

LCJE ARTICLE 2021 SUMMARIES

ANTI-MISSIONARIES

[A Chicago couple lives like Orthodox Jews—and spreads the word of Jesus](#)

A couple in a Hasidic community in Chicago have been kicked out of their community after it was revealed that they were secret missionaries. They are no longer trying to be secret and say that they have never been covert but were living a completely Orthodox life by choice as Christians and have a little Jewish background.

[Christian Missionaries posed as 'frum Yids' to bring Jews to Jesus](#)

"Christian missionaries infiltrated a Jewish community to sneakily promote Jesus as The One True Savior." A young couple assuming an Orthodox lifestyle moved into a Jewish neighborhood in West Rogers Park, Chicago, to evangelize the Hasidic community. The couple were deemed to be imposters, accused of being missionaries, and asked to leave the community.

[Jewish Protesters Assault Messianic Believers, Christians: 'Some Were Cut in the Face'](#)

Dozens of Jewish protesters attacked Messianic believers headed to a Hebrew worship concert sponsored by the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Israel at King of Kings congregation in Jerusalem. The protestors demonstrated outside of the facility's lobby, attacking men, women, and children trying to attend the concert.

[When Orthodox Jews oppose followers of Jesus](#)

Virtually all acts of persecution against Messianic Jews in Israel are "carried out by ultra-Orthodox Jews, who view 'missionary' activity as diabolical, destructive, and dishonest." "Christians around the world should respond by praying for the persecuted; praying for the repentance of the persecutors; and by encouraging the government to stand with the persecuted to send a message the government will not tolerate this kind of behavior."

['Messianic Jews' say police in Jerusalem didn't protect them from right-wing mob](#)

About 40 protestors, from Lehava protested for seven hours, (cursing, screaming, pepper spraying, and tossing live frogs) as members of a Messianic community attended a concert. Eyewitnesses said the police responded weakly. In a written response, the Israeli Police denounced all violence while adding, "At the same time, it acts to preserve public order and allow free speech and protest by any person regardless of his options and beliefs."

[Jewish activists to counter missionaries in Uman](#)

Yad L'Achim activists are to fly to the Ukraine to counter Messianic Jews who pass out literature and set up booths in Uman. Yad L'Achim has a hotline whereby "Jews who

encounter missionaries can call stating, "Our activists are available at all times and will arrive within minutes to deal with the missionary activity."

Ex-missionary who returned to Judaism now helps cult victims

At age ten, Daniel Attia, through internet searches for the meaning of the world and his role in it, found answers on Messianic Jewish sites and for twenty years confessed to be a Christian/Messianic Jew. After confessing his Christianity to a Yad L'Achim Rabbi, he was convinced to "return to the Jewish people and make Tesuvah."

Synagogues closed, church open

Yad L'Achim reported to authorities that Kehilat Beit Hillel Church, a branch of the Messianic Jews in Ashdod, runs a live broadcast. Yad L'Achim contacted authorities, who have either not stopped the meetings or delayed coming to stop the meetings. Yad L'Achim stated, "If they're enforcing and prohibiting holding prayers in a closed place, there's no reason for this sect to be excepted."

An Israeli Missionary Tried to Convert Me

Rabbi Bentzion Kravitz speaks of a Messianic Israeli trying to "convert" him, his refutation of the argument of Christianity, and eventual winning of the person back to Judaism. His organization Jews for Judaism works to "save Jewish lives and keep Jews Jewish."

Hebrew Roots: Someone's Found a Way to Out-Weird Jews for Jesus

Hebrew Roots sprang from the forehead of Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). He blended his own (mis)understanding of Judaism with fundamentalism to end up with a worldview that would later influence the founders of Hebrew Roots. After Armstrong died, his followers rejiggered his ideas to make them easier for Protestants to accept. Christians outside of Hebrew Roots don't like them. A number have refuted their claims and beliefs. The more evangelical the Christian leaders/writers/etc are, the less they like Hebrew Roots. Hebrew Roots has a subculture community and many extreme practices that exclude and judge outsiders. They even have their own version of the Bible. The author is against all religions and forms of Christianity

Exclusive: Detroit Pastor Addresses Controversy Over His Move to Israel

Dr. Glenn Plummer, a COGC-appointed Bishop to Israel, received permanent residency to move to Mevaseret, Jerusalem (a heavily populated Ethiopian community), with the intent to "build a bridge in a relationship that will be longstanding and sustained between Black America and Israel." He denies accusations of having an intent to proselytize Jewish people.

First COGIC Bishop to Israel Meets Opposition from Counter-Missionaries

The COGIC bishop and first lady Plummer were confronted by anti-missionaries, including Tovia Singer, after they arrived in Israel. They were being accused of having the intent to proselytize and baptize. Bishop Plummer denies the accusations and states that he understands and stands with Jews on their sensitivity to persecution.

Christian org. with Jewish Agency ties rejects missionizing allegations

An anti-missionary agency accused the Aliyah Return Center, run by Return Ministries, of providing Christian influences on young Jewish Israelis at the campus. Return Ministries, a Christian organization that provides volunteers to work at an educational campus run by the Jewish Agency, has rejected accusations that it is involved in missionary work.

Missionaries in Israel running facilities for new immigrants, lone soldiers

“Beyneynu, a watchdog group based in Israel, released a video alleging that Return Ministries is active on the grounds of the Jewish Agency-run Bikat Kinarot campus in northern Israel.” Return Ministries states their facility, the Aliyah Return Center at Bikat Kinarot, includes housing for lone soldiers, provides accommodation for new arrivals to Israel, and involves connecting them with the community.

Cross purposes: how some Christian groups are targeting Jews for conversion

Citing the numerous Christian organizations in the UK doing work to share Jesus with Jewish people, the author believes that organizations who, in some cases, have signed non-proselytizing agreements so that they can support the Jewish Agency to promote Aliyah to Israel should receive the “encouragement and support” of Jewish people.

Jewish Agency expels Christian group from Galilee campus over proselytizing scandal

The Jewish Agency is expelling Canada-based Return Ministries from their education center after its social media posts implied it was proselytizing new immigrants. The Jewish Agency said Return Ministries “inaccurately portrayed our relationship with it at our Bikat Kinarot campus.”

Jewish Agency cuts ties with Christian Zionist group accused of proselytizing

Return Ministries and the Jewish Agency both said that the claims of Return Ministries proselytizing were false and did not represent the reality on the ground at Bikat Kinarot. The internal investigation found “no evidence of any direct missionary activity,” but the Agency decided to end its relationship with the group because they said Return Ministries “erroneously took credit in their [social] media posts for involvement in areas such as Aliyah, specifically with proselytizing lone soldiers and new olim [immigrants].”

It’s Open Season for Missionaries in Israel VIDEO

The founder and director of Beyneynu, Shannon Nuszen (a former Christian missionary), reports on what it perceives as “three major threats targeting Jewish community in Israel” by showing excerpts of footage and media from various Christian groups working in Israel. Beyneynu, a non-profit organization, monitors missionary activity in Israel and works with government and community leaders to create awareness of the challenges facing the public

and to facilitate the establishment of proper boundaries in their partnerships with faith-based organizations.

Jerusalem Rabbi Accused of being covert Christian Missionary

A covert-missionary family in Jerusalem is now “kicked-out” of Israel. Israel has a known ban on all missionary activities and this man and his family have been secretly working to convert Jews to Christianity under the guise of an Ultra-Orthodox Rabbi. This has left many of their neighbors shocked as they didn’t know the family’s stance as Messianic Jews. The family was under surveillance until enough proof could be gathered to revoke their citizenship. Now it’s been “proven” that he is in fact a Gentile and came to Israel under false papers.

As Jewish followers of Jesus we deplore deceptive tactics

Israel Today, a Messianic Jewish publication in Israel read, “Shock After Christian Family Found Living as Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem.” Yes, Jewish followers of Yeshua (Jesus) were taken aback as well, since we too denounce deceptive missionary tactics. Paul encouraged Christians to have cultural sensitivity rather than duplicity or taking on additional traditions in order to reach the gentiles. Michael Brown appeals, “as a Jewish follower of Jesus, it’s simple: You are obviously free to reject our message, as most of you do. But please do not attack us for being forthright about who we are. We, too, strive for ‘honesty, integrity, transparency, and mutual respect.’”

