

"THE EXORCIST" RETIRES: A RETROSPECTIVE ON LINDSEY OF JERUSALEM: The Jerusalem weekly "KAWL HA'IR" (9 JAN 87) carried a three-page feature on Rev. Robert L. Lindsey upon his retirement as pastor of the Baptist Church on 4 Narkis Street in West Jerusalem, at the conclusion of 40 years of ministry. Two photomontages of Lindsey engaging in exorcism, a photograph of the burnt-out Baptist chapel and another of an Orthodox-led demonstration against construction of a large new building on the site, also accompanied the feature by Shahar Ilan. The articles surveyed Lindsey's various activities as scholar, pastor, Christian leader and citizen of Jerusalem. Excerpts follow.

"Once every few months Robert Lindsey, the retiring spiritual leader of Israel's Baptists, goes forth to the Wadi Kelt in a Transit loaded with new believers. Notwithstanding his advanced age of 70, he leads the group down a steep decline into a stream where the believers undergo the rite of baptism. Despite the paranoid propaganda of ultra-Orthodox elements, only rarely does such a group include Jewish converts. Usually Lindsey baptizes Christians of other sects or children who have come of age. The Baptists do not practice infant baptism ... nor sprinkling, like Catholic priests, but total immersion. ...

Ultra-Orthodox Jews linked to YAD L'AHIM (the antimission society) continue to insist that Lindsey tries to convert as many Jews as possible. They cite the verse: "Go not unto the way of the Gentiles, but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel," which they claim has guided Lindsey since coming to Israel.

Lindsey has been a target for the anti-missionaries since the 1950's, first in Tel-Aviv and then in Jerusalem. In 1974 an attempt was made to set fire to the book shop in Jerusalem and in 1982 the chapel was burned to the ground. Ordinarily, damage to windows caused by zealots was repaired by the municipality for the sake of the good name of Jerusalem.

In a candid interview to the ultra-Orthodox paper "MAHANEH HAREDI," Lindsey stated: "Yes, we convince people to join us just as you try to convince people to join your sect. We are speaking of a few dozen people; they do not change their religion even though they are baptized. They remain Jews, because we too are Jews."

"Lindsey is one of Israel's best friends in the Christian community in the world, a kind of small Christian island of friendship, appreciation and love for the Israeli enterprise," Yehuda Litani, former "HAARETZ" correspondent once wrote. During his 40 years of ministry, the Baptist minister has become one of the most important Christian leaders in Israel. Thus, he was chosen to conduct the worship services when U.S. President Jimmy Carter made his peace journey to the Middle East. And despite ultra-Orthodox objections, he has regularly served as a judge in the World Bible Quizzes since the 1950's.

In 1961 he missed the contest following a crossing over to East Jerusalem, then part of Jordan, in an effort to rescue a young man from his congregation. Edward Salim was one of 19 abandoned Arab children during Israel's War of Independence who were taken in by Robert and Margaret Lindsey and cared for in a local Baptist institution. In a desperate attempt to help the boy (who had failed to return from a Christmas visit to his family in Jordan), Lindsey, fleeing Jordanian gunfire, stepped on a land mine in the area then dividing Jerusalem, and was taken by Jordanian troops to a hospital where a leg

was amputated. Eventually both he and the boy were returned to Israel following pressure from the U.S. consulate in their behalf.

Lindsey's positive attitude towards Zionism must be seen against the background of his understanding of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. He has been engaged in translating the New Testament from Greek to Hebrew. "I am a Zionist because I believe that in the long run, to the extent that Hebrew culture develops here, it will help the Christian world better understand Jesus and the New Testament," he says. He believes that the source of part of the New Testament is in very ancient Hebrew writings very close to the time of Jesus. His research has been much appreciated by the academic community in Israel, and he was invited to teach New Testament at the Beersheva University and afterwards also at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

Following his retirement, Lindsey is remaining in Israel, and will be dividing his time between his house in Poriya (near Tiberias) and his family (three sons and three daughters) in America. For the time being the elders of his congregation will fill in for him. The Baptists have been praying in a giant plastic tent as a result of opposition by YAD L'AHIM and neighbours to their plans for a new building. Lindsey doesn't complain: "For me the tent is sufficient. I am more interested in spiritual work." (End Excerpts)

Two smaller articles accompanied the retrospective on Rev. Lindsey, one reviewing the situation of the building from its construction in 1933 to its destruction in 1982 and subsequent plans and legal obstacles to its reconstruction on a much larger scale. The municipality and the courts have suggested an alternate site or a smaller structure than the one they submitted for approval. While Lindsey favours the compromise proposal, his congregation feels it is a matter of principle to work for approval of the larger building even if it must be done in stages and by appeal to the High Court of Israel.

