

**BLOODSHED IN THE PRESS:** The problem is what is to be considered journalistic "bloodshed," and whether it is possible to describe it in objective terms, not only in terms of the blood going to the head of the man hurt by the press.

An article by Gad Leor (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 23 JAN 85) under the headline "NEW IMMIGRANT COMMITS SUICIDE BECAUSE OF MESSIANIC SECT PRESSURES" (which is a value judgment and a presumption) appeared on the first page, which is supposed to carry news items. The story accused an unidentified group called "Messianic Sect" and persons called "missionaries" of the following:

- 1) They caused the death of a new immigrant from the USSR.
- 2) They pressured her, they threatened and frightened her.
- 3) They preached hatred of Jews and antisemitism.
- 4) They trapped her in their net.
- 5) "Her death was simply murder by members of this sect ..."
- 6) "They caused a dreadful split between her devotion to Judaism and obeisance to Satan."

An objective measurement of the "blood" shed by the newspaper can be obtained by comparing the value judgments, as expressed above, and the informative expressions upon which the value judgments, the accusations, the denunciations and the revilings were based.

In Gad Leor's story the facts can be summed up as follows: All the accusations were made by someone who was the male friend of the woman who committed suicide, "who is working to bring the affair to the attention of State authorities in order to alert them to the menace of the activities of the Messianic sects in Israel." On the evening before her suicide the immigrant spoke on the phone from her male friend's flat with a woman of this "sect," which caused her great emotion. This is the sum of the matter: "simply murder!"

In the news story there is no evidence that the journalist took an interest in any of the facts. Even though the man stated he had listened in to the phone conversation, no information is given about what was said, how the woman ("sectarian") had threatened or frightened the victim, why the man had not helped his friend (to whom he had proposed marriage!) to be rid of the woman on the phone, why he allowed her to travel alone to Jerusalem when he knew, according to his own words, that "she was in a state of hysteria." There is not the slightest scrap of information in the news story on which to base the dreadful accusations of antisemitic Jew-hatred or "obeisance to Satan."

The above is an outstanding example of "blood shedding" in the manner of the tried and tested witch hunt. This is the most prominent example of a lack of valid journalistic criteria by any standard, even that of the Press Council. (DAVAR 30 SEPT. 87 by Olek Netzer; See also SELECTIONS NO. 129, p. 2 "Soviet Jewish Immigrant's Suicide.")

**JEW FOR JESUS:** In a letter to the editor of the JERUSALEM TIMES/JEWISH PRESS (11 Sept. 87), Rabbi David Rosen, Director of Inter-Religious Affairs of the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai Brith Israel, denied that he had made any comment on Jewish membership in a church, but that he had repeated the rabbinic teaching that a Jew always remains a Jew no matter how much he sins, based on the Talmudic tract Sanhedrin.

**DANIEL RUFEBSEN:** In a first-person two-page article, the Hebrew Carmelite monk Daniel (Oswald) Rufeisen outlined his life story beginning in a traditional Polish Jewish Zionist family, his work during World War II with the Jewish Underground and rescue of several hundreds of Jews from Nazi extermination, his escape to a Polish Catholic sanctuary and eventual conversion and entrance into the monastic life, his emigration to Israel and unsuccessful appeal for Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return, and his subsequent naturalization. He claims that the church authorities did not support him in his court appeal.

Rufeisen believes that the Church must return to its Hebrew roots and also confront its guilt as to "how it was possible, after so many generations of Christianity, a religion of love and belief in a crucified Jew," that the Holocaust could have taken place among "Christian" peoples. Although contemporary Israeli Jews are more open than ever to consider the Judeo-Christian connection, the onus lies on the Christian world far more than on the Jewish world.

