

Jews for Judaism®

Lifeline

"Uniting the Jewish Community in a Common Cause"

VOL.2:5765

2795 Bathurst Street • Box 41032 • Toronto • Ontario • Canada • M6B 4J6 • (905) 761-0040

ONE SAVE, 28 ASSISTS! "Messianic" Rabbi Returns to Judaism by Fred Rubin*

I was born in 1965 in Montreal and raised in a traditional Jewish home. My parents, of Polish and Russian descent, were very committed to our Jewish heritage and faith. Unfortunately, by age sixteen, I had lost interest in Judaism and began experimenting with drugs. As a result, my life kept spiraling downward in very negative directions.

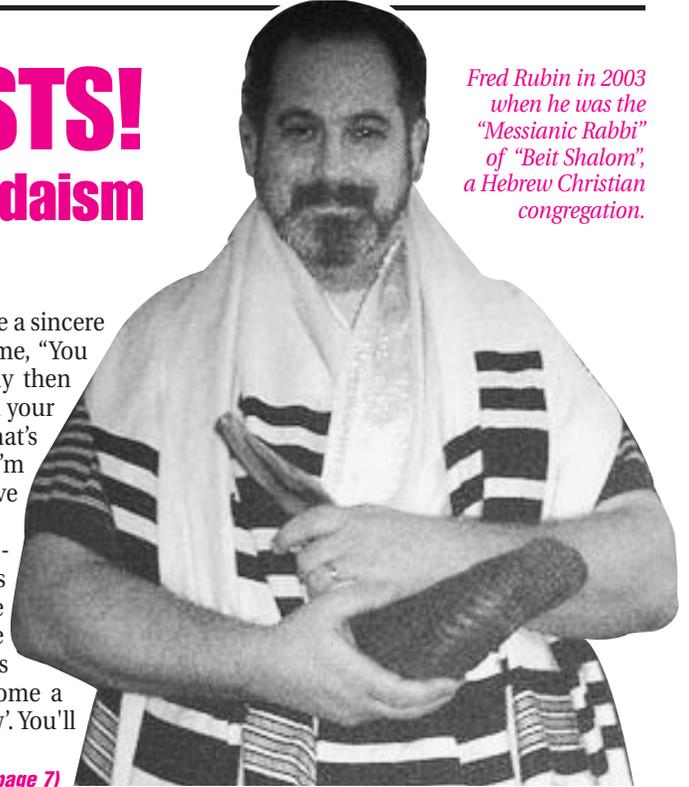
In 1992, I moved to California. Five years later, after making many bad choices, I was getting into trouble. I had become emotionally weak, vulnerable and confused. I wanted to ask G-d for help, but the closest synagogue was over 70 miles away.

Against my better judgment, I went to a nearby church, sat down and began to pray. A pastor sat beside me and I told him why I

was there. He seemed to have a sincere desire to help me. He told me, "You need Jesus in your life. Only then could G-d help you and turn your life around." I explained, "That's impossible for me because I'm Jewish and Jews don't believe in Jesus."

"That's not true," he immediately replied. "Many Jews believe in Jesus. In fact, the first believers in Jesus were Jews! By accepting Jesus as your messiah, you will become a fulfilled Jew, a 'Messianic Jew'. You'll be more Jewish than ever!"

(Continued on page 7)



Fred Rubin in 2003 when he was the "Messianic Rabbi" of "Beit Shalom", a Hebrew Christian congregation.

"JEWS FOR JESUS" TARGETS MONTREAL

Missionary Crusade Launches in September

The notorious "Jews for Jesus" organization approaches its missionary work like a military campaign. Their current initiative, "Behold Your God", (BYG) is an ambitious five-year project to conduct coordinated missionary crusades in every city of the world outside of Israel with Jewish populations of over 25,000. Jews for Jesus has raised over \$23 million U.S. for this program –

above and beyond the regular operating budgets of their worldwide branches. Two of the 65 targeted cities that have already been blitzed include Los Angeles and Toronto – two cities with active Jews for Judaism branches. Working closely together, our two branches organized highly successful responses to the BYG campaign that have become the template adopted by Jewish communities worldwide.

