

Clippings 16.11.95 - 19.12.95

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16.11 Yom le-yom (weekly, Jerusalem)

17.11 Ha-Modia'

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION DENIES THAT THE MORMON UNIVERSITY WOULD HAVE BROKEN ITS COMMITMENT NOT TO ENGAGE IN MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

By Me'ir Ha-Levi

24.11 Ha-Kol Bi (weekly, Jerusalem)

MINISTER RUBINSTEIN DENIES THAT THE MORMON UNIVERSITY WOULD BE ENGAGED IN MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN THE CITY

The Minister of Education and Culture, Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, denies the news in "Yom le-yom", according to which the Mormon University in Jerusalem would have broken its commitment not to engage in missionary activity. The news item was based on the claims of the Vice Mayor of Jerusalem, Rabbi Chaim Miller, and the Member of Knesset Rabbi Shlomo Banizari quoted it in his question to Minister Rubinstein.

Minister Rubinstein stresses that there is no truth in the claims about the activities attributed to this institute in the question: it does not have a Christian school for immigrants' children, or excursions to immigrants, neither it does operate a restaurant for them. He also adds that the institute and the heads of the Mormon community committed themselves, when the institute was established, not to engage in missionary activity, and according to his knowledge there has not been any breach of this commitment during the 26 years of their activity in Israel. On the contrary, the young who come to Israel every year learn to know Israel and its inhabitants and when they return to the USA they are ambassadors of good will for Israel.

The Vice Mayor rejected the denial. "We will not rest and not be quiet till all the Mormon activities are stopped, especially in the Holy City, and in the Holy Land in general," he said.

All three newspapers are strongly religious and anti-Messianic.

17.11.1995 Ha-Kol Bi (weekly, Jerusalem)

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN VATICAN AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE FATE OF THE CHURCH PROPERTY IN JERUSALEM WERE STARTED AGAIN

The discussions between Vatican and the Foreign Ministry concerning the nature of the future ties between the State of Vatican and Israel, and especially what will be the future of the Vatican property in Israel and in Jerusalem, were restarted this week after an interruption of two years.

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The subject of the property is very delicate, because Vatican has very much property, especially in the area of Eastern Jerusalem. This property, estimated to be of the worth of tens of millions dollars, has also political importance connected with the question of who controls it, principally when it comes the turn of Jerusalem to be discussed in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

17.11 Yedi'ot ha-Galil (weekly, Natzrat 'Illit)

THE JUDGE OF THE HIGHEST LEGAL COURT GAVE AN INTERIM INJUNCTION AGAINST THE GREEK CATHOLIC LEGAL COURT IN HAIFA

By Moni Ben Yaqir

The judge of the Highest Legal Court, Gavri'el Bach, gave an interim injunction, which temporarily prohibits the ecclesiastical Greek Catholic legal court in Haifa from holding any trials or making decisions in the subject of laws of matrimony.

The Greek Catholic legal court wanted to prevent advocate Mustafa Lidawi from representing a Christian woman, because he is a Moslem. Lidawi appealed against the decision and turned to the Highest Legal Court, with the demand to be enabled to appear in the Christian legal court, claiming that his faith is not in any connection with his right to represent every person in any judicial trial.

The Highest Legal Court answered this week to Lidawi's petition, giving an interim injunction against the ecclesiastical legal court.

17.11 Chadashot Chaderah (weekly, Hadera)

SUSPICION ABOUT MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN WEITZMAN QUARTER

By Orna Barr

The organization "Yad le-achim" suspects that in the Weitzman quarter in Hadera there is missionary activity. When the reporter and photographer of "Chadashot Chaderah" came to the house, there got out of the house men, women and children, who did not want to be seen by them. The owner of the house refused to give any explanation about the activities in the place.

Neighbors told that the question is about a quiet and nice family, which believes in the New Testament and gives presents to the neighbors on the holidays. In "Yad le-achim" it is said that that is an additional sign for them being Messianic Jews who use the concept of "love free" for

buying the hearts of people.

Alex Ortovsky, the leader of the local branch of Yad le-achim, told why they in Yad le-achim oppose the fact that the family would live in the neighborhood. "The danger is that love," he said, "the purpose of which is not to help and not to educate but to cause a person to believe in Jesus. The danger is that innocent people go and enter willingly and without coercion to the house and absorb what happens there."

