

Jews for Judaism

Lifeline

KEEPING JEWS JEWISH

2:5776

2795 Bathurst St., PO Box 41032, Toronto, ON Canada M6B 4J6 • 416-789-0020

by Suri Epstein

“When Jewish people think of Christianity, they think of pogroms, persecution, and beatings,” says Rabbi Michael Skobac, Director of Education and Counselling at Jews for Judaism Canada. “Jews have a criminal association with Christianity.”

Yet, despite that historic failure, something unprecedented and shocking is taking place for the first time in the history of the Jewish people. More Jews have converted to Christianity in the last twenty years than in the last twenty centuries combined.

How did this happen? A confluence of factors has created a storm of missionary success.

The most important change was first developed forty years ago through the adoption of a radical departure from the traditional approach. Christian ideology and ritual were camouflaged with a Jewish veneer. The observance of Torah and the adaptation of Jewish practice became a powerful evangelical tool.

“It was a way of bridging to the Jewish community,” Rabbi Skobac says. “When American missionaries went to China, they dressed like the Chinese. It’s a way of establishing rapport when you enter someone else’s world. In many ways it was insidious, like being a spy of what you’re trying to infiltrate.”

The result of this approach has been nothing less than astounding.

The number of Jews practising Christianity is at an all-time high. Julius Ciss, Executive Director of Jews for Judaism Canada, launched the Canadian branch in 1989 to formally offer programming to counter the growing missionary movement. “When I was a ‘Jew for Jesus’ in the late seventies, we could count the number of missionary synagogues in North America at maybe twelve, with approximately 25,000 Jews embracing Christianity worldwide,” he says. “Today, the numbers are outrageous. There are somewhere between 700 and 800 [Messianic] syna-

More Jews have converted to Christianity in the last twenty years than in the last twenty centuries combined.

MASQUERADING MISSIONARIES



The Growing Problem of Messianic Jews



Messianic rabbis read from the Torah, Prophets & New Testament (HaBrit HaChadasha) at their Shabbat service

gogues and fellowships.” The former Soviet Union reportedly has over 100 and Israel has over 150. Ciss estimates that worldwide there are well over 400,000 Jews who have accepted some form of Christianity.

Jews for Judaism, an international organization dedicated to countering the multi-million dollar efforts of Christian missionary and cult groups that target Jews, calculates that there are currently over 1,000 Christian missionary groups spending \$300 million annually, targeting Jews for conversion worldwide.

Torah as a Recipe for Missionary Success

The formula is based on using as much Jewish ritual as possible, while eschewing Christian symbols and terminology.

Numerous online videos show “synagogues” where services are held on Shabbat instead of Sunday. These are actually churches that have no crosses or Christian images anywhere. Congregants draped in prayer shawls sing “Ki Mitzion” as they joyfully remove the Torah scroll from the Holy Ark. They kiss the Torah and carry it to their Messianic “rabbi” to be read.

On the surface, these congregations look like traditional synagogues. But if you pay attention, you’ll notice that virtually every prayer is directed toward “Yeshua,” the Hebrew name for Jesus. This is what is called

Messianic Judaism — the belief in a Christian “messiah” masked by the practices of Judaism.

The usurpation of Jewish tradition has been such a success that the movement keeps adopting more and more observance of Torah. Beit HaShofar, a Seattle congregation, is typical of this trend. “Rebbetzin Malka” teaches a class in the weekly Torah portion, using the Artscroll Chumash commentary. The congregation has a men’s and women’s *chevra kaddisha* (burial society) as well as *bikur cholim* (visiting the sick) groups.

Hundreds of congregations across the world — with names like “Beit Mashiach” (Alabama), “Beit Tefilat Yeshua” (Rio de Janeiro), and “Baruch Hashem Congregation” (Dallas, Texas) — practise this form of pseudo-Judaism. Christian holidays are not celebrated; instead, all Jewish holidays are observed and adapted to reflect Christian beliefs.

An organization that calls itself the Coalition of Torah Observant Messianic Congregations advertises its own “Beit Din” (Rabbinic court). Another organization called The Jerusalem Council describes itself as a “global association of Orthodox Jewish believers in Messiah Yeshua.”

There are multiple “yeshivot” and day schools for Messianic children operating in North America and across the world. The Messianic movement is international in scope and exists on literally every inhabited continent on the globe.