Because BYG has not yet confirmed that the Vancouver Jewish community exceeds

25,000, we do not know whether the crusade will target this western Canadian city. However, the missionary juggernaut is slated to be in Montreal, Canada's second largest Jewish community, from September 18 until October 8 during the 2005 High Holiday season.

Based upon our knowledge of what these Jews for Jesus crusaders have done in other cities, we know that they have already begun planning their attack and networking with

(Continued on page 2)

"JEWS FOR JESUS" TARGETS MONTREAL

(Continued from page 1)



In September, Jews for Judaism Counter-Missionary Task Force volunteers will be on the streets of Montreal counter-leafletting Jews for Jesus missionaries. A special French edition of "The Jewish Response to Missionaries" booklet and other bilingual materials will be produced for distribution.

local evangelical churches to provide them with manpower and logistical support. We anticipate that approximately 15-20 trained missionaries from around the world will descend upon Montreal to target Jews in their own neighbourhoods and workplaces, as well as mobilize church members to reach out to Jewish friends and acquaintances. In all likelihood, the missionaries will conduct a bilingual campaign, and will specifically target the Jewish immigrant population. As in Toronto and other cities, they will try to entice Jewish people to attend free screenings of their evangelistic films. The BYG missionaries will spend most of their time distributing Christian tracts in high pedestrian traffic areas, telephoning people with Jewish-sounding names, going door-to-door in Jewish areas, and utilizing billboards and additional advertising and promotional vehicles.

We dubbed our Toronto response to BYG – "Operation Missionary Impossible". With accurate intelligence, careful planning, enthusiastic volunteers and help from above, we mounted an extremely effective campaign to thwart the Toronto missionary crusade. And we're going to do it again in Montreal! Jews for Judaism has already contacted Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec Region, Montreal rabbis and community leaders. With their enthusiastic support and partnership, we plan to coordinate a vigorous response to BYG that capitalizes on our previous experiences and victories.

Bilingualism will be a key element in all of our Montreal counter-missionary activities. Because we have recently worked with the Jewish community in France to assist in their response to BYG, some of our materials are now available in French. We are currently in the midst of translating our remaining literature and media materials for use in our Montreal campaign. In addition, we will train speakers who will conduct presentations for French-speaking audiences. To ensure that our Montreal efforts will be as successful as those in Toronto, we will hire a Montreal resident, familiar with the landscape of that community, who will help in coordinating our activities and work with our Toronto staff who will be on-site for significant periods of time.

Although we have not yet finalized our Montreal strategies, we plan to implement many elements from our previous campaigns and devise innovative counter-missionary tactics as the need arises. Our Toronto response included the extensive distribution of over 100,000 copies of a special eight-page educational brochure to help Jews understand and respond to missionary tactics and claims. Full-page ads in both English and Russian print media alerted the community about the threatening missionary presence. Numerous educational programs at synagogues and Jewish schools further emphasized the spiritual danger that Jews of all ages and backgrounds were facing.



We designated a special "Stand Up for Judaism" Shabbat and during this time, rabbis focused their sermons on the BYG challenge, guest speakers visited numerous synagogues and special educational programs were organized. Our youth outreach campaign included the "I Love Judaism" art and creative writing contest for elementary and secondary students throughout the city.

On the Sunday immediately following the "Stand Up for Judaism" Shabbat, we organized a special "Stand Up for Judaism" community rally to express solidarity and commitment to Judaism in the face of those who are aggressively trying to disconnect Jews from their heritage. In addition, we trained and mobilized an effective "Rapid Response Team" that countered missionaries on the street wherever they were spotted and distributed special counter-missionary literature to those being approached by the missionaries. These volunteers were also present outside each of the missionary film presentations to warn potential attendees about the true agenda of the program.

The coming months will prove critical in laying the foundation for a successful Jewish community response to the Jews for Jesus incursion into Montreal during the fall of 2005. **We need committed volunteers. If you would like to be part of this important initiative, we'd be happy to hear from you. Please contact our Toronto office, toll free at (866) 307-4362. ■**

JEWES FOR JUDAISM LIFELINE is a free publication of JEWES FOR JUDAISM (Canada). JEWES 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.

