



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 53, Folder 8, Yaseen, Leonard. *The Jesus Connection*, 1985-1986.

Quotes on THE JESUS CONNECTION Bringing Christians and Jews Together,
by Leonard C. Yaseen:

"I'm happy to commend Leonard Yaseen's book, THE JESUS CONNECTION. My hope is it will be an effective force in the stemming of the tide and will help create greater understanding of Jew and Christian in their efforts to live together in the world their common Father gave them." -- Robert Schuller

"An important contribution to the general understanding of Jewish-Christian relations and the contemporary problems of anti-semitism. Its gallery of photographs should grip the imagination of Jews as well as Christians. That display of Jewish creative people dramatizes the extraordinary contribution of Jewish men and women to American culture that most Jews and Christians have never realized." -- Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

"Reminds all of us of the extraordinary debt we owe to the very many talented and generous Jews who have made our lives and the lives of all humanity, for all time, so much richer in so many ways. As you turn page after page, the stupidity and foolishness of anti-semitism are brought home very forcefully...his warm and sympathetic reminder to all Christians of our Jewish origins makes clear the theological and historical bonds which unite us in our common quest to serve God and to work together for the building of His Kingdom." -- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

"Yaseen's observations on the essential continuity of Christian and Jewish prayer and ritual are the most welcome of all. His inclusion of the 'Our Father' is bold indeed, for I have often thought that we Christians and Jews could and should share this prayer together. Perhaps one result of this attractive book would be to allow our Jewish friends to step over centuries of mutual distrust, largely fomented by Christian attitudes of superiority, to share with us in public gatherings as we pray to our common Father: The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Jesus." -- Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh

"I enjoyed it. It associates affection, regard, reverence and nostalgia with the great Jewish leaders of our day. Such emotions are positive. As the Jewish Jesus said, 'Perfect love cast without fear.' In any case, this is a good book, a friendly book, a simple yet sophisticated book. I highly commend it as a most useful aid to the urgent task of reconciliation."
-- The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., Bishop of New York

"Anyone who reads this book, I believe, will come away the better for it, inspired by Mr. Yaseen's deep sense of the goodness of humanity, and challenged to rethink old categories and presumptions on the basis of how the human community can be enriched by the joyful acceptance of religious and ethnic pluralism. It beautifully evokes the true spirit of inter-religious dialogue, corrects common misperceptions, and calls us once again to the service of the One God, the God of Israel, whom Christians profess side by side with the Jewish people. In this sense it is a prophetic book and an important one." -- Eugene T. Fisher, Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, National Conference of Catholic Bishops

"The section on the Jesus connection should be must reading for Christians to understand the attitude of Jews who respect Jesus but deplore the things done in that name. Jews also need to study it to be reminded of the Jewishness of Jesus. In that section he makes a brief analysis of Jesus and Judaism, Jesus and his teaching, and a clarification, overlooked by Christians of the Jews and the crucifixion. The brief review of Christianity and anti-Semitism is well researched and accurate though brief. One cannot read this book without a hearty 'Amen' to his conclusion that the Christians and Jews have much more to unite them than separate them." -- Arnold T. Olson

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date October 15, 1985
to Area Directors, CRCs, Federations
from Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

subject "The Jesus Connection: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism: by
AJC Leader, Leonard Yaseen

It is with much pleasure that I share with you the news that Crossroads Publishing has just published The Jesus Connection: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism, by Leonard Yaseen.

Leonard served with dedication and distinction for a number of years as Chairman of AJC's Interreligious Affairs Commission while I was its director. As a result of his deep involvement in our program, Leonard began a serious and extended study of the history of Jewish-Christian relations, particularly the impact of Christian traditions on fostering anti-Semitism.

A prominent businessman -- the founder and president of Fantus Corporation, the largest plant relocation firm in America -- Leonard Yaseen also experienced anti-Semitism in the corridors of industrial power of this country.

Both his study and his life experiences motivated Leonard to write this excellent book. Based on solid scholarship, he has managed to make accessible the fruits of years of learning for intelligent Christian and Jewish laymen.

I am enclosing a copy of his book so that you can read it for yourself. I hope that you will feel as I do that this is a valuable tool for reaching large masses of Americans, especially Christians, in our program for combatting anti-Semitism.