A Clever Departure from a Failed Formula

The blueprint for this concept was carefully articulated by a California pastor, Reverend Ray Gannon, in 1974. He instructed followers to use euphemisms for Christian concepts when talking to Jews. Instead of the word Christian, for example, he encouraged the use of the term “Messianic believer.”

A critical factor in this new approach to missionary activity was the Jewish contribution. “There was an idealistic anti-materialistic fervour in the 1960s,” Rabbi Skobac says. “A segment of that included people embracing Christianity as a countercultural movement, and unfortunately a lot of Jews got swept up in that.”

They became the first generation of Messianic Jews. They embraced Christian ideas but weren’t willing to relinquish their Jewish identity. Having grown up with limited Jewish practice and education, they perceived Judaism as empty. “To them, Christianity was idealistic and spiritual,” Rabbi Skobac says.

Since the original concept was adopted, the imitation of Judaism has escalated. Rabbi Skobac has travelled to the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC) Conference most summers since 1988, where he and his colleagues are available to offer information for those who seek it.

“Today, these Jews for Jesus taking a much

more traditional approach to Jewish practice, with much more emphasis on Torah observance,” Rabbi Skobac says of Messianic followers. “Over the years, a growing number of the attendees are mimicking the dress of traditional Orthodox Jews.”

When he began attending the conferences, participants routinely ate non-kosher hotel fare. “They probably wouldn’t have eaten the pork, ham, or shrimp back then, but now there are a number of people who won’t eat the hotel food at all.”

Like Rabbi Skobac, they instead purchase kosher food at local supermarkets to eat in their hotel rooms. A growing number of Messianic Jews have also been adapting a more rigorous level of Shabbat observance. Rabbi Skobac recently observed one of the attendees avoiding the hotel elevator and, like him, only using the stairs.



Photos: Mozes Yehudiaoff

Jews for Judaism’s Rabbi Michael Skobac (L) & Julius Ciss



Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Cahn bestows the Aaronic Benediction on followers at a Messianic Shabbat service



Video stills courtesy YouTube CA

Kissing the Torah at a Shabbat service at the annual Messiah Conference attended by 1,000 Messianic Jews



Shofar service at the annual Messiah Conference



To missionaries the Passover afikoman symbolizes Jesus



Israel-based Ahavat Ammi Ministries establishes Messianic synagogues around the world, including the Far East



An exception in messianic synagogues, Sar Shalom's rabbi preaches among crosses and Jewish liturgical objects

The Internet in a Messianic Age

"The Internet is the new battlefield for converting Jews," says Julius Ciss. "If you go online and type in any word that traditionally has to do with Judaism and Jewish learning — like Shabbat, Torah, kosher, Mishnah — many, if not most, of the results will be Christian websites and organizations. When you go to the sites that pop up, they look so Jewish you won't know they're Christian."

The similarity to online Jewish resources is so uncanny that it would be virtually impossible for an uninformed Jewish person to discern the difference. The lack of Jewish knowledge among today's Jews has proven to be the most critical factor in allowing the Messianic Jewish movement to flourish.

The 2013 Pew Survey on the status of the Jewish community painted a bleak picture. Among millennials (those born after 1980), 32% described themselves as having no religion and identified as Jewish only on the basis of ancestry, ethnicity, or culture. Of these, 93% reported that they were not raising their children as Jewish in any way at all. Among the general Jewish population, 32% reported they had a Christmas tree in their home last year.

Most Messianic congregations are comprised of a mixture of Jewish and gentile members. There are no hard statistics about the proportion of Jews within the movement. "It depends where you go," Julius Ciss says. "If you go to a Messianic congregation in a place where there are a lot of Jews, like Philadelphia, New York, or Florida, I'd say more than half the people there could be Jewish. If you go to a Messianic synagogue in Texas, Arkansas, or Montana, it could be twenty percent."

One of the largest target groups of Messianic congregations is interfaith couples. Many members are intermarried and these congregations provide a convenient middle ground.

Converting Jews is not cheap; the Messianic movement gets its financial support from evangelical Christians. "They're committed to sharing their faith," Ciss says. "Evangelical Christians are zealously committed to promoting belief in their saviour as a top priority."

As the movement grows in numbers and self-confidence, its legal muscles are showing signs of flexing. This is already the case in Israel, whose concentration of Jews makes it an irresistible target for missionary efforts. According to the US International Religious Freedom Report for 2011, there could be 150 congregations in Israel and estimates of practicing Messianic Jews there are as high as 20,000.