JEWES 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.

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

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- AD CAMPAIGNS
- RUSSIAN OUTREACH
- BOOKS & LITERATURE
- OUTREACH
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- COMMUNITY LIAISON
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- REFERRALS
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- LECTURES & CLASSES
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- EXIT COUNSELLING
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- TV & RADIO PROGRAMS
- CRISIS COUNSELLING
- ACTIVISM
- VOLUNTEERISM
- SHABBAT HOSPITALITY
- COUNTER LEAFLETING
- INFORMATION REQUESTS

To date, over 250,000 Jews worldwide have participated in JEWES FOR JUDAISM'S successful educational programs and counselling services.

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

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LETTERS



Dear Rabbi,

All I have to say is: You rock!!! I honestly cannot believe how kind and supportive you are. I may not yet be where I should be Jewishly, but it is people like you, Rabbi, who give our tradition an awesome name. Thank you,

O.S.

Dear Rabbi Skobac:

I come from a Jewish family, but was raised as a Christian. Eventually, I became a Baptist preacher. My study of the Old Testament however, took me closer to Judaism and further from Christianity.

Your website has been a great source of help to me. My wife and I have never been happier! Thanks,

Mark

Shalom Rabbi:

I just finished your article on the topic of Atonement and Repentance, and I'm so glad to have found it on your website. Your article was great, and it really provided me with clarity on the claims made by Christian missionaries.

I have much to learn now as I grow in my relationship with G-d, but I want to let you know that your article was the one thing that I needed at the time. Thank you so very much.

Deborah

Dear Jews for Judaism,

Edmontonians really enjoyed hearing Julius Ciss's message last weekend! Thank you very much again for coming here to tell us what's going on with Jews and missionaries. Your message was clear – you need our help to halt those who would convert us, our children, our elderly and our intermarried families to the false messianic Judaism. That means you need more help from local rabbis, educators and community leaders in every city in Canada, the US, Israel and in many other countries.

Good luck with the tremendous work you are doing on all of our behalf, especially by educating us Jews about our own apathy and about the thousands of our people lost each year to the "caring" Christian missionaries.

Bernie and Gail Estrin
 Alberta Jewish Pipeline

Dear Mr. Ciss,

I recently graduated from the Maimonides Fellowship from University of Toronto under Rabbi Zauderer and I had the opportunity to hear Rabbi Michael Skobac speak to us.

It helps me get up in the morning to know there are people like him and organizations like Jews for Judaism to help our fellow Jews.

Please keep up the amazing work! Shalom.

Brandon S.

FROM "JEW FOR JESUS" TO ORTHODOX RABBI

BACK TO THE SOURCE VIII

A Public Lecture Featuring
RABBI CRAIG MILLER

Craig Miller was searching for truth in all the wrong places. One day he discovered that the goal of his search was with him his whole life. Rabbi Miller is Director of Jewish Communal Spiritual Care for the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 8:00PM

SHAAREI TEFILLAH CONGREGATION

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Admission: FREE

For info call: **(905) 761-0040**

EDUCATOR'S SUMMIT: EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS

The critical relationship between Jewish education and Jewish continuity is well-known. Yet, beyond simply transmitting information, the educational experience must help students consolidate their commitment to Judaism and Jewish identity. It is also vital that students be provided the tools to successfully meet the many challenges they will face during their high school and university years.

The second session will be given by Mike Kropveld, founding Executive Director of Info-Cult, a Montreal-based organization dealing with cult awareness, the largest resource centre of its kind in Canada. Mr. Kropveld, a seasoned veteran with over 25 years of experience, will lead an interactive session entitled, "Cults: Choice or Manipulation?" Attendees will gain

vital insights into how people can be led to suspend their critical thinking and ultimately be recruited into destructive organizations by skilled manipulators. Techniques will be

shared to help teachers empower their students to be more "street-smart" and less vulnerable to those seeking to influence them.

