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DECEMBER, 1975

looking back



so we can  
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'76

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# In Honor of Our Country And Our King

Dearly Beloved Friends:

LOOKING BACK SO WE CAN LOOK FORWARD! We are excited as we introduce our Bicentennial motto and logo to our world-wide CHOSEN PEOPLE family.

Beginning the first of this month every letter we send and every publication we print will remind you of our great Bicentennial Congress on Prophecy to be convened in Philadelphia June 27-July 3, 1976 as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our nation's birth.

We have a keen sense of destiny and expectancy as we look forward to next July. We expect our Lord's return and in the light of that hope we are sobered by the thought that unless our nation *does* look back we may not be able to look forward to many more national birthdays.

As I write this letter it seems as if God's heavy hand of judgment must fall upon us. Much of "Christendom" has become apostate.

The Bible on which our nation was founded is considered an antique relic and is used to decorate the rostrum instead of being preached from the pulpit. We have wallowed through Watergate but we know in our hearts this trauma is the effect and not the cause of our national problems.

Israel had an annual Passover when they were reminded that "once they were bondmen in Egypt." Perhaps God has permitted these problems to accumulate so we will look back and make our 200th birthday a blessed Year of Jubilee.

The picture I have been painting is sombre but I am not a pessimist. The church is not entirely apostate. I realized this when we initiated the mass media thrust with our now famous Passover Telecast.

It was not the American Board of Missions to the Jews that made this "failure" a notable success. It was faithful pastors and church members all over the country who got the word to the Jewish people.

They obtained lists of Jewish friends and neighbors, faithfully mailed announcements and organized congregations for follow-up. We never planned the reaction the Lord gave us.

Pastors, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders—loving, stalwart, redeemed ones—triggered the reaction. We were only catalysts.

I believe there are hundreds of thousands of believers in the United States who have been declared righteous by the blood of Christ. If God promised to deliver Sodom for righteous men, can He not also deliver us as a nation?

We have seen this truth demonstrated in another area of Gospel proclamation. Recently some atheists petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to refrain them from licensing many Gospel stations and eventually denying the air waves to the Gospel. Thousands of people wrote letters to the F.C.C.

The petition was unanimously denied!

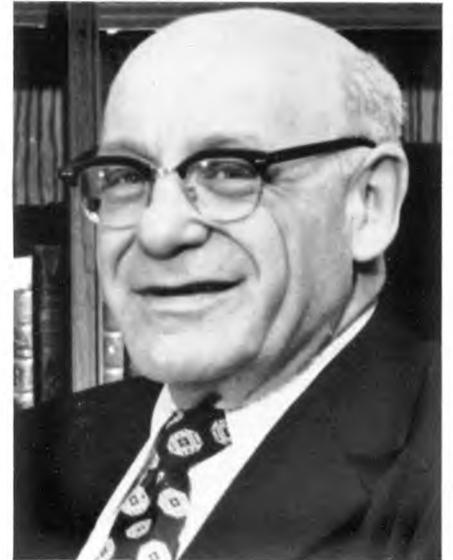


The Lord is longsuffering. Not only is 1976 our 200th birthday year, it is also a presidential election year. As we look back we realize that 1776 had many statesmen: Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, the Adamses, etc. Why does 1976 have so few?

If we look back and ask the right questions we can look forward and pray for the Christian church to train statesmen. Frankly, I believe this is possible.

There is another reason why I believe our Lord may withhold immediate judgment on us. God has always judged the nations of the world on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him who curseth thee for in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).

Those nations which have blessed Abraham have been blessed by God and, conversely, those which have cursed the Jews have been judged.



I greatly deplore the rise of anti-Semitism here in the United States, and I am heartsick about the action of our government in forcing Israel to return Sinai to Egypt in 1957. (Incidentally, we seem to be following the same pattern today.)

Yet the U.S. has never officially had a policy of anti-Semitism. On this basis I am encouraged to pray and look back so that we may look forward.

The world is now celebrating Christmas—a time to look back so we can look forward.

We look back to His birth. He was born in Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilling prophecy written five centuries before. We look back to Bethlehem, "unto us a child is born." We look back to Calvary, "unto us a son is given."

These same prophecies which foretell our Lord's birth also look forward to His return on the Mount of Olives, "and the government shall be upon His shoulders."

We look back to our Lord's birth and to His incarnation when the Word became flesh and our hearts exult "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." We can also look forward to His return and still sing, "Let earth receive her King."

The fact that our Lord was born to be a king is the forgotten message of Christmas. When Pilate asked Him, "Art thou a king then?" our Lord answered, "Thou sayest that I am a King. To this end I was born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth" (John 18:37).

We look back to His birth, and we look forward to His reign.

Faithfully yours in His service,

*Daniel Tuck*

FROM GREECE

## In The Footsteps of Paul

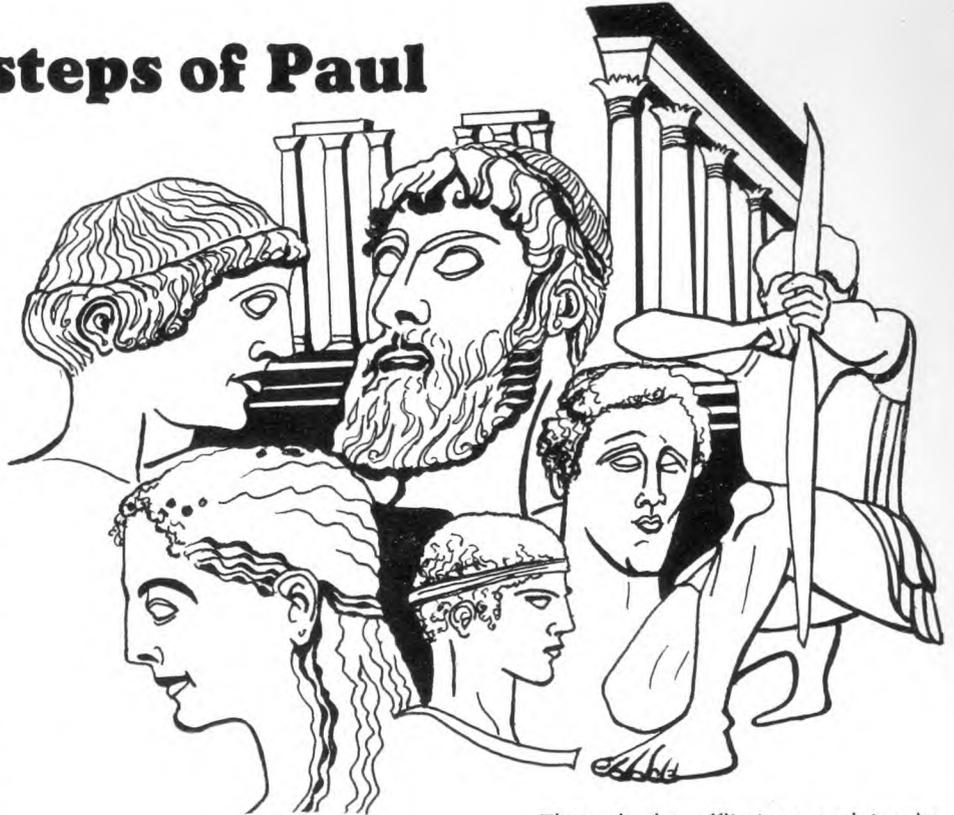
The Apostle Paul stomped through the streets of Athens declaring "What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."