The second accompanying article was entitled: "HOW TO DRIVE OUT DEMONS." It is mainly an interview with Lindsey on the subject of exorcism, how it led to a complaint against him in 1975 by Jewish parents of a girl he had ministered to, of his original "modern" skepticism about the existence of demon possession today, his "conversion" to believe in the relevance of the subject today, and his response to the questions of the interviewer concerning the nature of demons ("spiritual beings without bodies, enemies of man and God") who sometimes pretend to be the souls of the dead, but are not, who take possession of human instincts or functions, causing irrational phobias, madness, lust, homosexuality, depression, suicide. He drives them out by prayer to God and by rebuke of the demons, and prayer for protection when demons are driven out, after conversing with the person possessed. He speaks with them in the name of the Messiah and afterwards he drives them out in the name of Yeshua the Messiah. At times there are all kinds of manifestations such as body convulsions and coughing.

In an interview with the JERUSALEM POST, Rev. Robert Lindsey, pastor of the Jerusalem Baptist Church who is retiring at the end of December, said that its prayers for rain were just one way the congregation was going back to its biblical sources ... Lindsey has seen great changes in his own church and in Israel since first arriving from his native Oklahoma to Jerusalem in 1939 to learn Hebrew. Today it is common for many young Christians to learn Hebrew in Israel, but in those days it was an undertaking. "I think I was the only goy (Gentile) in the Hebrew University," He recalls. He will continue (after retirement) working on a book on the life of Jesus. (21.12.86)

MISSIONARY HANUKA CONFERENCE: Thousands of Jews demeaned themselves and their Jewishness by taking part in hundreds of "celebrations" of "Sylvester" (New Year's Eve) in Israel. All the explanations that the day was a Christian "orgy" related to Pope "Sylvester" whose death date falls on 31st December proved of no avail. There were even a few hotels who disguised their celebrations as "Hanuka parties!" One such "Jewish" event began this week on Mt. Carmel, where dozens of "modern Hellenizers" gathered at Beit Yedidya, a missionary focal point, to hear about the "life of Jacob" from veteran Hellenizers such as the apostates Yohanan Zeidan, Victor Smadja, A. Bosky and L. Goldberg.

Activists from the antimission division of YAD L'AHIM who also got hold of "the invitation" (photograph of same accompanies the report) were not surprised by the "God willing" notation designed to trap additional innocents into their net. A representative of the organization gladly responded to the invitation and is now spending time among the offspring of the original Hellenizers. (EREV SHABBAT 2 JAN 87)

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MESSIANIC JEWS: EVANGELICAL WEEK OF PRAYER (INTERCESSION FOR JEWISH CHRISTIANS) The approximately 2,500 "Messianic Jews" living in Israel are subjected to discrimination and even persecution by fanatical Orthodox Jews. This view was expressed by the founder and leader of the West German association "CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL," Pastor Fritz May of Wetzlar. He said that Jewish Christians in Israel urgently needed intercession for "preachers and counsellors with spiritual authority." They had to witness to their faith intrepidly.

The 4.3 million Israelis include 750,000 adherents of non-Jewish religions, among them 580,000 Muslims and 98,000 Christians. May added that on his initiative, intercession for the Messianic Jews had been incorporated for the first time in the program for the Evangelical Alliance's week of prayer in January 1987. The week was first observed in 1846, the oldest interdenominational prayer week, and is held in more than 70 countries. ("IDEA," Information Service of the German Evangelical Alliance, English edition, No. 9/10/86, 22 DEC 86)

PRIME MINISTER HOSTED ON MISSIONARY PROGRAM: South Lebanese and Israelis who receive the telecasts of Middle East TV from across the "Good Fence" at Metulla rubbed their eyes in astonishment last Friday when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appeared in a live telecast. It was also in the framework of that most missionary program, "THE 700 CLUB," which was being carried at that very time on the Christian Broadcasting Network in the U.S.A.

