

"JEWS IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS": Passover is also the Christian Easter and at the Emanuel Church in Jaffa they are winning souls to "Messianic Judaism". Rabbi Shlomo Lifschitz, head of YAD L'AHIM (anti-mission society) states: "This is a center for the spiritual destruction of the people of Israel". (The foregoing is the heading of a feature article in a regional supplement of MAARIV (Tel-Aviv & Gush Dan) on 5 Apr. 85 with photo of a neighbourhood family captioned: "We don't enter the church any more". There follows a description of "Beit Emanuel" activities which are linked to the Emanuel Lutheran Church in the same area and comments about other missionary activities. Excerpts follow: (Byline: Pirha Latner.)

"I WAS A WHORE": "I was a whore, and I'm not ashamed to say it. I told this to my 'brothers and sisters' in the church and no one laughed at me. Imagine if I'd said that in a synagogue--they would have stoned me". Judith, who made these remarks, is a 40-year old blonde, adds: "A whore struggles with herself, seeks to find herself. 'The Voice of Lebanon' one evening broadcast the story of someone, which seemed to be like my story, so I wrote them, and by one way or another a New Testament got to me".

"HARD TO COMMUNICATE": Rikki is a different case, born in Israel, delicate, fragile and nice-looking, with a warm smile and discerning eyes. She works in the Dugith Gallery, and she came to this out of a profound existential distress. "I felt that I didn't belong, I was unhappy, and didn't understand the meaning of my existence in the world", she explains. She had joined a small sect, but in response to the invitation of a close friend she arrived at Emanuel, and discovered a group of people "who spoke with God as if he were in the room; they thanked him as if he were right next to them; one could feel the very presence of God". At my incredulous expression, she responds: "I know how hard it is to communicate such an experience to another person, because these are words which speak to the heart rather than to the intellect".

This was the third time I had attended the Saturday evening service at 7:30 P.M. on Ber-Hofman street in Jaffa. Many cars are parked at no. 17, owned by successful Israelis and some less successful, seated in a meeting hall in a friendly family atmosphere, listening to a sermon by an American Jewish convert who has "discovered Yeshua". The preacher spoke about his life until that fateful day when, as a tourist in Jerusalem, "I found the light" in the library of the Christian Church. The man expanded on the virtues of Yeshua the Messiah while a fluent Hebrew-speaking woman translated him into Hebrew. Afterward there was showing of slides as the believers burst forth in song: "YESHUA IS ALL THE WORLD TO ME", and "IN SPLENDOR HE COMES".

A young man stands on the pulpit and speaks of the love of the Messiah, exciting the worshippers as he explains his destiny to give praise to God. "Let's see who are the newcomers among us", he calls out. A young soldier in uniform, somewhat embarrassed, stands up as others rise to greet him: "Welcome, brother!" A silver-haired American woman speaking English rises: "I want to express what I feel", she declares. "Please", comes the reply from the pulpit. "Yeshua is not the God of Israel..." but before she can finish speaking, she is escorted out. "Let us pray for the woman", the leader announces. "I know her. She comes from a hostile sect YAD L'AHIM". Heads are bowed, eyes closed, as prayer is offered for the errant woman...

AN ADDICT REHABILITATED: At the end of a street in a dilapidated house, Livna has been watching for years. She tells of young men "our Establishment couldn't rescue", about Israel, a young man burrowing among the garbage bins "full of drugs, nearly dead; but they took him in, cared for him and rehabilitated him..." Livna observes the cream of North Tel-Aviv

coming to the frequent concerts at the church. "There are nights when the place is like the parking lot of the diamond exchange". Livna's children grew up in the shadow of the church. "We went to films, received candies, joined arts and crafts groups, but now that we've grown up we don't go there any more", the children relate. But a new generation of some 30 children find their sole recreation within the church premises. "We pay taxes but the municipality ignores us", Livna says. "The neighbourhood is filthy, and the church is the only one which cleans and takes care of the street".