For us this is history. For Demetrius Papanikolaou, our missionary in Greece, this is a daily reality. And the joys and tribulations which Paul experienced remain today for those who follow in his footsteps.

"Many souls stand amazed," Mr. Papanikolaou writes, "at the greatness of the news of the grace of God. They listen with great attention."

This active worker for the Lord makes dozens of calls each week to homes, shops and hospitals. He carefully hands out books, calendars or tracts for one reason, and one reason only:

"To show many souls," he says, "that there is no salvation but through Jesus who was slain for us—to redeem us—and set us free for now and eternity."



Through the afflictions and insults, amidst the many dangers, the voice of God's redeeming grace is heard loudly by Mr. Papanikolaou. "I have confidence in the great faithfulness of God," he smiles, "and in His grand promises to His servants."

Joy, joy, joy! There is always that joy after sharing the Messiah. And God's servant in Greece has heard proclaimed, from many, that they "feel impulsed to say the same things you say!"

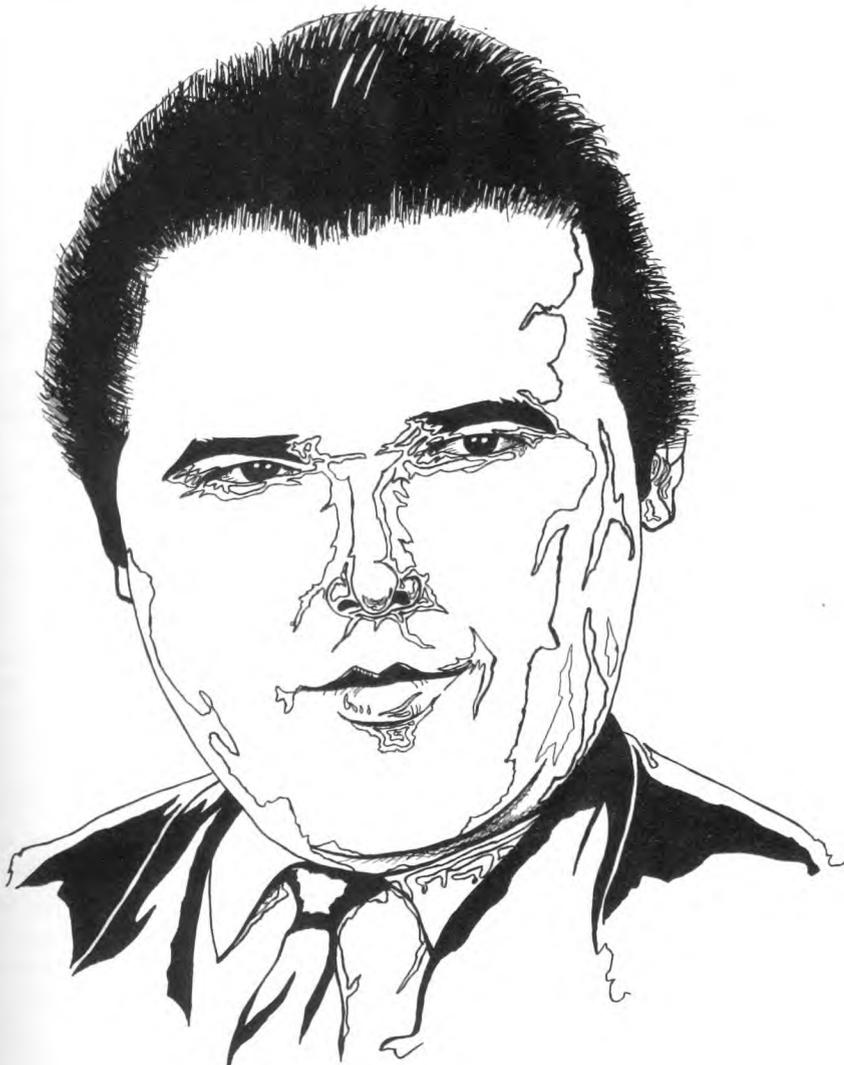
"Others bow their heads," he reports, "saying 'You are right, God will destroy us for the way we are going.' Yet standing next to them are others who merely shake their fists and echo threats which are centuries old."

"The consolation of the Paraclete," Mr. Papanikolaou writes, "is that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. It appears more and more evident that some, directly or indirectly, secretly or openly, with fear or timidity, are expressing a deeper energy of the Holy Spirit in their hearts."

"The flame of faith is even springing from the synagogues, where one member has confessed to me he feels a need to speak about Christ and to ask help from the Word of God."

Our missionary admits he is engaged in "An exceedingly hard work, in a world where evil is overwhelming and we are like sheep among wolves."

"Yet I thank God for His unspeakable grace to us, and thank you for your love, concern and prayers for our continued strength in Him." ☺





**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Dallas, Texas

## **A Private Revelation on the Revelation**

"It's amazing that there are a lot more Jews willing to talk to me about God than there are Gentiles."

A quote from an ABMJ missionary? From a Hebrew-Christian minister? It could be, but isn't.

This quote is from Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of the ever-growing First Baptist Church of Dallas. A man who underwent theological shock treatment from the Word before realizing God has a place for the Jewish people in history.

"I never knew any Jewish people when I was growing up," Dr. Criswell told *The Chosen People*. "I had rarely been associated with Jewish people in my college and seminary days. When I came to Dallas I had no background in Jewish identity at all."

## Dr. W. A. Criswell

Then Dr. Criswell began to pour through the pages of the Bible, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in doctrinal areas his former professors had either ignored or misinterpreted.

"I never had any premillennial teaching in my life," Dr. Criswell said. "Nor was I ever introduced as such to premillennialism. Never. Yet I began to preach the Bible and people would say 'That man is a premillennialist!'"

