

Part of: *The Christian Identity Movement in America*
By L. Lapidés

Discussion

Rubin: What do you suggest we do?

Lapidés: That question, I struggle with doing something, I struggle with not doing something. I think of what Geraldo Rivera said on that infamous show where he said, "My goal is to take these people and bring their garbage out into the sunlight so that the sunlight can act as a disinfectant, let people see what they are, and when they see who they are and what they are people will not take them seriously and we've basically jettisoned them from doing anything that serious." There's one part of me that says I want to do something. The Anti-Defamation League has been saying for the past couple years, "just ignore them. The more we bring attention to them, giving them publicity, and we're helping them." Then I think to myself, "Wait a minute, they've been saying that about the Messianic community." And what do we do while they're ignoring us. We develop, we organize, we strengthen ourselves, we come up with Messianic congregations. I would say that besides JCRC, Jews for Judaism and the anti-missionary movement, the general synagogues, from what I've heard in Los Angeles, try to come off with, "Let's just ignore them." So I don't want to make that same mistake by ignoring them, the Christian identity movement. At the same time I don't want to make the mistake of bringing too much attention to them. I feel like that black man who was on Geraldo who got upset. His position is that any time they are there on the TV, radio, whatever, he is going to be there to expose them. He's not going to let them get on TV or radio and mouth off their views without him being there to contradict them and show a different perspective. That's his position. I think as far as what we can do, I think that we just need to be sensitive. If we hear any of this kind of teaching, if we know of any pastor or see any of this literature, just to take any opportunity we can to correct, to make statements. If we see things that happen, whether it's skinheads, whether it's any of these individuals, and things happens to synagogues or pastors or Jewish organizations, I think it would be helpful if we made some kind of public statement, or encourage some pastors to make some public statements. I don't know how the Jewish community is going to feel about Messianic ministries and congregations making statements. We're Jews, of course we're going to do it. Unless you have other suggestions. I'm open to them.

Rubin: I think it might be risky to give them too much publicity if there are only 50 or 500. That's probably what they're looking for. Why are we going to engage Jews for Judaism in anything because they'll just take the correspondence and put it in their publications to show how they're really doing something. But I think it would be great if we could get next to the Jewish community about this. That's what we want.

Lapidés: My concern is not so much the thirteen supremacy groups that show up each summer, or even the 3,000 skinheads and the maybe 100 or so identity churches. I am more concerned with the average Christian in middle America, probably mid-western United States. They're hearing these things. I'm not in contact with those Christians, but I think a lot of people here who are doing ministry work, education work, are in contact with those Christians. You are in contact with those Christians who have been exposed to identity teaching. I am concerned about middle Christian Americans turning against the Jewish people and rejecting Jewish evangelism. It may never be a reality for Los Angeles, but I think it can be a reality in middle America.

Maiman: A lot of things are going on in Harrisburg, which is a small no-place. The KKK is actively recruiting these skinheads. In Ephrata, which probably nobody ever heard of, this group is going to have a rally and the evangelical churches there marched against them. Bringing this out into the open will, hopefully, unify the church. To be ignorant is to be ignorant. To be warned is to be forearmed. What we need to do is have the weapon of the law on our side. If they can have a rally we can also apply for a rally to protest against them.

Lapides: There have been rallies in Southern California. Frank Eikor and some of his people. International Shalom Ministries, something like that. I have written to some people on his board and I have not gotten a response. I kind of get the feeling, and I could be completely wrong, that we want to, speaking for them, "reach out to the Jewish community, show them we care about them and if we make any moves toward the Messianic community, whether missions or congregations, we're going to lose that relationship with the Jewish community." I'm sensing that they may be going in that direction. I don't like that.

Rosen: Let me give you a plan of action. First of all, get it into your head that what you want to do is not because of any possible relations, but that it's right. When something starts coming up, you notify the church. You get the petitions. Get to the Christian community. These are people that don't even have credibility. Sometimes it's right to protest. It's nice to go to jail for protesting against nazism. If you go hard against them and show a lot of newsworthy opposition, you legitimize their position, skinhead position. They're not going to let you get in and serve the Jewish community where you might be legitimized, so go to the churches where you do have legitimacy. Everybody should have at least one personal computer. You could send out 1,500 petitions to be signed. If you're really into computers you could program your computer to make phone calls and alert people. You can get the petitions out first and they're going to be willing to hear it from you.

Meliska: What about Christian periodicals? Has Christianity Today done anything on this?

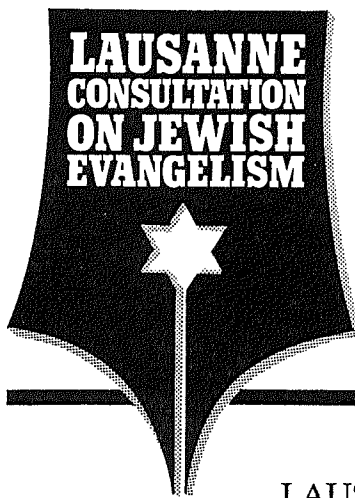
Lapides: Christianity Today has done two articles. One was called "The Counterfeit Christianity of the Klu Klux Klan." I think they did that in 1982. That was a feature article. Then they did a news article on the identify movement back in 1986. But nothing has been done since then.

