



THE CONTACT

The Newsletter of The Toronto Jewish Mission
Proclaiming Jesus as Messiah and Saviour Since 1894

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved."
- Romans 10:1

Issue 04-6

November/December 2004

Chanukah: "The Festival of Lights"



David Daniels

Chanukah, "The Festival of Lights," begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. In our western calendar this occurs sometime between the end of November and the end of December. Chanukah means rededication and celebrates events occurring in Israel over 2,300 years ago.


The setting of Chanukah is ancient Judea, when the Syrian King, Antiochus, ruled over the people of Judah. Antiochus had ordered the Jewish people to reject their Jewish customs, culture, and especially their worship of the one true God. He demanded they worship the false gods of his people.

Some complied, but others, like Judah Maccabee, refused. Along with his four brothers, Judah organized a rebellion against Antiochus

and began a war that lasted approximately three years. The Maccabee brothers prevailed, driving the Syrians out of Israel and reclaiming the Temple in Jerusalem.

With the Temple back in Jewish hands, it was cleaned, and the eternal light, known as N'er Tamid, was re-lit. Tradition says that while there was only one day's supply of the special oil needed for the lamp, it continued to burn for eight days until more oil could be prepared.

Observant Jews worldwide observe eight days of Chanukah in commemoration of the miracle of the oil and to celebrate the victory of the Syrians and the rededication of the Temple.

Christians can use this "Festival of Lights" as a bridge to sensitively share the wonderful message of the gospel - Messiah Jesus is the light of the world - the true eternal light who shows humankind the way to the Father. 

—Rev. David Daniels is the Director of TJM.

TJM Honours Patricia Mills


After fifteen years of devoted service, TJM bid farewell to Patricia Mills, missionary and office administrator. A special presentation was made in her honour at the TJM Fall Conference, October 29th at Willowdale Baptist Church.

The Lord called Pat to serve at TJM in 1989. She pursued that call by leaving her native Northern Ireland and making the trek to Canada.

Pat has been involved in almost every facet of the work at TJM. She has handed out Bibles and Christian literature. She has spoken at Bible studies and at the ladies' group meetings. She has travelled extensively for TJM. She has managed the books and administered the office.

Pat has made many contacts and forged

many lasting relationships as she faithfully reached out to the Jewish community with the Good News of Jesus.

Pat will be deeply missed. We pray that the Lord will lead her to a fulfilling new field of service. 



The Toronto Jewish Mission is a Christian ministry of evangelism and discipleship offered freely to all with priority given to the Jewish community. We also seek to encourage Christian love and interest for Israel and the Jewish people.

764 Sheppard Ave. West
Downsview, Ontario M3H 2S8



Telephone: 416-636-1045
Facsimile: 416-636-6711



E-mail: info@torontojewishmission.org
Web Site: www.torontojewishmission.org

Bethlehem Ephratha



Ernst Loewy

During the present festive season department stores and shopping malls are bombarding us with the most beautiful Christmas music. Carol after carol and among them several referring to Bethlehem, the place of Messiah's Birth.

Charles Wesley's well known hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* includes the exhortation:

"With the angelic hosts proclaim/ Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Then there is the traditional *The First Nowell*, recalling the journey of the wise men who followed the heavenly constellation, "The star drew nigh to the north-west/ O're Bethlehem it took it's rest."

Emily Elliott's song added a tinge of sadness when saying: "Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown/ When Thou camest to earth for me;/ But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room/ For Thy holy Nativity."

And, of course, Phillips Brooks' best loved *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, "How still we see thee lie."

Tens of thousands are enjoying the tunes, but do they understand the meaning of these odes and the significance of that little town?

The history of Bethlehem goes back to patriarchal times. It is first mentioned in Gen. 35:19 as the place of Rachel's burial. She was laid there after dying in child birth. Jacob referred to that incident when giving special instructions to Joseph as he approached life's end, Gen. 48:7. In the days of the Judges the place was designated as Bethlehem-Judah, Ju.17:7, but it is called by it's full name only once, viz. in the prophecy of Micah.