"OVER A THOUSAND MISSIONARIES IN ISRAEL": The writer alleges that "there are over a thousand missionaries in Israel, among them hundreds of Jewish converts, working in some 50 missionary institutions and belonging to various sects...whose clear aim is to convert Jews". The movement of Messianic Jews, whose source is in America, does not identify itself as either Catholic or Protestant, but asserts its Jewish identity while at the same time affirming belief in Jesus as Messiah. A joint statement of the Christian communities in Israel is quoted in excerpts by the writer, which declares their intent to bear witness to faith in Yeshua, to respond to inquiries about their faith, to "assist members of our communities to be better Christians and better citizens". A notice about a seminar on "Torah and Judaism" under the aegis of the famous preacher Billy Graham and "JEWS FOR JESUS" is found at the Caspari Center on Bar Kochba Street in Jerusalem. Stuart Dauerman and Tuvya Zaretsky are coming to Israel to welcome and lead participants...

"MOST SOPHISTICATED MISSIONARY CENTER IN ISRAEL": "The Emanuel Church is the largest and most sophisticated missionary center in Israel", says Rabbi Shalom Lipschutz, Director of YAD L'AHIM, a society labouring for years to remove the mask from the seemingly innocent activity of the missionaries. "We have clear evidence that the aim of the Beth Emanuel Congregation is to prove that we Jews are in error and we must be made into good Jews", he adds. "There are national conferences held there for all the mission leaders, regular lessons for Hebrew-speakers, seminars for Jewish apostates, and holiday camps. There is also a hostel for young Jews who have converted and cut themselves off from their families; many tragedies involving those who have forsaken the people of Israel...The very name 'Messianic Jews' (Yehudim-Meshihiim) is most dangerous. We view this place as a center for the spiritual destruction of the people of Israel, and demand that all the State authorities do everything possible to liquidate this frightful plague". (end article)

PASSOVER AND THE LAST SUPPER: On the eve of the Passover season there were several news articles published about a "missionary haggada" for the passover Seder. "KOL HAIFA" (A regional supplement of YEDIOT AKHRONOT--29.3.85) reported that "THE MISSION IS INTENSIFYING ITS ACTIVITY FOR PASSOVER and described (with an illustration) the tract "WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES", produced by the "Messianic Jews" and distributed in various Haifa neighbourhoods. On the eve of Passover (4.4.85) YEDIOT AKHRONOT, AL HAMISHMAR, & HATSOFEH variously headlined news briefs about Jesus the Nazarene in the Passover Haggada, in a report emanating from New York: The Jewish Book Council of the United States in cooperation with many Jewish Communities has issued a protest concerning a multi-coloured Pocket Book aimed at children which relates the story of Passover and the Exodus and includes a portion about Jesus and the Last Supper. Educators, rabbis, parents and book-sellers have been warned about the danger of the book. Jewish organizations have demanded that the books be returned to the publishers, "Ideals Publishing Corporation", for re-marketing under a different title in order that bookbuyers would know that it is a Christian book about Passover and not a traditional Haggada. They also stated that the story of Jesus and the Last Supper has no relation to the story of Passover.

FINANCING A LIBEL SUIT IN RAMAT HA'SHARON: At a meeting of the local council in Ramat HaSharon this evening (21.4.85) the recommendation of the council management that the legal expenses of Council Head David Verbin

be borne by the council in the libel suit submitted against him is expected to be contested by the Opposition. The matter relates to the *Maoz family, residents of Ramat HaSharon, who claim that the Council Head accused them of engaging in missionary activity, a charge without foundation, and they are demanding seven million shekels damages for slander against them. The argument for funding the defence is based on the claim that the Council Head made his remarks in his official capacity and he is therefore entitled to legal expenses. The Council Legal Advisor has, however, argued that the action is a personal one against the Council Head and the Legal Advisor cannot defend him. He also advised that a defence attorney with experience in this field be engaged, and it was subsequently learned that costs would reach \$15,000 plus \$250 for each court session. This proposal is subject to the approval of the Council. (HAMODIYA) SEE ALSO SELECTIONS No. 130, page 4, bottom ("LAWSUIT...")

*EDITORS NOTE: The newspaper erroneously reported the name of the plaintiff as Maoz. It should be SORKO-RAM.