Bais Medrash in Yerushalyim is a Hotbed of Christian Missionaries Posing as Chereidim

The “*Bais Medrash*” (study hall) is run by an organization called FFOZ (First Fruits of Zion) that was established in the United States in 1992 with the central aim of presenting Christianity as Judaism and conducting intensive activities to get Jews to convert. This mission organization in Jerusalem holds school to teach Messianic Jews how to reconnect with the Torah. The missionaries themselves conduct what would appear to be Jewish lives and wear Haredi garb—kippahs, beards and so on.”

Facebook Beyneynu

An alert was put out on Beyneynu facebook page warning the community that Jews for Jesus has moved into Israel and that though proselytizing is not illegal it is deeply offensive and all incidents of proselytizing to minors should be reported immediately. The post also encourages Jews to behave with decency and respect towards those who have moved in.

Shocking exposure Beit Midrash in Jerusalem works to train missionaries

An extensive activity by Yad Larim reveals that "Zemach David" is the tip of the iceberg of extensive missionary-Christian activity that has been gaining momentum in recent times to ostensibly work to prepare the ground for activity among all Israeli public life, using disguise, creating false manipulations, and masking the true identity of the missionaries. The missionary complex is named Bram Center after Avram Poljak, one of the pioneers of missionary activity in Israel. The Beit Midrash is operated by FFOZ (whose initials are "Bicuri Zion") which was established in the United States in 1992 with key

tasks, mainly the presentation of Christianity as Judaism and intensive activity to convert the Jewish people.

New allegations about another covert Messianic Christian missionary

An individual known as Timothy Buckles, Tim Layne, and Ami Ron Buckles, living in Jerusalem and posing as an Orthodox Jew, has been accused of being a covert Messianic Christian missionary. Buckles is also the author of a children's book for Messianic children called "Avram and the Idol Shop," which is sold on the website of the Messianic organization First Fruits of Zion and described as "A Storybook for Messianic Children." Shannon Nuszen, a former missionary and head of Beyneynu, asserts that Buckles has posed and continues to pose as a Jew, but in reality is committed to his Messianic Christian faith.

"Sleeper Cell" of Christian missionaries who infiltrated Orthodox communities in Jerusalem unmasked

Four members of a "sleeper cell" of alleged undercover Christian missionaries who infiltrated Orthodox communities in Jerusalem have been unmasked in dossiers passed to the Israeli government. Michael Elk had set up a seminary in Jerusalem called Yeshivat Yarim Ha'am, teaching a belief in Jesus. He gave students a 'Messianic' smicha, making them rabbis. Tim Buckles set up an Israeli version of Tzemach David—the messianic yeshiva they had founded near Seattle—in order to spread a Christianized Judaism to Jews. Shannon Nuszen, director of Beyneynu, described the network as "like a sleeper cell." Describing its methods, she said: "They are supposed to embed themselves, pray for the Jews and when God finally removes the blinders from their eyes, they'll be in place and influential to be able to bring all Jews to Jesus."

Another "Chareidi" Missionary Imposter, Messianic Center in Downtown Jerusalem

"The Bram Center for Messianic Jewish Learning celebrates the rich history and broad diversity of Jewish Yeshua-followers while focusing on the development of a Torah-based and traditional expression of Messianic Judaism. The Bram Center emphasizes three areas of focus: Yeshua faith, Torah-centered Messianic Judaism, and the land of Israel." Boaz Michael, chairman and founder of the organization, who wears a large knitted yarmulke, lives in the Arnona neighborhood in south Jerusalem. However, Michael, unlike Buckles, maintains a Facebook page that makes his identity crystal clear. There is a touching story about how a missionary needed a place to disciple an Orthodox man, but that the Bram Center wasn't around back then, and all contact with the man was lost.

Remove body of undercover missionary from Jewish cemetery, say rabbinical chiefs

Amanda Elk's body will be removed from a Jewish cemetery, upon the discovery that she was in fact a Messianic Jew, and Christian evangelist. The rabbis of Jerusalem are decreeing that all boys who were circumcised by Michael Elk should undergo another procedure with a true rabbi. All marriages where Elk officiated should be redone, and all tefillin sold by Elk should be burnt.

What does the Jewish Community Want from Jewish Followers of Jesus?

Michael Brown makes an eloquent case for a Messianic Jewish position on this subject in Voices in the Christian Post in January of 2020: Brown says, “An attack against a secular Jew or a traditional Jew is also an attack against us.” He points out that the attack on Lev HaShem Messianic Synagogue in Cary, NC, in August of 2019 was an attack against Jews, albeit messianic Jews. Two months earlier, Beth Abraham, another messianic congregation had its building in Denver vandalized with a swastika. I believe these incidents gave Jewish leaders pause who say we are no longer Jewish. Yet clearly, we are targeted as Jews by anti-Semites.

ANTI-SEMITISM

[Boteach to debate Messianic Jew on whether New Testament is antisemitic](#)

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, in a debate with Messianic Jew Dr. Michael Brown, defends the position that the New Testament contains "blatant antisemitic statements." Boteach is one of the world's leading relationship and spirituality experts, while Brown is widely considered to be one of the world's foremost Messianic apologists. The debate, which occurred on August 8, 2019, was sponsored by Chosen People Ministries. Boteach stated, "It is always a privilege to debate my good friend Dr Brown."

[Chief Rabbi: Church's historic antisemitism report "fails to address conversion"](#)

A landmark Church of England report calling on Christians to "repent" for historic antisemitism and reset Jewish-Christian relations received a mixed reaction from Jewish leaders this week. While Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis welcomed the report in the main, he simultaneously launched a blistering reproach of Anglican leaders for failing to disavow their institution with those who still seek to convert Jews to Christianity.

[A Messianic Jewish reflection on anti-Semitism](#)

Dr Michael Brown states that, while Jewish believers in Jesus are often rejected by the Jewish community, for many, their sense of Jewish identity is deepened through faith in Jesus. As such, when anti-Semitism is on the rise, Messianic Jews feel it acutely. Therefore, attacks against Messianic congregations are attacks against the Jewish community. Jewish Christians in Nazi Germany were persecuted and died in concentration camps. Brown also identifies himself with the Christian community, yet these are often the people who have persecuted the Jewish people. Christian anti-Semitism is an incredible oxymoron. Thus, Brown makes an appeal to his Christian friends to stand up against anti-Semitism.

[An Orthodox Jew and a Messianic Jew Denounce 'Christian' Anti-Semitism](#)

Rick Wiles, an anti-Semitic "Christian pastor" and talk show host, recently stated that the coronavirus is spreading amongst synagogues and is a punishment from God and that He is appropriately disciplining people who oppose Jesus. Wiles blames the Israeli Prime Minister and Jewish organizations for the spread of the virus. Even before the outbreak, Wiles blamed "the Jews" for controlling the political right and the political left. He perpetuates replacement theology, holds that "the Jews" killed Jesus, calls Judaism a false religion, and frequently utters anti-Semitic slurs on his talk show. Jonathan Feldstein says, "to add insult to injury, he does this all in the name of Jesus, himself a Jew." Feldstein and Dr. Brown call on all people of faith to denounce Wiles's anti-Semitism.

[The Danish Translation that Removes Israel from the New Testament](#)

Dr. Michael Brown denounces the Danish Bible Society for removing Israel from their translation of the New Testament and downplaying the seriousness of their actions. He quotes the response of the secretary general of the Bible Society, who said that Danish Christians see

no connection between modern Israel and the Israel of the Bible. Brown states that this is an anti-Semitic decision. They justify their decision by saying that Israel has been translated to “the Jewish people” for clarity’s sake—yet Egypt is still called Egypt and they still use the word Israel in their translation of the Old Testament. Brown also points out that their translation breaks the continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

JTA Canada sees 27% rise in violent anti-Semitic incidents in 2019

“Canada experienced a record number of anti-Semitic incidents for the fourth straight year.” According to an annual audit by B’nai Brith Canada, incidents in 2019 represented an 8% increase over the previous year. Violent incidents rose by 27%, with the increase primarily in Ontario and Quebec. “The Jewish community remained the most targeted religious minority in Canada,” and COVID has only made Jew-hatred worse. The audit noted that Canada adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism last year.

