

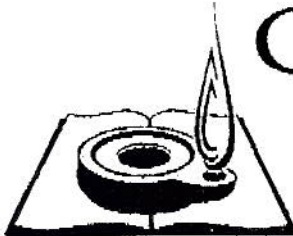
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# Caspari Center

for Biblical and Jewish Studies

## מרכז כספרי

ללמודי המקרא והיהדות

P.O. Box 71099, Jerusalem 91710, Israel

Office: 36 Jaffa Rd., Jerusalem

Tel: 972-2-233926, 972-2-256095

FAX: 972-2-251933

TO: DIM

ATTN:

FAX:

FROM:

PAGES: 18

DATE: 21.03.96

To the receiver of the clippings.

We think you will find this months clipping exiting.

In order to give you fresh information, we have decided this time to skip the second editing we do with the clippings in order to have a better English. (One of our coworkers is abroad and we would have to add a number of days to this second editing process.) We hope you agree with us that this was a correct decision.

Greetings from

The Caspari Center.

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*All the articles have been edited, if not mentioned otherwise, and can be used without problems of copyright.*

#### 4.1. Yom le-yom (weekly, Jerusalem)

##### THE ATTORNEY DECIDED NOT TO SUE A PRIEST SUSPECTED OF SUGGESTING PERSUASION BY GIFT FOR CONVERSION

The Attorney of Jerusalem region in the Ministry of Justice, Moshe Lador, decided not to sue Father Marcel Dubois and the members of his church in Jerusalem, in spite of the suspicion that they transgressed the law prohibiting persuasion by gift for conversion.

A complaint on the subject was lodged by the Secretary of the Faction of Shas, Rabbi Tzvi Ya'akovson, according to which the church proposed lodgings and money to a woman and her children, if they would convert to Christianity. Dubois claimed that the assistance was suggested to her if she would convert, but not "for conversion to Christianity."

During the last months the Members of Knesset Rabbi Aryeh Dara'i and Rabbi Moshe Ma'yah lodged questions to the Chief of Police and the Minister of Justice about how the investigation progressed. This week the secretary of the faction of Shas got an official answer from the attorney of the Jerusalem region, according to which he decided not to sue Dubois because of lack of guilt.

In the faction of Shas it was decided to appeal to the State Attorney Ednah Arbal against the decision of the closing of the portfolio.

*A religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

#### 5.1.96 Kol ha-Emeq ve-ha-Galil (weekly, Natzrat Illit/Upper Nazareth)

##### IMMIGRANTS FROM THE CIS PRAY IN CHURCHES IN THE NORTH

By Yoni Lubliner

#### 11.1. Chadashot Mishpachah (weekly, Jerusalem)

##### THE IMMIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA ENTERED THE CHURCH IN ORDER TO PRAY, WHILE THE ISRAELIS WERE SENT AWAY FROM THE PLACE...

By Eli T'zafrir

New immigrants from the CIS pray in churches in Galilee under the guise of organized excursions for knowledge of the country.

According to the information got by the newspapers, a special bus collects a number of times a day new immigrants from the CIS, living in the absorption centers and in different community centers in Central Israel, for a tour to the north. During these organized trips the immigrants pray secretly in the Church of Transformation in Mount Tabor, in the Orthodox church in

Kfar Nachum [=Capernaum] and in a number of additional places. A similar phenomenon occurs in a church in Haifa, which was closed for more than 50 years. Tens of immigrants from Haifa and the surroundings come to the church, located in Carmel, in order to pray.

*Chadashot Mishpachah is a religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

11.1.96 The Jerusalem Report (twice a week, Jerusalem; in English)

THE CHURCH REPENTS (Jewish World Cover Story)

By Yossi Klein Halevi

In the 30 years since "Nostra Aetate", the revolutionary document issued by the Vatican II bishops conference, which repudiated collective Jewish guilt for Jesus' death and affirmed the Jewish roots of Christianity and the ongoing validity of God's covenant with the Jews, the Jewish-Christian dialogue has progressed greatly. Now entire denominations barely touched by the dialogue are being drawn in.

How much of the church pronouncements against anti-Semitism is filtering down to the people? In the West the accusation of deicide is gradually disappearing. Anti-Semitism hasn't vanished among Western Christians; but the theological basis for Jew-hatred has been drastically discredited. Also, if God's covenant with the Jews really remains valid, then the inevitable conclusion is that they can achieve salvation even without accepting Jesus as the Messiah. But large parts of the non-Western Catholic world are still untouched by Vatican II. Both Eastern Europe and the Third World have become interfaith's new target areas.