"IN THE ARAVA THEY AWAIT THE RETURN OF THE MESSIAH": SIMHA PERLMUTTER & IR OVOT: Ron Kislev of HAARETZ (5 Apr 85) wrote a lengthy feature article on the Arava settlement Ir Ovot headed by Simha Perlmutter, based on interviews with residents during a visit to the settlement. He reviewed the checkered history of the group beginning with its emigration to Israel from Southern Florida in 1966, the opposition of the Jewish Agency to them, their settlement in the Arava, the perplexity caused by Perlmutter's announcement of his taking an additional wife, a Gentile Christian, and the legal battles which he engaged in and won for recognition of Ir Ovot and the necessary facilities for operating it. The settlement grew and was later taken under the wing of the then Chief Rabbi Goren who organized a gala conversion ceremony during which 13 Gentile members of the settlement were formally converted to Judaism, including Simha's second wife. ULTRA ORTHODOX LIFESTYLE. They began to practice a strict ultra-orthodox lifestyle and a Rabbi Ami Katz became the settlement rabbi, announcing in 1983 that everyone in the settlement would be ultra-orthodox, TV would be banned as well as "newspapers which publish abominations". The ultra-orthodox anti-zionist Rabbi of Satmar was scheduled to take the settlement under wing and send 120 hassidic families from the USA to settle there. At the time there were some 20 families with a total of about 70 persons.

The new turn of events proved disastrous, and the zealous Rabbi Katz is held to be the cause of it; he was said to be a person of "intrigues". Simha's first wife Judith rebelled against the Orthodox turn and began to have second thoughts about "the triangular" marriage in which she had been involved for 18 years. She left the settlement, taking with her most of the Perlmutter children (including some of those born to the second wife) and others of the settlers. Perlmutter contested for the custody of his youngest son in the Rabbinic courts. Meanwhile, Judith joined YAD L'AHIM as an activist. Shortly afterward the Ultra-Orthodox court in Jerusalem issued a "grave warning" against Simha Perlmutter and Ir Ovot, calling him "a frightful danger to every Jew, who wearing the mantle of an ultra-orthodox Jew seeks to influence Jews to believe in That Man (Jesus), Heaven forbid!..." This was a severe blow, and almost all the remaining settlers left. The Jewish Agency has also shelved all plans for development of the settlement.

Perlmutter remains undaunted and is convinced that he is on the way to recovery and unparalleled success. "This time I won't repeat the mistakes I made. I will accept only those who believe in Yeshua son of David, the Messiah who is to return to us". Meanwhile, there are 13 men and women and about ten children at Ir Ovot, most of them Non-Jewish American volunteers. There are only three families settled, two of them being Perlmutter and his family and his elderly parents, the third are new immigrants from the USA.

EQUAL RIGHTS: The clergy of all Christian denominations have the same rights in Israel as the Orthodox rabbinate...The State of Israel is strictly

neutral in this matter...I think that the State of Israel has to practice the same neutrality towards all major trends of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform. The state should not decide the authenticity of religious denominations in a pluralistic society. SCHALOM BEN-CHORIN, JERUSALEM (JERUSALEM POST READERS LETTERS: 1 Feb 85)

TEL-AVIV & GUSH DAN MISSIONARIES: In response to articles in the Hebrew press by Uri Gordon of the Jewish Agency Youth division concerning Jewish converts to Christianity (SEE SELECTIONS 130, page 1) and the allegation that the Tel-Aviv area "isn't afflicted with this eccentric and queer phenomenon", Moshe Porush of the anti-mission division of YAD L'AHIM replied in the Tel-Aviv supplement of YEDIOT AKHRONOT (29.3.85) that JEWS FOR JESUS ("or their Israeli name MESSIANIC JEWS) do appear under different guise in the Tel-Aviv area". The writer then cites Emanuel Church, Beit Emanuel, Dugit Gallery, the Bible shop on Ben-Yehuda street, the missionary center of the "apostate" Yossi Ben-Zvi near the Tel-Aviv University, the extremist sect "Jehovah Witnesses on Nahalat Benjamin Street at the corner of Shefer, including nearly a thousand Jews who on principle do not serve in the Israeli Defence Force (IDF), the French-Catholic school in Jaffa with some 250 Jewish children, the "apostate" brothers Bar David of Ramat Gan, the Baptist Village in Petah Tikva, the Maoz Society of Ari & Shira Sorko-Ram of Ramat Hasharon, and dozens of other groups and house meetings in the Gush Dan area..."