He also discussed a society that Hebrew-speaking Catholics have founded in Israel called "Christian Hebrews in Israel and the Diaspora," whose official aim is to "rehabilitate and advance," socially and religiously, the Christian Hebrews in Israel. (POLITICA OCT 1987)

**CHRISTIAN EMBASSY:** About 6,000 Christian believers from 60 countries will be taking part in the Feast of Tabernacles events organized by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. Among the countries participating are Egypt, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Philippines, South Africa and the USA, with one representative expected from the USSR. The believers will also take part in the Jerusalem March and tour the land. Dr. Johann Luckoff and Jan Willem van der Hoeven, ICEJ leaders, reported that in April, 1988, in honour of Israel's 40th anniversary, the Second International Congress of Christian Zionists will be held with thousands of believers. The first such congress was held two years ago in Basle, Switzerland. (HAARETZ 29 SEPT 87; Reports were also carried in THE JERUSALEM POST, 7 OCT, and KOL YERUSHALAYIM, 9 OCT)

**CHARISMATICS:** "IN JERUSALEM" (JLM POST SUPPLEMENT) carried a feature article about Rev. W. V. Grant and a service he conducted in the "Upper Room" on Mt. Zion, the traditional site of the receiving of the Holy Spirit by Jesus' disciples and speaking in tongues. "We are very fundamental, born-again, charismatic Christians," he explained. The article mainly was a description of Rev. Grant's teaching about tongues-speaking. It noted that "all fundamentalists" see in the founding of the State of Israel the fulfilment of biblical prophecy. (9 OCT 87)

**"BRING WATER TO JERUSALEM":** A 15-million dollar project to drill for water for use in Jerusalem's new neighbourhoods has stirred up a controversy before it has gotten off the ground. The Christian Zionist company Moriah, set up to implement the project, has drawn fire from Ultra-Orthodox sources suspicious of missionary intent, from geologists who fear it may lead to drying up areas in the West Bank, and from the Foreign Ministry and various Arab sources who charge that it would be a violation of international law which forbids the exploitation of natural resources in occupied territories.

The national water supplier, Mekorot, is, however, pleased with the idea, as are the Ministries of Agriculture and of Defence. Funds would be raised by "Moriah" among Christians overseas. Gilman Hill and his son Craig, who has been involved in oil exploration, are due to lead the campaign, under the slogan "BRING WATER TO JERUSALEM." (A proposal to drill for water in the Negev, less controversial, was rejected as

not sufficiently inspiring for fund-raising.) (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 18 JUL 87)

**PRO-ISRAEL CHRISTIAN SECT IN SWEDEN SUSPECT:** The Swedish police are investigating a possible link between a Christian sect and the assassination of Olaf Palma, the late Swedish Prime Minister. One of the sect leaders, Kjell Scherberg, was among the founders of the Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. In 1983 he warned the Swedish Prime Minister that the invitation to Arafat to visit Sweden would be punished by God. (During his visit to Sweden, Arafat met with all the Socialist political leaders of Scandinavia.) Following the Prime Minister's assassination in 1986 the minister sent a letter to sect members in which he pointed to the murder as God's punishment.

A Swedish paper quoted him yesterday: "He who sows terror shall reap terror. Everyone who touches Israel will be punished," basing himself on a passage in the Book of Zechariah. Recently one of the late Prime Minister's confidants expressed the view that the assassination was the work of Swedish citizens and not foreign nationals. (HAARETZ 22 SEPT 87)

**"ANTISEMITIC NEST":** Under the heading of "CHRISTIAN EMBASSY - NEST OF ANTI-JEWISH ANTISEMITISM," the Ultra-Orthodox organ HAMODIYA (9 OCT 87) published under the byline of A. Farkash a blistering attack on Christians, the New Testament, Jesus and the Christian Embassy. It cited anti-Jewish utterances by one Dr. Walter Martin, a Baptist minister, who allegedly told 80,000 radio listeners that "the Jews are children of Satan and they slew J's'u; this is not antisemitism but the truth." The writer continued, citing anti-Jewish remarks of Martin Luther, the Pope's alleged antisemitism, the black U.S. clergyman Farakan, and financial support by a U.S. church group for the movement in Israel to refuse military service in Lebanon.