Self-esteem issues are among the most significant risk factors in the profile of vulnerability. Adrienne Gold, a charismatic and inspiring Jewish motivational speaker, will share her insights on fashion and body-image pressures that students bring to the classroom. Ms. Gold, a former "insider" who was a fixture on Canadian television, also hosted her own successful daily style show. She will "pull back the curtain" and discuss the barrage of messages that children receive from the media and how these messages impact on the classroom environment. Gold's session entitled, "Reclaiming Self-Esteem in the Glare of the Media", will enable teachers and youth workers to better understand their charges and

provide healthy direction.

Rabbi Michael Skobac, Director of Education at Jews for Judaism, will present the final session on "Conveying the Spirituality of Judaism." Years of research has revealed that virtually all Jews who come to embrace other religions never experienced Judaism as a path for spiritual growth or as a way of connecting with G-d. Rabbi Skobac will explore the spiritual richness and vibrancy of Judaism by going "out of the box" and uncovering layers of our heritage that often go unexamined. Attendees will discuss practical ways of bringing these vital lessons into the classroom experience.

The Jews for Judaism Educator's Summit promises to be a unique opportunity for teachers and youth workers to gain invaluable tools to help inoculate their students against some of the serious challenges they face today and will increasingly face in years to come. Those interested in attending this program should contact the Jews for Judaism office at (905) 761-0040 or the Toronto Board of Jewish Education (416) 633-7770. ■



Rabbi Craig Miller



Mike Kropveld



Adrienne Gold



Rabbi Michael Skobac

To help teachers better understand the spiritual dangers their students will eventually face, Jews for Judaism, in cooperation with the Toronto Board of Jewish Education, will convene a special Educator's Summit this August 24 and 25. Jews for Judaism received a grant from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to organize this summit that will be open to all teachers and youth workers.

In past issues of *Lifeline*, we have reported on the targeting of Jewish teens by local missionary organizations, such as Chosen People Ministries and Light of Messiah Ministries. Unfortunately, the threat has become far more pervasive. A recent survey of Jewish students in grades 7-12 reveals that 65% experienced some attempt to convert them to another religion. Students doing research on the Internet frequently stumble onto missionary sites when exploring Jewish topics. Missionary and cult recruiters lurk in Internet chat rooms ready to contact vulnerable youth. Many missionary organizations have created MTV-styled web pages designed to attract young people.

The Summit will feature four sessions to provide educators with valuable resources to help strengthen our youth. Rabbi Craig Miller, Director of Jewish Communal Spiritual Care for the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, will present, "Winning the Battle for the Jewish Soul." This informative session will clarify the dynamics of how missionaries work to influence Jews and why so many Jews are vulnerable to their lure. Rabbi Miller will also share a unique insider's perspective on this issue, as he himself was converted to Christianity while a student at university.

Jews for Judaism
in cooperation with the Toronto Board of Jewish Education
presents

EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS

IN A WORLD THAT CHALLENGES JEWISH IDENTITY

Rabbi Craig Miller
New York Jewish Community Relations Council, (Former Jew for Jesus)
Winning the Battle for the Jewish Soul

Mike Kropveld
Executive Director, Info-Cult (Montreal)
Cults: Choice or Manipulation?

Adrienne Gold
Media Personality and Jewish Motivational Speaker
Reclaiming Self-Esteem in the Glare of the Media

Rabbi Michael Skobac
Director of Education & Counselling, Jews for Judaism
Conveying the Spirituality of Judaism

A Special 2-Day Conference for Educators and Youth Workers

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Thurs., Aug. 25
9:30 am to noon
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200 Wilmington Ave.

Admission: Free
To register or for more information:
(905) 761-0040

Jews for Judaism
www.jewsforjudaism.org

UJA FEDERATION
Board of Jewish Education

GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE STORY WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF JESUS?

By Rabbi Michael Skobac

Mel Gibson's "The Passion" has recently been re-released in a slightly toned-down version that deletes a few of its gorier minutes. However, the film is still singularly focused on depicting the brutal torture and execution of Jesus of Nazareth. Audiences are shown how this fate was brought about when the reluctant hand of a Roman governor was forced by a huge mob of vicious and blood-thirsty Jews. Gibson has bristled at any suggestion that his film was historically inaccurate. He insisted that anyone who has a problem with the movie ultimately has a problem with the gospel accounts in the Christian bible. This bluff was quickly punctured by dozens of Christian scholars who demonstrated that significant parts of Gibson's film were based upon the visions of the anti-Semitic 18th century German nun, Catherine Anne Emmerich, and upon his own fertile imagination.