RADIO ALARM ABOUT MISSIONARIES: On 12 Mar 85 (1st Network 16:05 Hours) Uri Gordon was interviewed about Jewish children studying in Christian institutions and 'the estimated 2,500 apostates' in Israel. Asked about the fact that he, a secularist Labour-oriented Jew, was sounding the alarm against missionaries, he defended his position on general Jewish grounds, and the danger of having missionaries solve Jewish problems such as care for the retarded, education, the infirm, the aged, distressed youth, & those suffering from emotional distress. "There is a fundamental issue here: Are we permitting the Mission to operate in Israel because we, as a Jewish Israeli society, do not have the answers to these problems of distress?" Gordon asked. "We must provide answers to these problems without any relation to the missionary issue", he added. Gordon admitted that many of his friends have been asking him why he's involved with this anti-mission campaign. "They said to me: 'This is no problem. What is it your concern if there are a few Christians around. Why should this be any bother?' But I claim that if Israeli society doesn't reinforce its Jewish foundations it can enter some vexing situations, and that troubles me. My job is to sound the alarm, to put the matter on the agenda".

The New York Hebrew-language periodical OUR ISRAEL also published an article about the subject with a photograph of Uri Gordon captioned: "Hebrew Christians are exploiting the Law of Return". (1 Mar 85)

"IF THEY DON'T HELP ME, I'LL GO WITH MY CHILDREN TO THE MISSION": "if I don't get a flat in Carmiel, I'll leave my children in the Welfare Office and go to live in one of the villages of the minorities nearby", Malka Hazut, a divorcee and mother of three, said this week. She left her husband after ten years of marriage because of the constant beatings she and her children sustained. While her problems were acknowledged by the authorities at her former residence in Kiryat Yam, when she moved to Carmiel she was told there were no flats available. It was then that she threatened to go to the missionaries. (KOL CARMIEL 22.3.85)

JERUSALEM BOOK FAIR: The two Chief Rabbis of Israel despatched a joint letter to the management of the Jerusalem International Book Fair asking that books published by mission-related publishers not be exhibited at the

Fair, inasmuch as they had learned that such books would be on display. In his reply, the Fair director Zeev Berger stated that there was no reason to doubt the reliability of the publishers exhibiting at the Fair. (HAARETZ 18.4.85) A representative of the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party in the Jerusalem Municipal Council, Rabbi Abraham Joseph Laizeron, appealed to municipal officials to intervene in order to prevent the dissemination of missionary literature at the Jerusalem Book Fair. (HA'MODIYA 22.4.85) On the day that the Book Fair opened HAARETZ published a feature article by Lily Galili (5.5.85) about the Fair, which included a report about zealot pressures: "As in previous years, the Fair again opens under the threat of religious extremists who are anxious about the damaging effect of the missionary literature exhibited. The two chief rabbis even appealed to the Fair Director, whose reply was unequivocal. There has not been, neither does it appear that there will be, missionary literature at the Fair. In conversations with Fair personnel we heard that they have no intention of imposing censorship on the thousands of books displayed...Recently a Franciscan priest in a brown habit approached them and obtained a booth. No one asked him what he would exhibit although it is reasonable to assume that he will display both the Old and New Testaments".

"THE VOICE OF HOPE" RECEIVED IN THOUSANDS OF ISRAELI HOMES: M.K. Verdiger has demanded that the missionary broadcasts of the VOICE OF HOPE network be stopped. In a letter to the Minister of Defence the Knesset Member wrote: "In the context of the VOICE OF HOPE in Lebanon there is also the television network of C.B.N. (Christian Broadcasting Network), behind which stands the Christian preacher named Otis, whose station is called Middle East Television. It broadcasts, among other things, missionary preaching for conversion to Christianity, especially of the Jewish population, which reaches thousands of homes in Israel. Is it true that the Ministry of Defence supports or aids the VOICE OF HOPE station? Does the Minister know that the station broadcasts missionary programs whose aim--as Otis writes in his book--is to bring redemption to the Jewish people?" (SHEARIM: 13.3.85)

A response to the Parliamentary Question of M.K. Verdiger concerning the missionary activities of the C.B.N. and VOICE OF HOPE TV and radio stations was received from the Minister of Defence in a letter, as follows: "The two stations operate separately, the first under the ownership of C.B.N., whose president is Dr. Pat Robertson of Virginia Beach (a man who supports Israel), the second is THE VOICE OF HOPE owned by Geo. Otis. They both operate in Lebanon and are directed towards Christian listeners and others in Lebanon. The Ministry of Defence does not finance the stations, and we have no tie, nor interest nor influence on their broadcast programs". (SHEARIM 1 Apr 85)

