



Caspari
Center

*for Biblical and
Jewish Studies*

ISRAEL · USA



REPORTER

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH BELIEVERS IN JESUS

March 2005

New International Director/CEO of Caspari Center Appointed

Some months ago, Rev. Torkild Masvie informed the International Board that his time as CEO of Caspari would need to come to an end upon his return to Norway later this year. Although the Board urged him to continue at least on a part-time basis, Torkild felt that it would be best for the Caspari ministry to appoint a new full-time CEO. The board then approached Steve Engstrom who accepted our offer on January 3 and will be appointed the next CEO of Caspari.



Steve Engstrom will begin working full-time on September 1, 2005, and will formally take over as CEO on January 1, 2006. Torkild Masvie will move from the USA to Norway in the summer of 2005 and will continue as CEO and assist in the transition through the end of the year.

Our next CEO is 35 years old. He is married to Rebecca, a talented violinist. The couple has three children: Talia (9), Nathan (5), and Michael (1). Steve earned a B.A. in religion from Augustana College (1991), a M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary (1995), and was Visiting Scholar at the Hebrew University, Rothberg School for Overseas Students for one year (1998).

Steve was a curate at Christ Church in Jerusalem for one year during seminary. He also lived in Israel from 1997 to 2000, working as an Assistant Director of Shoresh, a CMJ partner organization. He was responsible for organizing study programs for laity and clergy, and for developing relationships with local partners in ministry.

Since 2001, he has been Executive Director of Care Net Pregnancy Center, an evangelical Christian ministry providing support for women facing challenges related to unplanned pregnancy and abortion. From 2003 to the present, he has served on the board, now as President/CEO, of The Friends of Alexander College.

We welcome Steve "on board" and ask all our partners and friends to give him a cordial reception and to remember him and his family in their prayers.

On behalf of the International Board of Caspari Center,

Dr. Reidar Hvalvik
Chairman





PASSOVER 2005

Remember God's faithfulness to his people by participating in an Orthodox Jewish Passover such as Jesus might have experienced with his disciples just before the events that led to his crucifixion.

We as Christians see the ultimate purpose of the Passover meal as pointing to the Passover of Jesus, when he was and is our Passover lamb. All the different prophecies have a focal point in Jesus. When Jesus and his disciples sang the

Hallel (Psalms 113-118) that evening, they were singing a song whose ultimate purpose was to be sung by Jesus and his disciples that evening. This adds as an important perspective to our reading of the Hallel songs in the Passover liturgy.

Last year over 230 people participated in the Caspari Center's Seder, the Orthodox Passover liturgy and meal in Chicago-land. This year Caspari will host the meal on April 23 at St. Michael's Church in Bloomington, Minnesota and on April 24 at Community Fellowship Church in West Chicago, Illinois.

Last year we had to turn a number of people away due to lack of space. So get your tickets early!!! It is an interesting and educational family-centered evening. Adults: \$15.00; age 12-18: \$12.00; ages 6-11: \$5.00; 5 and under: free. Call the Caspari office at 630-668-3328 or use the enclosed response.

The Hallel: Psalms 113-118

As we approach Easter, the time we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus, we also ponder on his suffering and death on the cross. It is a good time to remember how Jesus was and is the fulfillment of the promise of a Jewish savior, for the Jewish people as well as for the rest of the world.

Approximately one-third of the gospel accounts are about the last Passover Jesus celebrated in Jerusalem. Psalms 113-118 (hymns) were sung by Jesus and the disciples at the Passover.

When we read the Psalms with the perspective that they were written for this very night, we get a better understanding of the meaning of these Psalms.

As you read, you might want to look for the Hebrew poetic style called parallelism, in which two phrases say the same thing or the second phrase develops the theme of the first .

Some say the Old Testament describes God's history with his Jewish people. Others have presented a supplemental perspective that the Old Testament is the textbook prepared for Messiah, to teach him his purpose and what he should do. It is written that Jesus, when he was 12 years old, was learning the Bible by interacting with the scribes.

We don't know how much Jesus as a human knew of his role as Messiah while he was growing up, and the two sides of our LORD in many ways remain a mystery to us. But since Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, it is a valid perspective to see the Old Testament as a guide for Messiah in his ministry.



Upcoming Events

Passover Meal: (Jewish Passover Eve is celebrated April 23-24, 2005)

April 23, 2005 5:00 PM at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN

April 24, 2005 5:00 PM at Community Fellowship Church in West Chicago, IL

Trips to Israel: November 4-13, 2005 and January 2006 (Call 630-668-3328 for brochure)

Planting the Word

According to Andy Ball of the Bible Society in Tel Aviv, their small shop is now selling 6.5 Bibles each day. These are mainly Hebrew Bibles. This does not include the many Bibles given away.

This has not always been the case. Ten years ago, only four Bibles per month were sold.

The December 2004 issue (#41) of *Mishkan, A Forum on the Gospel and the Jewish People* deals with the topic "Planting the Word--Bible Work in the Land of the Bible." The British and Foreign Bible Society was established in 1804 and celebrated its 200-year jubilee in 2004. This issue of *Mishkan* acknowledges the jubilee with articles related to Bible work in Israel/Palestine – both then and now.

Kelvin Crombie, in his article *Bible Distribution and the British and Foreign Bible Society in Eretz Israel*, writes "The Bible Society was possibly the first Protestant organization to send a worker to 'spy out' the land. This is usually thought to have happened in 1816. It was only in 1833, however, that evangelical Christianity established a permanent base in the Land of Israel (Turkish Palestine), when the Danish pastor John Nicolayson, representing the London Jews Society, settled in Jerusalem."

