ERRORS (referring to the news article) and by Tony Pearce headed PRO-PHECIES FULFILLED commenting on a local rabbi's statement that "Jesus is not the messiah prophesied in the Bible..." and offering Biblical texts in opposition to the rabbinic refutation. The JEWISH TELEGRAPH of Manchester, England, published a letter by Menahem Benhayim of the Int'l Hebrew Christian Alliance in Jerusalem, in response to a letter by Mrs. Sylvia Vickers of YAD L'AHIM published earlier in the paper in which, among other matters, she made reference to him. He corrected several inaccuracies in the Vickers letter and presented a Hebrew-Christian position vis-à-vis mission, Judaism, Christian Zionism, and Israel. (31.8.84) A response to an article in the JEWISH CHRONICLE (LONDON) about the London Messianic Fellowship appeared 17.10.84 signed by Richard S. Harvey disputing facts and interpretations in the CHRONICLE article. "We are not a cult, but simply a manifestation of the historical option..that the evidence and claims for the Messiahship of Jesus are valid. (MORE)

"MESSIANIC JEWS": A four-page spread in full colour with photographs of the Baruch Maoz family of Renovot and the Benhayims of Jerusalem, Rikki Dreznin, Jennifer Belrad, YAD L'AHIM leaders, covers of "B'SHUV", "MAYAYT L'AYT" & "RAYA NEEMAN" (Hebrew Messianic periodicals), the interior and exterior of the Jerusalem Messianic Assembly, the Rehovot congregation centre, "Dugit" Art Gallery, appeared in the November issue (as the lead article) of "OLAM HA'ISHA" (WOMAN'S WORLD), written by Ruth Megged, with an editorial note on the front page: "We've opened the issue with a special investigative piece about the sect of the Yehudim Meshihim (Messianic Jews), which has been dormant for decades but has recently become active. Where are its centres, who leads it, what are its missionary tactics, who is combatting it? These and other questions are discussed in the lead article."

The article leads off with a description of "Dugit" Art Gallery in Tel-Aviv and an interview with Rikki Dreznin, a Messianic Jewess who helps operate this "messianic" gallery and meeting place for believers. The writer then quotes from a Messianic youth periodical (RAYA NEEMAN), and then goes on to outline the movement from a national perspective, giving an estimate of 2-3,000 members, "some of them Jews who have converted to Christianity and some of them Gentiles who came here as missionaries or pilgrims, their centre being in London and tied in directly to the Baptist Church." (sic!) The congregation is divided into small groups meeting several times weekly for common prayer, song and prayer to their God. The "sweets" that the "Messianic Jew" receives when he abandons the religion of Moses and Israel in favour of Jesus is that he is "permitted" to remain a Jew. Despite this, many of the "Messianic Jews" have passed thro' the rite of baptism and formally converted to Christianity...."

"The Messianics are persecuted by the YAD L'AHIM organization which wars against the Mission and other strange sects which try to lure Jews away from their religion.... Actually, the "Messianics" are outcasts to both the Jewish and Christian establishments. There have also been attempts to physically harm the "Messianics" in their prayer house at 54 (sic.) Prophets St. in Jerusalem as well as in Yavne St. in Rehovot." There follows an interview with Baruch Maoz, including background information about his wife and three daughters. (This is interspersed by a brief quote from the Hebrew Messianic periodical "B'SHUV".)

After the interview with Maoz, the writer turns to the Messianic Assembly on 56 Prophets Street, Jerusalem and brief biographical remarks about Menahem and Hana (sic!) Ben-Hayim, which is followed by references to mission work in Ramat HaSharon and the Sorkorams, followed by an interview with Jennifer B., a Jerusalem artist, Messianic, and references to Miriam and Dick Hellman who ran an inn, but have since left Israel.

