



# Caspari Center

for Biblical and Jewish Studies

מרכז כספרי  
ללימודי חמקרא והיהדות

P.O. Box 71099, Jerusalem 91710, Israel

נושד: רחוב יס 36, ידשלים

Tel: 972-2-256095/233926; Fax: 972-2-251933

טל: 02-256095/233926; פקס: 02-251933

Office: Jaffa Road 36, Jerusalem

ח.ד. 71099, ידשלים 91710

## Dear clippings-subscriber!!

We hereby send you the latest issue of our selected clippings from Israeli newspapers.  
Hope you enjoy it!

We will develop a list of hebrew newspapers explaining the kind and importance of each of them in order for you to know how to judge the different parts of the information. The list will hopefully be ready to send with the next clippings.

"Shana tova" - happy new year to all of you!

Yours sincerely

-  -  
Endre Fyllingsnes

Caspari Center

10.8.1995, Mishpachah (weekly, Jerusalem)

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION: MISSIONARY GROUPS ARE ABLE TO COMPETE IN THE CENTERS OF THE REGIONAL RADIO**

By Avi Goldberg

24.8.1995, Yom le-yom (weekly, Jerusalem)

**"IT IS NOT KNOWN ABOUT ANY INTENTION OF MISSIONARIES TO WORK BY MEANS OF RADIO BROADCASTS"**

The Messianic missionary groups do not have any hindrance, from the point of view of the Ministry of Communication, to get to the centers of the regional radio, in spite of the fact that they will utilize the radio for preaching Christianity - so it rose from the answer that the Minister of Communication, Shulamit Aloni, gave to the question of the Member of Knesset Rabbi Moshe Mayah.

Rabbi Mayah wanted to know what the attitude of the Ministry towards Messianic publicity in radio is, if it is possible to prevent the missionary congregations from having the right to use radio stations, and if this kind of groups operate already today.

According to Ms. Aloni, Messianism in itself is not forbidden by the law, as long as public peace and the rights of the individual are not harmed. Criteria for permission for operating a local radio station include financial, technical and engineering points of view. There is no relating in these criteria to missionary activity.

As for the third question, the Minister answered that she did not know about any kind of missionary action by means of the radio. However, there really are Messianic and missionary groups who wish to compete in the local radio stations. Already today there are illegal missionary broadcasts, especially in Northern Israel. The Ministry of Communication does not anyhow seem to see any reason to prevent this preaching of missionarism.

17.8.1995, Yom le-yom (weekly, Jerusalem)

**THE CHRISTIANS IN ASHQELON DONATE MONEY FOR A COMMUNAL CENTER IN ORDER TO GET A HOLD ON IT**

By Yitshaq Qenan

The representatives of the public protest against Christian donations for the community center to be built in the neighborhood of Neve Deqalim in Ashqelon, given by the Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, which donated money for a similar project in a neighborhood of new immigrants in Ashdod, and became the "landlady" in the place. According to the plan, the center will be built at a cost of about five million shekels. From the City Council of Ashqelon it was told that if it becomes known about any purposes of the Christian donators to try to get a hold in the projects, their donations will not be accepted.

17.8.1995, Yom le-yom (weekly, Jerusalem)

#### IN YAD LE-ACHIM THEY ARE PREPARED TO WORK DURING FESTIVALS AGAINST ACTIVITY OF MISSIONARIES

By Q. Yitshaq

The activist organizations "Yad le-achim" and "Lev le-achim" intend to work against missionary sects acting during events like 'The Festival of Akko' in the end of summer and 'Rock of Ashqelon' taking place during these days.

The City Council of Ashqelon also decided that they would not let the missionary activists work among the adolescents in the rock event. The chairman of the faction of Shas in the City Council, Rabbi Yitshaq Cohen, conducts a long fight against the activity of the sect of "Witnesses of Yehova". Earlier, "Yom le-yom" exposed the activity of this sect in the town, and the church which they had established in one of the flats.

