

MESSIANIC JEWS IN REHOVOT: Hundreds of ultra-orthodox Jews in Rehovot, led by the local Chief Rabbi Simha Kook, demonstrated for several hours in front of a private home which they claim serves the sect of the "Messianic Jews", interfering with the flow of traffic. The house is located at 29 Weizmann Street and was rented by the "Messianic Jews." Police were out in force, headed by J. Anaron Singer, but did not interfere with the demonstration. (HAARETZ:2.12.84) The Messianic Jews in Rehovot will continue their worship despite the harassments and attacks upon them by religious circles headed by Rabbi Kook, who prevented them from worshipping, scattered their holy books, and accused the Messianics of "accepting Nazi funding for their activities." The "elder" of the Messianics, Baruch Maoz, said that he was astonished at the shouts of Rabbi Kook whom he had previously regarded as "a man of moral and religious stature." The owner of the flat where the worship is conducted operates a food plant, and has been threatened with withdrawal of the kashrut certificate for the plant if she does not cancel the lease with the Messianic Jewish congregation. (DAVAR:4.12.84)

Synagogue worshippers in Rehovot will march this Sabbath in a demonstration in front of 29 Weizmann St. following the Mussaf Service. On Wednesday afternoon an emergency meeting was held to organize the campaign for the removal of the "Messianic" congregation from the site. A spokesman for YAD L'AHIM noted that four years ago when the apostate Maoz came to live in Rehovot a demonstration was held in front of his home, which he exploited abroad to claim that he and his followers were being persecuted. (HAMODIYA:7.12.84) A large crowd (variously estimated at a thousand or more) took part in a demonstration against the missionary sect "JEWS FOR JESUS" in Rehovot on the Sabbath. They were expressing their pain over the activities of the Jewish apostate Baruch Maoz, also known as "Ricky Efrima", in a demonstration organized by YAD L'AHIM. Maoz has been baptized and studied at a seminary for clergy in Wales, and he is now among the heads of the Mission in Israel and engages in the production of missionary literature by means of HAGEFEN PUBLISHERS. At the demonstration Rabbi Simha Kook spoke emotionally about the Germans who incinerated bodies but the missionaries were incinerating souls, continuing the work of Auschwitz throughout the world. It was also announced that prayer demonstrations would continue at the site every evening until the mission plague was purged out. (HATSOFEH/HAMODIYA/9.12.84)

MAARIV (9.12.84) noted that the "Messianic sect" had been the object of harassment since their arrival in Rehovot. Spokesmen of the sect claim that among them are "Jews, Christians and Muslims, and a Christian or Muslim accepted in their congregation becomes a Jew." Recently re-located on Weizmann Street adjacent to synagogues and religious schools, they have been charged by the Mayor with violation of zoning regulations. HAARETZ (9.12.84) in a brief report noted that this was the second Sabbath in a row that demonstrations had been held at the site, but this time with a police license. In a longer report YEDIOT AKHRONOT (9.12) bylined Miri Aden, described the atmosphere at the scene. "Cries of 'Nazis and Troublers of Israel' were hurled at members of the congregation, about 20, mostly Jewish, singing songs of praise to God to the accompaniment of guitars. 'The place should be burnt to the ground so that these apostates may be forced to return to their countries,' the demonstrators shouted. Baruch Maoz, responding to some of the charges made against them, denied that antisemites were funding their work. "We receive funds also from likeminded believers in Germany, but they are all friends of Israel," he said. "I am mortified by this demonstration, we are harming no one; and if they knew us, they wouldn't be demonstrating," he said. "We serve in the I.D.F. and fulfil all our civil obligations," he added, also denying that they distribute missionary literature to children, which is illegal, "and we are law-observing." A similar news article also appeared in HADASHOT (TELAVIV) on the same date with a photo of a placard posted in Rehovot announcing the forthcoming demonstration headlined: "A CONVERT & APOSTATE IN REHOVOT!!" Also noted the enthusiastic chanting and dancing of the demonstrators outside the place of worship.