"Although I had heard the word I really had no idea what it meant. Pre, post and amillennialism were just words to me. I knew they meant before, after and non-existent, but that's all."

When Dr. Criswell was in seminary his professor dropped a syllabus of the Book of Revelation on the lecturn.

"Young men," the students were told, "in this syllabus you will find different interpretations of the Revelation. Take your pick."

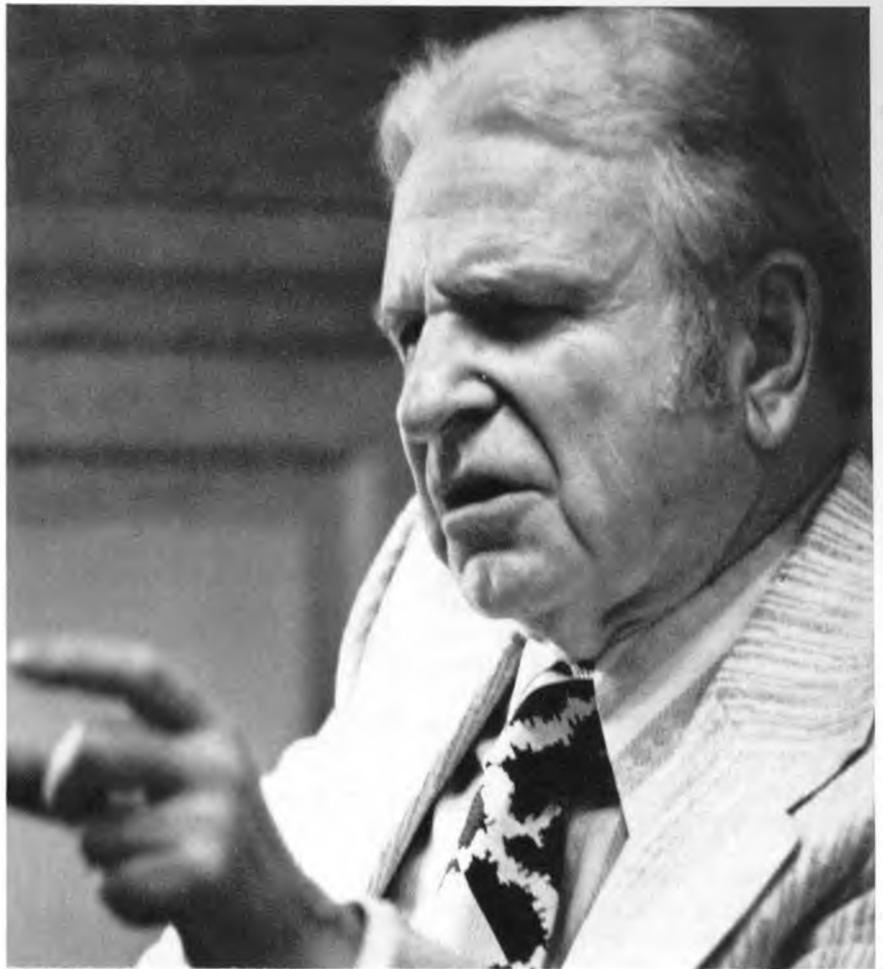
"That was all that was ever said," Dr. Criswell mused. "That was the entire teaching of the Revelation I had had in my whole life."

Today Dr. Criswell is a leading scholar concerning prophecy and the future of Israel. Today his hope in the Second Coming of Jesus just before the Millennium is a real expectancy. And today people ask Dr. Criswell "Just why are you so pro-Jewish?"

"It is manifest that I am," he answers. "The reason lies in the Bible. It lies in the Book. I don't think a man can preach the Word of God and not be pro-Jewish."

"The only way you can escape that is with some kind of spiritualizing. This is the sorriest way to preach in the world. A man can spiritualize from Aesop's Fables the same as from God's Book and one would be as good as the other."

"When a man preaches from Isaiah, line upon line, word upon word—preaching the whole Word of God—he couldn't be anything but pro-Jewish if he were honest."



"The Jews are God's people and He's not through with them. He has a great destiny for them."

Dr. Criswell said the average congregation will come to church week after week and hear "What must I do to be saved?" The pastor will concentrate on John 3:16 and Acts 16:30, 31.

"There is so much *more* to the Bible than those texts," the pastor from Dallas explains. "You have Isaiah and Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel."

"There is so much more to the Word of God than one little sentence."

Dr. Criswell maintains there is a definite connection between prophetic teaching from the Bible and someone's interest in Jewish evangelism. He said this interest must counter a universal trend in this country and the world.

"There is a drift to the left politically," the pastor said, "And a drift to the left economically, morally and theologically. Every time the world moves it moves away from God."

"Yet here and yonder and everywhere you'll find churches preaching

the whole Word of God and the prophetic message. Where you find those churches you'll find interest in Jewish evangelism.

"Anywhere the Bible is preached," he emphasized, "and prophecy is laid bare before the eyes of the people you will immediately find a deep, deep interest in the Jewish people."

"Yet where churches do not adhere to the Scripture and preach loose-knit, liberal interpretations of the Bible there is little, if any, interest in Jewish people," the pastor said.

"Liberal churches will say Jewish people have their own way to heaven. So do Shintoists, Hindus and Mohammedans. Why bother them?"

"So they lose any interest in winning Jewish people to the Lord. Therefore the only ones seeking Jewish souls are those who believe in the prophetic message."

"This includes who our Lord is and why He came—why He is coming back and what He is going to do."

Because of their pastor's leading, the First Baptist Church of Dallas, as

many others, has had high interest and respect for Jewish people and also the state of Israel.

Over the years Dr. Criswell has been teaching the people that by knowing the Word they can reach Jewish friends with the Gospel. There is nothing mysterious or frightening about it.

"My impression," Dr. Criswell stressed, "is that in many instances it is easier for a Gentile to reach a Jew than it is for a Jew to reach a Jew. Sometimes a Jew is looked upon as a traitor, but a Gentile is just a Gentile. Just a goy.

"You know," the pastor reflected, "the number one discovery of my life is that the average Jewish person does not know the Old Testament.

"You cannot imagine the unbelievable surprise that came to me when I learned this. It was astonishing. You would think he would know the prophets—that he would be reading the Old Testament.

"Yet the average Gentile who is lost or indifferent knows no more about the New Testament than the average Jew does about the Old. And that is tragic."

Dr. Criswell said he is not only interested in sharing the Gospel with Jewish friends, but is interested in everything about their life, their beliefs and, of course, the Holy Land.

"The Jewish people are hungry at heart and if you are friendly to them they will respond. We took sixty of our leaders to a Dallas temple and met with the rabbi and sixty of his leaders.