During this program the preacher Pat Robertson, who is now running for the presidency of the U.S., hosts people who "that Man" (Jesus) "revealed himself" to, and they tell about their "new life" and their faith in him. "With all due respect to the informational needs of Israel in the world, it would have been better had the Prime Minister sought out a more distinguished platform than a program which symbolizes the peak of missionary preaching," the anti-mission division of YAD L'AHIM wrote to Shamir this week. (EREV SHABAT 16 DEC 86)

"GOD FOR PRESIDENT": A hostile three-page feature article on the TV evangelist Pat Robertson appeared in the Sabbath supplement of YEDIOT AKHRONOT from a correspondent in New York, Michal Miron. It focused on Robertson's bid for the Republican nomination for president, the "fundamentalist" movement and its millions of "evangelists" (confusing the term evangelical with evangelist - Translator), alleged anti-semitism and right-wing extremism, and the American press finding itself "quoting, to its horror, every word of Robertson," etc.

"THE MISSION IN JAFFA": The mission schools in Jaffa are one of the main factors in education dropouts and their subsequent exposure to crime and drugs. This was stated by Arab school principals to members of the Knesset education committee touring the area. Most of the Arab population of Jaffa prefer the prestigious mission schools, but many of the children are unable to keep up with the standards and drop out. They are also unable to be reabsorbed in the State school system where the language of instruction is Arabic whereas in the mission schools it is English or French, and most of them remain illiterate in their mother tongue, Arabic. About 50% of the students are Arab, the balance are children of diplomats and Jewish children. Jewish dropouts from mission schools are easily reabsorbed into the State schools, it was claimed. (DAVAR 12 DEC 86) The ultra-Orthodox weekly EREV SHABAT (19 DEC 86) reproduced the headline from the DAVAR story, commenting that only when mission schools affect Arabs does the general press react to the "ruin" caused by the Christian mission.

MISSIONARIES IN TABA: While Israeli and Egyptian representatives meet in Geneva over the Taba border dispute, a missionary "embassy" has already been fixed: The missionary John Pex has set up a giant tent which serves as an attraction to young "castaways" who visit the area. The YAD L'AHIM "inspectors" discovered the "refuge" and hastened to complain to the Eilati police about the unlicensed structure. (EREV SHABAT 19 DEC)

MISSIONARY CITY: A delegation from Yavne due to leave for Provo, Utah to sign a twinning agreement between the two towns, has been asked to refrain from agreement because of the missionary character of the town, a centre of the Mormon church. (HATSOFEH 9 JAN 87)

CHRISTMAS: ISRAELI PERSPECTIVES - "Israel may be the crucible of three major faiths, but one has to look long and hard for a trace of Christmas when December 25 rolls around. ... Most Israelis walk through Christmas day without a clue that it's someone else's holiday. ... In Israel the Jewish majority does its thing, as a quiet but thoroughly secure Christian minority does its own." (Charley Levine, HADASSAH MONTHLY) "Christmas is very different in Israel. That is why people come from abroad during this season. There is something very special about spending Christmas Eve in Bethlehem where Jesus was born," a British diplomat's wife commented. (JLM POST "IN JERUSALEM" 19 DEC 86)

CHRISTMAS STAMP: A new stamp intended to honour Israel's Christian communities made its debut two days before Christmas. "Israel not only ensures freedom of religion but respects those religions for whom this land is sacred," Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein remarked. (JLM POST 23 DEC 86) Dr. Aliza Klausner Bar of Tel-Aviv congratulated the Communications Minister in a letter to HAARETZ (7 JAN 87). "Ignoring the existence of Christian churches and our suspicious attitude to Christians in general because of bitter historical memory demonstrates an inability to distinguish between good and evil, and a tendency to make the same kind of generalizations that antisemites make about us," she wrote.

Three articles critical of the use of Christmas trees in Jewish shops and hotels appeared in the ultra-Orthodox press during the Christmas season. A two-page feature article headed "FOUR BILLION GIFTS" about American Christmas was submitted from New York by the HADASHOT correspondent Menahem Less. A mixture of cynicism, ridicule and grudging admiration, the article sought to convey the impact of contemporary high-pressure Christmas celebration where Jesus is largely replaced by Santa Claus and gift buying and selling, but the reporter was moved by carolers who go from house to house and by a certain generous Christmas spirit he detected.