Meliska: Aren't there some quarterlies that are put out? There was one that did the article on John MacArthur. Approaching things like that, to get these things in the hands of pastors. Are there places like that we can go to?

Lapides: There is a possibility of taking a paper like mine and boiling it down to a journal article. It's going to be among scholars.

Rosen: All you have to do is pass a resolution here, now. If that's sent out as a release from LCJE, Religious News Service will carry and it would be carried by most of the major Christian magazines.

(Discussion concerning preparation of resolution. Committee appointed: Barry Rubin, Louis Lapides, Gary Derechinsky, Wesley Taber. Resolution attached.)



PRESIDENT: Rev. Murdo A. MacLeod

**INTERNATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE:**

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR

Rev. C. David Harley

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**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE
LAUSANNE CONSULTATION ON JEWISH EVANGELISM
CONCERNING THE "CHRISTIAN IDENTITY" MOVEMENT**

WHEREAS, there is a proliferation of racism and Jew-hatred in our world today, and

WHEREAS, this evil is perpetrated by individuals and groups that are part of the "Christian" Identity Movement, and

WHEREAS, the "Christian" Identity Movement promulgates the error of the inherent superiority of the white Anglo-Saxon Aryan race and the inferiority of all others, and

WHEREAS, the "Christian" Identity Movement defines itself as the true Israelites and views the Jewish people as accursed, and

WHEREAS, the "Christian" Identity Movement dishonors the Person of Jesus the Messiah by its erroneous theological justification for racial bigotry, and

WHEREAS, the "Christian" Identity Movement is fostering the same attitudes and actions that existed in pre-Hitler Germany that led to the genocide of 6,000,000 Jews.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism of North America calls upon all genuine Christians everywhere to:

1. Be alert to the presence and danger of the "Christian" Identity Movement, and
2. Affirm God's everlasting love for the Jewish people, and
3. Take an active stand against this insidious form of anti-Semitism, and
4. Pray that God would bring glory to Himself despite this distortion, that these deceived people would come to a correct understanding of God's Word, and for the protection of the Jewish people, and
5. Share the love of God manifested in Jesus the Messiah with both Jews and Gentiles.

Committee appointed to draft resolution:
Barry Rubin, Louis Lapidés, Gary Derechinsky, Wes Taber

April 5, 1989

SUPPER: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

EIGHTH SESSION: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Odds and Ends Discussion

Motion to request that the International Steering Committee change the 1991 International LCJE meeting from Holland to Israel. Motion passed. Arnold Fruchtenbaum is to write letter of request. (Letter attached)

Tuvya Zaretsky gave a report on the upcoming meeting, International Consultation re Jewish Evangelism, in Bermuda.

MJAA should be encouraged to attend next meeting. Moishe Rosen will invite Chernoff.

The seventh annual meeting of LCJE North America will be held March 14-15, 1990, in St. Louis, Missouri. Suggested topics include:

Two book reviews

How Jewish can a Messianic congregation be? Liturgy and observation, maximum and minimum.

Respective roles of missions and congregations (what do we owe one another, define indigenous, cooperation, especially within the same organization, independence, financial accountability [Dr. Pierson?] leadership problems, when to let go, how are missionaries furthering call of evangelism in congregations, how can missions help congregations)

Need for unity - cooperative evangelism

Preparation for television interview shows (Jan Muskowitz, Susan Perlman, Tuvya Zaretsky?)

Desktop publishing

Place of the Holy Spirit in Jewish evangelism; time of sharing personal experiences

History of ABMJ or Zion Society (Kearney Frantsen?)

Bi-annual update on anti-missionary and media

Survey of children of mixed marriage (what observances)

Rise and fall of FCTJ - Ruth Wardell

Report from Israel - Warren Graham

Missionary work in Israel

Romans 9-11 re Olive Tree - Dr. Bonkowski, Fort Wayne University.

Examine positions taken to reach votes for Jewish evangelism in different denominations - Bonkowski, DeRidder, Glasser?

It was requested that more time be allowed for discussion, that the afternoon break be extended to one hour.

This meeting was closed in prayer.



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AUSTRALASIA

Miss Betty Baruch

SOUTH AMERICA

Rev. Peter Clarke

April 11, 1989

Rev. C. David Harley
All Nations Christian College
Easneye, Ware
Herts, SG12 8LX
ENGLAND

Dear David and the International Steering Committee:

At its annual meeting, the North American Coordinating Committee of LCJE unanimously voted to request of the International Steering Committee that they change the meeting place for the 1991 International LCJE meeting from Holland to Israel.

It was strongly felt by all present that the triennial meetings should be held in the land of Israel if at all possible. On behalf of the North American Coordinating Committee, please consider the change of venue.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

In the Messiah,

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum
Coordinator: North America

AGF:rt