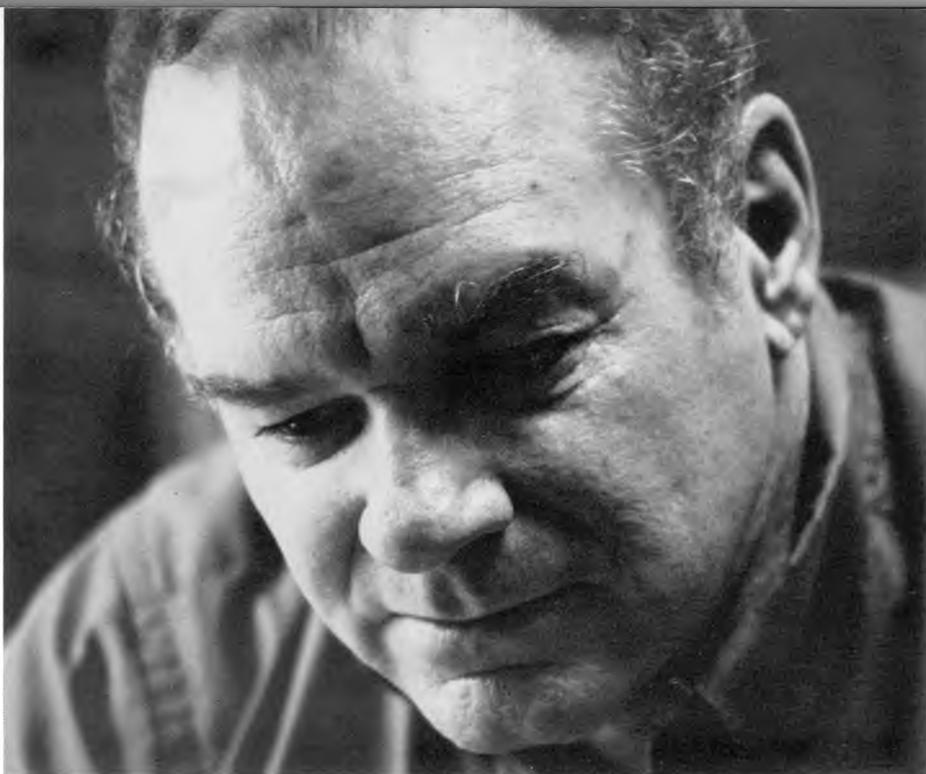
"We had a very, very fine conversation and we'll get together again as a gesture of love. In fact, I have a great deal of personal love for the rabbi."

The pastor admits its not always an easy thing to know just how much or how little to say about the claims of Christ when speaking to a Jewish friend.

"If there is something in his heart, any kind of repercussion, the Holy Spirit will make you sensitive to it. He will guide you."

Day after day, month after month, the American Board of Missions to the Jews is excited about working with more and more churches in helping them understand the Word and the urgency of reaching the Jewish people.

Whether a congregation has twenty members or several thousand, Gentile Christians are being used to touch the hearts of Jewish friends. We continually praise our Lord for His love and guidance. ☺



## *A Sign From The Lord*

Several years ago Erwin Hearne, a leading free-lance artist, was walking in downtown Dallas — wondering how the First Baptist Church would use his contributions marked *For Jewish Evangelism*.

He recalled recent Sunday School lessons which discussed helping Jewish people. He speculated on how he might help, how he might become involved in reaching Jewish friends with the Gospel.

Then — suddenly — a sign slammed to the sidewalk in front of him, falling flat at his feet with its message staring back at him. It read *BETH SAR SHALOM — HEBREW-CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP*.

The loosely-nailed sign had fallen at a critical time for Erwin Hearne.

"It hit me like a bolt out of the blue," Hearne recalls. "It was the first time I had ever heard of the organization. Right after that I got to know Bill Ennis (now ABMJ missionary-in-charge, Houston) and it's been a great experience ever since."

"I'll never forget the impact that falling sign had on me. It was such a dramatic answer to prayer."

Dr. Daniel Fuchs, ABMJ president, then gave a series of messages in Dallas which Hearne attended. Spurred on by new information and a deeper burden for his Jewish friends,

Hearne helped the church organize their yearly 'Jewish Evangelism Day,' which successfully reached out to many from the Jewish community of Dallas.

They would usually produce a Passover banquet, dramatic presentation or a kind of 'honor Israel' day.

Erwin Hearne's effectiveness among Jewish clients and/or friends took immediate root. His genuine love and concern touched heart after heart.

"I relate to Jewish people emotionally more than intellectually," he confesses. "Many of our church people think I must know Hebrew, but I really don't. It's just a matter of simple faith and love."

"Sometimes you can't plant the seed, water it and grow it all at once," he said. Yet Hearne's always ready with the seed.

"Some are reluctant to witness to Jewish friends," Hearne said, "because of lack of equipment. Because they don't know the Old Testament or else they're afraid the Jewish people are too 'different.'"

"Yet all you have to do is let the love of the Lord speak through you. Just let the Spirit communicate."

And communicating, for Erwin Hearne, is what it's all about. ☺

# SPIRITUAL BREAKTHROUGH

By **DR. THOMAS S. McCALL**  
Director of Conferences

The Jewish man from New York, his Russian Gentile wife and their active seven-year-old son came to our Dallas Beth Sar Shalom Center to ask a few questions.

The woman explained she had become a believer in Christ about four years before and was growing in the Lord while praying earnestly for her husband's salvation.

He told me they had passed by Beth Sar Shalom many times before and had frequently been impressed with both our identification as a Hebrew-Christian Fellowship and our sign proclaiming brief Gospel messages.

She said he had always been reluctant to investigate the claims of Jesus to be the Messiah because of his childhood training in Reform Judaism. They had never attended our regular meetings or Bible classes.

On this day there was a spiritual breakthrough. He told his wife he was

now ready to believe the Word of God and receive Jesus. They had prayed at home and then came directly to our center to seek encouragement.

I explained the broad message of the Bible, the purpose of Israel, the first coming of Christ and the Gospel message. When finished I asked him if he believed the Lord Jesus was his Messiah, had died for his sins and had risen from the dead.

He quietly and sincerely answered, "Yes."

We prayed together and he thanked God for allowing him to 'see the light.' He then prayed for himself and his family.

His wife also prayed and thanked the Lord for her husband's wonderful redemption. It was a precious time of fellowship in prayer and we felt we had become old friends during the brief hour.



At that time our visitation minister and his wife, Glen and Elaine Penton, came in and were introduced to the family. They heard the couple's joyous testimony and how they were eager to attend our Friday night meetings with their three children.