Meanwhile, the ultra-Orthodox press conducted its annual war against "Liturgica," the festival of religious music annually held around Christmas time. The fact that Judas Macabeus by Handel was also featured does not diminish the gravity of Christian religious music being played, sung and heard by Jews. It is contrary to Jewish religious law, which the writers lament is largely ignored.

NORWEGIAN CHRISTIANS: "Israel still enjoys considerable good will in Norway — especially among the devout Christian population in the West Coast "Bible Belt," who still revere the Jews as the Chosen People of the Bible, and they make monetary contributions as well." (JLM POST 19 DEC 86)

ROUMANIAN PROSELYTES: Following a three-year struggle, the Ministry of Interior will permit Samuel Fandous (28), a Roumanian Christian, to be reunited with members of his family, proselytes to Judaism who settled in Upper Nazareth. His cause was taken up by M.K. Arzi following the refusal of the ministry to permit him to emigrate to Israel. He has indicated his desire to convert to Judaism. (HAARETZ 3 NOV 86)

"THE MISSION IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL": A continuation of the four-part series by A. A. Gershoni in SHEARIM (17.12.86; 7 JAN 87). In the third part Gershoni analyzes the Lausanne manual "CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE," which is said to reflect the perplexity in the church concerning the Jewish people; on the one hand, the stream which believes that Jewish rejection of the New Testament and the crucifixion of Jesus constitute a denial of the Jewish right to exist as a people, and the second stream which sees in the establishment of the Jewish State a fulfilment of biblical prophecy along the path to recognition of the Messiahship of Jesus. For this purpose the Christian world must strive to bring salvation nearer by creating the hybrid known as Jewish-Christians.

Most of these "Jews for Jesus" are married to Christian (Gentile) women, and this sect is most dangerous since its members speak Hebrew. ... They work among all sections of the population and prey upon those Jews (students and members of kibbutzim) who seek an ideal to replace their disillusionment with secular ideals; also among Orthodox Jews who have sold their souls to Satan, no doubt for filthy lucre. They prey also upon the poor and distressed who are offered assistance in exchange for taking part in Christian schools and Bible studies.

In the concluding article of the series, Gershoni described some of the counteraction of the YAD L'AHIM antimission society, such as planting under-cover agents who profess support for the work of the mission. They are also helped by secular kibbutz members who do not arouse suspicion as Orthodox Jews would; also by female Orthodox persons who can more easily disguise their Jewish Orthodoxy.

Information about the mission and its emissaries is also fed back to YAD L'AHIM by press items, phone, and contacts with overseas congregations and organization. The exposure of clandestine missionary activity is also a phase of their activities and can lead to public pressure, for example to secure the dismissal of an employee who engages in missionary activity secretly. (END SUMMARY)

"CONVERT OR LEAVE": The essence of a letter received by a 17-year-old Ethiopian young woman from the Ministry of Interior was: "If you don't convert to Judaism according to orthodox religious law then you must leave Israel." Fatala Desta received such a letter only two months after she arrived in Israel with an Ethiopian passport. The ministry was suspicious of this fact, and also that she came from a village in which there was no Jewish population. Representatives of the Ethiopian Jews in Israel have come to her defence, and an Israeli jurist, Dr.

Michael Korinaldi, has termed the letter and the threat completely illegal. (KOL YERUSHALAYIM 7 NOV 86)

NEW LUTHERAN BISHOP: On Reformation Sunday at the Church of the Redeemer, Rev. Naim Nasser was installed as Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jerusalem. Bishop Nasser succeeds Rev. Daoud Haddad, leading a community predominantly Arabic-speaking, numbering about 1,000. (CHRISTIAN LIFE IN ISRAEL NO. 22 WINTER 1986/7)

COPTIC PILGRIMS: For the first time since the peace treaty with Egypt, an organized group of Egyptian tourists visited Israel. The group of 80 were mostly Coptic Christians, and visited the Holy places of Christianity and Islam. (CLII NO. 22 WINTER 86/87)

THE RIGHTEOUS DIPLOMAT: Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese consul-general in France during World War Two, issued transit visas to stranded Jews on the eve of France's surrender to Nazi Germany despite orders to the contrary from his government in Lisbon. As a result, thousands of Jews were able to flee France into Spain and Portugal, away from the Nazi juggernaut. When the Lisbon authorities learned of his action, he was summarily recalled home and dismissed from the ministry of foreign affairs with all retirement and severance benefits canceled. Mendes appealed the decision but was unable to overturn it, and he died impoverished in 1954. Efforts are being made to have him rehabilitated posthumously.