What is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism?

The IHRA was founded in 1998 and seeks to promote Holocaust remembrance and combat anti-Semitism. In 2016, the organization adopted a working definition of anti-Semitism: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.” Manifestations of this include targeting the state of Israel or blaming Jews for “why things go wrong,” and more are outlined in the definition.

German Churches Reckon with Anti-Semitic History

After the Holocaust, Baptists repressed memories of the Holocaust, but today many Baptist and other evangelicals actively participate in efforts to oppose anti-Semitism in Germany. German Christians are concerned that they need to do more because of all the violence that is still happening against Jewish people. The people belonging to Messianic congregations in the country have been embraced by evangelicals who see their stand against anti-Semitism as a core part of their religious mission. But not all Jewish people welcome Christian efforts to combat anti-Semitism; they want to be seen as fully rounded humans by the church and not just victims. Sager argues that a primary tool to combat anti-Semitism is personal contact with Jewish people.

‘A sin against the Lord himself.’ Christians can’t love Christ and hate Jews.

Prather states, “for the past several weeks I’ve been mulling over something I normally have no call to think about: antisemitism.” As a Christian living in the suburbs, he admits that prejudice against Jewish people is not at the forefront of his mind, but an attack against a member of Chabad of the Bluegrass, which the police said was an incident of road rage more than a hate crime, caused Prather to confront the fact that anti-Semitism is not a relic of the

past and is often perpetrated by those who call themselves Christians. Prather says this attitude is absurd because it ignores the very identity of Jesus.

[The State of Antisemitism in America 2020: AJC's Survey of American Jews FULL REPORT](#)

This survey is based on telephone interviews with a national sample of 1,334 Jewish Americans over the age of eighteen. The survey found that a large majority of Jewish people believe that anti-Semitism is a growing problem in the United States. The survey asked American Jews about their personal experiences with anti-Semitism in person, by mail, by phone, and online. The survey included questions about feelings of safety in public, concealing Jewish identity out of fear, and increased security measures at synagogues. The surveyed population was asked about their response to anti-Semitic statements and anti-Semitism related to the Democratic Party, Republican Party, and BDS. The survey also asked them about Holocaust education and their support of Israel.

[The State of Antisemitism in America 2020: Insights and Analysis](#)

A year after the deadly Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, the findings of the American Jewish Committee survey showed grave cause for concern about rising anti-Semitism. The survey gained attention and traction and is now an annual endeavor to "track Jewish experiences and perceptions of anti-Semitism and calibrate our advocacy and education efforts accordingly." The results found that concern about anti-Semitism is shared by American Jews regardless of age, political leaning, or religious affiliation. More than one in three American Jews say they have personally been victims of anti-Semitism. American Jews are avoiding certain places or activities in greater numbers out of concern for their safety and tend to conceal their Jewishness in public.

The general American public was also surveyed and found that nearly half are unfamiliar with the term anti-Semitism. They agree with American Jews that anti-Semitism is a problem in America, but in far smaller numbers. Education levels played a significant role in general perceptions of anti-Semitism. A large majority of Americans would not defer to Jewish people in evaluating whether something is anti-Semitic, although young people are more likely to do so. The general public sees anti-Semitism on both sides of the political spectrum, view the statement "Israel has no right to exist" as anti-Semitic, and a majority of young and educated Americans believe BDS is anti-Semitic.

The findings of this report show that Jews continue to feel vulnerable in America, while at the same time nearly half of Americans do not know what anti-Semitism is. The report indicates that education begets a greater understanding of anti-Semitism and the lived experiences of American Jews.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

[New book: "Refuting Rabbinic Objections To Christianity & Messianic Prophecies"](#)

Eitan Bar describes Orthodox rabbis in Israel as the gatekeepers of the Jewish community, who block the message of Jesus from entering the community. Bar, who works with One For Israel, says that they are reaching Israelis with the gospel where they are at, online, in a way that makes sense to them and in their native tongues. In his new book, Bar has compiled all the anti-missionary magazines, books, and videos that Yad L'Achim has published in order to answer their arguments and refute rabbinic objections to Jesus.

[The Jews aren't to blame for Jesus' death, a Bible scholar asserts](#)

Israel Knohl of the Shalom Hartman Institute writes, "The notion that Jesus was put to death by 'the Jewish people' is fundamentally wrong. Jesus' trial is not a moment of collision between the Jewish message and the Christian message. It is a conflict between two clearly intra-Jewish concepts (Sadducees and Pharisees)."

[World Renown Christian Evangelist, Steven Barry Kaplan Hits Three Amazon Best Seller Lists With "The Green Velvet Missionary"](#)

Stephen Kaplan's recent release hit Amazon's bestseller lists on June 29, 2020, climbing to number one in the Christian Ministry, Messianic Judaism, and Jewish Life categories. Kaplan went to speak at Sar Shalom Messianic Congregation in Ohio and made himself available for book signings on the way. In his book, he tells his audience his story of how he became a Jewish believer in Jesus.

[Israel's "Amazon" Refuses to Remove Messianic Book](#)

Israel's largest online book and e-book retailer, E-vrit, has refused to remove a book authored by two local Messianic Jews that calls into question the legitimacy of the Oral Law, which forms the basis of modern Rabbinic Judaism. Given E-vrit's reach and reputation, ultra-Orthodox Jewish groups were outraged that this platform would help disseminate Messianic Jewish material, especially a book that seeks to undermine the foundation of modern Rabbinic Judaism. The anti-missionary group Yad L'Achim says the book is an anti-Semitic attack and demanded that E-vrit remove it. E-vrit said that distributing the book was a way to protect "freedom of expression, freedom of choice and freedom of religion."

[Chosen by Giles Fraser reviews - confessions of a priest](#)

In October 2011, Giles Fraser resigned from his position as a priest on the grounds that the church should not have used force to defend its buildings during the Occupy protests. Fraser fell into a deep depression after this and decided to visit the synagogue of which his great uncle had been a rabbi. This led him to start exploring his Jewish roots and his family story. His new book tells his fascinating story along with the history of "how Christianity and Judaism not only grew apart and went their separate ways but came to define themselves in contradistinction to each other." Fraser makes an argument for the healing power of theology

across religious divides. However, Fraser wants to distance himself from the movement of Messianic Jews who have converted to Christianity and target the Jewish community for conversion.

GOD TV

Israeli Minister Threatens to Shut Down God TV Channel Preaching 'Gospel of Jesus'

The Communications Minister threatened to take Shelanu, a new Hebrew-language evangelical channel, off the air if it turned out to be proselytizing. The Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Council, a sovereign body, will make the final decision on whether to pull the plug on the channel.

Israel threatens to shut down new TV channel for preaching 'gospel of Jesus'

Israel is reportedly threatening to remove GOD TV channel one week after its launch, claiming it is proselytizing. GOD TV began airing the 24/7 Hebrew-language "Shelanu TV" on Israel's HOT cable network as part of a seven-year license from the Israeli Communications Ministry. The channel was launched as a partnership with GOD TV and Israel-based Tikkun International.

Israel approves Christian missionary TV channel, sparking public uproar

The Shelanu TV channel, a branch of GOD TV, will have access to over 700,000 Israeli households. Israel's Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Council "permits religious broadcasting but forbids content that has the potential to influence viewers in an undue fashion, and most certainly young and impressionable viewers." On Tuesday afternoon, it appeared that the site had been taken down or hidden.

Israel Cannot Allow Christian Missionaries to Infiltrate Israeli Homes

Orlando-based Christian missionary channel "GOD TV" received a seven-year license to broadcast its television programs in Israel. The Messianic movement shares similar Christian evangelical beliefs with Jews for Jesus. However, its leaders are called "rabbis," and their congregational churches are called "messianic synagogues." Jews for Judaism has formally protested to the Israeli government.