The work of YAD L'AHIM is described as the result of an interview with Aharon Kornfeld, the young spokesman of the group, who mentioned the Lodens of Netanya, the Hoaldriged; and the psychiatrist professor Shlomo Kolchar who is quoted as saying: "Those who are disturbed get into the mystical sects, the healthy ones are occupied with pop, rock and basketball." The article concludes with a comment on Israeli law, "which has no teeth" in this area. "The trouble with the 'Messianic Jews' is that they see themselves as good at least as the (Orthodox Jewish) penitents. As Victor Smadja, the Messianic leader once stated: 'We are the true penitents.'" (Below the quote there is a photographed extract from Ibn Shusnan's Hebrew Dictionary, 1967 edition: "YEHUDIM MESHIIHIM: A designation in our days to a sect of Jews who have declared themselves Jews as to their nationality and fidelity to the State of Israel, and Christians ("notzrim") in their religion." (END EXCERPTS & SUMMARY)

ASHDOD: Under the headline "THREATS TO BLOW UP ASHDOD VILLA SERVING 'JEWS FOR JESUS';" YEDIOT AKHRONOT (30.10.84) published a news article about Dr. Otto Hirschfeld, a 71-year-old dentist from Ashdod who identifies himself as a Jew who believes in Jesus. He recently complained to the police that unknown persons sought to set fire to his villa and threaten to blow it up because of the meetings held in his home about biblical

prophecy in which mainly Soviet and Roumanian Jewish immigrants to Israel took part. Dr. Klaus Moshe Pulz, head of a Messianic group, and his deputy, Dr. Joseph Alcahai, related that in Israel there are now some 4,000 Messianic Jews. "We do not engage in missionary activity and do not belong to any Christian church," they explained. "As law-abiding citizens of Israel, we believe that we have the right to conduct discussions about biblical prophecy without hindrance, and we do not intend to submit to threats," they added. It is assumed that ultra-orthodox youths who visited the Hirschfeld home and spoke with Dr. Hirschfeld about his beliefs may be involved in the threats and attempted arson.

CONVERSIONS: An order permitting the father of his children to see them only in the presence of a representative of the Welfare Dept in Kiryat Bialik was issued yesterday in the Haifa Rabbinic Court. The divorced wife of the father was forbidden to permit the father of the children to see the children without the presence of the Welfare Dept representative. The reason: The father has threatened to convert to Christianity and to baptize his children. He appeared in court with a cross hanging around his neck and the judges ruled that there was substance to the ex-wife's fears concerning the threats of the former husband to baptize the children, and the welfare of the children requires the issuance of the order. (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 8.10.84)

"WAITING FOR MESSIAH" (IR OVOT): The story of Simha Perlmutter of the Negev "kibbutz" is related in detail, much of it as a first-person account by Perlmutter himself, as told to Yaron Rappaport of the "Yediot Achronot" Negev supplement following two days of intensive interviews at the settlement. Perlmutter has lived 18 years in Israel, almost the entire time in the Negev near Hatzeva. At present there are only eight persons remaining--he and his wife, his parents, two sons and an adopted son and a man named Peter. He continues to live an orthodox Jewish life style, as he has for a number of years, but affirms his faith ^{IN YESHUA} as Messiah of Israel who is to return to the Land.

CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL

NES AMIM: A somewhat cynical evaluation of a visit to Nes Amim by MAARIV writer Yoram Kanyuk (9.11.84) with considerable background information about the Galilean Christian moshav with 200 inhabitants from the U.S., England, Holland and Germany. After spending a Sabbath weekend with the group, Kanyuk concludes: "I left behind me people with crosses who want me to forgive them."

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH: A series of 14 clippings, mostly in the Hebrew press, were gathered between 26.9.84 and 9.11.84 dealing with the ups and downs of the Jerusalem municipality hearings and committee meetings over the approval of the plans submitted by the Baptists for an enlarged rebuilt structure to house their congregation on 4 Narkis Street in Jerusalem, the site of an arson attack two years ago which destroyed the chapel. Ultra-orthodox factions in the municipality have protested ^{against} what they charge is Mayor Kollek's ambivalent policy. If the City's declared policy is to avoid placing ^{Jewish} religious institutions in secular Jewish neighbourhoods, they ask, why should an enlarged Baptist Church be placed in a neighbourhood with many observant Orthodox Jews? They have also raised the issue of missionizing by the Baptists and cited remarks of Pastor Robert L. Lindsey which they allege indicate the real purpose of the Baptist building plan. Questions were raised in the City Council and in committee hearings accompanied by delaying tactics of the ultra-orthodox politicians. At one stage Mayor Teddy Kollek reportedly asked the Baptists to consider relocating, but the latter have stood firm. They argue that they have been on the site since 1927, own the land, and have good relations with their Jewish neighbours (which their opponents deny). While admitting that he has baptized Jews, Pastor Lindsey claims this is not conversion inasmuch as his faith is Jewish and he sees himself as a Jew. Meanwhile, Mayor Kollek has publicly reaffirmed his support for the Baptist (MORE)