Following this introduction, the writer describes the formation of the ICEJ, expressing astonishment that "in view of the above, it's amazing that the media establishment and the Israeli public are jumping out of their skins at every positive manifestation of sympathy on the part of Gentiles, especially those identified as Christian believers; it is on this 'no man's land' that the 'Christian Embassy' has arisen in Jerusalem." The writer also notes the surprising support given by former Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren on the basis of the Scripture in Zechariah 16:20 (sic!; it should be 14:16 TRANSL).

The article culls remarks made by Embassy spokesmen which appeared in NEWSWEEK in 1984, and goes on to describe an interview with "Rabbi Shmuel Goldin" (sic!), who informed him of the "intent" of "Christian love" and how it turns to hatred when Jews do not respond. The "rabbi" is quoted: "They (ICEJ) are an organizational umbrella to cover others who do the missionary work, 'the Messianic Jews' in Israel, who could not function in Israel without the Christian Embassy help. Apostates like Joseph Shulam and Shlomo Hizak have ongoing ties with the Embassy, and Menahem Benhayim of the Jews for That Man (Jesus) actually works for the Christian Embassy." The article concludes with a rundown of the news report cited above concerning the suspicion surrounding the Christian sect in Sweden about possible links to the assassination of the Swedish Prime Minister.

**ULTRA-ORTHODOX HALACHA":** The Jerusalem weekly KAWL HA'IR (24 JUN 87) provided excerpts from an Ultra-Orthodox manual for devout Jewish tourists traveling abroad, which included "halacha" (religious rulings) forbidding visits to any church or mosque, or taking part in Christian weddings and funerals. When one sees an abandoned church, one is to pronounce a blessing. A teacher who is overseas must avoid teaching Christian subjects or Darwin's theory of evolution.

**"GOSPELS CALUMNY":** The JERUSALEM POST (29 SEPT 87) published a feature article by Haskell Nordon, author of the book The Education of a Polish Jew - a Physician's War Memoirs. Nordon reprimands Jews who use New Testament phraseology (such as Pontius Pilate's remark, "My hands are clean") in a local political context. The writer claims this "underlines a disturbing educational deficiency" by reinforcing "the myth that Pilate was forced to sentence Jesus to death and then 'washed his hands,'" thus "whitewashing" the Romans.

Although "the Christian religion can function without being virulently anti-Jewish," there is little that Jews can do about it except to educate Jewish children to rebut the "myth of deicide" which is based on alleged Jewish culpability for the Crucifixion. Jewish youth should also study the Christian scriptures so that they should not be "prey to missionary activities," be able to refute allegations of anti-semites, and feel compassion for those taught historical misrepresentations. It is ironic that "the Nazarene - the Jew who strictly observed the Jewish religious laws, who was loved by the Jewish multitudes and was tried and crucified by Roman oppressors -" is portrayed as a "victim of his own people."

**JAFFA CHURCHES:** Despite protests by Orthodox Jewish representatives in the Tel-Aviv City Council, public events are taking place during Sukkot (Feast of Booths) which are sponsored by the Municipality in cooperation with several Jaffa churches. Is it impossible to avoid cultural events in churches where crosses and other Christian symbols are in evidence? The Municipality must stop such involvement and let the churches engage in activities on behalf of their own communities.

