



Caspari
Center

for Biblical and
Jewish Studies

ISRAEL · USA



REPORTER

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH BELIEVERS IN JESUS

August 2003



Celebrate with us!

Friday, October 24 marks the first anniversary of the Caspari Center in the United States. To help commemorate the growth God has provided, we invite you to a very special Celebration Party. Pastor Samuel Aweida, pastor of Beit Eliyahu Congregation in Haifa will be the featured speaker. Pastor Aweida serves as the Chairman of the Caspari Local Board in Israel and will bring a very special message direct from Israel.

Banquet Program:

7:00: hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner

Messianic music adds a festive tone. We will join our hearts with Messianic families in Israel to celebrate the traditional Friday evening Kiddush – a liturgical blessing recited over wine on Shabbat.

Location: Wilton Manor, Carol Stream (2200 N. Main Street at the corner of Main Street & Geneva Road)

Tickets: \$15.00 each or sponsor a table of 8 (\$120) and receive one additional ticket free
To order call: 630-668-3328

In a new book, *Who Are the Christians in the Middle East?* by Betty Jane & J. Martin Bailey, Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K.: Eerdmans, 2003, it states on p. 125 "A small but rapidly growing group of Israeli Jews has voluntarily decided to embrace a faith in Jesus (Yeshua) of Nazareth as Son of God.....The Caspari Center in Jerusalem is a contact point for this group."

Caspari Center regularly searches all media postings in Israel relating to Messianic Jews, Christianity and the Mission. These posting are available in a free email Media Review by sending a blank email to media@caspari.com. One article detailed how a hotel in Tiberias will no longer host missionaries after a group intending to reside in the hotel cancelled their reservations when they discovered the missionary group had stayed there only weeks earlier. While only days later Jews for Judaism announced it would be sending ten representatives to Israel to help "stem Christian missionary activities there." Please pray for our brothers and sisters facing harassment from anti-missionary groups in Israel.



People from around the world return to the Caspari Center

by Lisa Loden, Managing Director, Caspari Center, Israel

Life at Caspari is always interesting and sometimes exciting. After a long winter and an even longer season of no tourism and few visitors, we are suddenly being visited by many groups and individuals from around the world. On one day we may have a delegation of Japanese, on another day a group of Norwegians and the next day a group from Finland. In fact, during June 2003, Caspari was visited by groups or individuals from Norway, Holland, the United States, Finland, Korea, Germany and Japan. This is all in addition to our regular Israeli visitors who come to use the library, buy books or sit and talk with members of the staff.

We are always happy to receive visitors and are grateful to be able to tell them about the work of Caspari and the Messianic community in Israel. For many of these visitors, this is the only exposure they will have to the Messianic community. We see these visits as windows of opportunity to share the significance of the emerging community of Jewish believers in Jesus in Israel today. It frequently happens that our visitors express surprise when they hear how the Messianic community is growing and developing.

One of our visitors expressed it this way "Israel is like a mosaic and we want to see as many pieces of the picture as possible. The Caspari piece of the mosaic is an important element in understanding the whole picture."

With frequent terrorist attacks on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem where Caspari is located and a general sense of insecurity, the past two years have been very stressful. We have missed the visitors who come with curiosity and hunger to hear what God is doing in Israel. We are glad to see the tourists and pilgrims return. Our hope is that the political and security situation will remain quiet.

This is a good time to visit Israel. Tourists are welcome and since there have been so few who would brave the possibility of conflict, they are greeted with warmth. Some of the shops in central Jerusalem are sporting signs that say "Welcome Tourists! Big

Discounts for Brave Tourists." It is a well-publicized fact that the majority of all tourists coming to Israel in these times are Christians. At Caspari we have begun to experience a sense of solidarity with our brothers and sisters from abroad. This is important to us as often we feel that we stand alone.

We feel enriched when we have visitors and we value every opportunity to speak to groups or individuals. These visits have great potential to expand the circle of Caspari friends world wide. Visiting a place is far different than reading about it. We have many second and third time visitors who maintain an interest in our activities between visits.

Caspari staff is a mixture of Jews and non-Jews, men and women, paid workers and volunteers. We share a common desire to see the body of believers in Israel grow and become mature and all of our programs contribute to the education of the Messianic community in significant ways. In our diversity, we model the unity of the Body of the Messiah daily as we work together. We hope we will have many more visitors in the coming months. As you read this newsletter our desire is that you will be encouraged to visit us and see for yourself what God is doing in Israel.



From the desk of Kathi Graham, North American Director

International Director, Torkild Masvie and I have recently attended several church denominational conventions. Pastors and lay people stop at our booth to find out what the Caspari Center does and to browse through the colorful array of books at our book table.

It is such a joy to be able to share with them the growth that is taking place in Israel. Thanks to the generosity of one church, a leadership-training program to develop ten handpicked Israeli Messianic leaders capable of developing others into the future leaders of Israeli ministries is beginning. In fall a 3-year program is being initiated to train students in leadership skills using personal mentors. The growth of the Messianic movement in Israel is dependent upon the development of quality future leadership. Pray that these students be encouraged in their new challenge and that God give them wisdom to guide the church of Israel now and into the future.

We are also able to share with people who stop at our booth that the first grant has been received toward another important program. The need for training children and youth for discipleship and growth through their parents and congregational teachers is vital to implementing Caspari Center's vision of equipping the next generation of Jewish believers in Jesus in Israel. There are very few Sunday School (Sabbath School) materials for students or their teachers. The Israeli Messianic movement is young and each congregation is an independent entity. The Caspari Center is working to expand the program of seminars that help train parents and teachers how to help the Israeli children live in the tough Israeli society. Only one person in 1000 living in Israel (0.1%) believes that Yeshua is the Messiah. So, except for their family or people in their congregation, a young person may never meet another believer. This situation plus the current political climate creates a need for well-researched and documented study materials and support systems. Pray that the needed additional funding is provided in this critical area and that the youth of Israel be protected from harm.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy at what God is doing to provide for His children in Israel. Yet, the need is still great to complete these programs and to increase programs to combat the torrent of "New Age" philosophy streaming into Israel and to assist the growing community preserve the Biblical teachings for their children as they are quickly being assimilated into a very secular Israeli culture.

We need your financial contributions to help us help Israel. We would also be most grateful if you would share this newsletter with a friend or let us know if there are people you think might be interested in being added to our mailing list.

Training the next generation of Jewish believers in Jesus in Israel.

Volunteers Needed – Call office at 630-668-3328:

Contact colleges, seminaries and Bible schools to send sample copies of the Caspari Center journal *Mishkan* and help develop a mailing list. Can be done from home or the Caspari Center office. Time requirement: flexible

Help with Newsletter mailings every six weeks. Join in the community atmosphere at the Caspari Center!



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