Contrary to popular Jewish perception, the Catholic Church has made more serious advances in denouncing its anti-Jewish theology than most Protestant denominations. One reason is that official theological statements reach better the ordinary Catholics than Protestants. Also, anti-Zionist "liberation theology" of the mainstream Protestant churches has reinforced old stereotypes of Jews.

On the opposite side of the Protestant spectrum are the evangelicals, whose pro-Israel theology has inspired a growing movement of exploring Christianity's Jewish origins. Some evangelical groups, however, do not respect the Jewish abhorrence of missionizing, and actively promote groups like Jews for Jesus. The Catholic Church, on the other hand, and most non-evangelical Protestant denominations, have quietly dropped missionizing among Jews.

Jewish dialogue activists complain that most Christians still consider Judaism "legalism," "a mere precursor whose vitality was exhausted with the coming of Christianity".

And yet, for churches to commit themselves to "theological reparations" could require a reciprocal gesture from Jews: to reexamine their negative attitudes toward Christianity. Some Jews acknowledge the need to reexamine Jewish attitudes towards Christianity, which is often dismissed as a diluted "Judaism for the goyim" and worse. But many are not emotionally ready to rethink their suspicion of and even contempt for Christianity. "Most Israelis still think of Christians as potential pogromists," says Ron Kronish from the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel.

*Partly edited.*

## 22.2 The Jerusalem Report (twice a week, Jerusalem; in English)

### JEWES AND CHRISTIANS

(Readers' letters)

In answer to the article above, there were published several letters. Dennis R. Ybarra (Liaison to the Jewish Community, Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, CA) praises the article and agrees with the ideas expressed in it. Jonathan Gorsky (Education Officer, The Council of Christians and Jews, London) stresses in his letter the fact that for most participants in Christian-Jewish dialogue, the focus is upon the absolute distinctiveness of each faith, and the object of the dialogue is not to promote syncretism, to blur theological boundaries or for either group to adopt each others religious observances, but to learn to live together in peace, understanding and mutual respect. On the other hand, Naim S. Mahlab (Montreal, Quebec) wrote in another vein, demanding the cleansing of the Gospels of their anti-Jewish content, in which the roots of anti-Semitism lie, and which ultimately led to the Holocaust.

## 12.1.96 Yom ha-shishi (weekly, Jerusalem)

Article contains several small news items.

"Lev le-achim" got a check from a Christian inhabitant of a village near Nazareth. The donator wanted in this way to express his feelings that the war against assimilation should be continued. \*In Gilo in Jerusalem there was discovered among the leaflets distributed in synagogues on Shabbat one by name "Ha-Brit" [=The Covenant], outwardly similar to the rest, but actually a missionary one. \*This year two stamps will be issued for the memory of Jews converted to Christianity, one for Felix Mendelsohn, the grandson of the convert Moshe Mendelsohn, and the other for Gustav Mahler, an Austrian Jewish composer who got the post of the director of the Imperial Opera in Vienna after converting.

*A religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

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12.1., Ha-Modia'

THE ORGANIZATION "ACTIVISTS - YAD LE-ACHIM" DEMANDS  
THE CANCELLING OF A MISSIONARY CONFERENCE IN BINYA-  
NEI HA-UMMA

21.1. Ha-Modia'

DEMANDING THE CANCELLING OF CONFERENCES OF  
MISSIONARIES IN "BINYANEI HA-UMMA"

23.1. Yated Ne'eman

"YAD LE-ACHIM" INITIATES TOMORROW A PROTEST DEMON-  
STRATION AGAINST APPEARANCE OF A KNOWN MISSIONARY

24.1. Yated Ne'eman

A GREAT MISSIONARY CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE OPENED  
TODAY IN JERUSALEM AROUSES AGITATION

By Betzalel Kahan

24.1. Ha-Modia'

TODAY THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST MISSIONARY CONFER-  
ENCE IN JERUSALEM

24.1. Ha-Tzofeh

ULTRA-ORTHODOX PREPARE THEMSELVES TO "BLOW UP" A  
CONFERENCE OF "MISSIONARIES" IN JERUSALEM

By Toli Piqrash and Uri Qatzir, reporters of Itim

25.1. Ha-Aretz (daily)

TENS OF ULTRA-ORTHODOX CONFRONTED POLICEMEN IN BI-  
NYANEI HA-UMMA, IN A PROTEST AGAINST A CHRISTIAN CON-  
FERENCE IN THE HALL

By Semi Sokol

25.1. Ha-Modia'

HUNDREDS IN A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE AP-  
PEARANCE OF A KNOWN MISSIONARY IN BINYANEI HA-UMMA  
By the reporter of "Ha-Modia"