Tovia Singer: Gospel channel targets vulnerable Jews in attempt to convert

Singer said there is "nothing new about Evangelical fundamentalist Christians seeking to convert Jews to Christianity," but noted that the method that GOD TV is using is "completely novel." Singer argued that GOD TV "blurs the distinction between Judaism and Christianity in order to lure Jews who would otherwise avoid straightforward Christian messages."

Does gospel-preaching "Shelanu" TV channel violate Israeli law against proselytizing?

While it is legal to missionize in Israel (though not to minors), it is possible that GOD TV is violating the terms of its broadcasting license. It is suspected that statements GOD TV made in the paperwork "are inconsistent with the statements they are making in the U.S. to their

donors. If that is the case, not only should their license be revoked, I think there are grounds for criminal action on grounds of fraud.”

Is God TV a threat to Jewish-Christian ties?

The record of Christian efforts to convert Jews and the horrific anti-Semitism that flowed from anti-Jewish Christian doctrines are part and parcel of Jewish identity today. Jews are encouraged to not color all evangelicals with the same brush. Christians are encouraged to study the history of Christian anti-Jewish doctrines and behavior and to be sensitive to Jewish identity.

Evangelical leader calls on Netanyahu to take down GOD TV

Evangelical leader Laurie Cardoza-Moore urged “Prime Minister Netanyahu to take down the God TV channel.” Moore states, “At a time when global anti-Semitism is engulfing the world, GOD TV should be using its platform to teach Christians about their biblical responsibility to stand with our Jewish brethren and the State of Israel.”

GOD TV Dispute Has Israel Talking About Messianic Jews

The Christian broadcaster's expansion into Hebrew cable television may be short-lived, but it raises the profile of followers of Yeshua. The Messianic movement, widely seen as Christianity, is rejected by all major Jewish denominations and Israel considers Messianic Jews to be converts to another faith. Lisa Loden of the Lausanne Initiative for Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine says, “Messianic Jews avoid the term converts and they remain fully Jewish when accepting Yeshua as Messiah and Lord.”

My response to Rabbis Cooper, Adlerstein on GOD TV's Hebrew channel

Ron Cantor states that “Shelanu TV provides an outlet of expression for thousands of Israeli Messianic Jews and Christian Arabs to express their faith in Yeshua. Some may disagree with our faith, but this is an issue of freedom of expression as Shelanu TV adheres to regulations and that it remains in good standing with the authorities”.

Israel cancels God TV's Evangelical Christian channel

The license for Shelanu TV, the Hebrew-language Christian evangelical TV channel which has been accused of seeking to proselytize in Israel, has been suspended. Proselytizing, seeking to convert people to another religion, is not illegal in Israel. The law does prevent proselytizing to minors without their parents presence or consent, and promising any monetary or material compensation for converting to another religion. God TV got its airing license under the terms of “intended for the Christian population” with content designated for Israel. However upon review, it was determined that the channel was aimed directly at Jews who do not yet believe in Yeshua. Biton said that when he had granted the license he had not intended to approve a channel that seeks Jews as its target audience. If he had known the nature of Shelanu TV he would have directed the approval process down a different path including a hearing in front of the full council.

No resurrection for God TV: Israeli enable provider won't try to review evangelical Christian channel

The Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Council notified Hot that it would be shutting down Shelanu. Hot cable company will not reapply for a broadcasting license from the Israeli cable authority on behalf of the God TV.

God TV's Israel Station Shut Down for 'Appealing to Jews With Christian Content'

GOD TV's Christian channel Shelanu is no longer permitted to broadcast in Israel, apparently due to pressure from government officials and Jewish anti-missionary groups. As for the unplugged channel, it now will be online only. "We will not be silenced," says Cantor.

How Israel discriminates against evangelical Christians

When Israel shuts down a channel run by one of the world's largest Christian broadcasting networks, it appears that the country's much-touted promise of religious freedom does not include evangelicals.

INNOVATION IN JEWISH MISSIONS

Cafe review: Donation-based coffee shop Upside Down provides fresh, welcoming environment

Upside Down “provides a space for student to jus hand and connect...with the goal being more about building a community,” says director Isaac Brickner. The cafe’s clean, open concept and rotating art exhibits make it a comfortable, leisurely place for students to spend time.

Online Messianic Worship Concert - ‘Music for the Mischpocha: A Celebration of Unity in the Messiah’

Chosen People Ministries simulcasted a Messianic worship event for families. Artists included Marty Goetz, Paul Wilbur, Joshua Aaron, and MIQEDEM.

ISRAELI POLITICAL THOUGHT

[Rockets, Riots, Sermons, and Soccer: 10 Christian Views on the Conflict in Gaza and Israel](#)

Messianic Jews and Palestinian Christians tell *Christianity Today* how they and their churches minister across the divide as Hamas and the IDF war once again. What has shocked and saddened those interviewed by *Christianity Today* (both Jews and Palestinians) was “the ethnic violence that has torn through previously peaceful towns of coexistence.” Danny Kopp, chairman of the Evangelical Alliance in Israel, preached a message of carefully listening to both sides, while the pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem, Munther Isaac, said that this is not a time for restraint, rather “to call things by their names.” Palestinian evangelical Khalil Sayegh acknowledges the appropriate call for justice and the necessity of conversation. Ron Cantor says that there is mistrust on both sides, but that Messianic Jewish congregations are preaching against racism and for Arab-Jewish unity. Eli Birnbaum, director of Jews for Jesus in Israel, talks about the fear Jewish people in the land feel and the importance of turning to prayer. David Katz says that many Messianic Jews justify Israel’s response, but are mourning the loss of life on both sides and hoping for peace. Solidarity between Arabs and Jews can only go so far, says co-chair of the Lausanne Initiative for Reconciliation in Israel-Palestine Lisa Loden, but that now is a time for intercession and lament with the relationship being near a breaking point. She says that the cause of the riots is ignorance regarding the rights of Arab Israelis. Still, recent surveys find Israel’s atmosphere polluted with racism on both sides. Kopp says that unique solutions must be found to address the concerns of each group, keeping in mind that they must pursue the truth together.

JEWISH BELIEVER STORIES

Could Messianic Jews be represented in Israel's parliament

Avi Lipkin, the leader of the Bible Bloc Party, has received approval from the party registrar for the group to run in Israel's April 9 elections as a party aimed at restoring love between Jews and Christians.

Israel Makes History Today With First-Ever Judeo-Christian Party on Ballot

A new conservative party is making history, seeking to represent Christians and non-Jews in the Israeli parliament. Currently there are no Christians in the Knesset, and by all rights an underrepresented people group should receive four seats.

David Brooks is Still Jewish — But Also Christian

David Brooks told *The Washington Post* in a recent interview that he is still Jewish, but he is also a Christian. He embraces Judaism but cites Jesus's Beatitudes as his road map for life. But he does not consider himself a Messianic Jew. Some rabbis say he is living a contradiction, while others still consider him part of the community.

Jewish and Christian: Can One Have It Both Ways?

Acclaimed *New York Times* columnist David Brooks writes: "I am a wandering Jew, and a very confused Christian." Brooks stated that he could not find fulfillment in the American workplace, so he embarked on a search for spiritual meaning to fill the void. He found that engaging in Judaic heritage, rituals, and teachings allowed him to engage in spiritual reflection, but both Christian and Jewish stories permeated his life. Brooks states that he "feels more Jewish than ever before," even as he is inspired by the life of Jesus. The author of the article concludes that difficult theological problems obstruct the affirmation of both faiths.

Well-Loved Messianic Jewish Pastor Leaves Powerful Legacy

Eddie and his wife Jackie immigrated to Israel in the late 1990s. Ron Cantor had met the couple when he was in Bible school in 1985. When Cantor arrived in Israel in 2003, Eddie was already overseeing young adult ministry at a congregation and counselling many people. In 2006, Eddie planted Ahavat Yeshua. He was a beloved and powerful leader who did not leave a stone unturned and was known for his incredible faith and boldness. He was laid to rest on Father's Day in 2019 after suffering brain cancer.