More fundamentally, we need to question whether the New Testament itself accurately reflects history. One serious problem is that the gospels were written between 40 and 80 years after Jesus' execution. Today, with instant communication and reliable documentation, 40 years is a long time. Two thousand years ago, 40 years would have been an eternity! Secondly, the gospel writers were not journalists or historians. By their own admission, they were writing their accounts in order to convince people to embrace the Christian faith (John 20:31). Since Jewish people were essentially unreceptive, the evangelist's audience became the gentile masses of the Roman Empire (see Acts 13:46).

The gospels' composition in Greek rather than Aramaic reflect the audience for which they were intended. Consequently, the gospels were tailored to whitewash any Roman involvement in the demise of Jesus and shift it onto the Jewish people.

The four gospel accounts contradict each other at every turn and lack any independent corroboration. Matthew, for example, claims that when Jesus was born, Herod was so driven to eradicate him that he dispatched soldiers to kill every Jewish boy from age two and under in Bethlehem and all surrounding cities (2:16). Had this atrocity taken place, we would expect to find some record of it in Jewish or Roman sources. But there is none – not even in any of the other three gospels. Later, Matthew writes that when Jesus was



In a scene from Gibson's "The Passion", the Temple Priests along with a Jewish mob defy Roman soldiers and urge Pontius Pilate to crucify Jesus. Photo: Philippe Antonello

crucified, the graves of many righteous Jews in Jerusalem opened. Jews rose and walked about the city appearing to many people (27:52-53). If this incredible story actually happened, it is inconceivable that it wouldn't be mentioned by contemporary historians such as Josephus or Philo – yet it is mentioned nowhere else, not even in any of the other gospels.

The Roman historian Tacitus' terse note that Jesus was executed by Pontius Pilate is just about the only clear and undisputed source that exists. Rome maintained its global domination with repressive and brutal governors who employed terror to keep local populations in line. It is estimated that Roman tyrants crucified between 50,000-100,000 Jews. People weren't crucified for double-parking their camels – this was an especially gruesome fate reserved for those who challenged Roman rule. Anyone claiming to be the Messiah (there were at least four in the first century) was immediately executed by Rome.

Josephus and Philo inform us that Pilate was particularly nasty – he was ultimately recalled to Rome for atrocities that included the slaughter of 4,000 Samaritans. Because Passover was a holiday that attracted numerous pilgrims to Jerusalem, and because Jews looked forward to their redeemer coming on the anniversary of their redemption from

Egypt, Rome quadrupled their forces there in order to maintain quiet. Had Jesus marched into Jerusalem before Passover with armed followers and been greeted by throngs of Jews welcoming him as the Messiah (as the gospels state), he would have been immediately arrested and crucified by the Roman authorities. Pilate wouldn't need anyone's encouragement to dispatch Jesus or any other would-be messiah, and Pilate was certainly not someone who would ever be intimidated by his Jewish subjects. The gospel accounts and Gibson's film are a highly doctored version of what actually transpired 2,000 years ago.

It is possible that the corrupt Sadducee High Priest, rather unpopular among the masses, did collaborate with the Roman authorities (see Hyam Maccoby's "The Revolution in Judea"). However, since Jesus seems to have made very public appearances in Jerusalem during his last week, the Romans wouldn't have needed any help in locating him. There are several Talmudic passages that seem to speak about someone named Yeshu who was executed by the Jewish court, but these stories take place about a century before Jesus of Nazareth and they don't line up with details about Jesus in the gospels. A careful review of these sources by Rabbi Gil Student can be found at: www.angelfire.com/mt/talmud/jesusnarr.html ■

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT ON JEWS FOR JUDAISM



Julius Ciss, Executive Director (left), and Rabbi Michael Skobac, Education Director of Jews for Judaism, appeared in a special edition of "360 Vision" which focused on the complex issue of Evangelical Christian support for Israel. Rabbi Skobac was a vital resource in the Dec. 2004 issues of Moment (right) and Jewish Action magazines.