26.1. Ha-Tzofeh

THE POLICE DISPERSED AN ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATION OF  
ULTRA-ORTHODOX OPPOSITE BINYANEI HA-UMMA

26.1. Kol ha-Ir (weekly, Jerusalem)

WAITING FOR SORELO

By Alon Hadar

27.1. Shishah Yamim (weekly, Bnei Braq)

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST MISSIONARIES NEAR 'BINYANEI  
HA-UMMA'

31.1. Kfar Chabad (weekly, Kfar Chabad)

HUNDREDS IN A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE CONFERENCE

## OF THE MISSION IN JERUSALEM

### 2.2. Yom ha-Shishi (weekly, Jerusalem)

#### HUNDREDS IN A PROTEST DEMONSTRATION OF "YAD LE-ACHIM" AGAINST APPEARANCE OF A KNOWN MISSIONARY IN BINYANEI HA-UMMA

The activist organization Yad le-achim demanded again the administration of the International Congress Center in Jerusalem, "Binyanei ha-umma", to cancel a missionary conference held there in the end of February, lead by an American right-wing pro-Zionist Protestant Morris Sorelo.

The administration of the International Congress Center discussed already earlier about the subject, and refused to cancel the conference.

Both Yad le-achim and the Vice Mayor of Jerusalem, Rabbi Chaim Miller, turned after this answer again to the administration of "Binyanei ha-umma", protesting against the conference. Yad le-achim objected to the holding in Binyanei ha-umma of a conference organized by Mr. Sorelo, who, according to them, is an active missionary, who distributes missionary material in a massive way. Holding an international conference just in Jerusalem would also be for Sorelo a powerful means to penetrate to more and more Jewish congregations all over the world.

Rabbi Chaim Miller said that he wants to examine if it is permissible from the legal point of view to hold missionary activity in a public place.

After failing to cause the cancellation of the conference, the leadership of "Yad le-achim" decided to hold a great demonstration near Binyanei ha-umma during the conference meeting, with the permission of police. The general public was also called to participate in the demonstration. In addition, the Kabbalists of the Yeshiva "Shalom" in Jerusalem decided to have a day of fast and prayer, among other things for those who participate in different sects.

The demonstration started as a quiet protest watch of Yad le-achim. The demonstrators distributed proclamations in which Sorelo was accused of "distributing missionary poison all over the world and in Israel." They also carried protest signs, recited chapters from Psalms and blew to Shofars.

At a certain stage they progressed past the entrance, and tried to get inside the hall by force. Policemen warded them from the entrance gates and dispersed the demonstration after having announced it an illegal assembling. The spokesman of "Yad le-achim" said that its members held the protest watch with a permission, and that it was the "marginal people" who confronted the policemen.

*Ha-Modia', Yated Ne'eman, ha-Tzofeh, Shishah Yamim, Kfar Chabad and Yom ha-Shishi are religious newspapers, generally hostile to Christianity*

*and Messianic Jews. Ha-Aretz is one of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral. The article in Kol ha-Ir was very ironical against the Ultra-Orthodox.*

13.1 Shisha Yamim (weekly, Bnei Braq)  
THE BAPTISTS GO TO THE KNESSET  
By Yechezki'el Frid and Avi Hrashkovitz

This week it was informed to "Shishah Yamim" that the people of the Baptist sect intend to form a party, through which they would participate in the next elections to the Knesset. From the documents which came to the hands of people of "Yad le-achim", it can be seen that the sect has about hundred thousand supporters in Israel. According to the opinion of the heads of the sect, they can expect massive support of thousands of immigrants from Russia who know the sect already from Russia. Rabbis and public persons reacted strongly to the information. According to them there is no doubt about that the people of the sect would fight against everything connected to Yiddishkeit, and would help the people of Meretz who encourage them.

This week a complaint was lodged to Israeli Police by activists fighting against the sects in North Israel, for inspecting the monetary sources of the people of the sect all over Israel. Toward the end of the week, much missionary material was again distributed in Rehavia in Jerusalem, Baptists standing behind the distribution.

According to a study of "Shishah Yamim", Israeli police does not usually handle complaints concerning the transgression of the law against preaching for conversion, a law according to which it is possible to sue everyone who tries to persuade a Jew to change his religion.

Jerusalem Police said that for many years no one has been sued for transgression of the Law of Mission. Minister Shachal declared in the past that he personally would take care of the lack of handling of complaints about this law, but this promise has not been kept.

