

ENTRANCE RESTRICTED TO MESSIANIC JEW: Border police at Ben-Gurion Airport detained a Messianic Jew and her Christian husband who arrived as tourists. They threatened to deport Debby Marlow, 25, and her husband James, 30, but following intervention by their attorney, they agreed to delay expulsion. Messianic Jews believe in Jesus but have not converted to Christianity. Sources among them claim that the Israeli Interior Ministry has stepped up activity against them. Candice Halu, Debbie Marlow's sister, married to a Christian Arab and living in Beersheba, said her sister had been granted an immigrant visa, but ten days before flying the visa was revoked. She added that both her mother and grandmother had been presidents of their local Hadassah chapters. (Haim Shapiro, JLM POST 11, JAN 89)

Yosef Tov, head of the visa department of the Interior Ministry, has agreed to grant permission to the Marlow couple to stay in Israel for one month after they posted a NIS 10,000 bank guarantee that they would leave by then, and also promised not to engage in missionary activity in Israel. They also agreed to deposit return tickets to the USA with their lawyer. (JLM POST 12 JAN 89)

"ETERNAL COVENANT": PAID NOTICES AND AN INTERVIEW: The Hebrew daily HAARETZ published a full-page interview (13 JAN) headed: "The Only One who has a Promised Place in Paradise: From a Standard Flat in Jerusalem, with a Wife and Two Children, an Appeal Goes out in Giant Notices to Convert to the New Christianity." Excerpts from the notice (which appeared on 6 JAN 89) and interview follow:

"COVENANT OF ABRAHAM: The covenant of Abraham was made by God with Abraham and his physical descendants. (See Genesis 15:18; 17:4-8, 19-21; 48:3-4; with excerpts and citations added). God promised to make Abraham a blessing to others, to make him a father of many nations, to give him the land of Canaan, to bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him. ... Inasmuch as the word of God is truth, be certain that the people of Israel will never be destroyed. ... Countless blessings have come and will come to all people through Messiah son of David, and to the Jewish people to whom was entrusted the word of God. The Abrahamic covenant is unconditional; and according to Galatians 3:15 (New Testament), after a covenant is in force, it cannot be added to or diminished ... God reaffirmed the covenant with Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses, even though they were not spotless.

MOSAIC COVENANT: God also made a covenant with Moses at Mt. Sinai, which was conditional upon the fulfilment of divine standards; but since no one can keep the conditions of the Mosaic covenant because of our sin nature, there was an immediate need for the sacrificial system to atone for sin. God gave the Jewish people, as his chosen people and as a light to the nations, special regulations to distinguish them from other peoples (dietary laws, personal codes, worship). They were also given the Sabbath, the festivals, Day of Atonement, and the moral law, the latter being eternal and unrelated to any covenant.

Since the people of Israel did not keep their side of the covenant, a new covenant was necessary according to the prophet Jeremiah (31:30-33). Eventually the Temple was to be destroyed, and the Messiah had to come before then; and indeed appeared in the form of Yeshua the son of David in accordance with all the prophecies. He provides atonement for our sins and promises everlasting life. ... For additional information, write or phone (data provided). (END SUMMARY)

INTERVIEW: The main reason prompting Meno Kalisher to publish his giant message in the newspapers was the pressing sense that he

actually knows the way to paradise, while most people are unfortunately ignorant of the matter and may end up in hell. The young missionary, funded by Americans, approached "MAARIV" and "YEDIOT," who rejected his ad out of hand, but other papers were willing. With commendable courage, he published his address and phone number, which produced some 15 responses and several telephone threats on his life.

Kalisher, age 26, was born in Israel, grew up in Jerusalem and has done his military service in the Air Force, in electrical engineering. His father, a Holocaust survivor from Warsaw, Poland, discovered salvation there, and the entire family were part of a group of Messianic Jews. After completing his military service, he married Anat, and two years ago they received a scholarship from a religious organization in the U.S.A. for Bible studies in New Jersey. Since returning to Israel, he is working at his profession, and in his spare time engaging in Bible study.

Q What characterizes the sect of the Messianic Jews?

A First of all, we are not a sect, but a religious group which believes in Yeshua the Messiah, and we are Jews because we were born Jews.

Q Does this find expression in a certain lifestyle?

A There is liberty. The Ten Commandments express the moral spirit of God, the other commandments relating to the Mosaic covenant are no longer in effect. The moment someone accepts Yeshua, it is for life.

Q Judaism believes that not only faith is important but also especially deeds. According to your view, it's enough for someone to declare his faith; and if he is a criminal, everything is in order.