Around 700 B.C. this servant of God made the following announcement: "But thou Bethlehem Ephratha, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto Me that is to be the ruler of Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (ch.5:2; but ch. 5:1 in the Hebrew text).


Those of our Jewish friends who embrace the idea of a personal Messiah, not merely of a

future age, believe that this is a prediction of a coming Ruler who will restore Israel and usher in an era of peace. However, they will not identify this Deliverer with Jesus of Nazareth, which is our firm conviction, and for good reason.

Matthew, a member of the disciple band, records an event in the first Gospel which sheds light on Micah's prophecy. A group of sages from the Orient arrived in Jerusalem on a special mission. This was their question: "Where is He that was born King of the Jews? for we have come to worship Him" (ch.2:2). What a troubling enquiry! It certainly upset King Herod who could not brook the idea of a rival and disturbed the people who knew of what this cruel despot was capable of doing, the King lost no time and called a symposium of "all the chief priests and scribes of the people," putting this pertinent question to them, viz. where the Messiah should be born. No, there was no need for special consultations; they had to answer and replied without a moment's hesitation: "In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet," quoting Micah's words in support of their opinion.

This settled the matter for the magi who continued on their journey and completed their quest; "mission accomplished." Herod, too, took the verdict seriously and embarked on the cold blooded murder of all the boys in Bethlehem around the time indicated by the wise men.

Thus the question of Messiah's birthplace was determined, but note that Micah's prediction adds another important fact. The concluding words are "whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting," literally 'the days of eternity.' In other words, though born in time, he was pre-existent in eternal ages before the creation of the world. Jochanan, another disciple, confirmed this, going on record that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God" (Jn. 1:1).

Therefore we accept the prophetic promise literally and are privileged to share it and the angelic message with our Jewish friends. "Good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Messiah the Lord" (Luke 2:11). 

—Rev. Ernst Loewy was TJM Superintendent 1966-1983.



Marilyn Duguid

Switching channels for the news one evening in late August, I caught the tail end of something that intrigued me; it was a news report featuring a Jewish actress from Poland, Golda Tencer. She founded the *Shalom Foundation* in Poland in 1994; the purpose of which was to find any remaining evidence or pieces of Jewish culture that might still exist in her home country. In particular she felt certain that many Jews who were deported to ghettos and camps would have entrusted their precious photos to their Gentile neighbours, hoping to retrieve them when they returned home. Ms. Tencer appeared on national television and issued an appeal for photos and picture albums. The response was more than she could have imagined as 8,000 photographs poured in from around the world, most from non-Jews. An international committee was formed and 450 photos were chosen for an exhibit entitled: ***“And I Still See Their Faces: The Vanished World of the Polish Jews.”***

I lamented that I had missed details as to when and if the exhibit would be coming to Toronto. I turned to the internet and found some information but not a date for a Toronto showing. I sent off an inquiry and received an immediate response; the exhibit was to open two days hence at the BCE Place on Bay Street. I was given a number to call for more details and soon found myself conversing with Peter Jassem, the president of the Polish-Jewish Heritage

Foundation. He inquired as to why I was interested in attending the exhibit so I told him of my life long interest in Jewish people. He assured me that I was welcome to attend but informed me that the opening night and reception was *‘by invitation only’* and not for the public.

Can you then imagine my surprise when later that same day I opened my e-mail and there was a personal invitation from Mr. Jassem inviting me to attend the opening night? I sat staring at the screen and savoured the moment and then thought about what I might wear for such an occasion. It’s a woman thing!

Overwhelmed is the only way to explain how I felt the following evening as I stood by myself in a reception room filled with Jewish people and surrounded by hundreds of Jewish faces preserved in photographs. I took note of some of the guests; Peter Silverman, Mayor David Miller and Golda Tencer. Words are inadequate to describe the emotion I felt as I wove my way through the exhibit listening to conversations oft times mingled with tears. The past had been catapulted into the present and in a strange sense, the Jewish people in attendance had become one with the faces in the pictures. An elderly gentleman found one of his sisters in a photograph. There were moments when I questioned as to whether I should have been there at all. But I was, and I treasure it as an extraordinary experience that only the Lord could have orchestrated for me and I thank Him for it.