*A religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

14.1. The Jerusalem Post (daily, Jerusalem; in English)  
**DO THE CHRISTIANS BENEFIT FROM A QUOTA?**

By Jon Immanuel

In the Palestinian election Christians are not competing with Moslems, but only with other Christians, according to a quota system.

Some candidates emphasize their Christian backgrounds, some do not. For example, Hanan Ashrawi hardly mentions it, because her particular target are women, and she needs Moslem votes in order to win. On the other hand, human rights lawyer Jonathan Kuttab, an Anglican, emphasizes his Christian faith and his ties with Christian groups. "I take my religion very seriously," says Kuttab. "It motivates my whole life. It is why I am running in this election."

The two Christian seats in Jerusalem are likely to go to Ashrawi and Emil Jarjouas, a Fatah candidate. Kuttab has made it clear that if he comes in third among the Christians, but among the top seven candidates overall, he will demand a seat. The Central Election Commission, however, claims that Christians will receive no more than two seats, however popular their candidates will be.

The Christian candidates are not particularly happy about the quota system, says Kuttab, although it guarantees them 6 seats out of 88, more than their proportion in the population. The reason for the quota was to ensure that Christian candidates are not wiped out. Palestinian society has been very influenced by its Christian population, and voting may not be along sectarian lines. People stress they will vote for candidates who have contributed to the "national struggle."

In towns where there is no quota and virtually no Christian population, there is nothing preventing Christians from competing freely with Moslems. *The main Israeli daily in English, religiously relatively neutral.*

16.1. Ha-Aretz (daily)

**THE LONELINESS OF THE CHRISTIANS**

Last week-end about 50 Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious activists met in a seminar discussing subjects like religion as a power for ameliorating the society and interreligious cooperation. The meeting should have been held partly in Kfar Qassim, but it was informed from the village, in which the Islamic Movement in Israel dominates, that as a result of Yahya Ayyash's death and the atmosphere prevailing there the leaders were not able to host the meeting. This cancellation was a sign promising bad for the efforts of the Arab religious leaders for interreligious approaching.

Already for years Muslim and Christian believers in some Arab areas celebrate the holidays of both religions. The participants say that in this way



they want to get the communities nearer to each other, to stress the national unity of the Israeli Arab citizens and to strengthen it.

But on the side of this kind of attitude there appear also expressions of intolerance. Shikhi Salah al-Afifi from Nazareth told that extreme Muslims in his town opposed the fact that Moslems and Christians celebrate Christmas together. In the Friday sermons in the mosques some of the preachers attacked the Muslims who participated in the festivals for Jesus' birth.

On the other hand, one of the imams dedicated his sermon to Christmas, pointing out that those celebrating Jesus' birth are faithful to the principles of the religion, and calling all inhabitants of Nazareth to keep the unity and brotherhood.

In public, the Muslim and Christian Arabs deny any religious and community tension between them. Christians are, however, privately admitting that during the last years they feel isolated and threatened. "We feel in Israel as a minority inside a minority."

The Islamic Movement, with its slogan "Islam is the solution" frightens many of the Christians. Some of its spokesmen wish to establish a state based on the Muslim law, in which the status of the Christians would be that of the Protected people, like in earlier Muslim states. This fear is stronger than the calming voices of other leaders of The Islamic Movement about the Arabic-Palestinian unity.

Concerning the elections to Knesset, there are suspicions among the Christians that the workers' parties - Ha-Avodah, Chadash, Meretz and the potential common Arabic list - concentrate on the electoral potential of the Muslim 84% of the Arabs, thus neglecting the Christians, and so no Christian representative will sit in the 14th Knesset.

*One of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral.*

### 16.1. Davar Rishon

## APPROXIMATELY 4,500 PILGRIMS CAME TO THE CONFERENCE OF JERUSALEM 3,000 YEARS

By Avshalom Qoweh

About 4,500 pilgrims from Hungary and Germany participate in the conference "I will not forget you Jerusalem '96" which started yesterday in "Binyanei ha-umma" in Jerusalem.

The participants, members of "The Church of the Faith" in Hungary and the German "Congregation on the Way" will stay in Israel four days and to discuss the Holocaust, anti-Semitism and the place of Jerusalem in Christianity, Judaism and the Western history.

The honorary guest of the opening night is the Major of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert.

This conference is the greatest pilgrim conference held until now in Israel. Next month a similar event will be held with the participation of pilgrims from South Korea.