24.8.1995, Ha-Shavua' (weekly, Bnei Braq)

#### LOOK OUT: MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN JERUSALEM

Missionary activity in Jerusalem is getting more serious. This week an operation was started for the distribution of missionary material in tens of thousands of copies all around Jerusalem. The center of the activity is in the sect of "King of Kings" in Rehov Ben Maimon in Jerusalem.

31.8.1995, Yom le-yom (weekly, Jerusalem)

### SHAS IN THE FEDERATION OF LABOUR IN LOD WILL HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MISSION

In a special consultation by Mr. Daniel ben Sa'adon, the representative of Shas in the Federation of Labour in Lod, with the heads of the organization of "Lev le-achim", it was decided about the widening of the religious activity in Lod, and especially about the strengthening of the fight against mission. Many entreaties of worried family members have reached him as a result of the activity of the mission. The action includes bringing to Lod twice a week 65 yeshiva students who work among the residents. The club of the Workers' Council in the center of the town is already used for Torah lessons, among which there are lectures for women in the framework of "El ha-Ma'ayan", to which tens of religious and secular women participate together. Also, there was bought equipment for the recording of satellite transmissions from the lectures of Rabbi Ovadyahu Yosef [*the Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic community in Israel*].

31.8.1995, Ha-Modia'

Vice Mayor of Jerusalem, Rabbi Chaim Miller:

### DEMANDS THE CANCELLING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MISSIONARIES IN JERUSALEM

Rabbi Chaim Miller, the Vice Mayor of Jerusalem, demanded, as a result of the details given to him by the chairman of the activist organization "Yad le-achim", Rabbi Shalom B. Lipshitz, the cancellation of the international conference of the Pentecostal missionaries. The conference is going to be organized in about two weeks' time, and places like Sultan's Pool and Malcha Stadium will be put to their use.

According to Rabbi Miller, the Pentecostal movement is among the most prominent ones in the "Messianic missionary" activity among the diaspora Jewry. Among the churches connected with this movement is the church of "The Kings" [= "King of Kings"?], with branches in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. It also organizes this event.

6.9.1995, Ha-Aretz

## CATCH BASIN OF THE ERRING SOULS

(New York Times)

In Brighton Beach in Brooklyn Orthodox Jews and Christian missionaries fight about the faith of the Jewish immigrants from Russia.

Groups of Orthodox Jews go out against what they see as the attempts of the Christians, mostly fundamentalist, to get new Jewish immigrants to their religion. The verbal attacks, and shouts of people standing one opposite the other, nose to nose, are filled with anger and wrath.

Only great load for erring souls can arise this kind of fervor. The 80 thousand Russian emigrants settled during the last years to the area of New York have not had nearly any knowledge about their Jewish heritage, and often they are ready to taste different religious experiences. The Jewish volunteers say that many Christians represent themselves to the new emigrants as members of Jewish groups of the mainstream. "They create pseudo-Judaism and use it in order to lead them astray", said Craig Miller from the Jewish Action group. "Our task is to warn the emigrants."

Some of the Messianic Jews said that every weekend they get to the same place to distribute pamphlets and to preach, and every time they get into conflict with Jewish groups.

None of the sides knows how many of the Jews who live in Brighton Beach have converted to Christianity during the last years. If one judges from the reaction of the passersby, the missionaries cause more anger than interest. During the shouting in English, there came to the group a man speaking Russian, asking about the reason of the tumult. After the thing was explained to him, the man who had lately emigrated from Kiova shook his shoulders. "They cannot gain here any great success", he said about the missionaries. "Because 90% of us obviously do not understand what they say and about what they shout".

8.9.1995, Yated Ne'eman (weekly, Jerusalem, in English)

## MISSIONARY CULTS WANT IN

By D. Nussbaum Cohen

James Cowen is well-known in the Jewish community of Richmond, Va. As an active member of the local Jewish Community Center, he was even appointed to its membership committee.

