

B"H

K o s h e r T o r a h . c o m

“Orthodox Style” Missionaries Are Infiltrating Our Communities

Does Anyone Care?

By Rabbi Ariel Bar Tzadok

Copyright © 2000 by Ariel Bar Tzadok. All rights reserved.

While we are all paying so much attention to the political situation in Eretz Yisrael much more is going on elsewhere that needs our attention. A peculiar and dangerous phenomenon has developed over the past 30 years. Christian missionaries are becoming ever more successful in converting Jews.

One great reason for this we all know is the great ignorance of Torah found in most Jews today. Yet, there is another reason, a more sinister one, Christian missionaries have been infiltrating the Orthodox Jewish community and deceiving kosher Jews into believing that they too are kosher Jews (G-d forbid).

While you might not consider this a threat in your community, you might be surprised to find out that one of your friends, or the one who sits next to you in shul (or your shul president) is actually a secret Christian missionary.

No? Not possible? Then listen to the following true-life examples. I will leave names out to avoid any legal entanglements.

Recently I discovered a website out of Ra'anana Israel that represents a group led by a Baptist preacher who allegedly has converted to Orthodox Judaism. This man now serves on the board of directors of a Yemenite synagogue and proclaims himself a "Pakid" (a term noting leadership found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and used by Yeshu, mah shmo, and his original followers).

This so-called convert to Judaism claims he has revived the "first century teachings of "Rebe Yehoshua" before Christians and Church misinterpreted them. While to some progressive minds, this might sound like a good move forward, but it is no better than Eve's eating the fruit from the forbidden Tree.

It might "look good" but looks are deceiving. In reality, this group is one of many who are now employing the newest and most deceptive missionary techniques. They are trying to infiltrate Orthodox Judaism and weaken our Divinely ordained resolve against the evil false prophet Yeshu, may his name be blotted out.

This is not the first time or the first group to attempt such a fraud. Many years ago on Long Island, N.Y. there was a similar group with similar intent.

I myself was personally involved in fighting this group. After its leader was exposed as a fraud and as a possible homosexual and child molester, he went into hiding on the West Coast for over ten years. Most of his followers fell away, with some of them converting and apparently becoming Orthodox Jews. Notice that I say "apparently."

The reason is that recently in the last two years this missionary leader has resurfaced and reclaimed many of his old followers. While a small number remain faithful Torah observant Jews who reject their past with the cult, others exposed themselves to be what they truly were, cult spies on a mission to learn more about Torah Judaism and the Orthodox community. These include a past president of one Young Israel congregation in mid Nassau County, a prominent member of one of the biggest Orthodox/Hasidic shuls in the Five Towns area of Long Island and at least one student of Yeshiva University.

Some prominent Orthodox Rabbis in New York unknowingly converted others secretly belonging to this cult. These missionaries pulled the wool over the eyes of these Rabbis and over the eyes of others in their Orthodox communities.

Once the leader of this cult resurfaced these individuals moved out of their Orthodox communities and moved into a new cult compound. Their children, many of whom were raised in yeshivas, and were born kosher Jews, are now under the dominion of the cult leader who is instilling in them all types of missionary garbage, filth and lies.

These children, I am afraid will be the ones to come back and cause the Jewish community great harm. Being born and raised among us, they will know how to best infiltrate us inflicting upon us the poison taught to them by their cult leader whom they call their "abba."

With more and more individuals in the orthodox community assimilating into "modern Orthodox" patterns of passivity, more and more cult activity is finding its way into our synagogues and into the lives of our children.

However evil and sinister this situation be, no one, especially the Rabbanim seem to care. When I approached a Rabbi in New York to inform him that there was a missionary known to me that had infiltrated his congregation, he took no action whatsoever. He did not take the threat seriously. I later found out that this missionary was using the Rabbi's teachings to build for himself arguments in an attempt to make kosher in Jewish eyes the trefah (unkosher) Yeshu (mah shmo).

One of the leaders of the Jews for Yeshu movement who resides in Maryland has a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from New York University. He is so well versed in Torah literature that he can quote to me (in debate) the writings of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein and HaRav Ovadiah Yosef.

What business does a missionary have in knowing these works? He twists the words of our holy Rabbanim to make them support positions that the missionaries hold dear.