TAPE LIBRARY: Funds have been raised for opening a tape loan library in Tiberias by YAD L'AHIM in the wake of the growing interest of Tiberians in the values of Judaism. This followed successful seminars and weekly lectures organized by YAD L'AHIM in the city. It is hoped that the tape library will quench the thirst of those in the process of "returning" to Orthodox Judaism. (EREV SHABAT: 25.1.85)

"THE MISSIONARIES ARE UPON US": Haifa: A local Haifa weekly (Kol-Bo: 15.3.85) published a complaint about a missionary tract found in the writer's letter box, "very modern, excellent format, very attractive, and I fear that such propaganda has an impact. As a Jewish citizen in the State of Israel I protest vigorously against this preaching. The tract argues against the Jews for their not recognizing Jesus even though the Bible ("Tenach") supposedly hinted at his coming. At the end of the tract there is an address for responses. I recommend that a municipal ordinance be passed forbidding such occurrences". Joseph Jacob.

PETAH TIKVA: Tracts with passages from the Scriptures attached to missionary literature, were distributed in letter boxes of various Petah Tikva neighbourhoods. Recently the missionaries have intensified their activities and under various names are disseminating propaganda under the guise of harmless information. (SHEARIM: 13.3.85)

BLOOD LIBEL: "In our history we have more than once faced situations in which we were entirely isolated and yet we were right. They said of us that we used the blood of Christian children to bake matzos with, so the whole world said, but we said it isn't true; and it took several centuries until the world came over to our side." (Zvi Blum, former Israel Ambassador to the U.N. in an interview about his role at the U.N., KAWL HA'IR 23.11.84)

"THE DOUBLE LIFE OF 'DR.' GOLDING": A book review of "Odyssey of a Jewish Soul" by Shmuel Golding under the above heading by Dvora Waysman appeared in the English JEWISH CHRONICLE (18.4.84). The reviewer is a former member of the anti-mission campaigner's board of trustees. She writes: "Shmuel Golding has gained himself a reputation (partly through my efforts and those of several reputable colleagues) as a missionary fighter, a man who had been himself a Christian missionary for 30 years but had returned to his Jewish roots . . . These pages attack ultra-orthodox Jews in Bene Brak...He admits that he was Francis McHaddington (a name forged from his former name, Francis Waddington), and that although he purported to be the son of Holocaust victims who perished at Babi Yar, he had not been circumcised as a child, that he had a criminal record in England . . . His hatred of the established Church is vehement, even paranoid, yet he barely refers to the Torah-true Judaism which he claims to have embraced in replacement... (There are various references to a "shotgun marriage," an abandoned wife, a common-law wife, and a French Martinique women named Jeanne...)"but why is he doing it? Could it be to widen the polarisation in Israel, to hasten the Second Coming, because he remains a secret Christian? Could it be that he is an unfrocked priest out for revenge? Even after a close association with Dr. Golding, I don't know the answer... For those of us who despise Christians who try to convert Jews, we can applaud his work, but the question remains: why is he doing it?"

THE MISSIONARY MENACE: A DIASPORA VIEW : Reports on missionary activity in Israel appear in Diaspora Jewish periodicals, mainly of an orthodox and ultra-orthodox orientation. DER YID and DER MORGEN JOURNAL of New York City reported police arrests of anti-mission activists in Jerusalem and Tiberias, and mail evangelism keyed to prophetic themes, which are derided. The Yiddish-language FORWARD of N.Y.C. reported alleged infiltration of missionaries at New Immigrant centres housing Ethiopian Jews. TRIBUNE JUIVE of Paris, France, reported protests in Rehovot against mission activity there. JEWISH PRESS of Brooklyn, N.Y., noted the 'plan to accelerate proselytizing efforts in Israel' by Morris Cerullo through the distribution of 25,000 Christian Bibles in Hebrew during 1985. Cerullo is allegedly sending out 100 hand-picked Israeli converts to proselytize and witness to their own people. PROJECT KIBBUTZ is another missionary outreach, the paper warns, as is the Mormon Church in Israel.