A No ... Whoever truly believes tries not to sin. God searches the hearts.

Q And what about Judaism?

Q I regret that it is in error. Ask any rabbi if he knows that when he dies he will enter Paradise, he will say he doesn't know. That's an awful situation, and I really pity them.

Q And you are sure you will get into Paradise?

A Certainly, because of Messiah's blood upon us, like that of the Passover Lamb in the time of Moses. We are saved and will never go to hell. I am sure of it.

Q And whoever doesn't believe will go to hell.

A Unfortunately, yes; I'm really sorry.

Q Can you imagine what happens there in hell?

A No, but that's not important, what is important is that there's a way to Paradise, the only way. That's why I published the ad. Why shouldn't I share what I have with others? Now no one can say, "I didn't know, I didn't hear." Everyone can now act. (END EXCERPTS)

"COVENANT BETWEEN HAARETZ AND CHRISTIANITY": We know that important people like the newspaper HAARETZ will not accept what we intend to say to them. If what they publish in their paper will anger religious Jews, so what?! Otherwise, it is hard to understand what this

anti-Jewish paper published last week, a full-page paid ad of Christian believers in the best missionary tradition of Christianity, on whose defiled altar the blood of our people has been drained for centuries in the shadow of the cross ... slaughtered, burnt and butchered in martyrdom according to the tradition and faith of the "New Covenant"; and to this day they preach against the Jewish people. (HAMODIYA 8 JAN 89)

"THE MISSION"

JAFFA: The Tel-Aviv municipality has supported advertisements for cultural events, including those at Emanuel Church at Jaffa. Doesn't the municipality know that this church engages in missionary activity, and that several Jewish youths have already fallen into the Christian net of the church's clergy? (HATSOFEH 14 SEP 88)

HAIFA: The missionary sect called "Messianic Jews" has again succeeded in publishing propaganda notices on municipal billboards, their aim to attract innocent people, weak characters and unfortunates into all kinds of enticements. Rabbi Moshe Bliententhal, the leader of the Orthodox coalition in Haifa has written to the Haifa mayor: "Is it the function of the Haifa municipality to assist them in achieving their aims ... in their blatant labours against the Jewish religion and people?" He asked that clear instructions be given to refuse notices of this kind in the future. (VARIOUS RELIGIOUS PAPERS 19-23 DEC 88)

ABSORPTION CENTRE: Several papers reported that Russian immigrants at the immigrant absorption centre "Mevaseret Zion" near Jerusalem have been openly engaging in missionary activity on several Sabbaths, using a loudspeaker and broadcasting Christian messages from a vehicle in Russian. Complaints to the police have been made, and a parliamentary question submitted to the Minister of Absorption. The immigrants are reportedly non-Jews with connections to the Baptists and the Messianic Jews. Meanwhile, the JERUSALEM POST reported that two Russian immigrants at the absorption centre have been warned that if they do not stop their missionary work they will be expelled from the centre. (2-13 JAN 89)

CHRISTMAS IN ISRAEL:

BROADCASTING: Deputy Chairman of the Israel Broadcasting company Shlomo Koor has requested that General Director Uri Porat "ban Christmas and New Year's Eve broadcasts that glorify Christianity." According to Koor, Israel radio and TV show only what is beautiful and holy in Christianity while Jewish festivals are ignored or treated in an alien manner. He demanded that mandatory principles be set for such broadcasting, which would forbid traditions "related to the birth of the Jew Yeshua. We are not an institution for training Christians," he stated, "and there is no reason to report on the journey of the northern reindeer with Santa Claus, or about Christmas shopping fever around the world." (HAARETZ 7 DEC 88)

Zebulun Orlev, General Director of the Israeli Religious Affairs Ministry, commenting on Shlomo Koor's demand, stated in an interview: "In Israel there are 100,000 Christians, and we must not forget that we also are a focal point for the entire Christian world, and they are all entitled to receive information and services ... but I agree that it is improper to show thousands of Jews in Israel celebrating the Christian New Year. Jewish religious services cannot always be televised, but we should give more weight to Jewish festivals, but this should be done by persuasion, and not by giving orders. (YEDIOT AKHIRONOT 8 DEC 88)

"CHRISTIANS THANK ISRAEL": A delegation from the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem met with Bethlehem military governor Lt. Col. Shealtiel Lavi, to thank him in the name of thousands of Christians worldwide for keeping the Holy Land safe and sound. With

the delegation was Mary Shaheen, a Christian Arab whose two sons serve in the Israel Defence Force. "I love Israel. My sons' service in the IDF enables me and my family to deepen our understanding with Israel. We pray that you will never abandon this area," she said. (THE NATION 21 DEC 88; "JERUSALEM" 23 DEC 88)

The women's magazine LA'ISHA (21 NOV 88) published two articles about the van der Hoeven family and the Christian Embassy, describing their total commitment to Israel.