*The newspaper of the Histadrut (=Federation of Labour in Israel), religiously relatively neutral.*

16.1. Yedi'ot Acharonot (daily)

#### GUIDES LEARN ABOUT CHRISTIAN CULTURE

By Shir-Li Golan

22.1. Globes

#### A TOURISM TERMINAL

4.2. Yated Ne'eman

#### RABBI RABITZ: WHY NOT TO FILL THE LACKING VOID IN JEWISH EDUCATION

By Betzalel Kahan

Approximately 50 Israeli guides participate in a special specialization course on Christianity, which begins in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The course comprises the Christian culture and its history, art, beliefs and the church, and their connection to the Land of Israel. The course is organized on behalf of Martin Buber Center for Adult Education and Extramural Studies, the Faculty for Comparative Religions, the Ministry of Tourism and the representatives of the Christian congregations in Israel. The names of the specialized guides will appear in the lists of guides specialist in Christianity, which are distributed in Travel Agencies and in organisations and churches outside Israel. The aim of the course is to prepare special guides to accompany Christian and pilgrim groups because of the rise in the number of the visitors from this sector, which includes 67% of all the visitors in Israel.

Member of Knesset, Avraham Ravitz, asked why the Ministry of Tourism did not organize to guides a course in Judaism, because they do not know Judaism well enough.

*Yedi'ot Acharonot is one of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral. Yated Ne'eman is a religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

19.1. Ha-Aretz (daily)

#### THE FIRST CHRISTIAN SAINT

By Beni Tzipor

A long, descriptive article about the church and the monastery of St. Stephan in Jerusalem. Very neutral.

### 21.1. The Jerusalem Post (daily, Jerusalem; in English)

#### BACKGROUND TO PALESTINIAN JESUS

(Letters to the editor)

By Dr. Asher Eder, Jerusalem

Referring to Andrea Levin's article of January 5, "Mocking Jesus and the Jews," Dr. Eder traces the identification of Jesus as a Palestinian to Rev. Chaquri of Ibellin, Western Galilee, who has been preaching this idea for decades in his parish and also in many European countries. His teaching has also been taken up in at least one official document of the Catholic Church: The "Notes on the correct way to Present the Jews and Judaism in Preaching and Catechesis in the Roman Catholic Church," issued in June 1985 by the "Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews", which speaks not only of Jesus as a Palestinian, but also describes even the Jews of his time as "Palestinian Jews" and "Jewish Palestinians" (in Ch. III, par. 12, 15, 17). *The main Israeli daily in English, religiously relatively neutral.*

### 23.1. Globes

#### THE CONGRESS CENTER IN JERUSALEM GOES FOR CHRISTIAN CONFERENCES

By Zahavah Daveret

As result of the development which the International Congress Center in Jerusalem - Binyanei ha-umma - has gone through during the last two years, and the growing of its area to 27 halls that can contain till 10,000 participants, the Director-General of the Congress Center, Ednah Ramot, has prepared a strategic program to market the Center toward the year 2000. The marketing will concentrate its efforts in the next month on Christian conferences and on conferences of corporations and international companies. Because of the location of the Center in Jerusalem the greatest attempt is made in enlisting religious conferences. In the end of the last year there were held in the Congress Center two great religious conferences with 5,000 participants in each one, and in the beginning of '96 there will be held 4 Christian conferences with more than 20 million participants: the Universal Evangelical Conference in 22.-24.1.96, with 2,500 believers from the USA, and two conferences of the Christian Embassy with about 5,000 participants in each. In February '96 there will be held a conference of heads of churches with about 10,000 participants.

Lately, the Congress Center succeeded in to enter to the fair of RCMA, Union of administrators of religious conferences, in which participate about 500 representatives of conference centers and hotels.

For turning to the organizers of religious conferences, the Center published a special booklet explaining in detail the possibilities at their service in the

center. The booklet stresses the location of the Center in the Holy City of the three religions.

#### 24.1. Yedi'ot Acharonot (daily)

THE JUDGE ME'IR SHAMGAR AND THE FATHER MARCEL DUBOIS  
- LAUREATES FOR THE ISRAELI PRIZE FOR SPECIAL CONTRIBU-  
TION TO THE SOCIETY

By Tovah Tzimuqi, reporter of "Yedi'ot acharonot"

#### 2.2. Shishi (weekly addition of Globes, Tel Aviv)

FATHER DUBOIS IS LAUREATE OF ISRAELI PRIZE. RIGHTLY.

By Nachum Baratz

The president of the High law court in Dimos, the judge Me'ir Shamgar, and Father Marcel Dubois are given the Israeli Prize for the year 1996-97 for their special contribution to the society and the state.

