

**PASSOVER TRACTING:** While the people of Israel prepare themselves for the approaching freedom festival, the Mission emissaries have found the time to operate in central Tel-Aviv. On Dizengoff Street, teeming with people all day long, the missionaries have set up a station from which they distribute Christian books free of charge to the many passersby who throng the street in the afternoon hours. A young eccentric of English origin distributed the books of the "New Covenant" and the "Holy Scriptures" of the greatest of apostates, published by a British society in London in Hebrew. In response to the questions of the SHEARIM correspondent about who had sent him to distribute the books, the young man gave an unclear reply attesting to his unbalanced state. (SHEARIM 31 MAR 88)

During Passover week a great amount of missionary material was distributed in central areas of Tel-Aviv. Passersby termed it "missionary madness." The missionary activists pressed (sometimes forcibly) into the hands of the passersby propaganda material praising "That Man" (Jesus) and appealed to the public to join the "Messianic Jews."

On one street a group of Orthodox Jews organized to warn the public not to be enticed by the cheap propaganda of the missionaries, which was accompanied by illustrations which also deceived many Orthodox Jews. Until they realized what it was, they had been obliged to read vain words. The public is warned not to be deceived into taking the material from its distributors but to throw it to the ground. It is usually distributed by groups of youths on holiday from school. (SHEARIM 13 APR 88)

"The Messianic mission has no qualms about its methods. In addition to Jewish festivals, it enlists Holocaust Memorial Day and Fallen Soldiers Memorial Day for its nefarious soul-hunting," thus stated the YAD L'AHIM (anti-mission) spokesman, as he displayed missionary propaganda pamphlets distributed by the tens of thousands last week in the streets of Israeli towns. It contained an undisguised appeal in the name of the martyrs (May God avenge their blood!) to join the faith of ... "that Man" (Jesus).

The spokesman, Aharon Kornfeld, stressed that the one behind the tract, which bears the name of the society "KOL KOREH" (lit. "A voice cries"), is the apostate Yaakov Damkane of Jaffa, to whose "credit" are approximately 100,000 preaching tracts distributed annually. A young man of 32, Damkane is reckoned as the "evangelist" of the missionary Congregation Beit Emanuel in Jaffa, which is funded by various mission organizations abroad. Damkane recently married a Gentile woman.

It is known that dozens of bereaved families and Holocaust survivors who received the provocative tract have expressed their revulsion at the use of the memory of their dear ones for preaching Christianity. They intend to distribute the tract among Knesset members and public figures with the demand to ban distribution of such material in the future.

Meanwhile, the second wave of "letter bombs" from abroad has been arriving in Israel containing the booklet Two Men from Eden in Hebrew. Hundreds of the envelopes have been streaming into the offices of YAD L'AHIM in recent weeks. (HAMODIYA/YETAID NEEMAN 20 APR 88)

**POSTAL EVANGELISM:** Further reports in the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox Jewish press were published concerning envelopes without return address arriving from England. Out of fear of letter bombs, police

hunger, and we must bring them around to Judaism lest the missionaries bring them around to their religion."

**GREAT BRITAIN:** "JESUS IS ALIVE" - The franking stamp bearing this message was paid for in the sum of 50,000 Sterling by Evangelical Christian bookseller Paul Slennet to the British postal authorities. It has stirred protests from the British Chief Rabbi's office as well as from other Orthodox and religious Jewish leaders alongside those of British secular humanists. The message will appear on some 50 million letters during the Lenten season through Easter until 11th April 1988. The postal authorities rejected the protests, claiming the arrangement was "fair," and the privilege is available to others as long as the message is neither political nor controversial. There was coverage of the issue in local Israeli Ultra-Orthodox and secular newspapers (DAVAR 23 MAR; AL HAMISHMAR 7 MAR) as well as in the British Jewish press.

**MISSIONARY WARNINGS:** A series of "warnings" was carried in the Jewish press between January and March 1988 about mission activity in Jewish Homes for the elderly and on campus by CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL (18 MAR 88 JEWISH CHRONICLE), by PRAYER FOR ISRAEL (18 MAR), CHURCH MINISTRY AMONG JEWS (CMJ) (26 FEB 88), J.W. (15 JAN 88) and at the Reading Hebrew Congregation by a Mr. and Mrs. Andrews who visited the synagogue (19 FEB 88).

**SCOTLAND:** The JEWISH ECHO of Glasgow (20 NOV 87) carried a report on the Delegate Meeting of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. It included notes about plans for a biblical display during the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival, a meeting of the West Scotland Christians and Jews, the Jerusalem Prayer Fellowship allegedly connected to a missionary, Mr. Zin, and about anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish activities on Scottish campuses.

**AUSTRALIA:** In response to a two page article on David House Fellowship which appeared in the AUSTRALIA JEWISH TIMES (12 MAR 87), an anonymous reader wrote an angry letter denouncing the group as a "nuisance," "misleading," "missionary." (9 APR 87)

**CANADA:** The Canadian Jewish News (16 JUL 87) carried a laudatory article about Toronto's oldest pediatrician, Dr. Nelles Silverthorne, "a devout Christian who was loved by the Jewish community," and who has also been honored by the creation of a nursery in his name at the Soroka Hospital in Beersheva. The same journal carried a story about a garden party by two non-Jewish groups on behalf of Soviet Jewry and Israel; namely, The Canadian Friends of the International Christian Embassy and the Interreligious Task Force on Human Rights (2 JUL 87)

**ITALY:** The Ultra-Orthodox daily HAMODIYA (23 MAR 88) carried a report about 2,000 Soviet Jews in a transit camp some 20 km from Rome in Ladispoli who are being lured to Christianity through the work of an American Baptist club which provides free literature. Orthodox Jews have begun activities to counteract the danger.

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

24 APR 88/mb

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