Apart from my personal friendship for Leonard -- who has been a staunch friend and supporter of AJC's activities -- on a professional basis, I recommend that you consider using this book in your interreligious, inter-racial, and inter-ethnic programs. It should also be made available to Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Evangelical, black, Hispanic and other leadership. It lends itself for use in adult education, youth, college, and seminary education programs.

The opening introductions by the Rev. Billy Graham, the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, and myself establishes its ecumenical values. The closing section's portfolio of portraits of prominent Jews who have enriched every aspect of American life gives the book a popular interest.

The Rev. Louis Farrakhan blurts his ugly defamation, "Judaism is a gutter religion." Leonard Yaseen's powerful answer:

"Imagine the World Without Jews and Judaism."

Please let me know if I can be helpful to you in any way in your programming with Leonard's fascinating new book. And thanks in advance for your cooperation and help in getting around his message.

mht:rpr

85-550-91

unpublished

L. Yaseen, Realty Expert, 77, Dies

Leonard C. Yaseen, a real-estate executive who specialized in relocating factories and offices, died of a heart attack early yesterday at the Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, R.I. He was 77 years old and lived in Larchmont, N.Y.

Mr. Yaseen, the longtime head of the Fantus Company, was stricken after attending a theatrical performance.

He started his consulting business in 1934 when he perceived that the heads of many businesses needed information on which to make decisions about moving plants and offices.

Two decades later, before statistics demonstrated that New York City was losing its industrial base, Mr. Yaseen perceived a flight of manufacturing companies from the city.

In the 1970's New York City officials hired Mr. Yaseen to come up with strategies to keep jobs in the city and to attract new businesses. He advised using tax breaks and other incentives to develop industrial sites in the boroughs outside Manhattan.

Mr. Yaseen, born in Chicago Heights, Ill., was a graduate of the University of Illinois and worked for his father-in-law, Felix Fantus, a Chicago industrial realtor who supplied prospective customers gratis information on possible plant locations.

Mr. Yaseen came to New York and prospered selling such information. He became the major owner of Fantus, which he sold to Dun & Bradstreet several years ago.

Mr. Yaseen was a former national chairman of the interreligious affairs commission of the American Jewish Committee and the author of "The Jesus Connection," which deals with the sources of anti-Semitism. He and



The New York Times, 1977

Leonard C. Yaseen

his wife, Helen, founded the Yaseen Studies in Modern Art at the Metropolitan Museum, and he was a trustee of the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington.

Besides his wife, Mr. Yaseen is survived by a son, Roger, of Manhattan; a daughter, Barbara Tiffany of Philadelphia; a brother, George, of Sarasota, Fla., and three grandchildren.

YASEEN—Leonard C., of Larchmont, N.Y. passed away Sunday morning in Providence, R.I. Accompanied by Helen, his dearly beloved wife of 55 years, he was visiting the glasswork atelier of his eldest grandson, Steven Easton. A man of tireless energy and vision, Mr. Yaseen moved from Chicago in the midst of the Depression and, together with Helen, founded the New York office of The Fantus Company, becoming the foremost authority in the field of economic geography in the United States. Mr. Yaseen's book "Industrial Plant Location" went into four printings and was the universally accepted text in major universities for over a decade. Following the sale of Fantus to Dun & Bradstreet in 1966, Mr. Yaseen continued as a senior executive of that company until his retirement in 1977. It was then that he began work on the two driving passions which were to consume the remainder of his always productive life: relentlessly indulging his grandchildren, Marc, Clayton and Nicole Yaseen and Daniel and Steven Easton; and a never-ending battle against anti-Semitism. Working closely with Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, the Reverend Billy Graham, and Father Theodore Hesburgh of Notre Dame, Mr. Yaseen wrote "The Jesus Connection," a personalized refutation of this social disease, which sold over two hundred thousand copies. Helen and Leonard Yaseen's interest in art led them to found "The Yaseen Lecture Series" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Neuberger Museum of SUNY. Mr. Yaseen also served as a trustee of the Hirshhorn Museum of the Smithsonian Institution and on numerous civic and industrial boards. His children, Robert and Barbara Yaseen Tiffany and Roger and Janet Yaseen, invite you to join the family at services on Tuesday, October 10, 1989 at The Larchmont Temple, 75 Larchmont Avenue, at 10:30 AM.