In a two-page centerfold, HADASHOT (22 DEC 88) described various aspects of the annual Christmas festivities in Bethlehem under the headline "MUST REJOICE." The political and military impact on the holiday were emphasized by various Christians interviewed. The lack of tourists was especially noted.

CHRISTIAN NURSES: A Jewish visitor to Hadassah hospital on Mt. Scopus was shocked to see his grandson being treated by a nurse wearing a cross. This is not the first time that in a Jewish hospital medical personnel have been seen wearing crosses. Is this a new breach into which Christian influence on Jewish life is manifest? No solution has yet been found for the terminally ill who are being sent to Christian hospitals filled with crosses. (THE ULTRA-ORTHODOX COMMUNITY, JERUSALEM 2 DEC 88)

Two Christian nurses, Aliza and Inge, who have been living in Israel for 14 and 11 years respectively, will apparently be deported at the beginning of February. For the past two years they treated Professor Ernst Simon and, through the intervention of the family, received temporary residence permits. After the death of Prof. Simon four months ago, they were told to leave Israel. The nurses charge that since the ultra-orthodox SHAS party entered the Interior Ministry, the visa policy has hardened. Their long service within the framework of "ATONEMENT," a Christian organization which seeks to atone for Nazi crimes against the Jews, has been disregarded by the Ministry. Yosef Tov, a senior official in the Ministry, denies the charge. "There is no hardening of the Ministry's position," he said, "but there are more Christians who want to stay in Israel, and therefore more refusals." (JERUSALEM 13 JAN 89)

DEMOGRAPHICS: In the area of population growth, the general picture (1987) is not encouraging. Jewish population growth is quite marginal at 1 1/2% while there was 4 1/2% growth of the Muslim population and 2.1% of the Christian population. (YOM HASHISHI 14 NOV 88)

CATHOLIC CLERGY IN ISRAEL: A two-page interview with the Greek-Catholic priest Emil Shufani was featured in HADASHOT (13 JAN 89). An Israeli Arab, age 41, he speaks fluent Hebrew and is said to represent a new breed of success-oriented Arabs much like their Jewish counterparts. He believes Israeli Arabs can serve as a bridge between Jews and the Arab world.

KOL-BO HAIFA (18 NOV 88) carried a full-page interview with Daniel Rufeisen, the Jewish Catholic Carmelite monk who believes in a return to the spirit of ancient Judeo-Christianity which existed in the Holy Land in antiquity. Meanwhile, he ministers to Catholics involved in intermarriages with Jews, and with their offspring who, he claims, are subject to strong pressures to convert to Judaism. He believes he serves as a bridge between Judaism and Christianity, and opposes all missionary activity.

HADASHOT (2 JAN 89) carried a full-page story about a group of nine French nuns in a small Jerusalem convent called "The Community of the Lamb."

INTERMARRIAGE: Statistics indicate that about 50% of the U.S. Jewish community's third generation (those whose grandparents migrated to America) intermarry with non-Jews. In one suburban New Jersey community a Reform rabbi conducts weddings for such couples without requiring conversion to Judaism of the non-Jewish partner. While he will not conduct a joint service in a church, he does not object to the presence of Christian clergy, if requested to do so. Some Reform rabbis do conduct joint Christian-Jewish wedding ceremonies, but the Conservative movement will expel a rabbi from its ranks who performs ceremonies without requiring conversion. A joint Catholic-Jewish service was conducted in the New York State Governor's manse when the governor's daughter wed a Jewish designer. No mention was made of Jesus, reportedly, but the parties agreed that their children would be raised Catholic. (AL HAMISHMAR 13 NOV 88)

THE LAST TEMPTATION (CONTINUED): A response has been made to the petition of distributors of the film THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST to the Israeli High Court to override the ban of the film by Israel's censorship board. Joshua Justman, the board head, stated in a written affidavit to the court that the sexual fantasies attributed to Jesus in the film are "a clear offence to the foundations of the Christian faith, which is based on the divinity of Jesus." The film's portrayal of Jesus as one who argued with Paul that he is only flesh and blood and not God's Son, and Paul's alleged forcing of Jesus to accept the role of Son of God, are clearly an offence to the religious sensitivities of the 100,000 Christians in Israel, Justman wrote. (HAARETZ, MAARIV, HADASHOT: 11 JAN 89. See also SELECTIONS 169, page 6)

SECTS

"BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST" CULT: An American cult, characterized as dangerous in the U.S., has slipped into Israel, and all its members are now here, the weekly magazine KOTERET ROSHEET reported. The cult, named "Brotherhood of Christ," numbers 100 adults and 50 children, and has been in Israel since early 1937. At least one member, Bob Shapiro, deputy to the leader, Thomas Paterson, has received Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return.