(MORE)

"THANKS TO YAD L'AHIM": The ultra-orthodox weekly EREV SHABBAT (30.11.84) published a brief article about the response of Jerusalem "Messianics" to demonstrations organized by the anti-mission society YAD L'AHIM. (SEE SELECTIONS #125 page 2 "ANTI-MISSION PROTESTS IN J'LM") It came in the form of a poster headed: "MESSIANIC JEWS THANK THE ACTIVISTS OF YAD L'AHIM." The Messianic response was reported in the Christian magazine CHARISMA, published in Toronto, where Israeli Christians were described as "persecuted." But this persecution complex is disproportionate to the "Thank You" poster distributed around Jerusalem for the publicity given them by the YAD L'AHIM demonstrations. The latter indeed recognize that at times they are acting as unpaid press agents for the Mission in their drive to expose its emissaries & deeds.

BEIT EBENEZER, HAIFA: An astonishing apathy involving evasion of responsibility has been demonstrated by the Haifa Municipality with respect to the baptism of Jewish residents in the Christian nursing home, "Even HaEzer" in Haifa, which was originally licensed by the City for Christians only. Mr. Avranam Landau of the Welfare Dept in the Municipality in a reply to YAD L'AHIM stated that "it is not within our authority to intervene over what is done within the premises." Another official, Mr. S. Friedman of the Geriatrics Dept, praised the quality of care at the Home and stated that "we have no reason to deny a license to the institution...and all the aged in the Home have entered on their own initiative and of their own free will." YAD L'AHIM in Haifa has decided not to allow the issue to be dropped from the public agenda. (HAMODIYA: 28.11.84)
(DER YID, a Yiddish ultra-orthodox journal published in New York, featured an "expose" article about the Nursing Home on 7 Sep 84.)

LIBEL SUIT IN RAMAT HASHARON: A series of clippings appeared in the religious and general press in October and November concerning the libel action of Ari and Shiri Sorko-ram against Ramat HaSharon Council Head Moshe Verbin in the amount of \$10,000 and a demand for a public apology to them. In the suit filed by Attorney Yosef Ben-Menashe, Verbin was accused of having represented the plaintiffs as "Christian missionaries who bribe young Jews to change their religion". These statements were allegedly made in a public place in the presence of journalists and were reported in the press, causing them to be objects of hatred, derision and constant slander and threats. (SEE SELECTIONS #126 page 1 bottom "RAMAT HASHARON") Ari Sorko-ram also charges that as a result of the adverse publicity a youth club program with which he was due to be involved was no longer viable. They were also falsely connected to the Emin sect operating in the city. Meanwhile, Verbin has announced that he will not apologize or pay damages. Asked by other members of the Ramat HaSharon Council on what evidence he based his "unfortunate" remarks, he would only say: "It was made known to me." He has invited the plaintiffs to appear at a council meeting and present their position. A full-page feature article with a snapshot of the Sorko-ram family appeared in "KOL HERZLIYA-KFAR SABA" (YEDIOT AKHORONOT SUPPLEMENT) on 2.11.84. Written by Avital Nitzan, the feature describes at length interviews with Messianic Jew Tommy (Tamir) Halperin, a sabra who grew up in Canada with Israeli emigré parents, who has now returned to Israel; also with YAD L'AHIM spokesmen, and with the Sorko-rams themselves. Nitzan is somewhat surprised at the openness of the Sorko-rams and quotes them at length with regard to their Messianic views and their insistence that neither they nor their movement are Christian. At one point he shows his ritual fringes ("tzitzit") to demonstrate their observance of biblical precepts given to Israel. They claim they are being slandered by means of scare words like "missionary" as in the McCarthy era in the U.S.A. innocent people were tagged "Communist."