L

B5

Deaths

YASEEN—Leonard C. The unexpected death of our dear friend, Leonard, leaves us dazed and bereft. Though we had no blood ties, Leonard was like a father and brother to us. We shared a universe of concerns and experiences with him and his radiant wife, Helen. The consolation for his family and admiring friends is that he lived life to the fullest with zest, wonderful humor, exquisite taste, and magnificent accomplishment in everything he touched. His greatest passion was his love of the Jewish people, his unflinching battle against the ignorance that underlies anti-Semitism, and his dedication to forging links between Christians and Jews. Our heartfelt condolences to his very special lady, Helen; his children Barbara Tiffany and Roger Yaseen; his son-in-law and daughter-in-law, Robert Tiffany and Janet Yaseen; and all of their families.

Dr. Georgette Bonnett &
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

YASEEN—Leonard C. The American Jewish Committee mourns the passing of Leonard Yaseen, former Vice President and Chairman of our Interreligious Affairs Commission. Author and devoted supporter of the arts, he had a strong commitment to the Jewish people and to the betterment of ties with those of other faiths. We extend deep condolences to his wife Helen, to their two children and grandchildren.

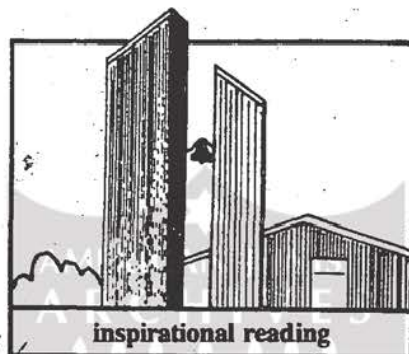
Shalom D. Comay, President
Ira Silverman, Exec Vice-Pres

BOOK REVIEW

for academic use; indeed, the footnotes are a treasure trove for students and scholars of American Catholic history. Highly recommended.—*D. Stephen Rockwood, Mt. St. Mary's Coll. Lib., Emmitsburg, Md.*

Walker, Barbara G. *The Crone: woman of age, wisdom, and power.*

Harper. Oct. 1985. c.193p. illus. bibliog. ISBN 0-06-250928-4. \$14.95. PSYCH/MYTHOL
Readers familiar with Walker's *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* (LJ 2/1/84) will recognize much of the material in this new book and will appreciate its more coherent presentation. Walker uses the material to illustrate her theory that patriarchy has destroyed the revered roles filled by women in prehistoric matriarchal societies. Likewise, she is convinced that the Christian church destroyed the women's religion that existed in these societies. Only by recovering societal roles embodying positive power for women can males be called into judgment for their abuses of the earth and its peoples. Walker's attacks on men and on organized religion will be offensive to some readers, but the book has many good points to make. Recommended for larger public and academic libraries.—*Lucy Patrick, Florida State Univ. Lib., Tallahassee*



Yaseen, Leonard C. *The Jesus Connection: to triumph over anti-Semitism.*

Crossroad Pub. Co. Oct. 1985. c.140p. intros. by Billy Graham & others. photogs. pap. \$8.95. REL

Featuring separate introductions by Billy Graham (Protestant), Theodore M. Hesburgh (Catholic), and Marc H. Tannenbaum (Jewish), this is an eloquent plea by a Jewish layman for both Christians and Jews to transcend their tragic divisions and embrace a common calling to "live in harmony with the teachings of Jesus" as "citizens of one nation under God!" Simply written but scholarly grounded, it examines Jesus' identity as a Jew and historical influences leading to anti-Semitism, then concludes with brief portraits of well-

known or beloved Jewish figures. Recommended—and likely to be widely discussed in ecumenical circles.—*EC*

Ferrell, Frank & Janet Ferrell with Edward Wakin. *Trevor's Place: the story of the boy who brings hope to the homeless.*

Harper. 1985. 138p. afterwd. by Rebecca J. Laird. photogs. \$12.95. PER NAR/REL

Told by his parents, this is the story of how a sixth grader, stunned to hear on TV that people had to live on the streets of Philadelphia just 12 miles away, went downtown with an offering of blankets. What followed was an ever deepening involvement in the lives of the homeless, many of whom are vividly depicted here, and a dramatic shift in the goals of this formerly "normal" suburban family. First came a major volunteer operation, then a residential shelter. This is a moving, compelling book: honest in showing strains and trade-offs, challenging in the options it raises for ordinary people to practice extraordinary caring.—*EC*

Peck, M. Scott with Marilyn von Waldner & Patricia Kay. *What Return Can I Make?: the dimensions of the Christian experience.*

S. & S. Oct. 1985. c.96p. illus. index. \$24.95. PSYCH/REL

Psychiatrist Peck is well known as the author of the influential *Road Less*



The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

Dear Friend,

Imagine the World Without Them?