Mendes constantly related his action to his faith: "Even if I am dismissed, I can only act as a Christian, as my conscience tells me," he told his staff in explaining his "insubordination." In a conversation with a rabbi friend, one of those he rescued, he later remarked: "If thousands of Jews can suffer because of one Catholic (i.e. Hitler), then surely it is permitted for one Catholic to suffer for so many Jews. I therefore accept all that has befallen me with love." (JERUSALEM POST 5 DEC 86)

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF ISRAEL: The quarterly CHRISTIAN LIFE IN ISRAEL, published by the Israel Interfaith Association, in its autumn issue (No. 21) published a four-page outline of Christian communities in Israel. Beginning with a brief history from the time of Jesus and the Judeo-Christian church in Jerusalem through the Byzantine, Moslem and modern periods, it noted that "of the more than four million people in Israel today, Christians constitute only 2.3 percent of the population." (This doesn't include the administered areas where there are an estimated 30,000 Christians plus 94,170 within the State of Israel.)

In the survey the communities were divided into four basic categories: Orthodox, Monophysite, Catholic and Protestant. Historical, doctrinal, geographical and census data were provided. A brief comment is made concerning the "Messianic-Jewish" fellowships, "perhaps 30 in number, scattered about the country. Very much a minority, they remain a marginal phenomenon, and as with the Judeo-Christians of the 1st century, find themselves at odds with both Church and Synagogue." The largest Protestant community is the (Anglican) Evangelical Episcopal Church with approximately 2,000 members.

ANGLICAN-AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION: An agreement between the Protestant Evangelical Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and the Church of Australia for the training of local clergy, has resulted in the ordination of three deacons, Hani and Hatem Shehadeh from Kafr Yasik and Bilal Habiby from Shefa Amar. The three had preliminary training at St. George's College in Jerusalem followed by four years study in seminary at St. John's College in Morpeth, Australia. They will serve in Haifa, Nazareth and Ramallah.

SECTS AND CULTS ... AND JEWISH MISSIONS (DIASPORA)

JERSEY CITY, N.J.: To help parents and teachers provide answers that will help Jewish youngsters resist the pressures of religious groups like the "moonies" and JEWS FOR JESUS, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has published a 17-unit course that repudiates the practices of destructive cults that target young Jews for conversion. Now in its third printing, the 102-page course entitled MISSIONARY AND CULT MOVEMENTS is available for five dollars from the UAHC Publications Department, 838 Fifth Avenue, NYC. Among issues covered are the different meanings Jews and Christians attach to such words as "MESSIAH," "SIN," "ATONEMENT," "MISSION," "SALVATION." (JEWISH STANDARD 18 JUL 86)

NEW YORK, N.Y.: Officials of local Jewish organizations that monitor religious cults are concerned that "Bagels," a musical comedy that makes its debut at a Manhattan theater, is a ruse to attract Jews into the Church of Scientology. The writer-producer of the play is a member of the church, the music was written by a church member, it is being performed rent-free in a theater owned by the church, but the producer denies that the play is under the control of the church or that it has a proselytizing message. (JEWISH WEEK 11 APR 86)

BUFFALO, N.Y.: About 50 persons under the sponsorship of the Torah Center of Buffalo picketed the New Covenant Tabernacle in Tonawanda. The following day two community members joined Rabbi Herbert Gilner in a candle-lighting ceremony designed to protest missionary activity among Jews. The rabbi claimed that a group affiliated with Assembly of God "fundamentalists" was targeting Russian Jewish immigrants. (BUFFALO JEWISH REVIEW 18 APR 86) Rabbi Sholom Stern of Temple Shaarey Zedek summarized a talk he gave at an ecumenical retreat for the clergy responding to a question about "JEWS FOR JESUS." He termed "JEWS FOR JESUS" or "MESSIANIC JEWS" a "contradiction in terms" like "Socialists for Capitalism" or "Liberals for Conservatism." He stressed the importance of not "obliterating or denying the differences that separate the two faiths," and outlined some of these: the trinity and monotheism, Messianic fulfilment, Christian persecution of Jews, deicide, the Holocaust. "Those of different views and beliefs should respect the dissimilar views and beliefs of their neighbours," he asserted. (B.J.R. 2 May 86)