Such church activities are not only characteristic of the Tel-Aviv Municipality, but other public bodies, some of them engaging in missionary activity, as well as various strange sects, who prefer to use a church because of "the right atmosphere." Emanuel House in Jaffa, which abounds in missionary events under the guise of "culture," is one example. (HATSOFEH 11 OCT 87)

**NEW TESTAMENTS:** The decree forbidding the use of Bibles containing the New Testament in the public schools, issued by the Minister of Education, has aroused concern and anger among "Gospel purveyors," if one may judge from the outcries of Israeli missionaries to their supporters overseas. One letter intercepted by the anti-mission department of "Yad L'Ahim," written by the preacher Michael Bentley, a temporary resident in Bat Yam (a portion of the Prayer Letter dated April 1987 is reproduced), states:

"The Ministry of Education in Israel has sent a letter to all the kibbutzim which forbids them to use the Bible with the New Testament, and this is having a considerable impact on our work. Dr. Pokroy is particularly distressed (an anaesthetist at Rothschild Haifa who also treats patients at "the Messianic Clinic" in Haifa: Comment by reporter), and we must find other areas to distribute the Bible in Hebrew. Please pray that I find the direction."

Bentley details the results of his activity up to the 5th of January this year: 217 Hebrew "Bibles", 64 foreign-language Bibles, 120 Christian books and 32 copies of the "New Testament." With such "successes," Bentley hopes to receive ... Israeli citizenship! (SREV SHABAT 11 SEPT 87)

**RAMAT GAN:** Here is another example of I.D.F. educational blunders as usual: This one involves a tour in Galilee of chief officers of the Army education command in the course of which soldiers visit ... churches in Nazareth and Sephoris. Meanwhile, missionary activity continues as usual elsewhere. The missionary teacher dismissed from the youth village in Ben Shemen, following the intervention of Yad

L'Ahim, is renewing his activity with full steam ahead in Ramat Gan. (From a Hebrew New Year survey in the Ultra-Orthodox EREV SHABAT 23 SEPT 87)

**HAIFA:** Marcel Abramowitz, a 20-year-old Haifa divorcee, mother of two, is squatting illegally in a Haifa flat. "I have no choice," she says. "I won't allow my two children to sleep on the seashore as in the past. Marcel was married when she was 16 and divorced a year ago. For a while she lived in the Battered Wives shelter, but following her divorce left it. "They received me in the church and took care of all my needs," she says, but as a result of pressures by the KACH (extremist) group, who put pressure on the church, she was forced to leave. "They thought I was being pressed to convert to Christianity, but that was not true. When I left the church I was forced to sleep with the children at the seashore and in public parks. Now I have no shelter." (YEDIOT AKHRONOT 30 AUG 87)

**SABBATH WAR:** Arthur Berg of Hop, Norway, in a letter to the JERUSALEM POST (29 SEPT 87), comments on the "Sabbath war in Jerusalem", as "a goy from antisemitic Europe" and as a Christian. He favours the rabbis because they are fighting against "official violation of the Sabbath." He compares it to the battle in Norway between secularists and devout Christians, which was lost by the devout because they gave in to secular pressure "practically without resistance." We now see, he concludes, that the loss of religious values in Norway was a loss to believers and non-believers alike.

**JESUS ON JEWISH CALENDAR:** A Jewish calendar featuring Ethiopian Bible drawings, published by Palphot, has an illustration for January 1988 of Jesus feeding the multitudes. The Hebrew and English text, however, state that the picture represents the Israelites eating manna in the wilderness. A student of Amharic has discovered that the native script atop the illustration clearly relates the scene to Jesus with two fish and five rolls. The picture was purchased from an Ethiopian Jew in Israel. (IN JERUSALEM 2 OCT 87)

**U.S. FAMILY TO BE DEPORTED:** The Kabouche family of Rutland, Vermont, living in a parking lot in the Old City Jewish Quarter for ten months, are to be deported. Christian Kabouche, a former U.S. government psychologist, told local authorities he was responding to "a message from God," but police say they were illegally camped and a nuisance to passersby. The U.S. Embassy agreed to cooperate with their deportation. (IN JERUSALEM 11 SEPT 87)

**MORMONS:** The rabbi of Dimona and a member of the local (left-wing) Civil Rights Movement ("Ratz") have joined hands in campaigning against a municipality proposal for a twinning agreement between Dimona and Ogden City, Utah. Both parties expressed concern about Israeli youth being influenced by the Mormons should the agreement result in exchange visits between the two cities.