Father Marcel Dubois, a Christian monk, born in France, has bound his fate with the Jewish people and the State of Israel. He has served for many years as a professor in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, teaching philosophy. He has got the Israeli citizenship, and has contributed much to the amelioration of the relations between the Christian world and the Jewish people. Prof. Dubois is an inhabitant of Jerusalem and carries the title "Notable of Jerusalem".

N. Baratz describes in his column the human side of Father Dubois, under whom he studied Christian philosophy in the Hebrew University.

Judge Shamgar worked two decades as a judge in the High Law court, of which 12 as its president. He dedicated his whole life to public service, contributing to establishing of the human rights in Israel, especially freedom of expression.

*Yedi'ot Acharonot is one of the main Israel dailies, religiously relatively neutral.*

#### 26.1. Koteret Chaifa (weekly, Haifa)

CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS PREPARE A COMMON PRAYER IN  
TEL CASTRA

By Mira Chaviv Issa, Li'or Pri

#### 26.1 Kolbo (weekly, Haifa)

THE HEADS OF THE CHURCHES WILL HOLD PROTEST EXCUR-  
SIONS IN THE EXCAVATION SITE OF THE CARMEL TUNNEL

By Ga'far Farah

#### 28.1. Ma'ariv (daily)

"WE WILL GO WITH THIS [EVEN] TO THE POPE"

By Amir Gilat

In the southern entrances of Haifa, archeologists have discovered the site of a Christian Byzantine town, Castra. The town includes remnants of oil-presses, wine-presses, burial caves and 2 churches and a monastery. This is the greatest old industry area discovered in Israel until now.

The findings were made on a rescue excavation before the digging of the Carmel Tunnel, a complex traffic project. The excavations were done by the Antiquities Authority. The archeologists are convinced that if they would continue to excavate also in the nearby areas, they would expose similar finds, but at this stage there is no budget for that. The findings, among them rare mosaics, have been transferred to storage in the Antiquities Authority conservation. Now the building of the Carmel tunnel should be continued.

But the destruction of the site has many opposers. Advocate Gassan Abu Warda, a Christian Arab and member of the City Council, who leads the struggle, sees the place as a potential tourist attraction. He suggests building the tunnel to another direction. He has on his side the Society for the Preservation of the Nature, the local church leaders and the Catholic Youth group "Sons of the Church". Nun Albertina Hazn, director of the Christian school in Haifa, voices her sentiments: "If this would be a Jewish burial place, they would have stopped the project." Abu Warda stresses that the burial caves and the two churches which were discovered make it necessary to seek to the problem a solution which will not hurt the sensitivity of the Christians. He also declares that he will appeal to the Pope in order that he would interfere in the matter.

The mayor of Haifa, Amram Matzna', sees the problem in a different light. "Who talks about moving the entrance of the Carmel tunnel doesn't know what he is talking about," he answers. "The Castra ruins are really a beautiful site, the findings found from there must be preserved, but it is completely forbidden to let it stop the project of the Carmel tunnel." He also said that the public struggle for the saving of Tel Castra is meaningless, because the Byzantine town has already been saved. "Without the Carmel tunnel, the town would have been hidden under earth still for many years."

The situation is at the moment on a point of no way out: To move the entrance of the tunnel is a nearly impossible task, also freezing the digging works because of the discovery of the site does not come to consideration. And the Christian side is not going to give up, either.

*Ma'ariv is one of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral.*

26.1. Ha-Aretz (daily)

THE SOLDIER WHO SHOT IN THE CHURCH IN YAFO: I ACTED ACCORDING TO DIRECTIVES OF A RABBI

26.1. Ha-Tzofeh

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THE SOLDIER WHO SHOT IN THE CHURCH IN YAFO: I ACTED ACCORDING TO DIRECTIVES OF A RABBI

26.1. Ma'ariv (daily)

THE SOLDIER CHANI'EL QOREN, ACCUSED OF IGNITING TWO CHURCHES: I ACTED WITH THE APPROVAL OF A RABBI

By Dorit Gabba'i

1.2. Davar Rishon

THE SOLDIER WHO SHOT IN THE AREA OF THE CHURCH IN YAFO AND IGNITED THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM WILL BE SENT TO 4.5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

By Eli Brenner

1.2. Ha-Aretz (daily)

4 AND A HALF YEARS IMPRISONMENT TO THE SOLDIER WHO SHOT IN THE CHURCH IN YAFO

By Tzvi Har'el

1.2. Ha-Tzofeh

THE HEADS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN YAFO ANGRY: THE PUNISHMENT IS TOO LIGHT

By Itim

Judge of the Regional Court in Tel Aviv, Natan Amit, sentenced soldier Chani'el Qoren, 22 years, 31.1. to 4 1/2 years of actual imprisonment.