NEW YORK, N.Y.: An anonymous anti-mission warrior in Brooklyn encourages contributions to three organizations fighting missions and cults: JEWS FOR JUDAISM, YAD L'AHIM, STEVEN JACOBS (Phila. PA). Also suggested is calling the toll-free number of "JEWS FOR JESUS" "to politely express our views to them." The number is supplied. (JEWISH PRESS 10 OCT 86)

Rabbi Yaakov Spivak published an emotional appeal to parents "to provide a Judaism for ourselves first, and then for our children, that is vibrant, knowledgeable and proud. If we don't teach our youth to be good Jews, they will surely become good Christians!" In lurid terms he described the methods of the missionaries ... "heartwarming good will," "friendliness," "mild good humour," "carefully rehearsed Yiddish terms," stressing how "normal, typically Jewish they are" (the Hebrew Christian) ... but then "he moves in for the kill!" (JEWISH PRESS 14 NOV 86)

Rabbi Rubin R. Dobin in his weekly feature "JEWISH ACTION LINE AGAINST MISSIONARIES AND CULTS" responds to queries from readers about Anthroposophy (founded by Rudolph Steiner) and promoted in Israel by Y. Ben-Aharon in Kibbutz Harduf ("From what I have read they offer nothing new that Judaism cannot give in greater measure"), The Community Chapel - also known as Bible Training Center - led by Pastor Donald Lee Barnett ("a bizarre cult deemed dangerous"); Beth Shalom in Flatbush ("make sure that no Jew enters their doors ... form a group

of responsible leaders and active Jews to grapple with this cancer in their midst"); "The Body" ("a cult group founded by Juan Carlos Ortiz; also Bob Mumford of Ft. Lauderdale, FL ... the umbrella group is Christian Growth Ministries") (JEWISH PRESS 14 NOV 86) Baruch HaShem Fellowship ("a very deceptive missionary group ... part of the Messianic Synagogue in Dallas known as Beth Sar Shalom of the Chosen People Ministries"; Sterling Managements System (a front for the Church of Scientology cult ... they have translated their manual "The Way to Happiness" into Hebrew and distributed thousands of copies to synagogues and Hebrew schools); Heritage USA ("a Christian Evangelical attempt to create a Disney-like theme park for Bible-loving, Christ-believing people pushed by TV evangelist Jim Bakker ... affiliated with the Assemblies of God, notorious for its outreach to Jews through Messianic Synagogue deception ...") "3HO (formed by Yogi Bhajan ... believes in financial success). (28 NOV 86)

ENCYCLOPEDIA HANDBOOK OF CULTS IN AMERICA: A book review of this work by Gordon Melton (published by Garland Publishing, N.Y.) was carried in JERUSALEM POST (5 DEC 86). The Author is a U.S. Methodist minister who has studied nonconventional religions for over 20 years and is a professional church historian. A cult is defined as "a first generation religion ..." The term is used in a neutral sense in the book and the approach is that of a social scientist.

NEW YORK: The Cult Awareness Network of New York/New Jersey will present its highest award to two internationally-recognized cult experts, Dr. Philip Abramowitz and Mr. Arnold Markowitz, at the annual Jonestown Memorial Ceremony on 20 Nov 86. Fr. Walter Debold, a professor at Seton Hall University, will lead a candle-lighting memorial ceremony to honor the memory of U.S. Congressman Leo J. Ryan murdered along with the mass murder-suicide victims of the Peoples Temple in 1978. (JEWISH PRESS 28 NOV 86)

JEWISH MISSIONARIES: In a letter to the JEWISH TELEGRAPH of Manchester, England, a woman complains that "my husband and I are non-observant Jews because we were both brought up in homes where religion was rammed down our throats, but suddenly our son has become converted to an extreme form of orthodoxy and we are furious because he will no longer eat in our homes as we do not believe in the dietary laws. Rabbis speak out against Christian missionaries but they should also condemn Jewish missionaries who convert our youth to a rigid form of orthodoxy and thereby destroy the harmony of Jewish homes."

In response the woman is told that her son "is only doing to you what you did to your parents by rejecting their standards. ... How can you expect your son to eat non-kosher food when kashrut is a fundamental part of Judaism? You wrongly equate Christian missionaries who are trying to bring Jews to an alien faith and heritage with Jews who are trying to bring fellow Jews back to their own roots."

END TRANSCRIPT

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