Education is Jews for Judaism's bread and butter. Our philosophy has always been that knowledge is power and therefore, with the right information as preventive medicine, Jews can become much less vulnerable to the lure of cults and missionaries. In recent years, the Internet has been the greatest boon in helping us communicate with increasing numbers of people. Radio and television have also been invaluable tools in allowing us to increase our opportunities for outreach.

So, when CBC National Radio recently contacted us to do a show dealing with cults, we jumped at the opportunity. Every year, we present our popular "Cultivating Cult-Evading" program to dozens of school groups. This radio program allowed us to share this same vital information about the nature of cults and how to recognize their recruiting techniques with thousands of listeners across Canada.

Vision TV, a national religious network, recently broadcast a special edition of its "360 Vision" program focusing on the complex issue of Evangelical Christian support for Israel. For many years, Jews for Judaism has monitored this situation and reported on the hidden agenda of some Christian Zionist organizations. Julius Ciss, Executive Director of Jews for Judaism Canada, was prominently featured on this Vision TV program. As a former "Hebrew Christian" active in evangelical circles in Ontario, Ciss was able to provide a unique insider's per-

spective on the mindset of the Christian Right. This sensitive issue was spotlighted again in the December 2004 issue of *Jewish Action* magazine in a timely article written by Rabbi Michael Skobac, Jews for Judaism's Director of Education.

Previous issues of our *Lifeline* magazine have reported on the ambitious missionary initiative recently launched by Jews for Jesus. "Behold Your God", their five-year crusade, is targeting every city in the world outside of Israel with over 25,000 Jews. For three weeks during the summer of 2003, this aggressive campaign touched down in Toronto, and during the 2005 High Holidays, "Behold Your God" will descend

on Montreal. The "Israel Today" program broadcast on the CTS network recently broadcast a program they produced that focuses on the Jews for Jesus missionary group and its many activities. Jews for Judaism's Rabbi Michael Skobac was one of the featured guests on this informative show and discussed Jewish community responses to Jews for Jesus' proselytizing.

The name of our organization is Jews for Judaism, and we put great emphasis on the "Judaism." We strongly promote appreciation for the joy and vibrant spirituality inherent in our religion, and radio is just one of the venues we use to spread this essential message. Rabbi Michael Skobac has just begun his second year as a bi-weekly guest on CHIN radio's "Zelda Young Show". Skobac alternates each week with Rabbi Mendel Kaplan in presenting "Spiritual Dimensions", a segment that explores current events, Jewish holidays and the weekly Torah portion as focal points for exploring Jewish wisdom and gaining inspiration. Tune into "Spiritual Dimensions" each week on Friday, 9:50 a.m., CHIN Radio 100.7 FM. Toronto, to learn and be uplifted. ■

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THE JEWISH RESPONSE TO MISSIONARIES FREE!

To strengthen Jews against the threat of missionaries, JEWS FOR JUDAISM, the internationally renowned counter-missionary organization, is offering:

<p>THE JEWISH RESPONSE TO MISSIONARIES COUNTER-MISSIONARY HANDBOOK An excellent resource by Rabbi Bentzion Kravitz, World-famous counter-missionary authority. (32 pages, 150,000 copies in print, \$5 VALUE!)</p> <p>...\$FREE</p>	<p>AND</p> <p>HOW TO ANSWER A CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY 92-MINUTE AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE Step-By-Step refutations by Rabbi Michael Skobac, One of Jewry's leading counter-missionary experts. (includes a 16-page study guide, \$10 VALUE!)</p> <p>...\$FREE</p>
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Jews for Judaism
LIFEGLINE

“Messianic” Rabbi Returns to Judaism

(Continued from page 1)

Using the Old Testament, which he claimed was really the Jewish Bible, the pastor spent many long hours showing me passages that he said, “prophesied Jesus as the Jewish messiah.”

He was very convincing as he quoted the Old Testament in conjunction with New Testament verses. He assured me that the most Jewish thing I could do was to believe in Jesus. After six months of trying to convert me, he finally convinced me that I could be a Christian and still remain a Jew. It seemed too good to be true!