They departed in joy, and we trust their encounter was the start of a long and mutually rewarding friendship in the Lord. ☺



## LONG LOST RELATIVES

By **MRS. DOROTHY MELLOW**  
Volunteer Missionary, Phoenix

We have had about 100 persons, about half Jewish, attending our fellowships. Our people are inviting their Jewish friends more and more.

The B. family has three lovely boys who have all accepted the Lord. The oldest was nearly ready for his bar mitzvah when the rabbi found out he had accepted Jesus. The rabbi said he could not go through with it and put him out of the shul.

Recently I received a call from Indianapolis from a woman who told me she was starting a work there. Jan is Jewish, about 35, and accepted the Lord a year or two ago. Her aunt

lives in Phoenix and she wanted me to get in touch with her.

Her aunt and I had some nice talks on the phone and I invited her and her husband over for the evening. We all fell in love with each other on sight!

Jan told me she had been writing to her aunt for some time and had sent her ABMJ literature, so she really knows what it is all about.

They asked me many questions and I was able to witness to them. Right away they wanted to be on a first name basis.

The wife told me she was interested because she had seen such a change in her niece since she had become a believer. So we feel we have found some more long lost relatives!

She called a few nights later to tell me how much they enjoyed the evening. After an hour conversation she asked if she could call me back in five minutes. I told her "yes."

She called back and we had another two-hour conversation!

We have had to divide up our Bible studies as some of our people live on the far east and some on the west of Phoenix. These, too, are growing. At one meeting we had twenty-three, nineteen of whom were Jewish—not all believers, but willing to come.

Our group on the other end of town are mostly believers and we have a deeper study taught by Sid Stern. I really appreciate his help.

Recently a Jewish friend said he knew a man who told him that unless he believed in Jesus he would never get to Heaven. I told him Jesus was a Jew, born a Jew, lived a Jew and died a Jew.

Some time later he called and said "You are all we have."

Please pray I will be able to share Jesus with him and his wife. They will now come to our meetings as often as I invite them. ☺



# HANUKKAH

## Christmas

By MISS ROSLYN HYMAN  
Coney Island Branch

"Mommy, can we have a Christmas tree?"

"No, dear, Jews don't celebrate Christmas."

Growing up in a predominantly Catholic block in Brooklyn, it was easy for me to see the difference between myself and my neighbors—especially around Christmas time.

My friends had trees, decorations and nativity scenes, yet we did not

celebrate this 'Gentile' holiday for we, like most Jews, did not see anything special in the birth of Jesus.

We had our own holiday celebrated about the same time of year. This is Hanukkah, which means 'Dedication.' It falls on the 25th of Kislev, the Jewish month which roughly corresponds to December. (See *John 10:22*)

You will not find Hanukkah mentioned in the Old Testament, for it is not among the holidays which the Lord gave to the children of Israel. It first took place during the 400 'silent years' between the Old and New

Testaments and is recorded in the Books of Maccabees in the Apocrypha.

After the Jewish people returned to Israel from seventy years of captivity they elected priests as rulers of Judea. In a short time the priesthood became very powerful. In the fourth century B.C. Alexander the Great became ruler of the world and Judea fell under Greek power.

Alexander was quite friendly to the Jews. The Greek culture was known as 'Hellenism' and many of the Jews, including the priests, became Hellenized.

## REPORT FROM JERUSALEM

# Kept By God

By JACOB AND LEAH GOREN  
Missionaries

It is in our day that Satan uses the terrorists everywhere in Israel.

We are once again thankful for the prayers of the saints since Leah just narrowly missed an attack which struck at the heart of Jerusalem.

She was standing only sixty feet away when a large bomb exploded, both killing and injuring many in the area. Minutes before she had crossed the exact spot where the blast occurred.

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psalm 91:11)

We have recently been in contact with Dr. P., formerly a high Communist Party member. Several months ago we gave her a Bible in the Russian language, but were not sure she would read it.

Then she came over for dinner with another couple, also newly arrived in Israel. The doctor told us of her friend, a fortune teller, and that she had warned her to end her foolishness for such things are not from God according to the Holy Scriptures.

Dr. P. told the fortune teller that if she didn't stop her

ungodly practices they would no longer be friends. We thank the Lord for the good beginning in this precious soul and pray for greater depths.

It is also wonderful to know the Lord is a friend to both the healthy and the sick. A member of our congregation, although very intelligent, must spend her life in a mental hospital.

When she can't come to us we go to her—and show her our love. When her courage is low she finds strength in the Lord and looks for His coming.

Another man in this home, a Talmudic scholar, is positive Jesus is the Messiah. He told us he had not had a visitor in twelve years!

We felt his pain, offered our friendship and promised to visit him once a month. There are no words to express his joy when we returned. He ran around the home, bragging that he, too, received visitors.

It is the Lord Who uses us to bring happiness where there is despair.

May He bless and protect you.



When Alexander died his empire was divided among his generals. Finally, in 198 B.C., the Syrians conquered Judea and immediately started a campaign to Hellenize the Jews.

Persecutions and oppressions increased until, under Antiochus IV, (who called himself 'Epiphanes'—an appearance of God), they became unbearable.

He marched into Jerusalem, destroyed part of it, stole the holy altar, candlesticks and vessels out of the Temple, replaced it with an altar dedicated to the pagan god Zeus and sacrificed a pig on it!

He forbade the Jews to practice their religion, especially the observance of the Sabbath and circumcision.

Many of the priests co-operated with him and the officers he sent to enforce these laws. They told the people it was high time to bring Judaism 'up-to-date.'

One day an officer of the king, Apelles, was sent to the small town of Modin, three miles north of Jerusalem. His purpose was to command the Jews to sacrifice a pig— forbidden by the Law of Moses.

In this town lived a godly, priestly family headed by Mattathias. Apelles read his order to the assembled Jews and one of them stepped forward to begin the sacrifice.

Mattathias, who could no longer stand to see the laws of God defied, killed the man. Then he and his five sons attacked and killed Apelles and his soldiers.