In 2008, it was discovered that one of the top four Israeli finalists for the *Chidon HaTanach* (Bible contest) was a Messianic Jew. Fearing a lawsuit, contest organizers allowed her to compete in the contest. Messianic Jews in Israel view themselves as a

Video stills courtesy YouTube CA

persecuted minority and, with the help of foreign funding, have taken their case all the way to the Israeli Supreme Court. Messianics celebrated when, on April 16, 2008, the Supreme Court ruled that under certain conditions they had the right to make aliyah and gain Israeli citizenship.

In the US, a Messianic applied to serve in the Navy as a chaplain in 2008 and requested a Star of David lapel pin to signify that he is a Jewish chaplain. Vice Admiral M.E. Ferguson ordered him to wear a cross. The applicant decided instead to leave the Navy, but one has to wonder about the future as their critical mass grows. Will there be legal challenges as they continuously lay claim to being actual Jews?

A Small Crack Emerging

Despite the explosive growth in the movement, the use of Torah as a tool to bring in new recruits is becoming somewhat of a doubled-edged sword.

“They’re seeking to learn more Torah and Rabbinic literature,” Rabbi Skobac says. “And some become attached to it because of its authenticity. Ultimately, Torah is becoming an exit ramp out of Christianity. The exodus is a small crack emerging, but it’s a growing crack.”

There is a tiny but growing trend to graduate up and out of Christianity toward Judaism. For leaders of the Messianic movement, this represents an alarming and dangerous phenomenon. “There’s a concern that a focus on Torah study and observance can be dangerous,” says Rabbi Skobac.

Rabbi Skobac’s online videos, which refute the supposed Biblical proofs for a Christian messiah, have proven to be extremely popular with Jews and non-Jews alike. “We’re getting over 2,000 views a day of Rabbi Skobac’s YouTube lectures,” Julius Ciss says. “People are contacting him from around the world.”

“There’s a huge appetite among Christians for what we put out,” Rabbi Skobac says. “I never imagined that I’d be speaking to so many non-Jews. But now that the information is out on the Internet, I’m getting at least one non-Jew a day contacting me, saying they realize the Jews are right and Christians are wrong.”

He receives daily emails from Christians who are being drawn to Judaism. Some of these individuals ultimately succeed in converting to Judaism. For those who don’t convert, some become attached to the Noahide movement, observing the universal teachings of the Torah first revealed to Adam and Noah, while others seek their own Biblical path outside of Christianity.

Last year, Ciss and Rabbi Skobac received an email from a Dutch missionary who had travelled to Israel for forty years in order to convert Jews. “He saw our lectures online,” Ciss says. “He no longer believes in a Christian messiah and has ceased converting Jews.”



The rebbetzin of Jewish Voice Ministries International lights the Yom Tov candles at their televised Passover Seder

Video stills courtesy YouTube CA

On a Final Note

Rabbi Skobac seeks to maintain amicable relations with the Messianic Jewish movement’s leaders and avoid antagonistic interaction with its members. Ultimately, the goal of Jews for Judaism is to help these people find their way back to their own spiritual heritage.

Each Messianic conference he attends features a *shuk*, a marketplace, of vendors selling Messianic music, books, jewellery, and other goods. One particular leader, a Jewish convert to Christianity, was always disappointed that he couldn’t participate in the conference because he had to staff his table. “One year he had a big smile on his face because two members of his congregation had offered to take over his table,” Rabbi Skobac says.

On Thursday night, Rabbi Skobac ran into one of the helpers, a Jewish woman who asked what the Jews for Judaism people were eating. “I said we brought our own food and cooked it

in our hotel room.” She mentioned that she hadn’t eaten anything so he immediately recognized that she kept kosher. He invited her to join them for the Shabbat meals. She was surprised but accepted the invitation.

“You could tell she was very nervous,” he says. “I think she expected that she was going to be the main course for the meal! They are told very negative things about us — that we’re the devil, we’re Satan; they build this mystique about us as nasty anti-missionaries.”

But at the meal, no one confronted her. They enjoyed a spirited Shabbat meal with singing, words of Torah, and inspiring stories. Their guest sat quietly and after the meal asked questions until four in the morning. She asked if she could return for lunch. She also came back for the third Shabbat meal and then for Havdalah (the concluding Shabbat ritual).

She remained in contact with members of people in the group and eventually embraced Judaism and made aliyah to Israel. ■

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with Rabbi Michael Skobac

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LETTERS TO RABBI MICHAEL SKOBAC

Ten months ago, I discovered your video: "A Rabbi Cross-Examines Christianity". It answered all my questions, answers I couldn't find elsewhere. That day, I stopped believing in Jesus. Thank you Rabbi, for educating me with your teaching, for making it easy to understand, and especially for providing scripture references for everything you said. G-d bless you and your work as you have blessed me beyond measure.