Without Sigmund Freud? Albert Einstein? Jonas Salk? Marc Chagall?
Leonard Bernstein? Louise Nevelson? Louis D. Brandeis?

In a powerful new book, suggestively called, "The Jesus Connection: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism," Leonard Yaseen scores the contradictions between Christianity's indebtedness to Judaism and Jews while indulging the moral offenses of anti-Semitism.

A distinguished and successful businessman, Leonard Yaseen served for several years as National Chairman of the American Jewish Committee's Interreligious Affairs Commission.

In this impassioned study, he has fused his remarkable knowledge of the history of Jewish-Christian relations with his experiences of polite anti-Semitism growing up in Middle America, and then in the corridors of the Fortune 500 corporations. His book is climaxed by a dramatic portfolio of photographs and brief biographies of leading Jews who have made distinctive contributions to virtually every aspect of American life and culture.

As a mark of its unique nature, The Jesus Connection begins with two stirring messages from the Rev. Billy Graham, the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, and one by this writer.

I sincerely believe that this book, written mainly for intelligent Christian and Jewish leadership -- both lay and clergy -- can be an extraordinary weapon in overcoming the Christian sources of anti-Semitism. I urge you to read this book and to use it as a fresh, vital tool in improving Jewish-Christian relations in your community. It lends itself for uses in sermons, for adult and youth education courses, for interreligious dialogues, for comment in the press. I hope you will encourage your Christian colleagues and neighbors to read the book as well.

The enclosed leaflet describes how copies can be purchased in bulk at discount. With warm personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Director
International Relations Department

HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, President ■
THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chair, Board of Governors ■ ALFRED H. MOSES, Chair, National Executive Council ■ DAVID M. GORDIS, Executive Vice-President ■
EDWARD E. ELSON, Treasurer ■ SHIRLEY M. SZABAD, Secretary ■ DAVID H. PEIREZ, Associate Treasurer ■ ROBERT S. JACOBS, Chair, Board of Trustees ■
Honorary Presidents: MORRIS B. ABRAM, ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, RICHARD MAASS, ELMER L. WINTER, MAYNARD I. WISHNER ■ RITA E. HAUSER, Chair, Executive Committee ■
MARTIN GANG, RUTH R. GODDARD, ANDREW GOODMAN, RAYMOND F. KRAVIS, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD ■ MAX M. FISHER, Honorary Chair, National Executive Council ■
Executive Vice-Presidents Emeriti: JOHN SLAWSON, BERTRAM H. GOLD ■ Vice-Presidents: NORMAN E. ALEXANDER, Westchester; HOWARD A. GILBERT, Chicago; ALAN C. GREENBERG, New York;
ROBERT H. HAINES, New York; CHARLOTTE G. HOLSTEIN, Syracuse; ANN P. KAUFMAN, Houston; ROBERT L. PELZ, Westchester; IDELLE RABIN, Dallas; BRUCE M. RAMER, Los Angeles;
DAVID F. SQUIRE, Boston; RICHARD L. WEISS, Los Angeles ■

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212 • 420 • 6000

April 11, 1986

To: Dr. Marc H. Tannenbaum

From: Michael Powers

Leonard Yaseen asked that I send you the enclosed material in regard to his upcoming talk at Christ Church Paris Hall in Greenwich, CT., on Sunday, April 20, at 11:00 a.m.

The carbon of the letter to the Greenwich Time newspaper is the kind of letter we sent in connection with the upcoming speech. That newspaper has tentatively set coverage of the speech; I will know definitely next week. The result of such a letter to The Stamford Advocate is evident in the copy of the article I enclose, which we received yesterday. The Gannett newspapers in Westchester/Rockland counties will not cover the Fairfield county speech, but I am hopeful they will cover Leonard's speech in Bedford Hills on May 15.

We have had no luck with Joseph Berger at the N.Y. Times. In our last conversation, he told me that he was aware of the book last fall; he is not particularly interested in "doing an individual and a book." Earlier, we had also approached Charlotte Curtis and Marilyn Bender at the Times. In our efforts we have attempted to link the speech, and indeed Leonard's efforts, in the spirit of the article detailing efforts at ecumenism as detailed in the article I enclose from the Times about such efforts in a Darien church.