Missionary activities in the Diaspora are noted in Jewish periodicals: The SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH TIMES of Johannesburg (14.12.84) reported that at the last meeting for 1984 of the Transvaal Council of the Jewish Board of Deputies there were two reports presented on the activities of cults and missionaries and the threats they posed. The first report was by a clinical psychologist, the second by a Lubavitch (hassidic) rabbi. The WESTERN JEWISH NEWS of Winnipeg, Canada (8 Nov 84), in a column by Prof. Arnold Ages, briefly disposed of missionary activities among Jews terming them "obsessive" and "largely unsuccessful." The teaching that belief in

Jesus as messiah does not alter essential Jewishness "is a teaching based on a total misunderstanding of the essence of Jewishness, for which belief in the divinity of individuals is anathema. The first Christians realized they were playing a losing game with the "Jewishness" card and soon abandoned it. We find it bizarre that the card has shown up again". The B'NAI BRITH MESS-
 ENGER (Los Angeles, Cal. 21.12.84) in a column by Dr. Trude Weiss-Rosmarin headed "Missionaries & Apostates", discusses the contemporary threat of missionaries, especially JEWS FOR JESUS, and ways of responding to it. She has prepared a five-part lecture course (which can be condensed into a three-session "Scholar in Residence" weekend) in answer to the claims of JEWS FOR JESUS. She also recommends a modern edition of Isaac of Troki's refutation work (FAITH STRENGTHENED) for which she has provided an introduction, and also refers to the book by an ex-Hebrew Christian ("Escape from Jesus" by Shlomo Sherman).

JEWISH ECHO of Scotland (4 Feb 85) reported that "much of the time of (a recent) delegate meeting of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council was devoted to consideration of a Jewish Christian missionary, a man calling himself Mr. Zin, visiting schools and asking for Jewish pupils". Mr. Zin had also visited synagogues, Jewish meetings and private homes and distributed Hebrew-English copies of the New Testament. He was part of an organization known for its distribution of Scriptures to Jews, but he was not violating any law and there was no way one could turn him away from a synagogue. In summary, one delegate remarked that he was no more than a nuisance. A subsequent issue of the same periodical (15.Feb.85) carried a letter by Dr. K. Collins, Hon. secy of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, warning the community against invitations to a Seder organized by a Christian missionary group.

JEWISH TELEGRAPH of Manchester, England (5 Feb 85) carried a letter by staff of Christian Witness to Israel in Chiselhurst, Kent, in response to a report in the TELEGRAPH about "mystery missionary leaflets". The letter expressed thanks for the "gracious comments of Dr. Gewirtz who, while disagreeing with our objectives, nevertheless acknowledged our kindly intentions and good faith...in marked contrast to...two young men who claimed to represent JEWS FOR JEWS and threatened (a missionary) with bodily harm". The letter concludes: "To exclude the Jewish people (from the gospel commission) would be discrimination of the worst kind". Dr. Gewirtz replied that the missionaries should concentrate on making themselves and other Christians better Christians, and should understand that Jews are offended by attempts to convert them in view of 2,000 years of persecution; and "any religion which preaches a doctrine of human divinity is anathema to Jews".

JEWISH PRESS of Brooklyn, NY carried two reports on missionary activity, the first (22.2.85) dealt with the oft-repeated story of missionary activities among Brighton Reach's Soviet Jewish immigrants and the valiant work of Beth Shifra "fighting the missionary threat to Jewish souls". On 8th March 85 it published a lengthy feature by Julius Liebb headed WORLDWIDE CULT & MISSIONARY NET EXPOSED, a report of an international forum entitled "Cults & Missionaries: The New Challenge for America & Israel", sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council's Task Force on Missionaries and Cults in conjunction with the Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services Cult Hotline/Clinic". Targeted were "JEWS FOR J.—", the Unification Church ("moonies"), "so-called Hebrew-Christian groups", Scientology, a World Evangelical Conference in Bangkok, T.M. in Israel, Eiman cult, missionary programs carried out by Anglicans, Baptists, Christian Embassy, Midnight Call Ministry, Christian Broadcasting Network, and more. It is "a problem of staggering proportions descending upon the Jewish community in America and in Israel", the writer declares.

NO CHEEK: He will "get" anyone who rises up early to try to "get" him. He's not Jesus. He won't turn the other cheek. (A description of M.K. Cohen-Avidov in YEDIOT AKHRONOT: 29.3.85.)

AN INTERVIEW WITH JAN VAN DER HOEVEN, JR.