MESSIANICS IN ASHDOD: The meetings of the Messianic sect in Ashdod, conducted in the name of Dr. Otto Hirschfeld, (SEE SELECTIONS #126, bottom page 7 "ASHDOD") have been stopped following pressures by ultra-orthodox circles on the owner of the villa rented by Hirschfeld who signed an undertaking with the owner to discontinue the meetings. (HADASHOT 21.11.84)

The ultra-orthodox weekly EREV SHABAT (16.11.84) published a feature on the Ashdod Messianic group under the headline "MESSIANIC SECT UNDER THE GUISE OF 'CLOTHING BAZAAR'", which purported that the group advertised a sale of clothing from Germany in order to attract visitors to its lectures. It also reported details about the group's leaders, Dr. Klaus Moshe Pulz of Ramat Hasharon, and his deputy Joseph Alcahai, and their addresses in Ramat Hasharon, Herzliya, and Ashdod. A broadcast interview with Ashdod YAD L'AHIM staff member Yitzhak Be'eri, took place on the "B" network at 07:55 on 12.11.84 in which he charged the group with missionary purposes.

"YIGDAL": A distorted Hebrew prayerbook containing excerpts from the traditional Hebrew prayerbook plus Christian additions was recently published by the Messianic congregation NETIV-YA in Jerusalem, headed by the convert Joseph Shulam, with one of the copies sent to the anti-mission department of the YAD L'AHIM activists. The graphics were done by another convert, Amikam Tavor, and also illustrated by Elhanan Ben-David, including some of the songs of Rabbi Daniel Zion in praise of "That Man" (Jesus). At the last moment the editors apparently detected in the YIGDAL hymn a verse which contradicts their faith ("THERE HAS NOT ARISEN IN ISRAEL A PROPHET LIKE UNTO MOSES...") and they inserted a piece of paper in all copies of their "siddur" in order to delete the passage. (EREV SHABAT:23.11.84) PHOTOGRAPH OF "CORRECTED" YIGDAL.

MOSES WILHELM SHAPIRO: Several reviews and feature articles about the controversial 19th Century Hebrew-Christian who ended his life in the wake of a scandal over a sale of a scroll to the British Museum which was later called a forgery...although some doubts still linger. A novel by Israeli writer Shulamit Lapid, entitled "AS A BROKEN POTSDAM," has sparked renewed interest in the subject. (KAWL HA'IR 26.9; KOL J'LM 10.8)

"MESSIANISM NOW": Academy of Sciences President, Prof. Ephraim Urbach, in declaring his repugnance over the Gush Emunim Terror cells, called them "MESSIANISM NOW." (JERUSALEM POST:25.5.84; PUBLIC FACES/Mark Segal)

"THE MISSION"

"JEWS FOR JESUS": M.K. Haim Druckman of "Morasha" introduced a motion for the agenda on the activities of Christian missionaries. He said that the JEWS FOR JESUS movement is "attempting to rend the Jewish people, and the sooner its activities are curtailed the better." (JLM POST:11.12) A singing group calling themselves "The Liberated Wailing Wall" are presently touring South Africa, and leaders of the Jewish community are concerned that they might be involved in Christian missionary activity among gullible young Jews. A warning against their activities has been received by the president of the Federation of Synagogues Women's Guilds from YAD L'AHIM. They openly advertise themselves as "JEWS FOR JESUS" and are said to be on a world tour of Jewish communities. (Photograph of J.F.J. poster advertising performances...JEWISH HERALD, JO'BURG:4.9.84)

"KEREN YALDEINU": Where has "Keren Yaldeinu" (The Fund for Our Children) disappeared? This Fund which was initiated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs as a constructive implement in the war against the Mission 30 years ago has for some ten years and more ceased from its anti-mission activities, while its youth centres and clubs no longer engage in matters related to the Mission. Anti-mission functionaries are asking about the many properties in cities and towns acquired for this Fund. For several years now the Division for Special Functions within the Ministry of Religious Affairs which supervised "Keren Yaldeinu" has been inoperative and anti-mission activity stopped. (HAMODIYA 23.11.84)

LYDDA (LOD): Two additional articles about the missionary threat and anti-mission counteractions in the town of Lydda appeared in the two ultra-orthodox dailies (HAMODIYA:7.12; SHEARIM:23.11), indicating that the Mission in view is the sect of "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" ("it's forbidden to contribute blood to save Jews...won't serve in the I.D.F., house-to-house canvassing...") (SEE ALSO SELECTIONS No. 126 top page 2 "LYDDA".) The J.W.s are not actually mentioned in the body of the articles.