reconstruction plans and criticized "circles who display intolerance towards minorities in the City," adding: "We must enable this community to restore their prayer house." The plans call for a three-storey building, including a chapel, meeting hall and education wing, for the 400-strong congregation. (COMPILED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES)

FESTIVITIES: The Lutheran Church in J'lm celebrates Reformation Day on 31st October, a central Protestant festival, it was announced on AN Israel newscast. Meanwhile, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch celebrated the Feast of the Apostle Jacob, the brother of Jesus, with a reception at his Mount of Olives residence, attended by representatives of all the Christian communities in J'lm as well as representatives of the civilian and military authorities. (NEWSCAST 28.10.84)

EMMA BERGER: Emma Berger, founder and spiritual leader of the German "Beth-El" sect headquartered in Zicron Yaacov near Mt. Carmel, died in Israel at the age of 64 and was buried in the Protestant cemetery in Haifa on 17.10.84. The group she founded promoted a strict prophetic scheme in which Israel was a centrepiece and resulted in the establishment of a centre in Israel which aroused considerable controversy in Israel as Orthodox anti-mission activists charged that a missionary motive was behind the group's large purchases of land and property. Miss Berger, formerly an X-ray nurse who claimed to have been healed from a lethal dose of radiation in 1946, advocated divine healing without recourse to medicine, and died of an intestinal ailment without recourse to medical care. Her followers claim that she has already risen from the dead and is with Christ in glory. "MAARIV" (23.10.84) headlined the story: "EMMA BERGER IS NO LONGER IN HER GRAVE" (according to her followers). "We escorted her to her eternal rest last Wednesday, but we are convinced that she is no longer in her grave," her sister Ilse stated. The ultra-orthodox daily "HAMODIYA" wondered whether the Germans would now leave the town of Zicron Yaacov alone now that Emma Berger was gone. (2.11.84)

CHRISTIANS PRO-ISRAEL

"CHRISTEN FÜR ISRAEL": A report by Reform Rabbi and journalist Schalom Ben-Chorin on a conference of the pro-Israel Evangelical German Christian group "Christen Für Israel", which he addressed in June, appeared in "ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN" (TELAVIV) on 10.8.84. The writer was somewhat critical of the "fundamentalist" positions of the conferees vis-à-vis the territorial issue, which/compared to "right-wing" views in Israel, the view of Islam as a pagan faith, but he was impressed favourably by their interest in Judaism as he expounded upon it, the spontaneity of their prayers in their worship, "from which we (Jews) could learn," although sometimes he sensed it was banal and "bla bla and not led of the Spirit." All in all, he appreciated the opportunity to "dialogue" with Fundamentalist Evangelicals.

Some 1 1/2 dozen clippings from the Israeli press during October dealt with the Christian celebration of the FEAST OF TABERNACLES organized by the INT'L CHRISTIAN EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM. Five thousand Christian Zionist pilgrims flocked to the Holy City from 40 nations, sang, danced, heard lectures, seminars, were addressed by top Israeli figures, including Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Ariel Sharon, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek (notwithstanding pressures by certain Orthodox circles to have the event boycotted by the Israeli political establishment). * Some 3,000 participants marched in the annual "Jerusalem March" and about a thousand attended "twinning" ceremonies between a Christian settlement in southern France and an Orthodox Jewish settlement in Samaria, "Aynav." The Christian organizers of the "Feast" also announced that the first International Christian Zionist Congress will take place in Basel in August 1985 at the very site where Theodore Herzl, "Seer of the Jewish State" convened the first world Zionist Congress in 1897. (VARIOUS PAPERS, COMPILED) * See P. 5 Above "IN BELMAGLES"