In "Yad le-achim" they say that the pleasantness of those people brings to their house people from the neighborhood and children who play there and absorb other culture. Everything is done voluntarily, because religious coercion is forbidden by law.

[In the end of the article there are quoted judge Berenzon's words according to which the Messianic Jews are not accepted as Jews.]

Religious, anti-Messianic newspaper.

17.11 Hed ha-Qriyot (weekly, Mifratz Haifa)

RESIDENT OF HA-QRIYOT: THE ACTIVISTS OF THE CHURCH CONVINCED MY WIFE TO LEAVE ME

By Arik Greenberg

V.S., 41 years, from Qiryat Yam, is gnawed by the uncertainty about future. Last week his spouse S. left him and joined a Baptist Christian group in Haifa. V. tells:

"She is a person who takes everything to heart. She always sought for rest, inner tranquillity, faith.

"She came to Israel with this load of distress... I thought that religion helps and that it would be for the good for both of us. I also went to the lectures with her. It did not speak to me and I stopped going. It started disturbing me when she left to the meetings in the afternoon and returned in the night. During the last times she nearly did not sleep in the night. She sat with the headphones and listened cassettes that she got from her friends in Haifa. One night she said to me that because I listen to heavy rock, I am the Satan and the source of everything bad in her life. So they said to her in the church meetings. They promised to her to take care of all her needs. They said to her that the Satan uses me in order to have control over her life."

"A certain period before that she got ill. She could not fall asleep in the night and she had very strong pains. All the medical examinations that she went through in the hospital did not reveal anything. She said that she was going to die. The church people came to the hospital and said to her that if she would leave me and concentrate on the religion, she

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would become healthy. I tried to explain to her that she has to leave that thing of religion, which influences her in a bad way."

Last Tuesday V. went to work, and his wife stayed at home. "When I returned from the work, 1 o'clock in the night, she told me that two persons from the church came and said to her that they would come the next day to take her to Arad, where there is a religious woman who will heal her. I tried to convince her that it is rubbish.

V.'s words fell on dull ears. "I knew that she would not listen to me, that she is completely in another world, influenced by other forces, stronger than I."

The next day two members of the church came to take her to that religious woman in Arad.

"I did not try to stop her," V. says. "It would have been useless, I could not hold her back by force. The members of this church say and believe that the end of the world is near and that one has to unite oneself with God before that. I have no idea of what I am going to do now, she is in their complete control. All that they tell her to do, she does. She said that if she feels better, she will return in a week. But I do not know. I do not have any great hopes that she would return."

Religious, anti-Messianic newspaper. Text only partly edited.

20.11 Yedi'ot acharonot

THE SOLDIER SON OF THE PRIEST IS NOT READY TO TAKE OFF HIS KIPA

By Tamar Tarbalsi-Chadad, reporter of 'Yedi'ot acharonot'

20.11 Ma'ariv

THE SON IS A SOLDIER IN REGULAR SERVICE - THE FATHER IS A PROTESTANT PASTOR

By Yosi Levi

20.11 Davar Rishon

A SON OF A JEWISH MOTHER AND A PROTESTANT PASTOR SERVES IN THE ARMY AS A LEADER IN GADNA'

By On Levi

Ian Kofer, 19 years old, returned to faith and immigrated to Israel in order to serve in the Israeli Army.

His father is a Protestant pastor from Philadelphia, his mother is Jewish.

He was born in the USA, and his parents divorced when he was 5 years

old. His father became a Protestant pastor. Mother remarried, and he grew up with her and with his stepfather in Philadelphia. When he was 16, he came to Israel in the framework of a youth project, returned to the USA, came an additional time and returned to the USA. The third time, when he came, he decided to enlist to active service in the army.

Ian is soon going to finish a youth leaders' course, and after that he will lead youth in Gadna' [*cadet corps; abbr. of youth battalions*]. "I am glad that I can teach others the history of the Jewish people and to bring them a little nearer," he says.

About his father he says: "I do not have any problem about that he is a pastor, and he does not have any problem about that I am Jewish and a soldier in the Israeli Defence Forces."