NETANYA: The Netanya police will take action against the missionaries who offered "generous aid" to a distressed family in town. YAD L'AHIM know the identity of the missionary couple who discovered the family before their eviction from their flat. The soul-hunters had offered them their assistance to clear their debts and even to add to that flight tickets abroad for the family if they agree to be baptized on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and meanwhile to send their three-year-old son to the French School in Jaffa. Following a complaint to the police, they will take action against the missionaries who have violated the law. Meanwhile, readers of SHEARIM have been asked to come to the aid of the family by means of contributions to the fund set up to cover the family debts in the amount of \$15,000. (SHEARIM : 23.11.84)

TIBERIAS: YAD L'AHIM activists in Tiberias recently prevented the distribution of missionary literature by members of the JEHOVAH WITNESS sect. This Messianic sect claims that the end of days is at hand. They are Israeli Jews who distribute Scriptures and give bible lessons free of charge. (KOL HA'EMEK, UPPER NAZARETH : 26.10.84)

GIVAT SHMUEL: An hysterical appeal for help to stop the "plague" of alleged missionary recruitment to the French School in Jaffa run by monks who are allegedly enticing poor families to enrol. (HAMAHANE HANAREDI : 31.10.84)

ROSH HA'AYIN: Under the headline "GO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY AND THEN THEY'LL PAY ATTENTION TO YOU," the story of an evicted mother and children (the husband in prison) was featured in HADASHOT (6.12.84). One line in the story provided the headline. "The neighbours suggested that she convert to Christianity, then maybe someone will pay attention to you; no one helps the people of Rosh Ha'AYin."

YOM KIPPUR TRACTING: A well-known secular writer of North African origin born of a traditional Jewish religious family (Erez Biton) recently complained of missionary insolence in distributing Christian missionary material in private post boxes on the eve of the Day of Atonement. The writer of the report, M. Yaacobi, expressed the hope that the secular writer will soon enter a yesniva and become a penitent. (HAMODIYA : 16.11.84)

MISSIONARY UPSURGE: Four ^{feature} articles in various Jewish Diaspora journals warned against "missionary upsurge" (JEWISH WEEK, NYC:7.9.84), "increased conversion efforts" (BNAI BRITH MESSENGER, L.A.:21.9.84); also ANTI-MISSIONARY HOTLINE (B.B.M., L.A. 7.9.84), "fight against missionaries" (JEWISH CHRONICLE:26.10.84). Most of the articles focused on Hebrew-Christians, messianic Jews, and "Jews for Jesus," and the "fundamentalist" Christian groups backing them.

CARMIEL: Several youths were seen distributing missionary material in the commercial centre of this Galilean township in the English language. The local rabbi accused Carmielites of neglect in permitting minority groups to buy housing in town and presumably providing a base for missionary activity. The headline (but not the body of the story) claimed that the youths were missionizing among Ethiopian Jewish immigrants. (KOL CARMIEL : 9.11.84)

THE JEWISH MISSION: M.K. Shulamit Aloni has submitted a Parliamentary query to the Minister of Police, Haim Bar-Lev, relating to the penitentiary activities of the movement of Jewish penitents. She charged that Jewish religious organizations operating in Israeli prisons were "exploiting the prisoners' distress for Jewish missionary purposes" on the basis of news reports. She also asked whether Christian, Muslim and other groups were permitted to act in the same manner. (KAWL HA'IR : 7.12.84)

JOHN GROSSSTEINBECK: Does anyone know the whereabouts in Palestine of the farmstead of John Grosssteinbeck, the missionary grandfather of Nobel Prize writer John Steinbeck? He was burned out by Beduin in the 1850s. (JERUSALEM POST BOOK SECTION:30.11)

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES: If Adi Levy wants to fulfil the Christian principle of turning the other cheek with respect to the Israeli Govt, let him apply another Christian principle, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone." (Editor)