The cult was founded in the early 1960's by Professor Thomas Brown of the University of New York, bringing together ideas from Judaism, Christianity, the hippy "free love" movement, and the apocryphal Gospel of Thomas. Brown's successor was Thomas Paterson who amassed large sums of money by insisting that his followers surrender all their possessions in view of the impending end of the world on 14 May 1988. Imprisoned in 1981 in Oregon on counts of fraud, drug offenses and sexual child abuse, he was released after two years, and took up his role in the cult once more, leaving the U.S. He was expelled from Spain and Egypt and fled Israel in the wake of pressures from the anti-mission YAD L'AHIM society and from an anti-cultist Israeli group of parents. Meanwhile, his deputy, Bob Shapiro, is in hiding somewhere in Jerusalem as the Interior Ministry works to revoke his immigrant status. (VARIOUS PAPERS 12-28 OCT 88)

Recently, the cult re-organized in Haifa near the Bnei Zion hospital, where they are living a communal life. According to visitors at the commune, the residents have no money to leave the country, and they claim that only in Israel can they realize their spiritual teaching. (KOL-BO HAIFA 25 NOV 88)

"RELIGIOUS JEWS ALSO SUCCUMB TO THE SECTS": The Ultra-Orthodox weekly YOM HASHISHI ("FRIDAY" 15 AUG 83) carried a two-page feature article about the anti-mission society "Yad L'Ahim" and its more recent emphasis on anti-sect activity. Its Board director Rabbi Shalom Bar-Lipschitz, was interviewed, together with three young people "rescued" by them. Excerpts follow:

"The war against the missionaries ... has also undergone redirection for the war against the Eastern sects and their Western imitations, which appeal to the elite among Israeli youth, with great success. This campaign requires greater sophistication and innovative methods ... and intelligence gathering 'behind enemy lines.' This battle has wide public support because of the fears people have of the sects (to an extent approaching the fear they have of the Ultra-Orthodox penitents movement!). We are referring not to dozens of people or hundreds, but to a pestilence which has struck down thousands, including Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox Jews! The Jewish religious community cannot remain complacent in the face of this grave problem. Only recently an ex-yeshiva student was found to be deeply committed to the Hare Krishna sect ...

"But the most dangerous sects are still those connected to Christianity in one way or another, such as "Jews for That Man" (Jesus) who preach openly against the State and against military service. ... Another menacing sect is the Messianic Jews, crafty and dangerous. ... Notwithstanding all these modern elements, the old mission has not departed from the world ... preying upon the sick, the crippled, the blind, the unfortunate ..."

IR OVOT: A two-page article in the I.D.F. journal BAMAKHANEM (AUG 88) featured the Negev colony of Simha Pearlmutter of Ir Ovot. Only a handful of followers of the founder and leader remain, and it survives on the basis of an agreement for working the land with outside contractors.

DIASPORA

U.K.: Israeli newspapers and U.K. Jewish papers featured news items and readers' letters before and after the Christmas season, responding to a "Christmas blitz" by "JEWS FOR JESUS" and "CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL" by means of outdoor evangelism and newspaper ads. They were said to have cost 14,000 pounds in the Manchester Guardian and 15,000 pounds in the London Times, and called on Jews to recognize Y'shua as Messiah, noting that "Christmas would be impossible without the Jewish people." The Board of Deputies of British Jewry denounced the campaign as "obnoxious." At a protest meeting in London organized by Jewish leaders, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, was called upon to intervene to halt the campaign. A spokesman for the Archbishop subsequently stated that "Christianity is a missionary religion while Judaism is not," and that he had found no evidence of underhanded methods being used by Christian missionaries to evangelize Jewish people. The archbishop is the patron of "Christian Ministry to the Jews," which has been involved in the evangelistic campaign.

NEW ZEALAND: The New Zealand Jewish Chronicle of Wellington (July 1988) featured a negative article about the Messianic Jewish Alliance of New Zealand affiliated with the International Hebrew Christian Alliance. Headed "New Version of Jews for Jesus in New Zealand," the article described the group as "similar to cults such as the Moonies," and charged that missionaries were exploiting the Soviet Jewry issue as well.

END TRANSCRIPT

18 JAN 89/mb

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