Ma'ariv and Ha-Aretz are the country's leading newspapers, politically and religiously relatively impartial.

27.11 In Jerusalem (in English, Jerusalem Post's weekly addition)

FAITHFULLY SPEAKING

By Gail Lichtman

Two Orthodox Rabbis, a Christian minister and a Moslem sheik, met last week in Bethlehem to present another face of religious faith in the Middle East - the face of moderation.

Sponsored by Rabbis for Human Rights and the Al-liqa Center for Religious Studies in the Holy Land in Betlehem, the dialogue was the group's answer to Prime Minister Rabin's assassination. Taking part were: Rabbi David Rosen, director of Interfaith Relations for the Anti-Defamation league - Israel and a former chief rabbi of Ireland, Rabbi Isaac Newman, a former professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Middlesex in England; Dr. Yunis Amir, director of the Open University Program in Hebron and a Moslem sheik; and Dr. Reverend Mitri Rahib, minister of the Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.

Moderating the discussion were Rabbi David Forman, spokesperson for Rabbis for Human Rights; and Dr. Geris Khoury, director of Al-liqa.

The opening theme in the discussion was Forman's: "In light of Rabin's assassination, the question arises about extremism in all the religious camps, and whether we can play a positive role in fashioning and supporting peace." The main ideas resulting from the discussion were the importance of avoiding extremism, the importance and preferential position of peace in all the three religions and the future position of Jerusalem in the Middle East, concerning which the different solutions suggested had as their common theme 'sharing'. Quoting Rabbi Rosen:

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"While Jerusalem is especially beautiful to all of us, because she has all the spiritual beauty, she has also known more pain in the amount of blood and tears spent throughout history. And what has the source of that been? Anyone thinking that he has an exclusive embrace of Jerusalem. The only way Jerusalem will be a source of beauty and joy is for us to learn to appreciate and respect the attachments of others."

The weekly addition of the most wide-spread English newspaper in Israel.

1.12 Kol ha-"Ir (weekly, Jerusalem)

CLAIM: NEWSPAPER IS OBLIGED TO PUBLISH THE ADVERTISEMENTS OF A MESSIANIC JEW

By Michael Spharad

The author David Stern wanted to publish a paid advertisement about three books of his before the International Week of the Book. "Jerusalem Post" refused, and now it is sued for an offence against the freedom of expression.

The newspaper "Jerusalem Post" refused to publish a paid advertisement which presented for sale books concerned with Messianic Judaism, with the claim that that would be in contrary to their policy which is not to publish advertisements which are intended for converting people.

"Question is about fight for freedom of expression and the right of the public to know," Stern's advocate Elisha Peleg says. Stern demands from Jerusalem Post 40 thousand shekels as recompensation for the financial harm caused to him by the prevention of the marketing of the books, and 60 thousand shekels for the offence for his religious feelings. In addition, Stern asks the court to oblige the Jerusalem Post to publish the advertisement.

A reaction to the article above:

5.12 Davar Rishon

DANGER, MISSIONARIES

By Tzipi Lider, Jerusalem (reader's letter)

"...The movement of Messianic Jews is a most dangerous missionary movement, which works in order to distribute the teaching of Jesus - and this through camouflage and deceiving of the public. The freedom of expression, as is known, is not an absolute freedom, and it has its limits when it harms the vital interests like the safety of the state, the foundations of the Jewish religion, and the privacy of the individual.

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Therefore, the distribution of the publications of the movement must be prohibited by the legislation forbidding all missionary activity, including the distribution of literature preaching conversion."

Direct quotation of half of the letter.

5.12 Ma'ariv

"THE LAST PATH" OF JESUS UNCOVERED

By Ittamar Eichner

6.12 Ma'ariv

A MUSLIM, A CHRISTIAN AND A JEW PAVE THE "LAST PATH" OF JESUS

By Ittamar Eichner

The "Last Path", according to the Christian tradition the way which Jesus walked before he was captured by the Romans, has lately been uncovered in Jerusalem. In these days the lane is being paved by the Society for the Development of Eastern Jerusalem, and it has already become one of the important tourist sites in the city.