Trump Impeachment Lawyer Jay Sekulow says "I've never felt not Jewish"

In a thirty-minute phone interview, Sekulow declined to discuss strategy or specifics concerning Donald Trump's impeachment trial but gave credit to God for his career. In his interview, Sekulow dismissed as "nonsensical" the notion in some right-wing circles that impeachment is a Jewish plot. He told *The Forward* that he has always considered himself Jewish, and that it plays a role in his view of justice. His interview with *The Forward* was the only one he committed to ahead of the trial.

How Jay Sekulow got to the floor of the US Senate

In 1987, Sekulow was a partner in his own small firm where he stumbled into changing IRS regulations. As a result, he was sued, forcing his firm to collapse into bankruptcy. Not long afterwards, Sekulow was rescued by an old friend, Moishe Rosen, who asked him to argue a Jews for Jesus appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The same year his firm underwent bankruptcy, Sekulow argued the case and won. On the strength of that win and several others that followed, Sekulow founded a public interest law firm defending the rights of believing Christians called Christian Advocates Serving Evangelism. Sekulow's legal reputation among his evangelical base grew. In 2017, he defended President Donald Trump in the impeachment trial. He says that when Moishe Rosen dropped the LAX appeal in his lap when he was down and out, his legal career was forever changed.

Jewish Rose Price found Jesus after the Holocaust

Rose grew up in an Orthodox Jewish family in Poland. She was delighted to be Jewish, but on her way to Jewish school she was pelted with stones, and with the arrival of the Nazis, the persecution became more organized and terrible. Rose saw four years in a concentration camp and lost her faith in God. The thought of how she had suffered in the name of Jesus made her feel a need for revenge. But one day, one of her daughters came home saying she believed in Jesus and Rose started struggling with the Christian faith for herself. The book about her story, *A Rose from the Ashes*, is a story about her life and testimony.

Israel is the place I long for

Birgit Opheim interviews Maia Inbar, a missionary trainee with Jews for Jesus. Her dad was a young Israeli in Norway who picked up a hitchhiker, her mom. After ten years raising their family in Israel, they moved to Norway. Maia says that "Israel is the place I long for," but she remembered seeing the name Jesus appear everywhere when she was in Norway. Although her parents had different beliefs, Maia chose Christian confirmation but describes her faith as a "distance relationship." In her early adult life, she felt a lot of emptiness and, three years ago, moved to London to work at an Israeli real estate company. At the congregation she was attending, a Jews for Jesus missionary came and invited her to their community. Now, she is in training to become a missionary and is reaching Jewish people in the city of London, "building bridges, sharing lives, and serving them."

The Incredible Faith of Bob Dylan

In the late '70s, Jewish-born iconic musician Bob Dylan received Jesus as his Savior. Thousands of fans were outraged following his public declaration of faith, and his conversion was very unpopular. In the early '80s, rumors began to surface that Dylan had renounced Christianity, but a handwritten letter from around 1980 shows otherwise. His public and private life reflected his change of heart and mind.

Israeli congregation wins restraining order after 9 years of 'harassment' from anti-evangelism group

A Messianic congregation in Israel fought for a restraining order from Yad L'Achim because of hate posters, videos and protests held at the pastor's house and congregation location. Conversely, Yad L'Achim celebrated a court victory to remove GOD TV from the air in Israel.

I Went in Search of My Jewish Heritage, Along the way, I Found the Messiah

As a young boy living in Kiev, Anatoli Uschomirski was called a "dirty Jew" by two classmates without provocation, which led him to investigate his Jewish heritage. Learning about anti-Semitism filled him with anger against Germany and haunted him wherever he went. When he joined the army, he befriended another man named Anatoli, who was the first Christian he had ever met. Like many Ukrainian Jews, Uschomirski was an atheist, so he pushed away Anatoli's religious ideas. After leaving the military, he enrolled in the Kiev Technical Institute for Photography but found little satisfaction or fulfillment in anything. Everything changed when he found a book called *Betrayed!* on his mother's living room table. Uschomirski and his wife attended the Messianic congregation in Kiev, and right away they knew everything in their life would change. God sent them to Germany where they started a Messianic homegroup and began their own ministry. God slowly shattered Uschomirski's hatred toward Germans and gave him a mission to bring reconciliation between Jews and Germans through Jesus.

EEOC Dismisses "Discrimination" Charge Against Ministry

An individual not sharing the religious beliefs of Jews for Jesus filed a charge of discrimination against the ministry because their application was not accepted. The EEOC dismissed the charges stating the "facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC."

Mother Miriam's Conversion Story

Rosalind Moss grew up in a conservative Jewish home in Brooklyn, but by her teen years she had drifted from her devoutness and eventually became agnostic. In her early thirties, her brother read an article about Messianic Jews and shared it with her. She thought it was completely insane but kept it in the back of her mind. She moved to California as a successful young woman but felt very empty. Soon after she arrived, she saw a man wearing a T-shirt that said "Jews for Jesus" in bold letters. She decided to attend their Bible study and, despite feeling like these people were odd, she continued to debate with them and struggle with her beliefs. Rosalind knew that a man claiming to be God was punishable by death, but she realized there was nothing stopping God from becoming a man. For fourteen years, Rosalind grew in her Christian faith. In the meantime, Rosalind's atheist brother had become Catholic. She began to seek more answers and soon left her ministry position and moved to New York to pursue her investigation of the Catholic Church. She eventually founded her congregation "Daughters of Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope" in 2008.

JEWS AND EVANGELICALS

Remembering Yechiel Eckstein

Eckstein, the son of a famous Orthodox rabbi, died suddenly in February 2019. He was a devout and traditional Jew, yet advocated on behalf of Jews to Christians, transforming the historic relationship of these two groups. He resonated with evangelical Christians who were led to love the Jewish people and Israel. He created a bridge organization between evangelicals and Jews called the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ). Eckstein was often religiously isolated and attacked by his own community, and “was also periodically attacked in the evangelical community (especially by groups like Jews for Jesus).” The author concludes that he accomplished something historic: uniting Jews and Christians in a partnership.

Why Evangelical Christians Are Obsessed With Israel

Evangelical Christians’ obsession with Israel is selfish and based on the belief that they will be blessed if they “support Israel.”

We Know Not What They Speak: Evangelical Wordplay Part 1

From a theological perspective, all evangelicals are missionaries and there is no such creature as a non-evangelizing evangelical. “The word evangelism is somewhat loaded, but more innocuous than missionizing or proselytizing, terms which connote an aggressive, proactive approach to share beliefs.”

We Know Not What They Speak: Evangelical Wordplay Part 2

“Relational evangelists” are a patient breed of missionary. Often, the relationships formed are tied with business ventures, which creates financial dependency. Return, restore, restoration, and redemption “are code words for evangelists, and they have nothing in common with traditional Jewish usage.”

The Jewish Agency for Israel is Partnering with Evangelical Christians

The partnership is based on “money-saving activities such as absorption centers for new immigrants, lone soldiers, and young pre-army students.” Establishing “proper boundaries” is needed between the Jewish Agency and organizations like Return Ministries, Hayovel, and the Aliyah Return Center.

How Christian evangelical money and biblical prophecy are driving immigration to Israel

Aliyah funding is increasingly being “outsourced” to deeply devout Christian groups with equally deep pockets and their own motives for encouraging the ingathering of the exiles.

For evangelical tourists, pro-Israel and anti-vaccine sentiments might collide

Christian tourists to Israel represent more than half of the country's visitors. But now, tourism numbers for American Christians will largely depend on what Israel decides to do about vaccine requirements for travel; about 45% of American evangelicals responded to a February Pew Research Center Survey saying they would not get the COVID-19 vaccine. As of April 2021, it is not clear if Israel will eventually bend to the will of evangelical travelers and allow unvaccinated Americans in any time soon. The country makes few allowances to evangelicals within its borders, beyond offering a little leeway to Christian missionaries who are allowed to appear on television.