And I Can Still See Their Faces...down here at ***Kosher Korner***.

—Marilyn Duguid is Secretary of the Board of Directors.

“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end”
— Luke 1:32,33.

We Can Use Your Used Postage Stamps!

Many people are saving their used postage stamps for us. These are sold and the proceeds used to purchase Bibles, New Testaments and literature. We accept stamps from any country, including Canada, and hope that others will be encouraged to keep them for us.




Kristine Davis

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6

Christmas is my favourite time of year. I love the tree, the decorations, food, Christmas carols, church plays, family gatherings, and even the shopping! I love that we can celebrate Christ’s birth in such a marvellous and happy way.

But often we get so caught up in things that we forget to acknowledge the One we are celebrating. The Christmas celebration was meant to be a way to remember. In fact, Christmas is one of the most important times for

us to remember that we have a reason to celebrate. Not just because remembering and celebrating Christ’s birth is what this season is meant for, but because there are people who don’t know what it is meant for, or who refuse to acknowledge it. We need to be consumed with the reason we celebrate instead of the celebrations so that the joy will ooze out of us wherever we are and people will want to know why. Here at TJM we try and tell the Jewish people that they are missing the joy of knowing the true Messiah. We want to tell them that the birth that we celebrate now is just the beginning and that this little Baby later would give His life for us.

“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” - Luke 2:11. 

—Kristine Davis is an Outreach Worker at TJM.

A “Wise” Perspective



David Cooke

It was rather ironic when a group of wise men from the East rode into Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. The Messiah had come; the Bright and Morning Star had dawned! These wise men had left the comforts of home and travelled hundreds of miles to behold the promised King of the Jews. Yet, Israel, for

the most part, was asleep in ignorance and unbelief. There was very little to-do, except from a handful of individuals – some country shepherds, Simeon, Anna, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph.

It was only when that band of wise men entered the gates of Jerusalem that the people of Israel began to stir. Now, it must have been quite a sight to see these strangers enter the city with their rich gifts and odd apparel. Yet, it must

have been an even greater shock to hear what they had to say: “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him” (Matt. 2:2).

How could these wise men know about the arrival of Messiah, when most of Israel was not even aware of it? These strangers were Gentiles! It seemed so unlikely that Gentiles should be heralds of Messiah’s coming. And so, “When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him” (Matt. 2:3). The city began to awaken from its sleep, all because of some Gentile wise men from the East.

I believe there is an interesting parallel today. God, in His providence, is using Gentiles once again to begin to awaken His ancient people. Salvation has come to the Gentiles for the purpose of provoking the Jewish people to

...See “Being Wise” on page 6.

Contributing to TJM

Name _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____
 Town _____ Prov./State _____ Postal Code _____

\$ _____ Cheque ___ VISA ___
 Gift Amount _____
 VISA Account Number _____ Expiry Date _____
 Signature _____ Today's Date _____

AMF Ministries Canada Formed

Following nearly a year of prayer and discussion, **AMF Ministries Canada** was formed on October 28, 2004. The founding board members are Rev. Wes Taber, Executive Director of AMF International (Lansing, Illinois), Mr. Isaac Mak (Toronto), and Rev. David Daniels, General Director of The Toronto Jewish Mission.

AMF Ministries Canada will continue the legacy of AMF International which has been “building bridges of understanding between Jewish and Christian communities” since 1887.



AMF International began as the Chicago Hebrew Mission, and as its ministry expanded across the U.S., it became the American Messianic Fellowship. When the



mission entered other countries, it became known as AMF International.

Many readers will be delighted to learn that Rev. and Mrs. Loewy served several years with AMF International in Florida following the conclusion of their ministry with TJM.