On 18th May '95 Qoren prepared in his home three Molotov cocktails. In the morning he travelled to Jerusalem, to the Church of Gethsemane. When he got to the church, he poured turpentine over the organ and on additional pieces of furniture, and lighted them. Then he fled from the place.

Three days later he came to the church in Rehov Yafit in Yafo, equipped with a jerrycan filled with petrol and with his rifle. At that time there were in the church a priest, a nun, women and children. The accused started to shoot in every direction, with the aim of destroying every statue and holy object. He also poured down petrol lit it.

Qoren had become religious a year before joining the army. To the policemen who investigated him he said that according to the commandment of the Torah one has to destroy statues, pictures and images that are opposite to the spirit of Judaism. He told that there was no specific person who would have encouraged him to the act, but that he had done it through independent consideration. He also expressed in the Law Court regret for his act. But now, while appearing in the session for claims for the punishment, he had changed his mind completely, even declaring that he intends to return to this kind of deeds in the future. He also told that he had consulted a Rabbi before committing the deed. His defence, advocate Avraham Weig, told that the cause for this change in Qoren's attitude was a book written by

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Rabbi Kahane 20 years ago, which Qoren had read in the jail.

Qoren was hospitalized in the Avravanel Hospital for observation, according to the demand of the law court. After that the judge determined that the accused was not mentally ill, but acted in clear consciousness and awareness. Fortunately there was no loss of lives. Explaining the severity of the punishment he pointed out that Qoren did not express regret "and there was nothing left except to harden his punishment" because of the danger springing from his views and his possible future deeds.

The heads of the Christian Church in Yafo protested against the lightness of Qoren's punishment, saying that it is not in any proportion with what happened inside the church, because they suffered both great emotional harm and great damage to the property.

*Ha-Aretz and Ma'ariv are the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral, as is also Davar Rishon, the mouthpiece of the Histadrut. Ha-Tzofeh is a religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

#### 28.1. Ma'ariv (daily)

**"SHATRIT MUST BE DISMISSED BECAUSE OF THE EMBARRASSMENT HE CAUSED IN THE VATICAN"**

By Aryeh Bandar and Menachem Rahat

#### 2.2. Ha-Modia'

**THE POPE MAY DEMAND ISRAEL TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES AGAINST MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

By Ha-Modia's political reporter

The Vatican may demand Israel to take strong measures against Minister of Religious Affairs, Shim'on Shatrit because he offended the Pope, deceived him and after that boasted of his deed in front of the reporters.

Shatrit went to a special visit in the Vatican some weeks ago, promising to take with him to the pope only some workers of his compartment, but instead he came to his host with journalists and other additional guests, presenting them as members of his compartment.

The deception was exposed in a extensive article published in Israel, in which the Minister admitted the deed. This week the article was distributed in the Vatican, as a result of which the Pope expressed his anger about the events.

Israel's ambassador in Rome sends already for a week reports about a gloomy atmosphere in the relationships between the Vatican and Israel, and fears that the event will harm the relationships between Jerusalem and the Vatican.

Member of Knesset Yosi Achime'ir from Likud turned in the end of the

week to the Prime Minister asking if he intends to order Shatrit's dismissal. Also the Member of Knesset Avraham Hirschzon, Likud, demanded the dismissal.

*Ma'ariv is one of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral. Ha-Tzofeh is a religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

30.1. The Jerusalem Post (daily, Jerusalem; in English)

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### LEBANON'S CHRISTIANS

(The Very Rev. Keith Roderick,

Secretary General of the Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights under Islamization. Macomb, Illinois.)

The writer rises the question about the future of Lebanese Christians in the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria, and warns Israel about accepting a peace treaty with Damascus that does not specify the end of Syrian occupation of Lebanon.

30.1. The Jerusalem Post (daily, Jerusalem; in English)

#### CHURCH OFFENDED

(Letters to the editor. By Msg. Dr. Richard Mathes, Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center, Jerusalem.)

The writer complains about 1) the caricature by Oleg in The Jerusalem Post of January 15, showing the dying Christ and Mr. Arafat covering the word "Judeorum" with the word "Palestinum." 2) the unscientific claims made about the menorah in the article in January 18 entitled "Shetreet: Pope likely to visit next year." 3) about a joke about the pope in Michal Yudelman's article of January 19, "Blondes have fun".

"Are you on a rampage against the Catholic Church, which finally established diplomatic relations with the State of Israel, or what is it all about? Some more respect for the Church might surely improve your image with your Christian readers worldwide."