He is also the "rabbi" of Tikvat Israel, Richmond's self-described Messianic Jewish congregation. Cowen and his 170 congregants wear traditional Jewish head coverings and prayer shawls, and read from a Torah scroll. Many of the congregants belong to the JCC, with a couple of the women having joined the local chapter of Hadassah. But they pray to Jesus.

"We see ourselves as being part of the Jewish community and that's our primary focus," Cowen said in interview with the Jewish Telegraph Agency. His goal is to be accepted in the general secular Jewish community as a viable "alternative". The congregation's strategy is two-pronged: to make worship as seemingly Jewish as possible and to blend into the Jewish communal mainstream. In this the Messianic congregations seem also to succeed. According to Craig Miller of the anti-missionary Jewish Action Group, they are gaining credibility as a legitimate religious expression of Judaism.

Similar efforts began in the mid-1970s, according to Carol Harris-Shapiro, a Reconstructionist whose doctoral dissertation examined a Philadelphia-based Messianic group.

When the Hebrew Christians were discovered in the local chapters of Hadassah and in Jewish Community Centers, they were kicked out, and as a result, created their own parallel institutions.

Now using their own synagogues, day schools and social centers as a springboard, the Messianics are trying once more to infiltrate into the Jewish community's secular mainstream.

The number of Messianic congregations has grown dramatically during the past two decades. In 1973, there were an estimated three such congregations in the U.S. The number jumped to 30 in 1980 and 144 in 1994, according to news accounts. A recent issue of *The Messianic Times* listed 203 of these congregations in its directory. There are also congregations in Canada, Australia, England, Holland, Israel and the former Soviet Union, where missionary groups are extremely active in recruiting converts. The number of people in the Messianic congregations is growing, too. A generation ago there were only a handful, say observers;

today, there may be as many as 150,000.

Despite the tremendous growth, however, both critics and insiders of the movement agree that a relatively small percentage are born Jews. Most of the congregants are non-Jews interested in the Jewish roots of Christianity. Still, about 6,000 people in the U.S. would describe themselves as Messianic Jews or Hebrew-Christians, according to anti-missionary figures.

Each year, about 1,000 more Jews in North America begin to describe themselves as Messianic Jews, said Mr. Miller of the Jewish Action group. In addition, Israel has long been a rallying cry for the Messianics. Their staunchly pro-Israel activities "help them get close to Jews and makes the Messianic congregations much more acceptable to the Jewish community," Mr. Miller said.

The task of countering these groups is difficult, Jewish officials said. "The insidious part about it is that it looks Jewish. Their building looks like a nice little synagogue."

15.9.1995, Kan Darom (weekly, Ashdod)

"THE IMMIGRANTS WERE ALWAYS AN EASY PREY FOR THE MISSIONARIES"

By Daniel Aviv

The Ultra-Orthodox members of the City Council of Ashdod demand an urgent meeting of the Council to be held on the activity of the missionaries in the town. This as a result of many complaints about the distribution of missionary material to the houses of the residents.

A month ago there was distributed in the mail boxes missionary material of the sect of "Witnesses of Yehova". This occurred again this week, with material in different languages. In most of the houses the residents did not allow the missionaries to enter.

The Ultra-Orthodox members of the Council claim that Ashdod has during the last years turned to one of the active centers of missionaries, because of the high number of the new immigrants living in the town. "The immigrants were always an easy prey for the missionaries, used to persuade them with monetary proposals also", said this week Asher Levi, the chairman of the list of Shasag in the City Council.

27.7.1995, Mishpachah (Jerusalem, weekly)

## IN SPITE OF THE PROTESTS - A MISSIONARY SEMINAR IN JERUSALEM

By Sh. Eliezer

5.8.1995, Yated Ne'eman (Jerusalem, weekly, article in English)

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT ARAD: THE MISSIONARY ANGLE

By Chaim Fuchs

Last week there was opened in Jerusalem a seminar on the subject of Tibetan Buddhism. The Lama Lobsang Chiatso was to lecture in the seminar on "The way to inner happiness". The people of "Lev le-achim" who fight against Mission discovered the plan for the holding of the meeting, and started immediately the attempts to cause its cancelling. A short clarification that they made brought up that behind the coming of the monk there stand Michael and Mina Faran, people from the association L.A.H., who visited him in his living place in Darasmala in Southern India. Michael Faran presented himself as "a religious Jerusalem resident who occupies himself with the Kabbalah, from among the disciples of Rabbi Yehuda Gatz, the Rabbi of the Wailing Wall". Faran is the head of "Society for the Hidden Israel".