Gershon Nerel says a new revision of the Hebrew New Testament, originally translated from the Greek by the German Lutheran Hebraist Franz Julius Delitzsch (a contemporary of Carl Paul Caspari), was released December 2003. Almost a century and a half after its first publication in 1877, the original translation by Delitzsch remains the "Flagship Hebrew New Testament." He discovered that he needed to use both biblical and Mishnaic Hebrew expressions, and this led him to the discovery that many passages could only be understood after they had been translated back to Hebrew – partially related to Old Testament Hebrew and partially to rabbinic Hebrew.

Kai Kjær-Hansen writes: "Were the Bible societies to succeed, they needed the mission societies and the missionaries. If the missions and their missionaries were to succeed they needed the Bibles. Today, revival is still dependent on Bibles – and Bible-men and women."

The authors of *Mishkan*, whether Messianic Jewish leaders, Christian theologians, or missiologists all contribute their viewpoints, insight and research in a unique field of interest where the Old and New Testaments overlap and where the concerns of the Jewish people and the Church meet.

Over its twenty-year history, *Mishkan* has provided a wealth of information that can be found nowhere else. The journal continues to create a platform upon which controversial issues are discussed in a balanced and sound manner.

Mishkan is published quarterly.

Subscriptions (\$36.00) are available through our web site or by calling Caspari at 630-668-3328.

"My Jesus is Jewish"

A reader writes: I had my "fish pin" on my coat collar. The check-out clerk leaned over the counter and asked "Is the eye in the shape of the Star of David?" When I answered in the affirmative, she told how her Jewish friend had just been baptized and how she would love to have one of the pins. Of course, I took mine off and handed it to the clerk and asked her to give it to her friend and tell her that my Jesus, too, is Jewish. With tears filling her eyes, she said how thankful her friend would be to wear and share this new evangelism tool.

How could you use your "fish pins" to let others know that your savior is Jewish...and your church is a home for Jewish people?

\$5.00 each; 100 for \$300; 500 for \$1,000
(plus postage)



Another Year of Exciting Challenges...and Transition

Torkild Masvie has served Caspari for 13 years – 10 years in Israel and 3 years in the United States. In that time, Torkild has shaped and influenced the growth of Caspari, and all of us are grateful for the God-given talents that he has shared with Caspari Center. In a few months, he is moving to his native Norway to fulfill a long-time dream of starting a conservative church in this liberal country. We are glad that he will continue with Caspari through 2005 to help his successor, Steve Engstrom, transition into the role.

Who is Steve Engstrom? Steve is a long-time friend of Caspari Center. He supported Caspari's ministry while he lived in Israel, and has been a welcome visitor to Caspari since our North American office opened in Autumn 2002. He will bring new ideas and direction as God lays it upon his heart.

The vital work of equipping Israeli Jewish believers in Jesus will continue. The leadership development program is in its second year and increasing in influence as it provides needed training to emerging congregational leadership. During the past year, three Shabbat School teacher training sessions were held – two in Hebrew and one in Amharic (Ethiopian) – with record attendance. We need your prayers and financial assistance to continue this vital work in Israel, especially during this time of transition. Donations received through the U.S. office are the primary source of funding for operating the programs in Israel.

The North American staff will continue to serve you through presentations to congregations, Bible school classes, women's/men's groups, and mission committee reports on the activities of the Messianic community in Israel. I spent time in Israel a few months ago and talked with many of the believers. They have wonderful testimonies that will help you understand the church in Israel and some of the roots of our faith.

We can help you envision what it would be like to emulate the early Church we read about in Acts -- a home to Jew and non-Jew, male and female. We host congregational tours to Israel, where you walk in Jesus' footsteps but also talk with some of the Living Stones--the believers in Israel today. We train facilitators to offer Bible study courses in your Small Group or Bible Class, and provide information on how you can organize an Orthodox Passover Meal for your church.

This Fall, *"The History of Jewish Believers in Jesus – Antiquity,"* the long awaited book by Dr. Oskar Skarsaune, will be released. In December 2005, a shorter monograph based on the research for the 1000 page volume will be available. Watch the Caspari website and this newsletter for details.

Much is being accomplished, but there is so much more we can do together. The Law and the Prophets make it clear that Israel is God's chosen people, his possession (Deut 7:6; Joel 3:7). This is confirmed by the apostle Paul: The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable (Rom. 11:29). God's promises to Israel remain in force. We are commanded in scripture to share His good news in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria (Acts 1:8). We take this literally.

Can you give a love gift right now to keep the ministry of equipping Jewish believers in Jesus in Israel strong and vital?

Although we have been in operation in the US for nearly three years, we are still in start-up mode and urgently need your financial support to keep Caspari growing. Together, let's make Torkild's final year a financial success and welcome Steve Engstrom with the money needed to initiate the plans God lays upon his heart. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Kathi Graham
North American Director



**Caspari
Center**

**NORTH AMERICAN
OFFICE**

*P.O. Box 147,
Wheaton, IL 60187
USA*

*25W560 Geneva Road,
Carol Stream, IL 60188*

*Toll Free: 1-877-876-2580,
Phone: +1 (630)668-3328,
Fax: +1 (630)668-6473,
CaspariUSA@caspari.com,
www.caspari.com*