BAPTISTS IN JERUSALEM: A series of 10 clippings (mostly datelined Nov. 1984) appeared in the Israeli press (with one exception in the Anglo-Jewish press) dealing with the fight over the reconstruction of the burnt-out Baptist Church on Markis Street in Jerusalem. Almost all the ^{Hebrew} articles appeared in the ultra-orthodox press and detailed the steps taken by orthodox functionaries to prevent the reconstruction on the present site. Among the arguments were the residential nature of the area, the missionary activities of the church and Baptists generally, and Pastor Robt L. Lindsey's admission to having baptized Jews and his claim to being a Jew. Mayor Kollek was said to have reacted to an article in an ultra-orthodox journal containing statements by Pastor Lindsey allegedly confirming "missionizing methods." According to a municipal spokesman, the Mayor stated: "If this is true, then we'll take care of the matter." (HAMAHANE (SEE ALSO SELECTIONS #126, bot. page 8 JLM BAPT.CH.) (21.11.84 HAHAREDI)

PROJECT KIBBUTZ: MAARIV (18.11; 25.11) and HAMODIYA (4-5.12.84) reported on controversy over Christian volunteers in Israeli kibbutzim under the wing of the Evangelical movement "PROJECT KIBBUTZ". While a special kibbutz committee set up to investigate charges of alleged under-cover missionizing by the Christian volunteers has cleared them of the charges and extolled their dedication and character, others within the movement (besides ultra-orthodox anti-mission agents outside) are continuing their campaign for the removal of the "PROJECT" from Israel. (SEE ALSO SELECTIONS (#126, p.4, PROJECT)

CHRISTIANS AND ISRAEL/JEWS

EVANGELICALS: "ISRAEL AND THE EVANGELICALS: AN AMBIGUOUS RELATIONSHIP" Under this heading DAVAR (25.11.84) published an analysis by Shlomo Shapir of the positive and negative aspects of Evangelical/Jewish and Israel ties, noting on the positive side the strong unequivocal support for Israel among millions of Evangelicals in America and the West, and on the negative side the tendency of many Evangelicals to be identified with right-wing causes, missionizing and belief in the conversion of the Jews. The writer concludes: "It appears therefore that the matter is more complex than the Int'l Christian Embassy in Jerusalem tries to present it, but this doesn't relieve Israel of the obligation to work for understanding (rapport) within this major Christian camp, without cultivating exaggerated illusions."

BLACKS, CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS & JEWS: A 17-page symposium on the relationships between the various U.S. communities appeared in "PRESENT TENSE" (New York, Summer 1984). Subheaded, "WHEN YOU'RE ONLY 2.5% OF THE POPULATION YOU NEED ALL THE ALLIES YOU CAN GET BUT WHO SHALL THEY BE & WHAT ARE THE TRADE-OFFS?", the symposium dealt with the various complexities of intercommunal relations in the U.S.A. with a generally upbeat assessment of these relationships notwithstanding recognizable strains, at the same time noting efforts to relate constructively to intercommunal problems.

PRO-ISRAEL AMERICAN INDIANS: An American pastor, Robt. Morrison, 36, during a visit to Israel described his ministry in Arizona with a mixed congregation of American Indians and Caucasians (whites). The Indians in his congregation are reportedly enthused over Israel and some have even learned Hebrew with the aid of an Israeli married to a local citizen. He also ministers among drugtakers, and here too Israel serves as an incentive. (MAARIV:9.12.84)

PILGRIMS & TOURIST GUIDES: A crisis is brewing on the eve of the Christian holiday season with Israeli guides threatening drastic action if clergy, mainly Roman Catholic, continue to circumvent the law requiring licensed Israeli tourist guides for pilgrim groups in the country. They also charge that some of the clergy leading pilgrim groups are anti-Israel in their guide capacity. (YEDIOT AKHRONOT:4.12.84)

INTERMARRIAGE: A young Israeli woman who insisted on living in the USA for six months prior to her enlistment in the I.D.F. became entangled with a "Christian American, married and the father of 4," and eventually obtained a release from military service to marry him abroad. Her family is heart-broken. (EREV SHABBAT : 17.8.84)

CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS

1ST INT'L CHRISTIAN ZIONIST CONGRESS IN BASEL: In August 1985 the 1st International Christian Zionist Congress will take place at the same time and site where Theodore Herzl convened the First World Zionist Congress in 1897. The Congress is sponsored by the Int'l Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, following a resolution taken at the annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem organized by the ICEJ. The Ultra-orthodox Camp (7.11.84) reported the decision with sarcastic comments: "CHRISTIANS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF 'THE SEER OF THE STATE'...This indeed exposes the true purpose of the founders of Zionism."