The lecture was to be held in the College of "Bezeq" in Jerusalem. The people of "Lev le-achim" showed to the director of the College of Bezeq, Ze'ev Raz, the seriousness of the fact that in a building belonging to a public company there would be held missionary activity, and threatened to turn to the secretary general of "Bezeq", Yitzhaq Qawl. As a result of this Raz explained to the people of the association L.A.H. that it is impossible for them to hold the meeting in the offices of the College of "Bezeq", as a result of which he was attacked over the media for his having been so "weak" as to give in to religious pressure.

In spite of the cancelling of the seminar in its wide scale, two leaders of the sect got to Israel in the beginning of the week. Thus the seminar takes place in a reduced scale in Fischer Gallery in Jerusalem. Tens of activists of the organization held a protest demonstration opposite the gallery.



28.7.199, Qol ha-'Ir (Bnei Braq, bi-weekly)

In the mail boxes in a number of suburbs of the city, there were distributed this week innocent-looking leaflets preaching Christianity and the New Testament. The first page explains about redemption and the Messiah. To the editing board of "Qol ha-'Ir" there came hundreds of telephone calls from citizens all over the town who were shocked about the distribution of Christian material.

Picture: The missionary booklet distributed in the town  
The Messiah?  
Who He really is?  
What do the Scriptures say?

28.7.1995, Ha-Meqomon (Ramat Gan, weekly)

THE SECT OF SOUL HUNTERS WORKS IN RAMAT GAN

By Ofer Anaqi

*WITNESSES OF YEHOVA*

Question is about the missionary sect of "Witnesses of Yehova". Much of its missionary material was distributed and put into the mail boxes last week in Ramat Gan. The propaganda pamphlet distributed was presented in the guise of symbols and names with Jewish content and flavor. The material contained verses from the Book of Daniel, which speak about the Messiah. By garbling of the verses, the question was presented: Who is the Messiah? Their answer was: Jesus. "Yad le-achim" reacted immediately against the distribution of the material. The organization started house groups which explained about the danger of the Mission, and likewise distributed in the mail boxes material warning the residents about the missionaries.

Some days ago the people of the Department for Fight against Mission discovered a house in Rehov Krinitzi in Ramat Gan, from which the people of "Witnesses of Yehova" left to go to houses in order to hunt souls. "Yad le-achim" contacted the family living in the flat, and it became clear that question was about new immigrants who were caught to the sect because of their great ignorance. When it was explained to the family about the danger in the sect, they were convinced to leave it. At the same time the people of "Yad le-achim" distributed announcements expressing the danger connected with the sect.

The sect owns two great centers, one in Haifa, the other in Tel Aviv. There are also centers in other towns, like Bat Yam, Ashdod, Jerusalem and Arad.

The members of "Witnesses of Yehova" do not celebrate the birthdays and do not single out the memorial days, and in many cases they caused the separation of wives from their husbands and children from their parents, causing horrible family tragedies. They do not believe in the immortality of the soul, oppose the military service, and do not accept or give a blood transfusion in any situation. The most shocking case which is attributed to the sect occurred in the USA, when a father snatched his five-year-old son suffering from cancer from the hospital because the "Witnesses of Yehova" to whom he belonged forbade the giving of blood transfusion.

4.8.1995, Kan Darom (Ashdod, weekly)

"EXACTLY DURING THE DAYS 'IN STRAITS' [=between 17th of Tammuz and 9th of Ab] THE MISSIONARIES OPERATE IN ASHDOD"

By Daniel Aviv

Tens of members of the missionary sect of "Witnesses of Yehova" worked during the last week in Ashdod and got to confrontation with some of the residents.