BAMAHANEH (Issue No.23) of the I.D.F. carried a two-page interview (and photograph) with Jan Van der Hoeven, the son of the leader of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, whose mother is a Sudanese Arab Christian and father is a devout Dutch Christian. At 19 he is voluntarily serving with the Armoured Corps out of a strong sense of identification with Israel and the Jewish people because of a firm belief in the Bible and the perpetual chosenness of Israel. He adheres to a strict Christian morality and also takes a very hawkish view of the Arab-Israel conflict while admitting that it would be a difficult dilemma if he encountered some of his Mother's Arab relatives in battle. (On 27.3.85 the periodical published two letters in response to the interview complaining of the young soldier's stated belief that the day will come when all Jews will believe in Jesus, and that meanwhile he tries to share his faith with others. One writer from Kibbutz Yiftah denounces the Christian Embassy as a missionary front which is "tied to people like Menahem Benhayim, a Jew who believes in Jesus and lives in Israel, who has written tracts for the Embassy and took part in the composition of a booklet for promoting the Mission among the Jews in Israel and abroad; another figure is Derek Prince who has written the missionary tract "Three Messages for Israel".)

AL-FAJR of East Jerusalem published a report about the pro-Israeli Int'l Christian Embassy (ICEJ), which has suffered a credibility setback this year with the resignation of a senior employee and seven other staff members during the past two months. No reasons for the resignations were revealed, but local Christian leaders believe that the embassy's involvement in politics of late sowed seeds of dissatisfaction among employees. Rev. Odeh Rantisi, head of the Anglican Church in Ramallah, a leading critic of the ICEJ, told AL-FAJR that "Christians have no embassy. Our message is that of reconciliation between man and his brother and with God." (MAR 1983)

TWO VIEWS ON REV. JERRY FALWELL: JERUSALEM POST (29.3.85) carried two letters from divergent perspectives about Rev. Jerry Falwell and Conservative Evangelical Christians. The first by Prof. Irwin Stark of Hillsdale, N.Y. urged the rejection by Israel of close ties with "reactionary, obscurantist" politicians and "Falwell's religious fundamentalism." Seth Halpern of Scarsdale, N.Y. denied that Falwell was an extremist although conservative. "Falwell has continued to support Israel and oppose anti-semitism even after an election campaign in which he was widely vilified by Jewish liberals... As elite American culture has become increasingly demoralized ... and even hostile toward Israel, Zionism and traditional Jewish communal values, the reaction against that culture should not be disdained." (The same day the POST carried a report on a press conference which introduced a book by Merrill Simon called JERRY FALWELL & THE JEWS. Simon claims that Conservative politicians in the USA are becoming more supportive of Israel in order to keep Christian evangelical fundamentalists politically active. "We need friends and allies if we want continued American support, and we need allies in the conservative camp," he said.)

PROJECT KIBBUTZ: The Israeli High Court rejected a plea by Davie Hinders, an official of PROJECT KIBBUTZ, against the Interior Ministry, which has ordered him to leave the country. The organization has (Christian) volunteers on six kibbutzim, mostly in Upper Galilee. The expulsion has been postponed for a month on humanitarian grounds as his wife recently gave birth. (JLM POST, 2.5.85; See also SELECTIONS 130, page 7, top)

KFAR SHAUL: DUTCH CHRISTIAN TELETHON: PLO supporters in Holland last week failed to disrupt a fund-raising telethon on behalf of Kfar-Shaul,

the government psychiatric hospital in Jerusalem. The fact that the institution is located on the site of the former Arab village of Deir Yassin, the scene of a massacre by Jewish underground groups in 1948, did not deter Dutch viewers, but the fact that 150 of the 350 patients are Holocaust survivors apparently made more of an impression. The telethon was conducted by the Evangelical Conservative TV Network of Holland, and raised over one million dollars. Conny Mus, EOTV representative in Israel is to present a cheque to J'Im Mayor Teddy Kollek at a concert on 9 May 85. (JLM POST: 18.4.85; 9.5.85) SEE ALSO SELECTIONS No. 130, page 6)

BETH SHALOM: The Christian organization Beth Shalom has "adopted" Ethiopian Jewish immigrants in Kiryat Gat for the Passover festival and donated 50 million shekels for holiday gifts, including kitchen utensils, clothes, and house furnishings. (EREV SHABAT 19.4.85)