The Daily News has already done a piece on Leonard and "The Jesus Connection" (copy enclosed). We have had no luck with Dic Ryan at the N.Y. Post; George Cornell of the AP has declined, as have Darrel Turner of Religious News Service and Curtis Sitomar of "The Christian Science Monitor."

I am sure Leonard has told you that he taped an appearance on Dr. Russell Barber's FIRST ESTATE program (WNBC) last week, which will air on Sunday, May 4, at 10:30 p.m. Leonard's segment is very good. Also, we booked him on the Ecumedia News Service on April 29. This program, hosted by David Cassady, goes to 1500 to 1600 radio stations around the country. And this evening, Leonard is the guest of the Larry Fox Show on WMCA Radio at 5:30 p.m.

Yaseen/Rabbi Tannenbaum (2)

We have also "booked" Leonard on approximately ten radio shows around the country (phone interviews) and gotten him interviews in the Ft. Lauderdale Sun & Sentinental and The Broward County Jewish Journal in Florida.

I hope the enclosed is of some help to you.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Powers
Michael Powers

encs.



But Yaseen was disturbed by the fact that he frequently found gaps between what the "ecumenical generals" were thinking and the anti-Semitism he experienced among "the infantry troops" ⁱ/_M the masses of lay people in the grassroots.

"The Jesus Connection," while based on scholarly research, is written in forceful prose intended to reach the consciences of millions of Christians in the pews. Judged by the comments of leading Christians with large constituencies, as well as from early press reactions, Yaseen has begun to succeed.

The Reverend Billy Graham, the world's leading evangelist, wrote in his introduction to Yaseen's book: "Few topics are of more crucial importance than the question of Jewish-Christian relations in the modern world...Leonard Yaseen's book [is] an important contribution to the making of better Christians, better Jews, and a better America."

Similar tributes have come from the

Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Bishop Paul Moore, Dr. Robert H. Schuller and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

The Los Angeles Herald Examiner commented, "If the book finds its way to the readers for whom it was intended, it could do a great deal of good."

Calling "The Jesus Connection" "an eloquent plea by a Jewish layman for both Christians and Jews to transcend their tragic divisions," Library Journal predicted that Yassen's book would be "widely discussed in ecumenical circles."

As a sign of the growing reception that it is receiving, "The Jesus Connection" is now in its third printing. AJC recommends that it be used as a basic document in interreligious dialogues especially where lay people are involved.

9460 -(PT)

2/27/86:og

FEB 18 1986

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212 • 420 • 6000

February 14, 1986

Dr. Murray Friedman
American Jewish Committee
1616 Walnut St., Suite 2106
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Dr. Friedman:

Marc Tannenbaum asked me to be in touch with you concerning Leonard Yaseen and his wonderful book **THE JESUS CONNECTION**.

I'll give you a call early next week, but thought you'd like to have the book and press kit in hand before we talk.

Mr. Yaseen will be in Philadelphia starting the evening of March 5, to do a day of media on March 6, and departing some time on Friday, March 7. His daughter Mrs. Barbara Tiffany will host a buffet dinner for him on the evening of March 6.

We'd appreciate your help in putting together an appropriately ecumenical guest list (Jewish, Catholic, Black and Hispanic).

I talked with my friend Marciarose Shestack; she and Jerry will come (always a first step in Philadelphia). She mentioned Congressman Bill Gray, who sounds like a good idea. Do you know him?

Marc also suggested that I talk with you about setting up an audience for Mr. Yaseen with Cardinal Kroll. Marc has talked to the Cardinal about **THE JESUS CONNECTION** when the two of them were recently honored.

I'd also like to talk to you about media people to either contact for an interview or for the dinner. Marciarose has put me in touch with Leonard Boasberg of the Inquirer and we'll certainly contact the Jewish Exponent. (We work with a wonderful woman down there named Phoebe Leider -- Mrs. Ted Reinhart -- who helps set up our media schedules).

Many thanks in advance for your assistance. I'll give you a call.

Cordially,

Betsy Nolan

cc: Marc Tannenbaum ✓

March 25, 1986

Mr. Bruce Hunter
GREENWICH TIME
20 East Elm Street
P.O. Box 1410
Greenwich, CT 06836

203-625-4400

Handwritten signature/initials

Dear Mr. Hunter:

The historic visit next month of the Pope to the central Rome synagogue (I enclose a copy of the article from last week's N.Y. Times) as well as the approaching religious holidays mark an ideal time for your readers to become acquainted with the work of a remarkable man.