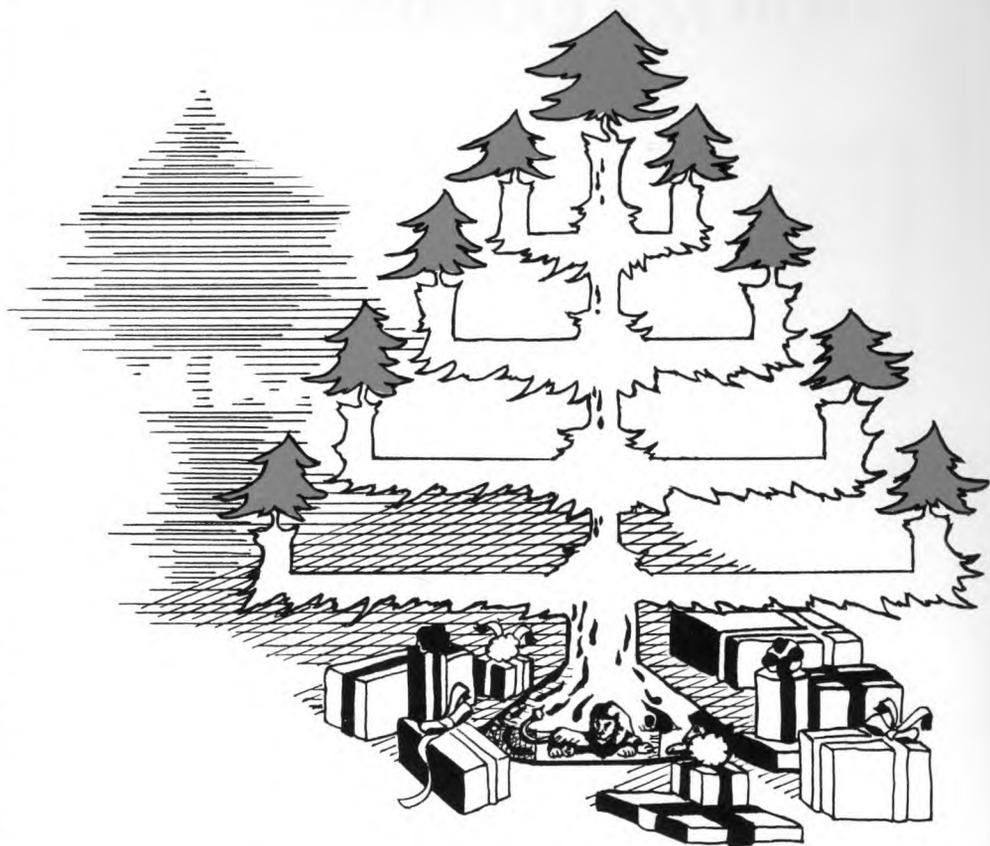
This was the beginning of the uprising of the Jewish people to regain their religious freedom. It lasted three years and was led by Mattathias and his sons. Most famous of the sons was Judas, who became known as 'the Hammerer,' (Maccabee).

At the end both the Syrians and the unfaithful priests were expelled from Judea, the Temple was ceremoniously cleansed and a new altar dedicated to God's service. The dedication service took place on the 25th of Kislev, 165 B.C.

The next part of the story cannot be proved historically, but is part of the Jewish tradition. The Jews had found a small cruse of oil in the Temple, previously used as a perpetual light within God's house. There was only enough to last about one day.

Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days. While we have no proof of this God, by His power, could easily have done it. That is why we celebrate Hanukkah, also called the Feast of Dedication or the Feast of Lights, for eight days.

Jewish homes use a special lamp, a menorah, which has a place for nine



candles. One is separated from the others. On each day of the festival an increasing number of candles are lit, one for each day.

The separate candle, called the *shamesh* (servant), is lit first, and from it the others are lit until on the last day all the candles burn brightly.

Jewish people also send gifts on Hanukkah, much the same way Christmas presents are given. Children usually receive additional Hanukkah gelt (money).

Since it is a happy time games are played, one of them with a *draidel*, which is like a flat-sided top. Each side has a Hebrew letter on it, the letters standing for 'there was a great miracle.' You win or lose depending upon which letter the *draidel* falls on when you spin it.

Since Hanukkah is not a God-ordained holiday it does not have any real typology which points to Christ. Despite this there are many comparisons we can make.

The most obvious is that it falls on the 25th of Kislev, while Christmas is the 25th of December. Is this just a coincidence, or has God allowed it for a purpose? It is a holiday which celebrates temporal freedom, while Christmas is the birth of the One Who came to give us spiritual freedom.

Hanukkah has to do with God's miraculous supply of light, while on

Christmas He miraculously gave the Light of the world.

There is a beautiful illustration in the Hanukkah candles. The main candle is the one from which the others receive their light. Yet it is known as the 'servant.'

This is just like the Lord, Who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many," (Matt. 20:28).

Yet it is through Him that we, His followers, receive our light so we also might be the light of the world. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple, to which Jesus compared Himself (John 2:19).

In Corinthians we learn that our bodies, also, are the temples of the Holy Spirit when we have received the Lord into our lives.

Hanukkah is an ancient holiday, but also a timely one. How much the nation of Israel today needs deliverance from the enemies around her! How much more does the whole house of Israel need spiritual deliverance that they might see that Christmas is not just for Gentiles.

For Christmas celebrates the birth of the most extraordinary Jewish baby in the world—Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, Savior of both Jew and Gentile.

Happy Hanukkah, Jesus.  
And Merry Christmas. . .

# MY COMPLETE FULFILLMENT

About two years ago I came to know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since I am Jewish it was quite an experience to realize the Holy One of Israel is indeed the One my people have forsaken and turned away from for almost 2,000 years, and myself for over twenty-four years.

I grew up within both Conservative and Reform Jewish congregations. At the age of thirteen I had my Bar Mitzvah, but from that time forward Judaism, as I viewed it, was not for me.

For many years I put all religious matters behind me and was totally ashamed to be a Jew.

In 1967, during my freshman year at the University of Rhode Island, I experienced a rash of anti-Semitism leveled against me in my dormitory. I thought it was strange to be persecuted for being Jewish since I didn't want any part of the religion.

I plodded through college, graduated with a B.S. degree in civil engineering in 1971 and jumped into the working world.

I never really enjoyed life. I could never obtain lasting happiness deep down inside my heart. To me, peace and happiness within were accessible only through marrying the perfect girl designed for me. I spent many years

By **DANA R. KASDAN**  
Los Angeles Branch

searching for her.

In March of 1973 my friend asked me to go on a double date with him and two girls he knew. My date turned out to be my wife, Jean. Jeannie was a born-again believer and from our first date the Lord really began working with me.

Towards the end of August Jean asked me if I wanted to go to Connecticut to *His Mansion*, a place where people learn the fundamentals of Christian living and discipleship. The whole idea sounded weird, yet something told me to go.

That weekend truly initiated my new beginning. On Sunday, August 26, 1973, at about 3 p.m. my life was regenerated. I became born again as a new creature in Christ Jesus.

I had come to know the Messiah

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DANA KASDAN, (behind table)  
AT CAL. STATE, FULLERTON

through the extremely brief witness of Rob Mirkin, a Hebrew Christian. That day was truly a miracle and I will always rejoice in it.