– Marsha M.

I'm a Jewish woman who was on the verge of being baptized when I was fortunate enough to see your YouTube talks. You blew Christianity out of the water, and I'm grateful that you brought me to the truth.

– Alice R.

Thanks very much for putting your lectures online. I discovered them three months ago while looking around the internet for information to help my non-Jewish friends understand why Jews don't believe Jesus was the messiah. Where I live, this is a big deal! As it is, your site is

an absolute treasure trove of education for Jews and non-Jews alike. Also, we have our share of so-called "messianic" synagogues to contend with. Your information helps us with that problem as well. So, again, thanks.

– Bonnie Z.

You are my favorite Rabbi of all. You were also instrumental (through your Youtube videos) for my return to Judaism and becoming an observant Jew. Thank you.

– Danny Z.

I wanted to express my gratitude for the amazing and vast online library of information made freely available by Jews for Judaism. It is an amazing resource and has provided me with much uplifting encouragement over the years. Thank you and wishing you and your organization much success.

– Matt Z.

I am a grateful admirer of your work. I listen to you extensively on Tenak Talk and other venues via YouTube. You have

played an important role in resolving some disturbing questions I had in my younger years that persisted into adulthood, and have broadened my knowledge of and appreciation for our Torah and Judaism.

– Jennifer K.

My husband and I have learned so much from your online YouTube lectures. I wanted to thank you for being a light. I feel like we are coming home for the first time. Thank you for all that you do. You inspire so many.

– Sarah G.

I am an orthodox Jew living in Israel. While at home on maternity leave I came across one of your YouTube lectures. WOW! I think your lectures are awesome! I am actually learning so much stuff about Judaism through your anti-missionary classes, and it is also very entertaining. But most of all: you are doing amazing work for Jews around the world. So I just wanted to say thank you very much!

– Ruth A. ■

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INTERNET OUTREACH TO RUSSIAN JEWS FOR JESUS

Daniil Rapoport, a Russian-speaking Jews for Judaism volunteer, has created an important new video version of Rabbi Skobac's very popular "A Rabbi Cross-Examines Christianity," which is now available on our YouTube channel.

For our Russian-speaking friends, please let us know what you think of the quality and translation of this video. If you have friends who speak Russian, pass it on to them. We'd love to hear their feedback. But most important, if you know any Russian-speaking Jews who also believe in Jesus, then certainly pass this on to them.

Why did Daniil do this? Here is what Daniil had to say about what motivated him to create this important video.

"Today, I am an observant Jew. However, my spiritual journey started with my involvement in Christianity about 28 years ago in St. Petersburg, Russia, where I am from. The 'classical' arguments of Christians and their appeal to Jews are very well known to me. Growing up in Russia, without any Jewish education, I became convinced of the arguments for Christianity.

"Since Christianity is the dominant religion in Russia and most of Europe, too, that was the only way to spirituality that I was aware of back then...

and even throughout my immigration to the US in 1990.

"After coming to the USA, my first encounter with anything Jewish was a Chabad House in Toledo, Ohio. I started

coming for Shabbat, other holidays, started learning, and slowly, slowly, came to the realization that Christianity was not for me. Not only is it incompatible, unacceptable, and just plain wrong for Jews... it isn't true... but it took many years for me to realize this!

"A few months ago, I discovered some video lectures of JEWS FOR JUDAISM's Rabbi Skobac on YouTube and was fascinated by his clear, deep analysis of the scripture from a Jewish perspective. I especially loved his 'A Rabbi Cross-Examines Christianity' lecture so much that I was sure there must be something similar in the Russian language that I could find and share with many friends and family all around the world. But I searched and searched and... nothing. There was nothing even close in Russian that existed! Granted, there are a couple of books in Russian on the topic of the Jewish roots of Christianity and how it has all changed. But books are books. Many people today are far more receptive to a video in their own native language. So I



Daniil Rapoport, Jews for Judaism Russian volunteer

decided to volunteer my services and translate this video lecture myself.

"I contacted www.JewsForJudaism.ca and offered my help. Rabbi Skobac gladly agreed and, without realizing what I was getting myself into, I started the translation work, which involved the creation of text, recording voice-over narration, working with video-editing software, many edits, and so much more.