The pastor promised me, “eternal life in heaven,” and claimed all my sins could be “washed away.” I could start my life all over because I would be “born again.” From this conversation and more like it, I became a Christian.

When I told my parents that I had been going to church and was “born again,” they disowned me. This was the most painful experience of my life. Nevertheless, I was convinced that I had discovered the truth, and I was not going to give it up.

By 2000, I began to question certain issues. Although I realized I was missing the richness of Judaism, I could not reject my commitment to Jesus. Attempting to restore my Jewish identity, I learned of a “Messianic Jewish” rabbi, a believer in Yeshua (Jesus in Hebrew) who hosted a “Messianic Jewish” fellowship that met regularly in his home.

My family and I began attending the rabbi’s Shabbat and holiday services that contained Jewish cultural and ritual paraphernalia including a Torah, menorah and mezuzahs on every door. All the men wore kippas and tallits, and some of the women also wore tallits. Because the experience felt like being in a synagogue, of sorts, I was encouraged. I began to learn more and more about “Messianic Judaism.”

The following year, I was asked to become the “rabbi” of a newly formed Messianic congregation. I prayed for guidance and eventually accepted the position. I named the congregation, “Beit Shalom.” On Friday nights, we celebrated Kaballat Shabbat, and on Saturdays, we conducted full morning services.

Our rituals resembled those performed in traditional synagogues, but with one glaring difference. Wherever appropriate, we included references to Jesus. When I taught the weekly Torah Parasha and Haftarah, I focused on supposed prophetic passages from the prophets that Christians claim

were fulfilled by Jesus. Following the services, we all gathered to enjoy a kosher kiddush.

We also celebrated the Jewish holidays according to tradition, but with slight twists. For example, on Yom Kippur, after reciting the *Al Chet* (confession of sins) prayer, our congregation rejoiced greatly because we believed that Jesus was our “atonement” for sin. On Passover, the three matzos on our Seder table represented the *Av, Ben* and *Ruach HaKodesh* — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As a “Messianic rabbi”, I brought many people to believe Jesus was the Messiah, and some of them were Jews. However, I would only present a case for belief in Jesus if Jews asked me to explain my beliefs. I would always leave the final decision up to them.

**“If not for
Jews for Judaism
and Rabbi Skobac’s vast
knowledge, patience,
kindness and willingness
to help me, I truly
do not know where
I’d be today.”**

Ironically, becoming a “Messianic rabbi” was the beginning of my return to Judaism. When writing sermons, I tried to place Christian teachings into the context of the *Tanach* (Jewish Bible). I soon realized that they were inconsistent with Jewish thought. I found many problems in Christian doctrines that I couldn’t resolve. I needed answers.

I wrote and telephoned many traditional rabbis. I sent emails to Jewish organizations and counter-missionary groups asking for help. I received only one response from a very special man, Rabbi Michael Skobac of Jews for Judaism. Our many discussions were ultimately responsible for helping me make my decision to return to Judaism.

As well as sending numerous emails, Rabbi Skobac spent hours on the telephone, explaining the many fallacies used by missionaries to convert Jews. He taught me that Jewish messianic prophecy is clear and consistent, unlike the many out-of-context passages used by Christian missionaries. He helped me understand the true meaning of Judaism, and for this, he will always have a special place in my heart and my life.

Rabbi Skobac taught me that our Jewish scriptures never speak about “believing” in the Messiah. We will know who the true Messiah is without any doubt or question. Our Bible describes the incredible changes that will take place in the world with the coming of Messiah, changes that will be clearly evident to everyone and not require faith to recognize.

Finally, I had to tell my “Beit Shalom” congregation of 32 Jews and 37 Gentiles why I was no longer a Christian. I had to prove that Judaism is from G-d, Christianity is a man-made religion and Christian missionaries are a serious threat because they destroy Jewish lives.

For my last sermon, using concepts I learned from Rabbi Skobac, I showed the congregation how Jesus could not be the Messiah. I developed a clear, biblical template of the Messiah, put the messiahship of Jesus on trial and demonstrated how he did not meet the criteria. By the end of the service, 28 Jews began their return to Judaism!

