

# THE CASPARI CENTER MEDIA REVIEW

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Attn: Kai Kjaer-Hansen

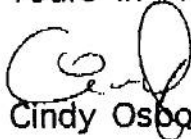
June 13, 1996

Shalom!

Of major interest to local believers this month is the proposed sale of the Anglican School property. It has also attracted the attention of the secular media, which chose to highlight the more news-worthy negative elements while all but ignoring the many parents who fervently support the school and its ministry to the local body of Christ.

Many are saddened by the prospect of such a beautiful and strategic location being lost to the Christian community, and by the anticipated closure of the school itself, which has provided an excellent education for their children. However, we know that all things are in the hands of he "who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20), and thus can look forward to the future with expectation of the wonderful things yet to come.

Yours in Messiah,



Cindy Osborne

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## THE ANGLICAN SCHOOL

Itton Yerushalayim, May 23 & 31; The Jerusalem Post, June 7 1996

The decision of the Church's Ministry among the Jewish People (CMJ) to sell the property housing the Anglican International School has raised the spectre of "something bad happening" in the school (Itton Yerushalayim). Angry parents are accusing the school of deceptively raising funds in order to increase the value of the property before its sale, as well as general mismanagement of funds and "missionizing." Some are even demanding a criminal investigation of the school's financial dealings. Over the course of the last four years, students' parents have paid sums ranging from \$100 to \$1000 per year, in addition to the regular tuition, for building projects aimed at improving the school. The headmaster, David Jeffery, claims that the work was done in good faith and according to the rental agreement between the school and CMJ, the owner of the property. This agreement stipulates that the school will be given 5 years notice in the event that CMJ decides to sell the property, so that the school will have until the year 2001 to relocate.

Regarding the charges of illegal missionary work, the school has a clean record with the authorities and anti-missionary organizations, as the religious activities conducted there are permissible for a private Christian school. CMJ, however, is accused of proselytizing through its Christ Church and Immanuel House properties, as well as through the hospital that was originally housed in the Anglican School complex before the creation of the state of Israel. Rev. John Claydon, chairman of the school board and director of ITAC (the Israel arm of CMJ) is quoted (by parents of students) as saying that the aim of CMJ is to convert Jews to Christianity, and as the school does not directly accomplish this purpose it will be sold and the money used to proselytize among Eastern European Jews.

The articles contain admittedly unsubstantiated reports that an orthodox yeshiva (religious school) has offered \$20 million for the complex. What is certain is that the orthodox leadership in Jerusalem would love the chance to acquire this prime property which has for a century been a "bone in its throat" (Itton Yerushalayim), sitting as it does on the border of Mea She'arim and the center of town.

Many parents support the school, as it offers the only English language education in town, and hope, if all else fails, to secure the first rights to buy the property so that it can continue serving them and their children.

## LORD JESUS. FORGIVE US OUR SINS

Kol Ha'Darom, May 17 1996, by Avi Gil

This two page article about the writer's "penetration" of a Messianic congregation is accompanied by sensationalistic photos of a robed figure holding a cross and New Testament and of a cartoon-like drawing of the resurrected Christ. The group portrayed is the "Grace and Truth" congregation, active in a number of southern coastal cities. The writer obtained an invitation to a home meeting by fabricating a "reference" from a fictional friend, and continued to hide his true identity from the other participants.

The article describes the meeting, which started with songs and prayer, after which the children went to another room for their own activities while the adults listened to a lecture on "What to say to those who don't believe in the Bible and the resurrection of Christ." It goes on to talk about the congregation in general, their missionary activities and rapid growth, and about relationships among the members (mutual help, suspicion of outsiders, and ranking of leaders and elders). He also comments on the fact that neighboring non-believers send their children to the meetings, though they themselves are "still not sure" about the gospel. To his credit, the writer admits that this particular congregation is not aggressively evangelistic, but gives people time and space to make up their minds.

The writer is not overly hostile towards Christians, but seems mostly uncomfortable and afraid of getting caught in the lies he told in order to attend the meeting. He ends the article with a description of getting lost on a dirt road on his way home, then backing up and following one of the believers "who had already found the right way." One can only hope that some day this will be true spiritually as well, and that he will find the courage to openly seek out other believers.

### WALLS OF SILENCE

Kol-Bo, May 23 1996, by Yohanan Retner

Large, scenic photos accompany this three page article which describes six relatively unknown monasteries in Haifa. These institutions, owned by the Latin and Greek arms of the Catholic Church, are hidden behind high walls and keep a fairly low profile in order to avoid conflict with the Jewish establishment. The nuns and monks are mostly engaged in charitable work - caring for disabled children and the elderly, housing immigrants, and running private schools attended mostly by Arab Christians. The histories of the different monasteries and the orders that founded them are also chronicled, mostly in a straight historical fashion.