"My motivation for this is simple. This lecture, and all such lectures about the origins of Christianity, how it evolved, what it became... and how to respond, are a must for many Russian

Jews without a Jewish education. Russian Jews are very vulnerable to the influence of the missionaries' propaganda. The missionaries' alleged 300 plus 'messianic prophecies' from Tanach about Jesus and other similar nonsense, their methods of mistranslation, distortion, tearing Bible verses out of context, adding their own context, and plain lies must be made known to Russian Jews who are not well versed in English. If even one Jewish soul can benefit from it, turn back, reconsider, and do *teshuvah* — then this was well worth it... and this will be my reward. In addition, Rabbi Skobac's lectures are fascinating and have great educational value to even the most observant of Jews!"

Jews For Judaism has already received hundreds of views of this Russian translation of Rabbi Skobac's video. Daniil has started translating the video "Why Jesus is not the Jewish Messiah." Thank you, Daniil, for your amazing efforts and your commitment to keeping Jews Jewish. ■

Russian Jews are very vulnerable to the influence of the missionaries' propaganda.



JEWES FOR JUDAISM LIFELINE is a free publication of JEWS FOR JUDAISM (Canada). JEWS FOR JUDAISM is the only international educational, outreach and counselling organization exclusively dedicated to counteracting the efforts of evangelical Christian missionary and cult groups that specifically target Jews for conversion.

JEWS FOR JUDAISM's two primary goals are to strengthen Jewish pride and identity and to win back those Jews who have been influenced by Christian missionaries, cults and other religions.

JEWS FOR JUDAISM works to achieve these goals and promote Jewish continuity through the following highly acclaimed programs and activities:

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To date, over 400,000 Jews worldwide have participated in JEWS FOR JUDAISM'S successful educational programs and counselling services.

One of JEWS FOR JUDAISM'S most outstanding accomplishments has been the uniting of the entire Jewish community in a common cause. JEWS FOR JUDAISM has earned endorsements from a wide spectrum of Jewish agencies, rabbis and educators.

Published by the Canadian office of:

JEWS FOR JUDAISM

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JEWES AND CHRISTMAS: A BAD MATCH

by Rabbi Michael Skobac

I know it's dicey to write a critical reflection on Jews embracing Christmas. Hearing the inevitable chorus of "intolerant Scrooge" certainly gives me pause. But seeing a piece by Michael Taube in *The CJN* this winter holiday season ("Jews and Christmas: enjoy the holiday," Dec. 17) urging fellow Jews to celebrate the wrong holiday was too painful to ignore.

My concern here is not, as Taube argues, an "obtuse hang-up" about Christmas. In a world where ideas, beliefs, and religious expression have real meaning, it's simply disingenuous to ignore those intrinsic definitions and replace them with whatever just feels cozy. Christmas is not a universal wintertime celebration of gift giving, lights and tree decorating. It's a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Christian Messiah. But by all Jewish standards, Jesus was not the Messiah.

The magnetic attraction of Christmas for some Jewish people is not hard to understand in light of Prof. Solomon Asch's conformity experiments of the 1950s and Maimonides' dictum that people are profoundly influenced by their surroundings. There is likely an inverse relationship between the strength of this pull and the degree to which Jews identify with the core teachings of Judaism.

To be sure, tolerance of others is an incredibly vital trait, one that we should strive to cultivate within ourselves and our children. But is there a need to embrace the religious traditions of other faiths in order to be tolerant and respectful? That can only happen when we no longer have respect for our own values and heritage. We can only embrace everything if we ourselves stand for nothing.

Christmas is not a universal wintertime celebration of gift giving, lights and tree decorating.

The propensity to get detoured to foreign spiritual pastures is a litmus test indicating that we're just about running on empty. There is a well-known story of an accident that took place at a railroad crossing. A train crashed into a car, severely injuring the driver. He eventually sued the train company. At the trial, the signalman testified that he had given the driver ample warning by waving his lantern back and forth for nearly a minute. The court believed his story, and the suit was dismissed. Afterward, the signalman was congratulated for his testimony and doing so well under cross-examination. He winced and replied, "I was afraid he was going to ask if my lantern was lit!"

The dynamic light of Judaism has fuelled the survival of our people for more than 3,000 years. Distilled in the wisdom of the Torah, this light has numerous hues that have resonated with our people in various ways. Some are drawn to its mysticism and pathways to developing a personal relationship with God. Others are attracted to its practical wisdom and guidance on personal and spiritual refinement. People of great idealism have been fueled by the Torah's vision of *tikkun olam* – perfecting the world. But without a passionate connection to our indigenous light, we are apt to be drawn elsewhere.