Today, I am enjoying the beauty, spirituality and richness Judaism has to offer. I am able to pray to the Almighty, enjoy Shabbat, our Holy days, and our wonderful Jewish community. Best of all, my parents have welcomed me back.

If not for Jews for Judaism and Rabbi Skobac’s vast knowledge, patience, kindness and willingness to help me, I truly do not know where I’d be today.

I am eternally grateful to Jews for Judaism for helping to keep Jews Jewish and for their efforts in assisting my family and me.

I am also very appreciative of this opportunity to share my experience. My ultimate hope and prayer is that my story will inspire Jews involved in Christianity to do *teshuvah* (repentance)... to live a life of dedication and commitment to the Almighty by constantly seeking the truth according to His Torah. ■

** Names and places have been changed to ensure anonymity.*

WE SAVE JEWISH LIVES FOR FREE... NO CHARGE, REALLY!

Donors to Jews for Judaism often ask a very good question, "Where does my money go?"

Jews for Judaism prides itself on not charging for its services. Whether it's for our counselling services, which can often take dozens of hours with just one client, or lectures and seminars, literature, books and audiotapes. We do not charge for our services.

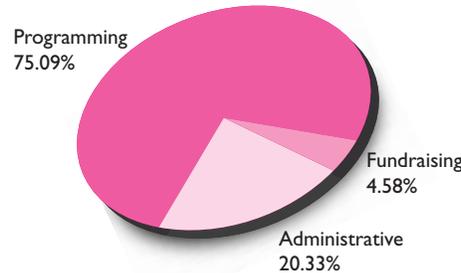
Jews for Judaism maintains its no-charge policy for the following reason. Missionaries spare no expense in converting our fellow Jews to Christianity. They offer us books, tapes and literature, free concerts, months of home hospitality, help with personal expenses and much more.

We cannot, therefore, attempt to rescue a Jew from the missionaries, while at the same time, making it conditional upon receiving payment for our services and materials. It would be as if someone was drowning, and he asked you to save him.

You have the lifesaver in your hand. However, you tell the drowning person, "I'll save your life, but first pay me \$10, and then I'll throw you the life preserver!"

This is why everything at Jews for Judaism is for free.

So, how do we use our donors' financial support? Recently there have been several scandals and much controversy concerning charitable organizations that spend too much money on fundraising and administration, while clearly not enough money on their charitable purpose. Rest assured, the following chart illustrates that Jews for Judaism is an excellent steward of your charitable dollars:



Missionaries have ongoing budgets totaling \$300 million annually just to convert Jewish souls. They spare no expense. The Jewish community must not skimp in the fight to keep Jewish souls Jewish. Our future depends on it.

Here is a testimonial from one person, one of many, who received our help for free:

"My son, a student at a public high school, converted to Christianity through the influence of some classmates. I managed to get hold of your booklet, *The Jewish Response to Missionaries*, and asked him to read it. This proved to be the catalyst that sparked him to 're-open the case'. He has ultimately returned to Judaism. How can I thank you!"

Knowledge is power, and it's our strongest weapon against the ongoing crusade by aggressive missionaries who are out to convert Jews to Christianity. Our vital "No Charge Policy" is banking on the truism that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. ■

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.

Gifts made through your will should be worded in one of the following ways:

- I give, devise and bequeath \$_____ to Jews for Judaism, 2795 Bathurst St., P.O. Box 41032, Toronto, ON M6B 4J6.
- I give, devise and bequeath _____% of my estate (or the residue of my estate) to Jews for Judaism, 2795 Bathurst St., P.O. Box 41032, Toronto, ON M6B 4J6.

Information on making a bequest is available from, Jews for Judaism, 2795 Bathurst St., P.O. Box 41032, Toronto, ON M6B 4J6 • (905) 761-0040
email: toronto@jewsforjudaism.org



da'at • calm
a Jewish approach to innerpeace



Wednesday,
June 22 • 8 pm
at the
Lipa Green Building
4600 Bathurst St.,
Room 420
presented by
Rabbi Michael Skobac
To register, call
(905) 761-0040
Admission: Free