Dimona Mayor Eli Hallali pooh-poohed the uproar as altogether premature. "This is an egg which hasn't even hatched," he stated. There is a long process before such agreements are finalized, he added. Meanwhile, a government spokesman expressed support for the twinning agreement on the basis of recommendations from the Israeli Foreign Ministry which weighs all aspects of such agreements before recommending them. (YETAID NEEMAN 5 OCT 87)

The Mormon centre on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem is in its last stages of construction, with some hundred American students already on campus. The eight-storey structure was built in 1 1/2 years within a huge area granted the Mormons by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. It includes student residences, large lecture halls, sport facilities, libraries and a church. A giant organ is being installed, and will be part of

cultural and musical events open to the general public. (AL HAMISHMAR 11 OCT 87)

### DIASPORA NEWS

#### USA

**SUMMER ALERT:** An urgent alert for Jewish communities in the USA was issued by JEWS FOR JEWS to counter the expanded program of summer activities announced by various mission groups. National chairman Rabbi Dobin explained that they make special efforts to reach unsuspecting Jews by offering inexpensive summer vacations and camp trips designed to convert them, as well as children's camps and conferences. The most dangerous are: Messiah '87 sponsored by the Messianic Jewish Alliance at Messiah College in Grantham PA Jun 27-July 4; the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations at Hyatt Ravina Hotel in Atlanta GA Aug. 6th-10th; and North American Congress of Holy Spirit and World Evangelization at New Orleans Convention Center, 22 Jul-26 Jul. (JERUSALEM TIMES/JEWISH PRESS 21 AUG 87)

**ARON KODESH TEMPLE:** A group of missionaries have opened a temple in Miami Beach named "Aron Kodesh" ("Sacred Ark"), led by J. Gordon, in cooperation with a group of apostates who seek to lure elderly, indigent and sick Jews to accept their "redeemer." They claim that senior citizens have the right to choose their own belief, and no one has the right to prevent them from attending the apostate temple. (ALGEMEINER JOURNAL, NYC 11 SEPT 87)

**EAST COAST:** Lawrence A. Levey, Esq., Director of JEWS FOR JUDAISM in Baltimore, in a letter to the JEWISH PRESS (25 SEPT 87), warns of "Hebrew Christian," "JEWS FOR JESUS" and "Messianic Jewish" groups who raise funds for evangelism and lure "vulnerable Jews" into conversion by "distorted, holiday-oriented presentations ('CHRIST IN THE PASS-OVER') and Jewish-sounding music ('LIBERATED WAILING WALL')." Claiming to be America's largest counter-missionary resource centre, "JEWS FOR JUDAISM" seeks to educate Christian leaders of the deceptive and cult-like nature of such groups. Levey appeals for information about events sponsored by such groups.

Marvin Aschendorf, Director, Manhattan Region, Zionist Organization of America, said that the JFJ organization is "distorting the real meaning of Judaism to capture Jews who haven't been properly educated ... As Zionists dedicated to the State of Israel as an embodiment of the destiny of the Jewish people, ZOA strongly opposes this and all other attempts to subvert Jews and Jewish unity." (JERUSALEM TIMES/PRESS 14 AUG 87)

#### GERMANY:

**JEWISH THEOLOGIAN AT CHURCH CONFERENCE:** Prof. Shalom Ben-chorin of Jerusalem, commenting on resurrection in Judaism and Christianity in a lecture at the Protestant "Kirchentag" in Frankfurt, Germany, stated that the biblical accounts of Jesus' resurrection could not be regarded as "documentary reports." The resurrection was the "eternal longing of the soul," and Jesus had risen in "the souls of millions of the faithful." (IDEA No. 8 SEPT 87, p. 23)

\*\*\*END TRANSCRIPT\*\*\*

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