From then on I was no longer ashamed of being Jewish, having become a completed Jew. I was able to have peace and happiness from within. A peace not from this world, but a better peace—from my Messiah.

Jean and I, engaged that same day, were married two months later. I began to see how the Lord works out situations which seem impossible to us.

He put together the most beautiful wedding day a person could imagine. It provided a unique opportunity for my family and many of our friends to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and experience the true love He provides to believers.

After a while my position in engineering no longer satisfied me and I began to search. Jean and I would continue day in and day out seeking the Lord's will. My situation became more complicated.

In the spring of 1974 we heard about the American Board of Missions to the Jews through our pastor. One evening the ABMJ sent a missionary to the church to give a demonstration of the Passover Seder and relate how the Messiah Jesus was an integral part of the ancient Jewish feast.

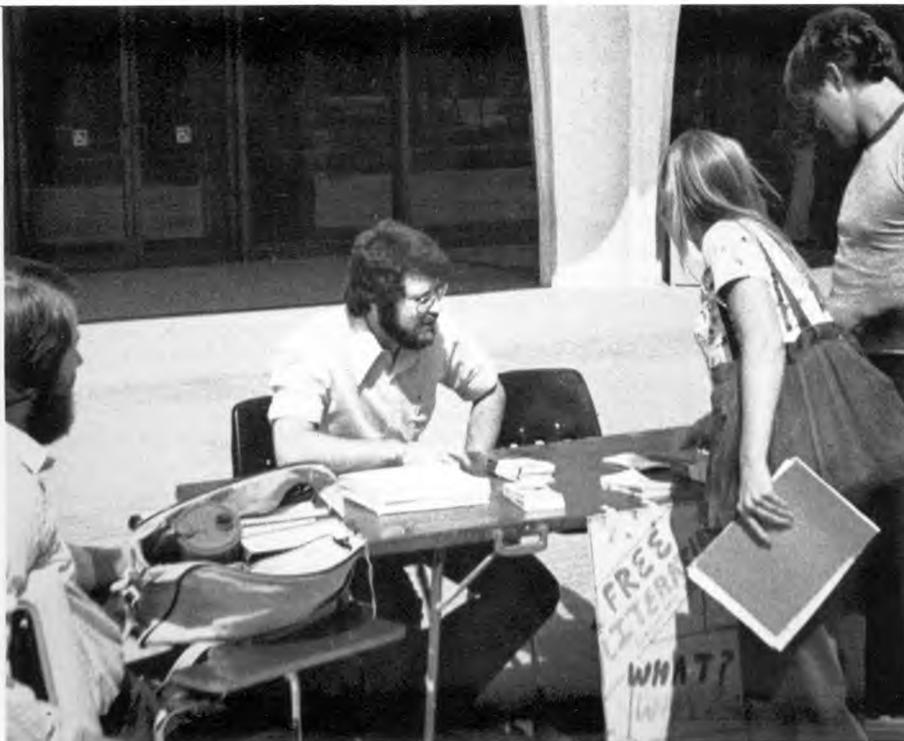
Afterwards the gentleman identified himself to me as Harold Sevens, Vice President and Missionary Director of the American Board. This marked the beginning of our very fine friendship as well as the start of my interest and understanding of Jewish evangelism.

At this time I became interested in pursuing Bible training of some sort. Even attending a seminary was a possibility.

Jean and I continued in prayer and started asking if the Lord would want me to go to seminary. In the meantime I attended meetings of the American Board and developed a fine relationship with another missionary, Arnold Fruchtenbaum. He encouraged me to pursue graduate education at a seminary.

The lengthy drama ended this fall when I enrolled at Talbot Theological Seminary. Jean is totally enthusiastic and looks forward to helping in Jewish evangelism.

Praise God that He hears, understands and acts upon the many burdens on our hearts. ☺



# The Basis of The Second Coming of Christ

By ARNOLD G. FRUCHTENBAUM

(last of a series)



### III. The Confession of Israel's National Sin

Since Christ's Second Coming is based on Israel's confession of her national sin and request for Him to return, let us see what the Scriptures say about this confession:

Come, and let us return unto Jehovah; for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: on the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live before him. And let us know, let us follow on to know Jehovah: his going forth is sure as the morning; he will come unto us as the rain, as the latter rain that watereth the earth. (Hosea 6:1-3)

Here we have an unfortunate chapter division. Chapter 6 should really begin at the fourth verse. The first three verses of chapter 6 really belong with chapter 5.

We saw how in the last verse of chapter 5 Christ warned that because of the national offense committed against Him by Israel He returned to His place in Heaven. He will not come back to the earth until they acknowledge or confess their offense.

The first three verses of Hosea 6 is in the form of a decree calling the nation to return to the Lord. In the closing days of the Tribulation Period the Jewish leaders will begin to understand from the Scriptures why these judgments have fallen on them. They will see it was because of the national offense spoken of in chapter 5:15.

So they issue the decree found in the first three verses for the nation to return unto the Lord. Thus we come into the last three days of the Tribulation Period.

This national confession and mourning for the One Whom they have pierced goes on for two days. On the

third day they begin to plead for the Second Coming and at that time we have the national regeneration of Israel when the whole nation is reborn in a day.

Just as the Jewish leaders led the nation to the rejection of the Messiah, even so they will lead the nation to the acceptance of the Messiah.

Another important passage is Isaiah 53:1-9. Most people simply view Isaiah 53 as a prophecy of the crucifixion. It is more than that. The first nine verses concern the national confession of Israel of having rejected Christ and His Messiahship.

In verse one they announce astonishment at what they had just learned in 52:13-15 where God called attention to His Servant, the One Who was lifted up.

In verse two they admit that at the time that He was on earth there did not seem to be anything unique about Him that would cause men to follow Him. Verse three states He was the One to be avoided.

But now, in verse four, they realize the Servant suffered for *them* although they previously considered Him suffering for His own sins. Verse five says He suffered that Israel might have peace with God and have spiritual healing.

In verse six they confess they all went their own selfish ways and God laid their sins on the Messiah. In spite of the injustice shown Him verse seven states the Servant suffered silently and

did not complain.

Verse eight declares that by means of a judicial judgment He was condemned to death and was executed. Very few in *His* generation, the generation of Jesus' day, recognized He was dying for sins they themselves had committed. Verse nine closes the confession when Israel admits that although Jesus was assigned a criminal's grave for dying a criminal's death, He was nevertheless buried in a rich man's tomb.

This is true poetic justice for He did nothing deserving of judicial punishment.