(The Jerusalem Post regrets any offence it may have inadvertently caused. - Ed. J.P.)

9.2. THE JERUSALEM POST (daily, Jerusalem; in English)

(Letters to the editor. By R. Willers, Wembley Park, Middx.)

#### RELATIONS WITH THE CHURCH

Sir, - If the outrage expressed by my Christian friends here is anything to go by, it wasn't Oleg's cartoon or the Post's publication of it which offended their sensitivities, but the fact that Arafat turned Christmas celebrations in



Bethlehem into a political circus and pronounced Jesus a "Palestinian." Msgr. Dr Mathes's censure ("Church offended," Letters, January 30) should therefore have been directed, at least in part, at the PA leader, demanding his apology for such a blatant attempt to rewrite history. It would no doubt have helped to improve the Vatican's image in the eyes of non-Catholic Christians and also of the Israeli public.

Casting doubts on Israel's goodwill in its relations with the Christian world (of which the Catholic Church is part) merely attests to Msgr. Mathes's seeming inability to learn the lesson of the intifada, i.e., that the continued existence of Christianity in the Middle East is under threat of Islam, not from the Jewish State.

*Answer to the letter above. Unedited. Jerusalem Post is the main Israeli daily in English, religiously relatively neutral.*

## 1.2. Yedi'ot Acharonot (daily)

### "NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE VATICAN ON THE STATUS OF CHRISTIANITY IN JERUSALEM"

By Gabi Baron

Israel and the Vatican are conducting secret negotiations about the formulation of an agreement for a special status for Christianity in Jerusalem. The negotiations have been conducted already a number of months. Israel tries to determine with the Vatican a new set of agreements toward the status and the rights of the great religions in Jerusalem, as a precedent toward the negotiations about the final stage of the Oslo agreements. The precedent is intended to create a basis for the Israeli proposition regarding a special status for Christians, similar to that to be given to the Islamic institutions in Jerusalem.

*Yedi'ot Acharonot is one of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral.*

## 2.2. Yated Ne'eman (daily)

### ISRAELI CREDIT TO THE CHRISTIANITY

By M. Halevi

A part of the advertisements of the "Visa" credit company announces to the owners of the credit card "Golden Visa" "a special excursion" - "Between Latrun and Abu Gosh".

The excursion includes visits in several Christian institutions. It begins in the Monastery of Latrun, where the travellers meet monks, continues to Abu Gosh with its two churches, where a Benedictine monastery is visited (The advertisement announces to the clients that sometimes it is possible to listen the non-Jewish worship held in the place), and ends in the monastery "John

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in the Wilderness."

Why an Israeli credit company which serves Jews, and among them religious and ultra-Orthodox public, sees it right to organize a trip like this? "Visa" responds: "The company offers different trips to different sites which reflect the heritage and the culture of the Land of Israel. The company has customers belonging to different religions, and every customer can choose the suitable one to his taste from among the the great selection that is sent to him every month."

*Yated Ne'eman is religious newspaper, generally hostile to Christianity and Messianic Jews.*

8.2. Ma'ariv (daily)

### CELEBRATING 2000 YEARS [FROM THE BIRTH OF] JESUS

By Ya'el Avi-Yitzchaq

Thousands of Christian pilgrims celebrated yesterday, in a colorful and glad procession, with song and dances, the 2000th birthday of Jesus. 5000 members of the Universal Gospel Church came to Jerusalem from all over the world. The believers prayed for the peace of Israel, and celebrated the beginning of the festivities for the year 2000 from Jesus' birth.

*One of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral.*

8.2. Ha-Aretz (daily)

### THE VATICAN WILL SPREAD THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE YEAR 2000 TO THREE YEARS

By Shachar Ilan

The Vatican will spread the festivities of the year 2000 to three years, beginning from 1999 and until year 2001, according to the Ambassador of the Vatican in Israel, Archbishop Montezmolo. This in order to lighten the pressure of the celebrations and make it easier to Israel, which according to the estimation of the Vatican will get from 10 to 15 million pilgrims.

*One of the main Israeli dailies, religiously relatively neutral.*

To Torkild/Bodil,

here you are, sorry for being late, sorry for the length of the text, this month there simply were a lot of items. If corrections are needed, you could send the text back here so I can correct it on the computer. But could you please ask Ray Pritz to give a 4-line comment to the article on p. 6, 13.1, about Baptists trying to Knesset? It could be glued on the empty spot. If he doesn't want to mention his name, "one of the elders" would do. The article sounds so strange. See you soon, and everything good to you!, wishes Helena