Question is about an ancient path, buried under erosion, near the road of Ophel in Kidron. The path leaves from the South-Eastern corner of the walls of the Old city, passes the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, and ends in Gethsemane.

According to the tradition, Jesus walked here from the Hall of "the Last Supper" in Mount Zion to Gethsemane, where he was seized by the Romans. The reconstruction of the lane, for the length of approximately 200 meters is performed by the Society for the Development of Eastern Jerusalem, with the cost of three million shekels.

This new tourist attraction would also lighten the pressures in Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which have become stuck with thousands of tourists.

The paving of the path will be finished in about two months, and then the visitors can, for the first time in 2,000 years, walk in Jesus' last way. The one who gets to the place during these days can observe an interesting phenomenon: three persons pave the path - an Muslim Arab worker, an Christian Rumanian worker and a Jewish contractor.

One of Israel's leading newspapers, politically and religiously relatively unpar-
tial.

5.12 Ha-Modia'

THE ACTIVIST ORGANIZATION "YAD LE-ACHIM" DEMANDS THE CANCELLING OF A MISSIONARY CONFERENCE IN BINYANEI HA-UMMA

By the reporter of "Ha-Modia'"

6.12, Ha-Modia'

A MISSIONARY CONFERENCE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF "JERUSALEM 3000 YEARS"

8.12 Iton Yerushalayim (weekly, Jerusalem)

THE ULTRA-ORTHODOX DEMAND THE CANCELLATION OF A CONFERENCE OF MISSIONARIES PLANNED IN BINYANEI HA-UMMA

By Avi Segel

9.12 Ha-Kol Bi (weekly, Jerusalem)

THOUSANDS OF MISSIONARIES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE IN BINYANEI HA-UMMA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FESTIVITIES OF JERUSALEM 3000 YEARS

10.12 Ha-Modia'

NO MUNICIPAL FACTOR FINANCES THE CONFERENCE OF THE MISSIONARIES IN THE CITY

21.12 Indeks Yerushalayim (weekly, Jerusalem)

TAKE CARE/LOOK OUT, MISSIONARIES

By Tzipi Lider (reader's letter)

21.12 Yom le-yom (weekly, Jerusalem)

THE ORGANIZATION YAD LE-ACHIM WORKS AGAINST THE CONFERENCE OF THE MISSIONARIES IN JERUSALEM

By Avi Sa'adon

25.12 Ha-Modia'

THE ADMINISTRATION OF BINYANEI HA-UMMA WILL DISCUSS THE REQUEST NOT TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE OF THE MISSIONARIES IN THE CITY

The activist organization "Yad le-achim" has exposed a plan for the holding of missionary conference in Binyanei ha-Umma in Jerusalem, by the missionary Morris Sarolo.

The conference will be held under the title "Jerusalem 3000".

"Yad le-achim" turned immediately with urgent telegrams to governmental and municipal factors with the aim to prevent the holding of the conference.

The Vice Mayor of Jerusalem, Rabbi Chaim Miller, expressed his shock because of the news, demanding it to be examined if the event will be held in the framework of the official festivities, and if not, to demand its cancellation, because Binyanei ha-Umma is an enterprise of the Municipality of Jerusalem. He protests especially against that fact that the conference is organized under the title "Jerusalem 3000 years festivities".

The member of Knesset Rabbi Avraham Yosef Shapira turned to the Prime Minister, Shim'on Peres, with a question. "Does not the Prime Minister think that it would be worth to cause the cancellation of the conference, in the presence of the fact that its organizing in Jerusalem in itself is a severe offence to the Jewish people in general and to the residents of the city in particular?" Vice Mayor Miller, on the other hand, turned to Ednah Ramot, the director of the Congress Center in Binyanei ha-Umma, who answered: "The International Congress Center in Binyanei ha-Umma is a communal company, and as one, communal norms are binding upon it, among them the principles of equality, prohibition of discrimination and the guarding of freedom of expression..." Finally she informed that Miller's request will be brought in front of the administration of the company.

Yosi Telgen, the director-general of the 3,000-year-festivities in the city, told that the conference does not have any connection with the festivals, and that no municipal factor finances the conference.