"ZIONIST CHRISTIANS": An assortment of articles, letters to editor, and news reports has appeared in the Israeli and foreign press (MORE)

concerning Evangelical connections to Israel and the Zionist movement. It embraced two feature articles in NEWSWEEK (24.9.84; 29.10.84) decidedly unsympatnetic to "Israel's Zionist Christians" and "Retaking the Temple Mount." Notwithstanding a protest by the UCCI Gen'l Secy Joseph Haines (29.10.84), over inaccuracies and the perpetuation of "the myth that Jews cannot believe in Jesus Christ unless coerced or bribed" (the NEWSWEEK article connected "Zionish Christians" to "proselytism"), the editor stood by its report. Sometimes ^{TRICKS} ultra-orthodox skepticism ^{ALSO} about pro-Israel Christians, reflects their conviction that it is a mask for their real aim, the conversion of the Jews to Christianity as well as ^{REFLECTING} their own ^{CATHODIC} skepticism about Jewish Zionism with its "heretical" ideology about Jewish sovereignty before the coming of Messiah and/or apart from a strict adherence to ultra-Orthodox Judaism. The "JERUSALEM POST" continues to publish a stream of letters, mainly from Evangelical ^{and other} Christians in Israel and from abroad, in support of Israel and Zionism, and seeking to refute charges leveled at "Zionist Christians" by their critics. Several excerpts follows:-

"The support for Israel amongst most evangelical Christians is deep and genuine precisely because it is based on a belief that God is the ultimate Zionist...Their love and support is genuine, even if it involves the belief repugnant to most Jews that the nation will eventually turn to Jesus as the Messiah." (Dave Dolan, J'lm based radio reporter) 7.10.84

"Christian history is as complex a mixture of good and evil as Jewish history--and generalizations which lead to an emphasis on Torquemada and present-day Christian fanatics serve to perpetuate bias and misunderstanding....Christians and Jews alike through the centuries have been the recipients of unworthy blame, particularly when either happened to be the minority (as Christians are in Israel)." Rev. Lewis Shaw, J'lm (9.10)

"As a Catholic Christian, I am surprised by the reaction of many Jewish people when I tell them I am a Catholic who loves Israel...In Ireland, as in other countries, truly believing Catholics and truly believing Protestants are finding a real unity because of our growing love for Israel." Paddy Monaghan (19.10.84)

"As a Gentile Christian not connected in any way with the (Intl Christian) Embassy, I would like to say that at long last this Embassy in J'lm tangibly expresses the love and support that many gentile Christian feel in their hearts for the Nation of Israel..." Jos. H. Hunting, Australia 24.9.84

"Why do millions of us Evangelicals care deeply about Israel? First, because God, in the Hebrew Scriptures, implores us to bless the Jews... We may not always agree with Jewish or Israeli thinking. But we will be in the vanguard in the fight against hatred of Jews and/or Israel." 19.7.84 Rev. Frank Siklor, Pres., The Shalom Fellowship, Keene, New Hampshire.

Two feature articles on the subject appeared in the JLM POST, the first by Prof. Harold Fisch of Bar Ilan University, rebutting Sol Stern's article reprinted from "VILLAGE VOICE" (JLM POST 14.9) (SEE SELECTIONS No. 125, page 10 bottom "FUNDAMENTAL ZIONISM"). "Stern is guilty of gross disinformation with regard to the voting record on Israel of right-wing Republicans in Congress...There are of course a hundred different kinds of evangelicals, among them no doubt elements hostile to Israel and to the Jews, but among the charismatics and dispensationalists for instance we have witnessed over the past few years an extraordinary outpouring of love for Israel, its people and its land...and they are in a tradition of Christian Zionism which includes such figures as the 7th Earl of Shaftsbury, James Finn, Oliphant, Blackstone and Wm. Hechler, the friend and supporter of Herzl..." (2.10.84) Geoffrey Wigoder authored a feature article based on a summary of a recently-issued Jewish publication called "UNDERSTANDING EVANGELICALS: A GUIDE FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY" by Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein of Boston, active in interfaith affairs and issued by the New York based Nat'l Jewish Resource Centre. He describes the work as "useful" and containing "much to be learned in Israel" about the subject. (14.10.84 JLM Post)

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