The enclosed press kit and copy of his book will introduce you to Leonard Yaseen, author of THE JESUS CONNECTION: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism.

Mr. Yaseen will be speaking before an audience on April 20 at 11:00 a.m. at the Christ Church Parish Hall in Greenwich.

I feel that your readers would be both enlightened and inspired by Mr. Yaseen's spirit, his advocacy of love and reconciliation. He exemplifies the true spirit of both Judaism and Christianity.

I'll call you in a few days to discuss an interview while Mr. Yaseen is in Greenwich.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Powers

enc.

March 10, 1986

Ms. Shirley Mathews
The Advocate
75 Tresser Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear Shirley:

The enclosed press kit and copyoof THE JESUS CONNECTION: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism will introduce you to a remarkable man, Leonard Yaseen.

The retired founder of the internationally famous Fantus Company, Leonard Yaseen could easily afford to play golf the rest of his life. Rather he has chosen to write and tirelessly promote a book on anti-Semitism. Since the book appeared in October, Mr. Yaseen has spent the better part of his days spreading the word. Thus far some 20,000 copies have been sold and he has earned the acclaim of religious leaders across the country. Part of the answer may lie in Yaseen's personal story (see pages 9-15 of the book). He is a man of strong personal commitment to see the end of bigotry and senseless violence.

October marked the 20th anniversary of Vatican Council II and the historic declaration Nostra Aetate which examines the profound bonds linking Christianity to Judaism and the Jewish people.

Leonard Yaseen will be speaking at Christ Church, Greenwich, CT., on Sunday April 20.

I'll be happy to arrange an interview then, or earlier, if you'd like.

All best wishes,

Betsy Nolan

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212 • 420 • 6000

3/31/86

Ms. Shirley Mathews
The Advocate
75 Tresser Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear Shirley:

I enclose a copy of an article from
yesterday's DAILY NEWS on Leonard
Yaseen in which is mentioned his
upcoming talk in Greenwich (about
which we've written you).

All. best,

Michael Powers

4/7/86 { STRUB BARNFIELD
IN HIS COLUMN TWO
WEEKS AGO
MURKIN/NOV DICE INTRODUCED
SUSAN DOW PEOPLE
Mervin Harris
1-914-694-9500

March 31, 1986

Ms. Jane Traulsen
Westchester-Rockland Newspapers
1 Gannett Drive
White Plains, NY 10604

Dear Jane Traulsen:

In speaking with Kathy Beals today, she suggested I write you about Leonard Yaseen. The historic visit next month of the Pope to the central Rome synagogue (I enclose a copy of the article from the New York Times) marks an ideal time for your readers to become acquainted with the work of Leonard Yaseen.

The enclosed press kit and copy of his book will introduce you to Mr. Yaseen, author of THE JESUS CONNECTION: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism. The retired founder of the internationally famous Fantus Company, Leonard Yaseen could easily afford to play golf the rest of his life. Instead he has chosen to write and promote a book on anti-Semitism. Thus far over 30,000 copies have been sold, and he has earned the acclaim of religious leaders across the country (Rev. Billy Graham, Rabbi Marc Tannebaum, Bishop Paul Moore, Theodore Hesburgh).

I enclose also an article from yesterday's Daily News on Mr. Yaseen. I feel that your readers would be both enlightened and inspired by Mr. Yaseen's spirit, his advocacy of love and reconciliation. He exemplifies the true spirit of both Judaism and Christianity.

On May 15, 1986, Mr. Yaseen will be speaking at 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Fellowship Church in Bedford Hills, sponsored by the Northern Westchester YM/YMHA--an excellent tie-in for your paper and its readers.

Please do let me know if I can furnish you with any further material. I'll call you in a few days about arranging an interview.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Powers

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212-420-6000

April 7, 1986

Ms. Ina Meyers
GANNETT WESTCHESTER CHAIN
92 North Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10802

Dear Ina Meyers:

It was good talking to you on the telephone today about Leonard Yaseen and his book THE JESUS CONNECTION: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism.

As I mentioned, Leonard will be speaking at the Christ Church Parish Hall in Greenwich, CT on April 20 at 11 a.m. I do hope someone from your newspaper can cover his speech.