The people of the organization "Yad le-achim" turned during the last days to the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Jewish Agency, and the government with the request for them to frustrate the intention.

In addition, the organization turned to the Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, with the request that he would intervene for the cancellation of the conference. According to them, if an announcement about the cancellation of the conference in the place is not got, the Rabbis will consider to call boycott against the International Congress Center in Binyanei ha-Umma.

Most of the above-quoted newspapers are religious and strongly anti-Messianic.

19.12 Radio

THE VOICE OF ISRAEL - 2nd CHANNEL

Program: This Morning

Time: 7:45 - 8:00 AM

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Date: Dec. 19, 1995

Announcer: Arieh Golan

Arieh Golan: An Israeli soldier, who took part in the abduction of Hizballah's Mustafa Dirani from his home one and a half years ago, has disclosed details of the operation to a Norwegian missionary working in Israel to convert Jews. Now to Eliahu Ze'evi with a report from Scandinavia.

Eliahu Ze'evi: The Norwegian mission is one of the most active in converting Israelis. The Carmel Mission newsletter published an extraordinary, exclusive item: the confession of an Israeli soldier who told a missionary about the kidnapping of Mustafa Dirani. He spoke of jeeps and helicopters which landed close by Dirani's village, surprising him so that he did not even have a chance to draw his weapon. The Carmel Mission newsletter has a marginal distribution, but the story was picked up and published by Aften Posten, Norway's most popular newspaper, prompting many calls to the Israeli Embassy in Oslo. Dirani's brother, who lives in Oslo, contacted the Norwegian Prime Minister and members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Norwegian Parliament who will be in Israel in early January. They promised to seek information from Israeli officials. According to the article in Aften Posten, Dirani was abducted because it is believed that he has information about the fate of missing Israeli navigator Ron Arad. The Norwegian Mission did not disclose the identity of the Israeli soldier, who preferred to hide behind the symbolic title "The Light."

This is Eliahu Ze'evi in Copenhagen.

[Unedited, with the complete text.]

Fall 1995, Ha-Universitah (journal of the Tel Aviv University)

"I AM BOTH A JEW AND A CHRISTIAN"

"I am both a Jew and a Christian. The Holocaust is also [part of] my history," declared Cardinal Jean Marie (Aharon) Lustiga, rejecting the criticism directed to him by Jewish Orthodox Rabbis before his visit in Israel in the Eve of Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Cardinal was invited to hold the central speech in the International Conference, held in Tel Aviv University, on "The Silence of God".

The appearance of the Cardinal in the University got a wide media covering both in Israel and in the world, because of his being a Jew who became Christian.

Lustiga was born as Aharon Lustiger in 1926, and in 1940 he was hidden from the Nazis in a Roman Catholic boarding-school. Some years before

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that he had converted and become a Catholic Christian: after the war he became a priest, and developed a shining career in the Catholic religion, which led to his ordination as Archbishop of Paris in 1973. Cardinal Lustiga is numbered among the international top of the Catholic church, and is one of Pope Jean Paul II's nearest men.

In the Second World War Lustiga's mother and other family members perished in Auschwitz. His personal tragedy caused him to see himself both as Jewish and Christian. He accepted the invitation to the conference, because Israel is the only place where it is possible to talk openly about the Holocaust, and since he wanted to visit "Yad Vashem" in the Holocaust Memorial Day which indicated the 50th anniversary of the freeing of Auschwitz.

Cardinal's visit caused stormy feelings among Jewish leaders both in Israel and in other countries. Others saw in Cardinal's visit an important landmark in the approaching between the Catholic church and Israel. The Cardinal is considered an influential person in the amelioration of the relations between Jews and Catholics. In 1973, when he was ordained archbishop, he called all Christians to create "a new vision of the Jewish people".

In his speech the Cardinal talked about that the Covenant of God with Abraham and with the Jewish people connected their fate for ever with the fate of the whole mankind. According to him, God's silence during the Holocaust was the most cruel embodiment of the inhumanity of the man in his relation to his neighbor in the human history.

Why, then, God did not speak against this evil? "God promised to Noah not to bring on the earth another flood," said the Cardinal, and added: "God left to man's hands the power to destroy the mankind."

The article is shortened, but otherwise unedited.