Bennett under attack by Evangelical leader for helping oust Netanyahu

Evangelical leader Mike Evans sent a letter to Bennett and Lapid, which has been widely circulated on social media and pro-Israel websites. Mike Evans is the founder of the Friends of Zion Heritage Center in Jerusalem and member of the Jerusalem Prayer Team. He lashed out at Bennett for not sticking with Netanyahu and helping him form a coalition.

"Don't ever call yourself a defender of Zion. You're not," Evans wrote. "You betrayed the very principles that a generation gave their blood for and died for. You want to be in bed with the Muslim Brotherhood and leftists. God have mercy on your soul. You're a pathetic, bitter little man so obsessed on murdering Netanyahu that you're willing to damage the State of Israel for your worthless cause."

He said that he will "fight [Bennett] every step of the way. You have lost the support of Evangelicals 100 percent... We gave you four years of miracles under Donald Trump and this is how you show your appreciation sh***ing on our face. How dare you!"

MESSIANIC JEWS AND POLITICS

Three Jews, Four Opinions

Michael Cohen is apparently a secular Jew; Jay Sekulow is a “Messianic Jew;” Jared Kushner—Trump’s son-in-law, presidential advisor, and architect of a new proposal for solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that is about to be made public—is a Torah-observant Orthodox Jew. All are closely associated with Donald Trump and all surround public allegations of misconduct on Trump’s part as president.

Preaching the Gospel according to Trump

Rabbi Jonathan Cahn, raised Jewish and now a Christian end times pastor at a large church in New Jersey, has declared and explained how Trump is in the Bible and that Trump has direct correlations to King Jehu. His congregants believe and support these claims that everything is prophetic. His church, Beth Israel, draws from the charismatic movement and incorporates elements of Messianic Judaism.

How Palestine Divides Messianic Jews

The lobbying arm of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America (MJAA) has been pushing for a shift of US funding from UN-administered Palestinian aid (\$364 million in 2017) to an Israeli-led effort offering money to relocate from the West Bank. The goal: eventual annexation of the territory in a one-state solution with fewer Palestinian citizens, maintaining Israel as a Jewish state. Their respective stances on Palestine prove to be a dividing point among Christians and Messianic Jews. The greatest help American evangelicals can be, said Cowen, is to stop cozying up to the Israeli government and pressure it to stop discriminating on immigration. No other group of Jews, no matter what they believe, has such issues. “I desperately want Jews to come,” he said, “but some of the most enthusiastic are barred.”

Meet Donald Trump’s least ‘disloyal’ Jews’

When it comes to Messianic Jews, the Israeli and American Jewish right wing seem to have come to the same conclusion as the columnist Tobin when he contemplated the idea of Jay Sekulow being one of Israel’s most prominent advocates. Tobin wrote that breaking the “Messianic taboo” was “not only a political necessity but entirely sensible. Messianics may continue to make most Jews uncomfortable. But in a world where anti-Semitism and BDS are on the rise, Israel can’t pick its friends.”

Haaretz Notes Rising Political Clout of Messianic Jews

According to *Haaretz*, after its response to an op-ed entitled “Meet Donald Trump’s Least Disloyal Jew,” where it highlighted the growing political influence of Messianic Jews, the Alliance for Israel Advocacy (AIA) seeks to activate and organize American support for Israel by articulating Israel’s biblical claim to the land. The group is the public policy arm of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America, the largest organization worldwide representing the Messianic Jewish community. The AIA seeks to equip the Christian church, policy makers and

the media with resources to foster greater understanding of the biblical case for Israel's claim to the historic land of Israel, her right to self-determination, and for her role in world redemption.

Trumps Other Personal Lawyer: Close to the right, but Far From Giuliani

Jay Sekulow, as Trump's personal lawyer, has held on with Mr. Trump since 2017. Sekulow stands up for conservative Christian rights and also defended Mr. Trump in the impeachment proceedings of December 2019 to January 2020

Messianic Jewish Leaders speak out on George Floyd's tragic death

MJAA statement about Floyd's untimely death: "As a Jewish people, we know the pain of not being treated equally by other people. Those of us who love America and believe that it is a nation greatly blessed by God, must nevertheless recognize how much our great land has been stained by the sin of racism."

Knesset Finance Committee unanimously votes to deny missionaries tax benefits

The Knesset Finance Committee was investigating two groups, Together, Rama Hasharon, and Zion's Watch Tower. The evidence provided by Yad L'Achim left no room for doubt that the two groups—seeking tax-exempt status for donations and breaks on property taxes—were indeed missionary cults. Yad L'Achim said: "We congratulate the Knesset Finance Committee and its chairman, Rabbi Moshe Gafni, for its unanimous vote to deny tax benefits to Christian missionary cults."

Meet the Messianic Jew running for vice president in the US elections

Jeremy Cohen, a Messianic Jew, ran in the 2020 US election as the vice-presidential nominee for the Libertarian Party. Cohen has been a controversial figure and has used Twitter to express his belief that the police and politicians are worthless at protecting minority groups such as the Jewish people. Cohen explained in an interview that he is often discounted as Jewish because of his faith in Jesus, but that his "Judaism has had a 'big impact' on his political identity."

How a Right-Wing Group Led by a Trump Lawyer Is Funding a Russian Activist Tied to the Putin Regime

Jay Sekulow, who directs the American Center of Law and Justice (ACLJ) and is President Trump's personal lawyer, gave \$3.3 million in aid over the last twelve years to an affiliate organization in Russia called the Slavic Center for Law and Justice (SCLJ). The SCLJ provides legal assistance to religious organizations and citizens in Russia. The lawyer who runs the SCLJ is Vladimir Ryakhovsky, the brother of a well-known Russian evangelist connected closely with Vladimir Putin. This connection is being portrayed as a national threat.

Israel Rules Against Messianic Jews

In a unanimous vote, Israel's Knesset Finance Committee voted to prevent a Messianic Jewish congregation from receiving tax benefits on donations and taxation on land as allowed for synagogues and churches, citing their involvement in "missionary activities to convert Jews."

How the shofar emerged as a weapon of spiritual warfare for some evangelicals

The shofar is a tool used in Judaism on the high holidays, while nowadays many evangelicals use the shofar to symbolize a love of the Jews and to bring a new relationship between Israel and Christianity. Shofars were used at the march on the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Messianic Rabbi from Florida Arrested for Role in US Capitol Riot

Michael Stepakoff is the rabbi at Temple New Jerusalem, and he was identified as present inside the Capitol during the riot that stormed the building on January 6, 2021.

American Missionaries in Sheep Clothing

"The United States Department of Justice filed several charges against Michael Stepakoff, who is the Christian rabbi at Temple New Jerusalem, a messianic Protestant church [called synagogue] located in Palm Harbor" in connection to the attacks against the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. The author says this should be noted by Muslims because it publicizes the sly tactics that some Christian missionaries use to win converts. He explains that the general opinion amongst the Jewish population is that Messianic Jews are not Jewish at all, but rather camouflaged Christians. The author says that American Muslims are now the target of Christian missionaries and to be aware of these deceptive techniques.

MESSIANIC MOVEMENT

The Quad: Why specialty coffee shops have been on the rise, culture surrounding them

An article highlighting the art, community coffee shop of 2019 and the focus on how this “third place” is doing a lot to define the up-and-coming art culture of Los Angeles. The article highlights the Jews for Jesus coffee shop Upside Down Café and another café, Metro Café in the Westwood area near UCLA.

POTPOURRI

The millionaire trying to sell Messianic Judaism to the world

Kirt Schneider, born a halachic Jew and now a Messianic Rabbi, was about to buy a property in Jerusalem overlooking the Wailing Wall, but the deal fell through. Schneider became famous in the Christian and Messianic world through his weekly television programs, which are broadcast on more than thirty Christian channels in almost 200 countries around the world, including the Christian channel that airs on the Yes satellite and Hot cable companies in Israel. His shows have 1.6 million viewers every week in the U.S. alone. He states, "I do not see myself as a missionary. I am a messenger. I am not trying to convert Jewish people to another religion but wanting to bring the message that Yeshua is the Jewish messiah, the messiah of Israel and the savior of the world." Schneider stands boldly on the ground that he follows the true Messiah and proclaims this internationally.