Please do let me know if I can be of any help in setting up a possible interview with Mr. Yaseen.

I enclose a copy of Mr. Yaseen's book and a press kit.

All best,

Betsy Nolan

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212 • 420 • 6000

FEB 05 1986

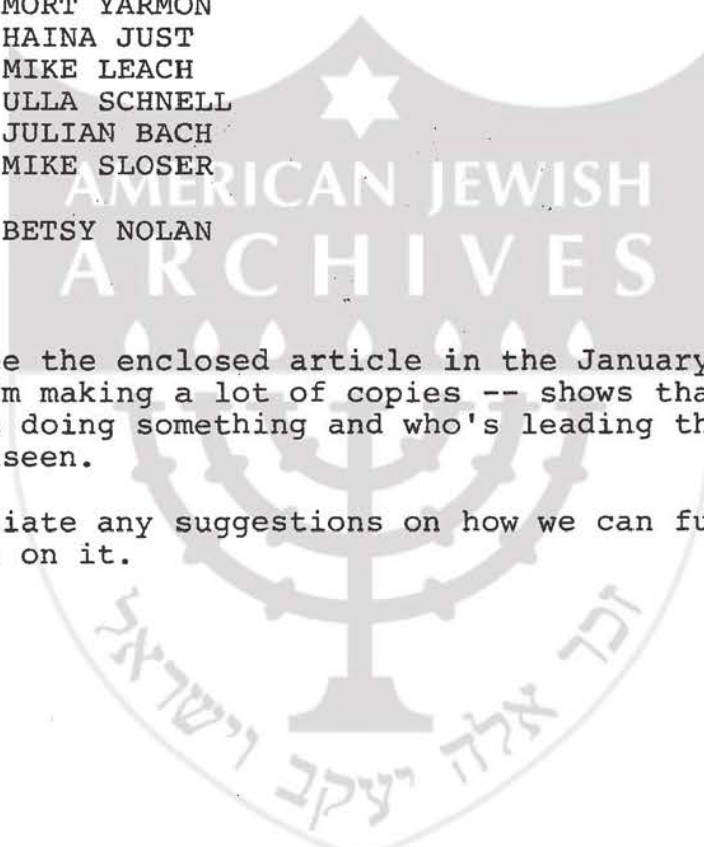
January 30, 1986

TO: LEONARD YASEEN
MARC TANNENBAUM
MORT YARMON
HAINA JUST
MIKE LEACH
ULLA SCHNELL
JULIAN BACH
MIKE SLOSER

FROM: BETSY NOLAN

Did you see the enclosed article in the January 24 New York Times? I'm making a lot of copies -- shows that concerned people are doing something and who's leading the way, but Leonard Yaseen.

I'd appreciate any suggestions on how we can further capitalize on it.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1986
Copyright © 1986 The New York Times

Metropolitan Report



Residents of Darien, Conn., above, participating in workshop on prejudice conducted by Curtiss Porter, below right. The Rev. Walter Taylor, above right, is pastor at St. Luke's Episcopal Church where the workshop was held. Gary White, right, helping students from New York City with homework in a program that brings inner-city high school girls to Darien to live and attend school.

At a Church in Darien, Apologies And Regrets for a Prejudiced Past

By DIRK JOHNSON

Special to The New York Times

DARIEN, Conn., Jan. 23— From within the crowd, an older white woman slowly lifted her hand, cleared her throat and rose to address a tall black man leading the discussion group.

"When I see a black person, I am uncomfortable," said the woman, Joan Vaniz-Smith, a resident of Darien for 25 years. "I don't like that about myself. I want to change it."

In a three-day workshop, "An Exploration of the Prejudice Barrier," scores of Darien residents gathered at St. Luke's Episcopal Church here to confide and confess, sometimes in tears, to deep-seated feelings that they wished were long ago washed away.

"It's like putting your elbows on the table," said Bonnie Currie, a white woman living in Stamford. "You know you're not

supposed to. But there's that instinct."

Nearly 40 years ago, Darien was the prototype of ingrained, institutional bigotry in the novel, "Gentleman's Agreement," which described discrimination against Jews.

"And New Canaan's even stricter about Jews than Darien," said a character in Laura Hobson's 1947 novel, referring to another wealthy town in Fairfield County.

But today clergymen here point to signs of growing tolerance in the community. The workshop on prejudice, led by Curtiss Porter, the director of the Urban League in Fairfield County, reflected a growing desire to improve racial relations, they said.