The rest of Isaiah 53 reiterates how God made the death of His Servant Jesus the sin sacrifice for the nation of Israel. This is in Israel's confession of her national sin.

### IV. The Plead for the Second Coming of Christ

Not only must Israel confess her national sin (Isaiah 5:15) but they must also plea for Christ to return (Mt. 23:39).

Many Psalms are poetical versions of the remnant of Israel pleading for the Messiah to return and save them from their enemies. Enemies manifested in the person of Antichrist—possessed by Satan himself. Two such Psalms are Psalm 79 and Psalm 80.

Psalm 79, to be fully understood, must be seen in the light of the new regenerate nation pleading for Christ to come back to save them from their enemies. Please read Psalm 79 and

# Questions and Answers



By DR. HENRY J. HEYDT

**QUESTION:** Should we send Christmas cards—religious or otherwise? Should we exchange gifts?

**ANSWER:** We deplore, with many, the commercializing of Christmas, but it is not without some advantages in the light of Phil. 1:18. The matter of sending cards and exchanging gifts must be individually discerned and acted upon but should not become a basis for judging others.

Many find joy in testifying to their Saviour by sending cards that glorify Him. They find it a time for systematically renewing acquaintances because a brief note on a card may give as much essential information as a lengthier letter.

The matter of giving gifts enters the problem of oftentimes burdensome financial outlay, but it may also be an opportunity for helping others in the least ostentatious way. We do not feel that we can condemn what is done in Christmas giving out of love responding to the Gift of all gifts.

The argument against such giving based on Rev. 11:10 has nothing to do with the present-day custom of exchanging Christmas greetings and gifts.

**QUESTION:** Does the word 'saying' in Lk. 2:13 prove that we are wrong in thinking that the angels sang the first Christmas anthem?

**ANSWER:** The angels may very well have sung the first Christmas anthem. 'To say' is not the antithesis of 'to sing.' This is evident from the very first song recorded in the Bible. We read in Ex. 15:1, "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord for he hath triumphed gloriously. . ."

They sang a song, and in doing so they spake, saying. The same is true of the living creatures and the twenty-four elders in Rev. 5:9-10. The introduction to their song states, "And they sang a new song, saying. . ." Thus the angels in Luke could very well have been praising God in song, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Lk. 2:14).

**QUESTION:** Was the Simeon of the temple at Jerusalem of high office and keeper of the Jewish lineage records?

**ANSWER:** All that we know about the Simeon of Luke 2 is what is stated in verses 25 through 35. Had he been a high official it is not likely that he would have been referred to simply as 'a man in Jerusalem.'

In the Apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus he is spoken of as the high-priest, "And when the high-priest Simeon took him up in his arms, he said to him, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. . ." (Chapter 12:3). No authority can be attached to this.

Another conjecture makes him Rabban Shimeon, the son of Hillel and father of Gamaliel. What is really important in the account is the relation of Simeon to the Holy Spirit Who came upon him, Who gave him a revelation and Who directed him to the temple. He was a believer of the Old Testament dispensation and, like John the Baptist, became a link between the two dispensations.

Also, like John the Baptist, he knew the purpose of the coming of the Messiah to be the Saviour for both Jews and Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel.

**QUESTION:** Was St. Anna the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus?

**ANSWER:** According to tradition Anna was the mother of Mary and the wife of Joachim. The New Testament does not refer to either Anna or Joachim. The Greek Church keeps a festival in her memory on July 25th and the Roman Church on July 26th.

**QUESTION:** Will you please tell me where the names of the three wise men came from: A Christmas card specifies them as Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar.

**ANSWER:** The particular names you mention are, of course, simply traditional and have no historical verification. They are thought to have had their origin in Italy or the East and to have been brought into the Western world by pilgrims.

They are found first in the Latin writings of 'The Venerable' Bede. Bede was one of the fathers of the English Church who was born in the county of Durham between 672 and 677 and spent his life in two monasteries.

At one time these names were no more popular than a score of others, among which we find Bithisarca, Melchior and Gathaspar; Magalath, Pangalath and Saracen; Appellius, Amerius and Damascus.

For a fuller study of these men see the article on Magi in one of the encyclopedias. M'Clintock and Strong Cyclo-pedia contains sixteen columns on this subject.

you can visualize how Israel pleads for Christ to return.

Isaiah 64 and Psalm 80 are along the same vein. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; Thou that sittest above the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up thy might, and come to save us. Turn us again O God; and cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80:1-3)

Clearly they are pleading for the Shepherd of Israel to return and save

them from their enemies. In verse 17 it gets more specific and we see the exact person for whom they plead:

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man who thou madest strong for thyself.

The One Israel is pleading for is the One at the right hand of God, where He has been sitting ever since their rejection of Him. And when they plead for the Messiah to come back on the third of the last three days of the Tribulation Christ does return, defeats the enemies of the Jews and sets

up His kingdom.

Then Israel begins to enjoy the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Messianic Kingdom!

From the Scriptures we see how much the Jewish people are the center of God's program. The power and the reality of the Second Coming are in the hands of Israel. Until they confess their sin and plead with Him to return, Christ will not return.

In this light we cannot fail to see the tremendous importance of Jewish evangelism today! ☺

# A Christmas Gift that Lasts Forever

By **WESLEY J. A. JONES**  
 Director of Stewardship

The world has dishonored the true meaning of Christmas, many believe, by the crass commercialism of the holiday. While there is momentary satisfaction in the exchange of gifts with loved ones and friends, the pleasure of the moment quickly wears away.

Above all, it is asked, what credit is there to Him whose birth the day is intended to honor?

For those who would worship their Lord on the anniversary of His birth in other ways, there is available a unique gift with far more lasting benefit and satisfaction than any commercial present. That is THE AMERICAN BOARD'S Life Income Agreement. Truly a gift of love.

You can give income property, securities or cash presently worth more than \$10,000 to the Lord's work and receive the pleasure of a life income in exchange—along with valuable tax benefits.



The principal of your gift will be used by this ministry in the evangelization of Jewish people everywhere. Certainly there is a lasting satisfaction resulting from such a gift—immeasurably more than from a tinselled package tied with colored ribbon and

bows.

Please write Dr. Daniel Fuchs at our headquarters' office for more information about ABMJ's Life Income Agreement.

It's one way of having a Christmas gift last forever.

AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE JEWS, INC.  
 P.O. Box 1331, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632

Dear Friends:

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ as my free will offering for the Lord's work among God's chosen people, Israel, beloved for the Father's sake. I prefer my gift be used especially for the following purpose:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE PRINT)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street City State Zip Code

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Robert A. Friedman, Editor.