Rabbi Kalman Kalonymous Shapira, martyred in the Warsaw Ghetto, presciently expressed this in his small volume *Tzav V'Ziruz*: "The soul of each person loves to feel. The soul yearns not only for feelings of joy, but will also be drawn to morose and terrifying feelings. Emotion is as much a need of the soul as



food is to the body. The person who fulfils this need with passionate prayer and study is nourishing their soul properly. But prayer and study without emotion will leave a vacuum that will drive the soul to search for emotion anywhere – even in inappropriate places."

Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk used to quip that he didn't avoid doing the wrong thing because it was wrong, but because there was no time. And Christmas is a holiday that Jews shouldn't have time for. ■

Rabbi Michael Skobac is the director of education and counselling for Jews for Judaism Canada.

Canadian Jewish News, Jan. 7, 2016

Photo montage: Deposit Photo & Google Images

SALVATION WITHOUT CHRIST

NATIONAL POST

With thanks for input from Rabbi Michael Skobac, I wrote the following letter in response to Michael Coren's article, "Confusion abounds after Pope says Jews can be saved even if they don't accept Christ." Coren's article appeared in Canada's premier newspaper, *The National Post*. The sentence in square brackets is the one main sentence that I regret that the editors deleted.

**SALVATION WITHOUT CHRIST
Re: Confusion In The Church, Michael Coren, December 16, 2015.**

While Michael Coren correctly states "that the Jews are participants in God's salvation is theologically unquestionable," he's mistaken when he asks, "but how that can be possible without confessing Christ explicitly"? While this is really an in-house Christian discussion, belief in Jesus is not a legitimate option for Jewish people. Aside from the fact Jesus did not fulfil any of the Biblical prophecies of the Jewish messiah, worshipping a man as God is considered idolatry for Jews.

More importantly, the Hebrew scriptures laid out a clear program of salvation for the Jewish people 1,300 years before the emergence of Christianity. That program is articulated numerous times throughout the Bible as the covenant God established with the people of Israel through giving them His Torah. Our relationship with God and promise of eternal blessing hinge on our following God's guidance as is elucidated in that Torah. [The real problem for the church has always been its insistence that for Jewish people, faith in Jesus has come to replace God's eternal covenant.] — Julius Ciss, Toronto. ■

National Post, Dec. 18, 2015

DECEPTIVE MISSIONARIES TARGET JEWISH SENIORS

Jewish elderly, many of them Russians, who live in a seniors' residence owned by the City of Toronto, recently became targets of missionaries from the City of David Messianic Synagogue. This Hebrew-Christian church presented a deceptive "Hanukkah Celebration with Tikvah," their musical outreach arm, on December 2, 2015.

The missionaries conducted a deceptive bilingual missionary program, in English and Russian, under the guise of providing a Jewish event. This is not the first time City of David has presented such a program at this facility, something they are allowed to do if they obtain a permit from the City.

Jews for Judaism had been alerted of this missionary event a day before by a Jewish senior who lives in this subsidized building. She knew something wasn't right when she noticed that the English- and Russian-language flyers advertising the program had no identifying contact information about the singing group or the sponsoring organization. The ads offered "singing, dancing, free admission, gifts, and refreshments for adults, youth, and children."

The gift offered was the book *They Thought for Themselves*, published by Sid Roth, one of the most prolific "Messianic Jewish" missionaries in the world. The book, published in

English and Russian, is being distributed in Toronto by City of David and Roth's "Messianic Vision Canada" missionary organization.

Equipped with signs and counter-missionary literature in English and Russian, Jews for Judaism representatives stood in the bitter cold at the front entrance of the building to alert Jews of the deceptive nature of this missionary program. For a brief period, we also displayed our bilingual warning signs in the windows of the recreation room for all attendees to see, but the missionary staff quickly drew the blinds to block our message. Although we were not allowed into the building, we had meaningful conversations outside with residents and were able to distribute English and Russian versions of our *Jewish Response to Missionaries: Counter-Missionary Handbook*. ■



Misleading flyers invite Jews to missionary Chanukah event



Jews for Judaism warn attendees of the deceptive missionary event

Photo: Mozes Yehudiaoff

Your Gift is a Legacy for Tomorrow

A bequest to JEWS FOR JUDAISM will ensure that our vital counter-missionary work will continue now and into the future.

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