MORMONS: During March & April there was a continued flow of articles, almost entirely from Jewish Orthodox sources, in the Israeli & Diaspora press in opposition to the planned construction in Jerusalem of a Mormon extension to Brigham Young University. (SEE SELECTIONS 130, page 7)

EMMA BERGER: THE JEWISH CHRONICLE (London) belatedly reported the death of Emma Berger, founder and spiritual leader of the German fundamentalist Beth El Christian Sect in Zichron Yaakov, at age 64. The controversial sect proclaims its steadfast support for Israel. Miss Berger rejected charges that it was a missionary organization. (19.4.85)

CHRISTIAN MUSIC: Two full pages with photographs were devoted by HAARETZ (3 May 85) to the Dormition Church on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, primarily to its musical programs, but additionally to its director Fr. Emanuel, a Benedictine from Germany. The monk expressed his love for Jerusalem, his various services to the Holy City, and his hostility to "fundamentalists" like Jerry Falwell who feel "obligated to convince their neighbours that they are in error, and this offends Israelis, Muslims and me". An article headed "STRANGE WORSHIP" (or "idolatry") by ultra-Orthodox M.K. Kalman Cahana appeared in SHEARIM (11 Jan 85) denouncing Israeli participation in Christian music festivals. He characterized Jewish participation in the festivals a shocking example of idolatry and taking up of Gentile ways.

EASTER-PASSOVER CONTROVERSY: The NEW YORK TIMES (7 Apr 85) in an editorial for Easter Sunday recalled the controversy over the dating of Easter in the early centuries. "The Quartodecimans, believing Easter should mark the death of Christ, wanted it commemorated on the Passover, the 14th day of the Jewish month of Nisan. But these Jewish Christians became outnumbered as the Church grew. Easter came to be set by the Gregorian calendar, breaking the link between the two feasts...yet both embody the hope of renewal as spring once more redresses the world".

AVRAHAM BURG: The son of Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, Avraham, who joined the Labour Party (his father is a National Religious Party leader) is now an adviser to Prime Minister Shimon Peres. His job is to provide the premier with background material for speeches and meetings with people on any matter relating to Diaspora-Israel affairs, even on Christian-Jewish matters. (He was party to the decision to have the P.M. meet with Jerry Falwell when the latter visited Israel. SEE SELECTIONS 130 p.5)

BIBLE BATTLE: A struggle between competing publishers of Hebrew Bibles is taking place in Israel over distribution outlets. The Koren publishers have charged that Madan publishers are using a Bible based on a missionary model produced by the "apostate" David Christian Ginsburg. Madan denies the charges and states that its Bible is derived from a Jewish source. An

investigation by Orthodox Jewish biblical scholar Prof. Haim Gevaryahu confirmed the Madan claim that the Bible it is offering to educational institutions and the IDF has "no connection with the Christian edition printed by the Christian Bible Society". The writer of the article, Amram Gabai, claims that there are significant differences between the missionary Bible and the standard Hebrew Bible, such as the divisions of the books, Latin letters in places, and "word errors", (but no examples are provided). In any case, at the beginning of the year the IDF distributed some 10,000 Bibles of the same model used by the missionaries and with the signature of the Chief (rabbinic) Military Chaplain on it! (DAVAR 31.3.85)

"DUST OF THE GROUND": Scientists in California have reported a major discovery that supports the emerging theory that life on Earth began in clay rather than the sea...If the theory can be confirmed, it would seem that an accumulation of chemical mistakes led to life on Earth. The theory is also evocative of the biblical account of the Creation. In Genesis it is written: "AND THE LORD GOD formed man of dust of the ground", and in common usage this primordial dust is called clay. (JERUSALEM POST CITING N.Y. TIMES 4.4.85)

DAILY BLESSING: POSTSCRIPTS JERUSALEM POST 4.4.85 - We watched a pious old gentleman making his way through a crowd in a bus queue, arms outstretched, blessing the waiters-in-line over the head. He found himself in front of a very tall blond Scandinavian woman wearing a cross, and he bestowed upon her the same blessing. The woman smiled and said: "And Jesus blesses you, too", He looked at her quizzically and she repeated herself in Hebrew. His expression didn't change: her reference to Jesus didn't register but at least both of them had received their daily blessing. (A.L.)

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