Mind you, **Jewish converts to Christianity are the most zealous of missionaries, so much so that they become anti-Semitic, all the while that they cloak themselves in garments of Jewish respectability.**

All their Jewishness is but a sham whitewash covering over their true Christian missionary nature.

Some of these new style "Orthodox Jewish" missionaries (like the ones in Ra'anana, Maine and Colorado) wish to distance themselves from the Church and Christianity so to make themselves appear to be "authentically" Jewish.

They say they do not believe that Yeshu (mah shmo) is a god, nor do they pray to him. They say that they are "true" Jews who observe the Torah and Halakha according to their "Rebbe Yehoshua, Melekh HaMashiah" (G-d forbid).

They study our Torah, wear kippot and daven with Talit and Tefillin. They also observe their own forms of Kashrut and Shabat and will discuss the Mishneh Berurah with you.

If you met one of these types unless you knew what specific questions to ask, you would think that you are talking to a brother Orthodox Jew. Yet, they are far from being our "brothers." There are still many things that still separate us from them.

Most of them still believe that the Christian Bible is (G-d forbid) the infallible word of G-d. Thus, they accept the authority of the Christian word over the Torah of our holy Rabbanim. They will not come out and say this per se. They have learned how to deceptively represent their position on this matter to confuse people into not understanding their true beliefs. This alone makes these missionaries to be apostates upon whom all curses should be fulfilled.

The most deceptive group of course is the resurrected Long Island cult, now located in two camps, one in Maine and one in Colorado. They claim that they are not interested in seeking new members and are thus not missionaries. Yet, the truth lies muddled and concealed within their armed compounds. Only two years ago scandal erupted in the Denver Jewish community when it was found out that two people going through the process of an Orthodox conversion were in fact missionary spies.

What these missionaries do not understand is that we Jews have a Mesorah (oral teaching) about Yeshu that has been passed down throughout the ages.

We do not rely upon nor care about what Christian sources have to say about him, we Jews have always recognized Yeshu as being the Rasha (wicked person) that he historically was.

Indeed, according to the teachings of the Ari'zal, revealed to him by none other than Eliyahu HaNavi (Elijah), **Yeshu was none other than the reincarnation of Esav, the brother of Ya'aqov Avinu** (ref. Sefer HaGilgulim of the Ari'zal, chapter 67).

As Esav was a man of violence, so was Yeshu and so is his Church. These new style "Orthodox Jewish" missionaries attempt to blur this fact by rewriting history.

They say that our holy Rabbanim have it all wrong (G-d forbid) concerning Yeshu (mah shmo). What they do not tell you is that they believe that our holy Rabbanim are also wrong with many other things as well. In other words, they hold the positions of the Christian Church all the while swearing that they are not Christians. They are all a bunch of liars and deceivers and they are bringing harm to the Torah community!

What we must do is to go on the offense!

We must make sure that there are no Yeshu sympathizers among us. For any sympathy towards Yeshu or the "historical Rebbe Yehoshua," or whatever name the missionaries refer to him, is sympathy for Esav HaRasha who G-d himself has said that He hates (ref. Mal. 1).

We must warn our communities, publicize the deceptive intentions of these groups, and make sure than none of their followers have infiltrated our congregations and communities.

Every Jew should be able to say in a loud voice:

"Cursed be the name of the historical Yeshu, the reincarnation of Esav HaRasha, cursed be the missionaries' "Rebbe Yehoshua" and cursed be anything related to him." If any Jew cannot pronounce this curse with meaning and intent, we should all question why.

Do not fool yourselves into thinking that there are no deceiving missionaries among you. Also, **do not go on witch-hunts to accuse the innocent, for this certainly is not the Torah way.**

Yet, if one is concerned that there is possibly one of these deceivers in your community, then immediately bring this to the attention of your local Rav. Let him and his Beit Din investigate the matter. Moreover, **if the Rav shows any lack of interest to pursue the matter, then continue to push him until he acts.**

It is not our way to spread Lashon HaRa or Rechilut (gossip, slander) about anyone behind their backs or to their faces. Nonetheless, the danger is real.

I call upon you all to make this danger known to your congregants and to your Rabbis.