### LOVE THY NEIGHBOR?

There are fewer than usual "scare" articles about missionaries this week, and I'm enjoying the quiet. Here's a sampling:

#### **MISSIONARIES PREACH CHRISTIANITY IN KIRYAT GATI**

Ma Nishma Ba'Darom, May 17 1996, by Yuval Azulai

A full page photo reading "Caution - Mission" and warning against Messianic Jews accompanies an article which exposes the missionary activity of Jehovah's Witnesses and Messianic Jews in Kiryat Gat. According to the writer, the two groups are working together. The most shocking thing to the author is that a teacher in a religious school discovered a student using a Christian Bible during the Bible lesson. It was taken away from the girl and burned by the school principal, who replaced it with a "kosher" Bible. He also quotes the deputy mayor of Kiryat Gat (an orthodox Jew) as saying that legal steps will be taken against the groups, whose existence he blames on the religiously liberal national government.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keshet Ma'ale Adumim, May 1996

An irate reader sent a letter to the editor complaining about the fact that the paper published an advertisement sent in by a "Christian Missionary." The editor's response is well put: Though they wouldn't publish material which included outright proselytizing, they don't interrogate advertisers to find out what political party they vote for, if they own a TV, or what synagogue or church they attend.

## WIDESPREAD MISSIONARY ACTIVITY BY CONVERTED JEWS

Yated Ne'eman, June 6 1996, by S. Fried

This article warns about the activities of Jews for Jesus in England, Russia and the USA. They are portrayed as pretending to be traditional Jews in order to lead people astray, thus "catching" innocent souls.... Jewish activists worked to stop the plans for a three day music and dance festival in Kharkov organized by Jews for Jesus, and managed to get the local government leader to proclaim that the group is not an officially recognized religion. In the US, the JNF reportedly cancelled their agreement with Messianic groups, whereby the latter would donate \$50,000 to plant trees in an Israeli forest (see last edition of the CC Media Review).

## MISSIONARY CHURCH TO BE ESTABLISHED

Ha'Modia, May 23 and Kfar Habad, May 30 1996

Both papers report that an American cult by the name of "Church of the Messiah" (or Church of Christ/Christ Church?) plans to send a group of missionaries to Israel, where they will target Ethiopian and Sephardic Jews. They also warn against a group called "Hope International" which plans to send missionaries in the guise of social workers and doctors who will work with the indigent population.

## ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

### HUNDREDS OF PILGRIMS VISIT ASAF HA'ROFE (HOSPITAL)

Gal-Gefen, May 9 1996, by Zahava Haber

Hundreds of members of "Beit Shalom" (House of Peace) from several European countries visited the Asaf Ha'Rofo hospital and promised to help fund the building of a new emergency room. The protestant, pro-Israel organization has over half a million members, who believe that the Messiah will come only after the Jews have made the land of Israel bloom. They visit the country every year, and have donated millions of dollars to the hospital and other institutions.

### CHRISTIANS FOR ISRAEL DONATE A KINDERGARTEN IN TEL-AVIV

Ha'Tzofe, May 26 1996

The dedication ceremony for a new special education kindergarten was attended by a delegation from the "Christians for Israel" organization, who funded the building project. The mayor of Tel-Aviv and other dignitaries thanked the 55,000 members of the Christian organization.

**DUTCH DONATE TO CHILDREN WITH CANCER**

Yediot Aharonot, May 27 1996

The "Friends of the Fund for Jerusalem in Holland" organized a televised fund-raising marathon which brought in \$600,000. The money will go towards the construction of a center for cancer-stricken children, where they and their families will receive help and support while undergoing treatment.

And last but not least....

**PREACHER PAT ROBERTSON WILL BE THE GUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

Hadashot Tayarut, May 30 1996

Ministry of Tourism studies have shown that the amazing increase in tourism to Israel in 1995 was due mostly to increased Christian tourism. In order to keep up the momentum, the ministry's team in Los Angeles is busy marketing Israel to the Christian community, focusing especially on big name leaders who have great influence in the American church. A special project for 1996 is aimed at mega-churches and the Christian media, which reaches millions of people world-wide. Leaders in this field, including Robert Schuller, Clark (Jack??!) Hayford, Morris Cerrulo, Chuck Smith and, of course, Pat Robertson, are being invited to visit Israel as guests of the Ministry of Tourism.

**THE NEWSPAPERS USED IN THIS EDITION ARE:**

Itton Yerushalayim: Jerusalem weekly.

The Jerusalem Post: National English language daily, published in Jerusalem. Tends to the religious right, but careful and relatively fair towards believers (has a large Christian readership). Friendly towards right-wing political Christianity.

Kol Ha'Darom: Ashdod weekly.

Kol-Bo: Haifa weekly.

Ma Nishma Ba'Darom: Kiryat Gat weekly.

Kesher Ma'ale Adumim: Ma'ale Adumim English/Hebrew monthly.

Yated Ne'eman: National religious/political daily published in Bnei Brak. Very hostile to believers.

Ha'Modia: Jerusalem religious daily. Very hostile to believers.

Kfar Habad: Kfar Habad religious weekly. Very hostile to believers.

Gal-Gefen: Rishon Le'Zion weekly.

Ha'Tzofe: Tel-Aviv religious/political daily. Hostile to believers.

Yedi'ot Aharonot: National daily published in Tel-Aviv. Attitude to believers depends on the reporter.

Hadashot Tayarut: "Tourism News" - Tel-Aviv weekly.