Messianic Jewish leader encourages millions of followers to support Jews

Kirt Schneider encourages his followers to support Jews by displaying Jewish symbols in a show of solidarity with the Jewish community at large. Although this is highly controversial, he believes this will show Jewish people that Messianic Jews stand with them.

CHRISTIAN THEME PARK, THE HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE WILL LAY OFF 118 WORKERS

The theme park in Orlando will lay off nearly 118 staff in 2021 to return to its original roots, which were as a church and educational museum attraction. The Church of All Nations is the hosting church and will be the main focus after the layoffs. The park's income has dramatically reduced over the last twelve years, from forty-two million dollars in 2010 to a little less than two million dollars in 2014. The park was originally founded by Messianic Jewish organization Zion's Hope.

RARE SIGHTINGS OF MESSIANIC ORCAS, SHARKS AND DOLPHINS FLOOD ISRAEL'S SHORES

According to *Tikunei Zohar*, an esoteric book attributed to Rabbi Shim from the first century CE, an increase in fish signifies a specific stage of the Messianic process. Sharks are making Aliyah, a group of dolphins was spotted and even an orca originating in Iceland has come to Israel in recent months. To further these prophetic claims, there are now fish appearing in the Dead Sea. With all these prophecies coming true, now we are only waiting on the Leviathan. As the Sukkot prayer goes, "so may I merit in the coming year to dwell in the sukkah of the skin of Leviathan, Next year in Jerusalem.

NOT THE MESSIAH SHE'S LOOKING FOR

A short testimony book is sent out from a Jew turned Christian and sent to a wide variety of Jews nationwide. Miss Levinson opened the mail and felt an extreme attack of anti-Semitism

while in her own home. As this is coming on the heels of anti-Semitic attacks throughout the US she feels this is an affront to all Christians and inappropriate.

THE JEWS OF KAIFENG

This is the only recognized ethnic Chinese and Jewish-descent group in China. As of the mid-1980s, non-governmental religion is not allowed to be practiced, though the Chinese government recognizes their Jewish descent. Thought to have been founded before 1100 AD, perhaps from a stop along the silk road, this Jewish community once thrived, but is now down to between 500 and 1,000 people. Most of their religious artifacts are now in museums across the globe.

ZAnon A Higher-Ranking Anon Sets the Record Straight

A humorous article poking fun at QAnon and false news hype. It defends Jews, and it also has the answer for many conspiracies and wild reasonings for those answers, allegedly coming from an insider's perspective.

4 MORE PASSOVER QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Many Jewish scholars debate if Passover was practiced by Jesus because, before the second temple was torn down, he would have actually had a Passover lamb and the seders were not recorded until much later in history. This confronts the typical Christian belief that Jesus took a Passover. Other questions we do not ask about Passover that maybe we should be asking: Are Mexican Coke and Passover Coke the same thing? Were we actually slaves in Egypt? And could the absence of evidence be a clue to that?

Saginaw clergyman used position to coerce, sexually assault woman, police say

A Messianic Rabbi in Saginaw, Michigan, approached a woman and said that God had given her to him and even used portions of the Scriptures to try to convince her that she should be his concubine. Cases like this bring attention to the Messianic cause in an unwelcome light. The case is still under investigation.

1st ever woman spiritual leader of Orthodox synagogue appointed in Israel

The Shirat Tamar Synagogue in Efrat has appointed Rabbanit Shira Marili Mirvis as its sole spiritual leader and halachic [Jewish law] authority, the first woman ever to serve in such a role in Israel.

Rabbi Stephen Slater talks a lot about God. He credits his Baptist missionary parents.

Slater came to the rabbinate as the culmination of a decade of spiritual searching and is likely the only Jewish clergyman in America whose Baptist missionary parents are praying for his return to Jesus. Slater describes his conversion to Judaism from Christianity as a "massive transitional moment." At seventeen, he had a crisis of his childhood faith that led him to a deep exploration of the Torah and Judaism. His transition, including many years of study and

travel, took around a decade. Slater met his future wife Bethany, and they underwent this spiritual journey together to understand how Christianity emerged from Judaism, hoping to restore their faith in Christianity. After immersing themselves in Jewish communities, they found themselves falling in love with Jewish ritual life and eventually both converted to Judaism when they returned to the U.S. from Jerusalem. He has studied and become a well-known rabbi in America.

RABBI REFLECTIONS

What are Jews: a Nation, a Religion, a Culture or a Race?

Allen Maller tackles the question of whether or not Judaism is a race. He compares the inheritance of religion to baptism as a result of personal belief in the Christian tradition. But with Judaism and Islam, any children of the mother (Judaism) or father (Islam) are considered such, whether they are religious or not. He says that some Jews today have "converted to Christianity as part of a Protestant Fundamentalist denomination, call themselves 'Jews for Jesus' or Messianic Jews; but almost all Jews think they are simply trying to avoid the guilt they feel, because they joined the religion of the descendants of their ancestors persecutors." He discusses Judaism as a nation, saying that like other nations they have a shared language, history, and style of cooking, but that it differs as a transnational mobile nation. New genetic studies how different Judaism looks because of conversion. Maller concludes: "The answer to the question of what Jews are; is that Judaism and the Jewish People are so deeply intertwined they cannot and should not be separated. Individuals Jews act in all kinds of ways, but the historical community of Jews is a blend of Jews by birth (genes) and Jews by belief, behavior and belonging."

Jewish Boston tackles the question of whether a person can embrace both Judaism and Christianity. Traditionally, this was a very easy question to answer, but for contemporary Judaism it becomes much more complicated. Jewish Boston dismisses the possibility that Judaism can be at all aligned theologically with Christianity. The rise of intermarriage, though, does create an avenue for an individual to identify with both heritages. Jewish Boston says that for Jewish people who become theologically aligned with the teachings of Christianity, they become apostates. Their conclusion is that while there will be cultural and educational overlap, often in the same home, it is not possible to believe in both Jewish and Christian theology.

Essay: Four facts that will change relations between Christians and Jews in the next decade

Demography, geography, passing of time have obscured the achievements in the Jewish-Christian relationship, and technology are all affecting interreligious relationships. As relations between Christians and Jews have changed and will change, Jews must change as well.

Is there a Jewish view of Jesus?

In a question-and-answer article, Rabbi Raymond Apple explains that Jesus was Jewish, but the religion of Christianity developed later. He continued to answer questions such as whether or not Jesus was a rabbi, a prophet, and what kind of Jew he was. He argues that "in contrast to classical Christianity, Judaism taught that people who denied themselves the legitimate pleasures which God has made will answer to Him in the World to Come."

Offended by Christian seders? Don't have one.

Rabbi Ben Greenfield takes a stance against the torrent of online outrage from Jewish voices regarding Christian seders. He states the "self-righteous disapproval of other people's private religious practice reflects a disturbingly illiberal axiom" that how other people practice their beliefs is somehow harmful to others. He says that no one is forcing Jewish people to look, and in reality, each year sees the development of new seder insights and experiences. The claim of cultural appropriation is ironic, because the Seder itself borrows from the Greco-Roman Symposium. So while not all new interpretations are correct or wise or true, he does not think that Christian Seders pose a threat.

Faith & Values: Book "Kosher Jesus" furthers interfaith dialogue

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, who has founded congregations that regularly meet in Catholic facilities, discusses Rabbi Shmuley Boteach as an "unorthodox Orthodox rabbi [who] seeks to apply traditional Judaism to our changing contemporary world in an engaging and relevant way." In his book *Kosher Jesus*, Boteach furthers the cause of interfaith dialogue, relying upon Jewish and Christian resources, and says that Jesus' Jewishness as a rabbi and devoted son of Israel is beyond doubt. He discusses the charge of deicide against the Jewish people as immensely hurtful and consequential. Boteach urges Jewish people to reclaim Jesus as a great son, while imploring Christians to reclaim the Jewishness of Jesus. Zoberman says that Boteach has created a bridge of harmonious new beginnings that we must walk together.

