clarification

A Series of Discussion Guides on Matters of Jewish Concern

IX

THE HEBREW CHRISTIANS: A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE

prepared by: JEWISH COMMUNAL AFFAIRS DEPT., THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
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(This Discussion Guide is based on A. James and Marcia R. Rudin, "The Jews for Jesus are Out to Get Your Kids" Present Tense, Summer 1977.)

1. Who are the Hebrew Christians? What do they believe? Why do they evangelize among Jews? What do you make of the claim that a person can believe in Jesus as the Messiah and still be Jewish?

2. How, in general, do you feel about missionary activities? Do missionaries have a place in a pluralistic society? Why don't Jews seek to evangelize among Christians? On a different level, how do you regard a group like the Lubavitcher Hasidim who seek to bring all Jews back to Orthodox Judaism?

3. Do you agree with the Rudins that the Hebrew Christian movement is a serious problem on the American Jewish scene? Should the Jewish community invest significant time and effort to combat the Hebrew Christians? Why is it, according to the Rubins, that some young Jews turn to Hebrew Christianity? Is there a vacuum in
American Jewish life that provides an opening for Christian missionaries? How might Jewish religious institutions be made more relevant to the needs of those young Jews who now turn to Hebrew Christianity?

4. What attitude should the Jewish community take to those Jews who have in fact become Hebrew Christians? Should they be spurned or should attempts be made to bring them back to the Jewish fold? What is "de-programming" and what ethical and legal issues does it raise?