AMF Ministries Canada will conduct its ministry out of New Covenant House, here, on Sheppard Ave. We at TJM are looking forward to sharing in ministry as we continue to proclaim Jesus as Messiah and Saviour to God’s ancient covenant people. 📖

Our Newest Staff Member

There is a new face at New Covenant House! Hua Lin (Helen) has been called to take on the bookkeeping duties at the Mission. Helen became a Christian in her homeland of China - a place that is very hostile towards the Gospel. She worked in the field of accounting for several years there, and came to Canada with her husband and daughter three years ago. Helen will be working two days a week in our offices. 📖



STEWARDSHIP POLICY

Spending of funds is confined to board-approved programmes and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved programme will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

PRIVACY POLICY

We do not record or collect any personal information without your consent. If you request materials from us, or make contact with us, we promise to keep your personal information confidential. We will never sell or give away your information. We will only use your information according to what you have requested and approved. You will not be put on any mailing lists, unless that is what you have requested.

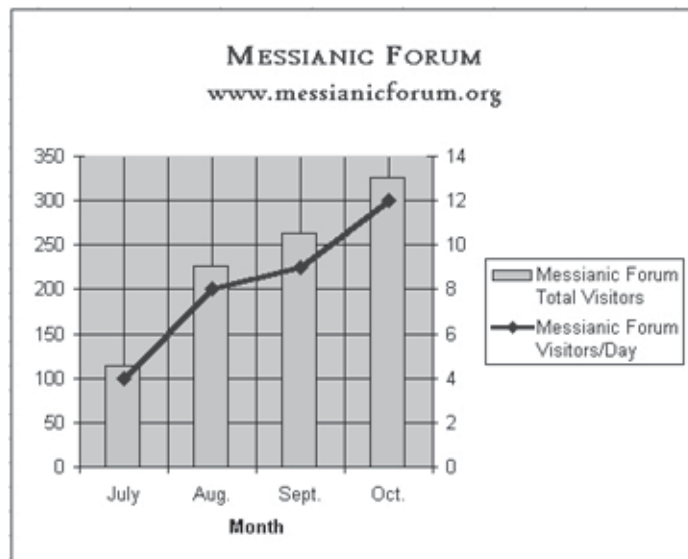
Messianic Forum Unveiled

One of the events at the TJM Fall Conference was the unveiling of *Messianic Forum*. Messianic Forum (www.messianicforum.org) is TJM's evangelistic outreach over the internet. This is a new and exciting endeavour. Messianic Forum is very different from our main ministry web site (www.torontojewishmission.org) which is geared to our constituency and potential supporters.

Messianic Forum is geared primarily to Jewish seekers and skeptics who wish to consider the claims of Messiah for themselves. We aim to *engage* visitors with biblical articles, personal testimonies, probing questions, and discussions that all centre around the Lord Jesus Christ. We see tremendous potential for outreach here in Toronto, and around the world. We hope that the Holy Spirit would touch many lives through this site.

Already, we've seen the number of visitors to Messianic Forum increase month by month. During the week of the conference, we were averaging more visitors per day than we had ever seen before. Currently, we are receiving twelve visits per day on average. That is like having twelve inquirers stop by New Covenant House each and every day!

We invite you to explore Messianic Forum for yourself. Your comments and suggestions are more than welcome! (Please e-mail them to our webmaster, David Cooke). Also, be sure to pass our web site address along to any Jewish friends and family you may have.



Being Wise

Continued from page 4...

jealousy, so that they would come back to the Lord (Rom. 11:11).

New Covenant House is a largely Gentile operation. We have many Jewish friends, supporters, and helpers, but our frontline workers are Gentiles. Despite this, God is using us to make an impact in this city. Many Jewish people are waking up to that Bright, Morning Star through the efforts of some very unlikely heralds! Praise God for His mysterious and inscrutable ways!

Over the last two months, Kristine and I have continued to deliver Bible offers door-to-door within the community. We have been blessed to receive a number of requests for Bibles – including a request for a Hebrew-English Bible.

Our new correspondence course called “Discovering God” is beginning to touch lives for time and eternity. Two new contacts have enrolled, including an eleven year old boy, who tells us that he aspires to be a pastor one day. It has been a joy for me to put together this new course; but it is an even greater joy to see people using it and growing with it.



Our Messianic Forum web site is beginning to get noticed. We have made several new contacts through it already. Also, we are getting a steady stream of traffic to the site. This is very exciting! 

—David Cooke is an Outreach Worker at TJM.

May you have a joyous
Christmas as you celebrate
the coming of our Messiah
and Saviour — Jesus.