Can you be Jewish and Christian?

JewishBoston tackles the question of whether a person can embrace both Judaism and Christianity. Traditionally, this was a very easy question to answer, but for contemporary Judaism, it is much more complicated. JewishBoston dismisses the possibility that Judaism can be at all aligned theologically with Christianity. The rise of intermarriage, though, does create an avenue for an individual to identify with both heritages. JewishBoston says that for Jewish people who become theologically aligned with the teachings of Christianity, they become apostates. Their conclusion is that while there will be cultural and educational overlap, often in the same home, it is not possible to believe in both Jewish and Christian theology.

Israel's Problems Are Not Like America's

Americans have the tendency to imagine people in Israel are a reflection of themselves. Although a close relationship between America and Israel has been taken for granted over the past half century, it solidified only once Americans decided that Israelis were like them. In reality, the story of the Jewish minority in Europe and in the Islamic world, which is the story of Israel, has nothing to do with race in America. The occupation of the West Bank is supported by many Israelis mainly because they have rational fears of rockets and suicide bombings, tactics that weren't quite the ones endorsed by the American civil-rights movement. All of this is to say that although Israel, like America, is deeply messed up, it's messed up in completely different ways. Western observers are often tempted to see foreign countries as

mirrors of their own, because it makes a story more compelling for members of their audience, who are interested—who isn't?—mainly in themselves. And it means they can analyze other societies without going to the considerable trouble of studying them, learning their language, or even visiting.

THOUGHT PIECES BY JEWISH WRITERS

Middle East Christians Grapple with Apocalyptic Pandemic

COVID-19 offers eschatology experts an opportunity to refine public understanding of what Revelation teaches. "Proper eschatology must keep the centrality of the Cross in a message of God's grace."

Don't Call them 'Fringe': Innovative Jewish Groups Seek Respect from the Mainstream

Kenissa, an organization cultivating and tracking grassroots Jewish start-ups creates diverse, niche communities with an emphasis on self-expression. This "emerging Jewish innovative ecosystem" believes the Jewish establishment is unaware or dismissive of these groups, viewing them as too marginal to make a difference.

New American Judaism

The Jewish experience has been defined by constant movement, and today American Jews are in the midst of another cultural shift, from being concentrated in metropolitan regions to suburban cities. Another major change has been the growing use of telecommunication technology. These shifts have been accelerated by the pandemic. Additionally, the emergence of "fluid" religiosity, especially among millennials, means that many are seeking to navigate their own spiritual paths outside of synagogue loyalties. The flip side of this story is the surge of American Orthodoxy in the 21st century and the rise of diverse "unaffiliated and independent minyanim."

Gaza Conflict Stokes 'Identity Crisis' for Young American Jews

A new generation is confronting the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a "very different context, with very different pressures." The *New York Times* interviews a few Jewish Americans who all express uncertainty regarding the political situation in Israel but are also deeply frightened by the accompanied increase in anti-Semitism worldwide. Dan Kleinman says, "it is an identity crisis." Many Jewish Americans remain supportive of Israel and its government, but others are struggling to navigate the crisis abroad and the response at home. Meara Ashtivker says, "It's really hard being an American Jew right now." The conflict comes on the heels of mass protests in the United States, where many young liberal Jewish activists supported Black Lives Matter, which explicitly advocates for Palestinian liberation. In light of this, young Jewish Americans see exacerbated inequality and racism in Israel, but the comparison of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with other systems of racism and oppression is what worries many other American Jews. A large number of Jewish teenagers are struggling to understand why the world seems to be supporting terrorism over Israel and are frustrated at the lack of nuance in the public conversation. While the younger generation feels less attachment to Israel, growing anti-Semitism has left Jewish Americans in a difficult situation.

WHAT ACADEMICS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

[Opinion Holy Week and the hatred of the Jews: How to avoid anti-Judaism this Easter](#)

Every time the passion narratives are read, the threat of anti-Judaism reappears. Choose how to read the difficult passion passages, celebrate our common past, and see Jesus within rather than over or against Judaism.

[Pastor's Wrapped in the Torah, why so many Christians are appropriating Jewish Ritual](#)

Jewish affinity Christians are Christians who have no Jewish heritage and yet integrate Jewish rituals, cultural attributes, symbols, and liturgy into their lives. Messianic Jews are people of Jewish heritage who believe Jesus is the fulfillment of their Jewishness. These two groups are growing worldwide and are opposed by many activist organizations like the Kulanu, who seek to amplify the Jewishness of these cultures with the hope of converting members fully into mainstream Jews. There is also a huge difference in how or if these groups choose to evangelize. Jews for Jesus uses street evangelism, while many Jewish affinity Christians struggle to surround themselves with Jews at all, and many Messianic Jews do not focus on evangelizing Jews.

["Lo, a virgin shall conceive"... or not, depending on the translation](#)

In the new book *The Bible with and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Story Differently*, biblical scholars Amy-Jill Levine (Vanderbilt University) and Marc Zvi Brettler (Duke University) say that, in the original Hebrew, Isaiah's prophecy reads, "Looks at the pregnant young woman." Had Isaiah wanted to say "virgin" or predict a miraculous birth, he would have used different Hebrew words. When Isaiah was translated into Greek, the Hebrew word *almah* (young woman), was translated by the Greek words *parthenos*, which can mean both young girl and virgin. The story is just one of many fascinating deep dives in *The Bible with and Without Jesus*, which explores how Jews and Christians often read the same text in very different ways. The authors make it clear that both interpretations of Isaiah 7 are valid, but they are just that, interpretations. The authors suggest simply using the conventional terms: Old Testament in a Christian context, and Tanakh in a Jewish context. Even though Jews and Christians are dealing with the same texts in the same order, they often interpret them quite distinctly. That is the case with the Bible's second creation story about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Christians traditionally read that story as being about sin and alienation from God and it would take Jesus to put things right again. Jews, according to Brettler, tend to read the Adam and Eve story only within the context of the rest of Genesis. It is not that Jews lack a concept of sin, but there is no capital-F "Fall" of humanity.

This teacher believes education, conversations and respect is the key

While 2020 touched every nook and cranny across the globe with unprecedented horrific events and losses, Dr. Rabbi Albert I. Slomovits, known in the Jewish community for his Jewish-Christian Discovery Center and J-Star Project, knew his mission was just in its genesis in terms of educating minds, mending hearts, and connecting people back together. His twenty years in the U.S. Navy as chaplain and as an academic at Chicago's Loyola University gave birth to the historian's third book, *A New Look at Rabbi Jesus: Jews and Christians Finally Reconnected*. The feedback from the book planted seed for something sustainable. He said: "What we are trying to do is share with our Christian friends the (interfaith) connections we have but we don't know. That we have the same parents or if you want to look at a tree, we have the same root system." In thinking, particularly with the internet being more proactive, creating situations and teaching children, obviously wanting to work with everyone, but particularly wanting to focus on children because they are born pure and wonderfully innocent. Slomovitz hopes to reintroduce his book, have model seders, continue making animated videos that he hopes will be used in Sunday school classes, and plans on taking the J-Star Project beyond the Atlanta area.

Anniversary lecture explores Jewish-Christian links

With coronavirus restrictions in mind, the Congregation at Drumalis has decided to hold a lecture series via Zoom as a part of its "fulfilling the dream" celebrations. The latest to take place will be with Professor Amy-Jill Levine, professor of Jewish Studies and New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University. Being one of the leading figures in exploring Jewish-Christian interfaith relations and the first Jew to teach New Testament at Rome's Pontifical Bible Institute, she will speak on "Understanding Jesus means Understanding Judaism." Her books include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *The Bible with and without Jesus: How Jesus and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*. She argues that, because Jesus and his followers were Jews grounded in Jewish Scripture, ethics, theology, and hopes, to misunderstand Judaism is to misunderstand Jesus. She explores her view that knowledge of Jesus's context might "bring new meaning to his piety, his parables, his prayers and his Passion."