The missionaries go in pairs from door to door in order to help the interested ones to join the sect. Those who do not let them enter get from them booklets in which there are articles about religious and actual subjects, followed by comments from the New Testament.

Residents of the 4th quarter, where they worked, taunted them, and some even tried to beat them. In religious circles in Ashdod there was expressed worry about the presence of missionary activity in the town.

25.8.1995, The Jerusalem Post (Jerusalem, in English)

THE LESSON OF THE MORMONS

(Capital Talk: Teddy Kollek with Amos Kollek)

*[The article is complete here, without any editing]*

I was received like a hero while visiting last week in Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah and the center of the Mormons. I had come there to receive an honorary doctorate and to raise money for various Jerusalem Foundation projects.

They remembered how I had supported their struggle to build a campus of the Brigham Young University on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is very important to them. They send over 100 youngsters three times a year, and hope to expand the program.

I explained that although it had been a hard fight - hassidim demonstrated outside my office from morning to evening for months and sometimes in the evenings at my home - I didn't do it for the Mormons, I did it for the city's sake.

When the idea of the building first came up, the then education minister inquired about the university and was told it had a good reputation. The foreign minister asked his consul-general in Los Angeles who was responsible for that area, and was told that the Mormons were our best friends. So, the two ministers and some others supported the project. We encouraged the Mormons to purchase a piece of land at full market price and to construct a building. Incidentally, it turned out to be one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture in the city built over the last few decades. After the license was given, some of the ultra-religious cried that the Mormons were missionaries who would proselytize in Israel. They called for the immediate revocation of the building licence. The support of the ministers evaporated and I was left alone to fight their battle. I had spoken to the Mormons long before and explained that we had lost six million Jews in our lifetime and couldn't allow proselytizing. They were totally understanding.

The Mormons have now been in Jerusalem for eight years, and not a single case of proselytization has occurred. Everyone who comes over, be he a teacher, a student or a regular visitor, is told that if he distributes books or pamphlets or engages in any other form of proselytization, he will be sent home immediately.

They have upheld their undertaking. The contact the Mormons have with the general public is through the beautiful hall in the building,

ev det  
proselytizing

10/10/00 12:01 CENTRAL CENTER JERUSALEM ISRAEL 7 14 001004 010

overlooking the city, where they give concerts.

My reason for supporting the Mormons at the time was twofold. The withdrawal of a building license requires special Knesset approval. Imagine the scandal if the building license for a recognized religion had been withdrawn. It would have caused an international scandal and may even, somewhere in the world, have affected the issuance of permits for synagogues. The other reason was a matter of principle. I explained to the 25,000 people that filled the auditorium in Salt Lake City that I had not acted for their sake, but for the sake of the freedom of religion, worship and access, and for freedom in general. A united Jerusalem under our sovereignty was only strengthened by our fairness towards the Mormons, not weakened as the hassidim had forewarned.

But that freedom is being eroded today.

One reads of attempts to stop support for the Israeli Museum because of some exhibition the religious deem immodest or for the film festival because some films offend the ultra-orthodox. And there is the constant battle over closing streets to traffic on Shabbat. All this goes, of course, against my deepest convictions. Inhibiting freedom will make it much more difficult for us to reach peace with our neighbors, and have reasonable relations in the city between Jews, Arabs and Christians. It will make it almost impossible to keep Jerusalem together as a united city.

Narrow-minded opposition to every form of freedom and liberalism will cost us dearly. My visit in salt Lake City brought this home much stronger. Our politicians nowadays rightly worry about various points that come up in the peace process. Jerusalem, however, is a bit further down the road, they think. Not so. It is a major issue and we have to think ahead, which unfortunately, we are not used to doing. No one is worried that young secular people are leaving Jerusalem. I believe that tolerance always pays off for all sides.