HOLY LAND INSTITUTE: A 25-th anniversary celebration of the founding of the American Holy Land Institute in Jerusalem was marked at the Van Leer J'lm Foundation, and a welcome to an interim executive & director & dean, Dr. Peter Veltman, succeeding Prof. George Giakoumakis. A biblical dictionary initiated by Dr. Douglas Young, founder of the Institute, and completed by his successor, Prof. Giakoumakis, has been published, it was announced, titled YOUNG'S BIBLE DICTIONARY. (JLM POST : 12.11.84)

GOG AND MAGOG: A feature article on Israeli prognosticators about the end-times included a photo and description of the views of Jerusalem-based Pentecostal preacher Ruth Heflin and a description of the community's lifestyle. (KAWL HA'IR : 26.9.84)

FINNISH ZIONIST: MAARIV (22.4.84) published a full-page feature under the heading "I AM A CHRISTIAN ZIONIST" concerning Dr. Anna Rotti, a pediatrician 15 years in Israel; a daughter converted to Judaism, ^{the mother} separated from her husband in Finland.

CHRISTIAN ZIONISM & MISSION: The Hungarian daily (UJ KELET 21.10) published an article about the Christian Zionist movement and alleged links to the mission movement among Jews, apparently based on the NEWSWEEK feature. (SEE SELECTIONS #126, page 10 top) An article by Schalom Ben-Chorin in the German-language ISRAEL NACHRICHTEN (9.11.84) covered the Christian Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles and the I.C.E.J. sponsors. The English-language East J'lm journal AL-FAJR (16.11.84) published a report on a lecture delivered by Rev. Naim Ateeq on "The Political & Social Deviation of Christianity" in which he criticized Christian pro-Zionist eschatology at the J'lm Symposium for Arab-Christian businessmen & academics.

SECTARIANS

J.W. Two feature articles in Hebrew on the J.W. sect, mainly dealing with their eschatology and their tactics for increasing membership--in Israel (especially in Lod) and worldwide. (MAARIV-GUSH DAN SUPPLEMENT 19.10.84; AL HANISMAR 12.8.84); also a news brief describing an encounter between two J.W.s and a rabbi in north Tel-Aviv (EREV SHABAT 7.12.84). In Lod they seem to be attracting youths from among Eastern Jews (Iran, Georgia, India.) A territory map card of Bat Yam-Holon for canvassing published. (HAMODIYA 6.11)

MORMONS: Various news reports and features about Mormon activity in Israel appeared in Israeli press and on radio during spring and summer, in connection with Mormon Choir (MAARIV 20.5); planting of garden on Mt. Olives (8.3); alleged missionary activity in Israel (Kol Israel Radio 1.6); plans to erect a university on Mt. Scopus and Orthodox opposition (EREV SHABAT 1.6; KAWL HA'IR 8.6) In East J'lm AL FAJR (14.9.84) published a lengthy two-page feature about Mormon plans for a church centre "on confiscated (Arab) land," providing considerable background material about Mormon "Zionism" and alleged anti-Arabism. It urged pressure on Mormons to "alter their position on Palestinian aspirations."

SUNDRIES: HEBRAICA--A Book Review by Geoffrey Wigoder of "THE MOST ANCIENT TESTIMONY" by Jerome Friedman, Ohio Univ. Press, Athens, Ohio, about the explosion of Hebrew learning in 16th Century Christendom during the Reformation period. (JLM POST MAGAZINE : 9 Mar 84)

MUSIC: The Sixth Liturgical Festival and interfaith musical problems. (JLM POST 13.1.84)