Moreover, a memorial service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. drew more than 200 Darien residents to St. Luke's last Sunday. The same church has welcomed Bishop Desmond S. Tutu, the South African opponent of apartheid, and his daughter

Naomi Seavers Tutu.

Darien churches and community groups also pay expenses for five girls from inner-city neighborhoods to live in Darien and attend the excellent high school here.

"There once was a feeling that if we built enough high barriers, we could keep the rest of the world out," said the Rev. Walter Taylor, the pastor of St. Luke's. "But we've moved beyond that. There's a great reservoir of social consciousness here."

Yet no black families live in Darien. And the number of Jewish families is small. In part, this stems from the high cost of housing and the perception of Darien as a homogenous community unfriendly to members of minority groups.

A typical house in Darien sells for about \$225,000, according to the Darien Board of

Continued on Page B4

In Darien Church, Apologies for a Prejudiced Past

Continued From Page B1

Realty, and many are far more expensive.

"People with money — black or Jewish — can buy in Darien," said the Rev. Melvin A. Hoover, the executive director of the Council of Churches and Synagogues for Lower Fairfield County. "But in reality, blacks with that kind of income are not looking to Darien. They don't want to be pioneers."

Until 1983, the development of condominiums here was prohibited. Homeowners were eager to protect the semirural atmosphere of Darien, a quiet, picturesque town nestled between the more urban environments of Stamford and Norwalk.

But the planned construction of 117 condominium units may open Darien to "a greater diversity" of people, said First Selectman Ann Mandel, the town's top elected official.

'How's the Water?'

Before Lucy Labson and her family moved to Darien in 1973, she called several rabbis in Fairfield County. "I knew this was a 'Gentleman's Agreement' town," said Mrs. Labson, who is Jewish. "And I wanted to find out,

'How's the water?'" The rabbis assured Mrs. Labson that she and her family would be comfortable in Darien.

"It's unfair to malign the people of Darien," Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce of Temple Sinai of Stamford said in a recent interview. "The world has changed a great deal since 'Gentleman's Agreement.' Moreover, the book didn't have to be set in Darien. It could have been Grosse Pointe or Forest Hills or a suburb outside Chicago."

But Mrs. Labson's friends in New York City and Westchester County were not persuaded. "Darien?" they would ask. "Don't you know about 'Gentleman's Agreement'? Don't you know Jews aren't wanted there?"

In 13 years, she said, her family has not been subjected to any overt anti-Semitism. But she confessed some frustration that so few Darien residents made any effort to learn the rudiments of Judaism, even about the holidays.

"I'm still frequently asked by Jewish people why I live here," she said. "At first, I was very annoyed. There was almost a feeling that we were trying to pass for something we're

not. But I can understand why they were asking. The perception of Darien is neat, clean, white, rich and WASP. And that's certainly the way it is."

A student at Darien High School, Carolyn Comiskey, raised the issue of homogeneity here in an article she wrote last year for a Darien newspaper.

"The lack of diversity is causing a form of racial prejudice," she wrote. "When many people see a black person on the street in Darien, they can't help but wonder what he or she is doing there. Some even assume the black is there to steal."

In many ways, she said, she is a member of a disadvantaged minority group. "I am a white Protestant living in a basically white Protestant community," she said. "I lack the richness and cultural background gained from a diversified environment. What are you, the townspeople, going to do about it?"

In an effort to provide a greater range of experience for young people here, along with a desire to aid the disadvantaged, several churches and community groups opened a local chapter of "A Better Chance" in 1980.

The chapter brings five academically superior girls from inner-city high schools throughout the country to live in Darien and attend high school here.

This year, all five girls are from New York City. One is Hispanic; the others are black. Living in an all-white town, they said, has presented some problems.

There have been racial slurs in late-night phone calls to the girls, and notes, left on school desks, proclaiming, "I hate black people." The girls have formed some friendships. But none have been asked out on dates.

In part, the girls acknowledged, the slights and insults are the result of simple ignorance — meaningless slurs from white children who never had an opportunity to know black children. But the girls are puzzled.

"I suppose you could give them the benefit of the doubt," said Denise Richards, 16 years old. "But most of these people have had the chance to travel around the world. They've gone everywhere. You'd think they could learn a little about black people."

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212 • 420 • 6000

ACCLAIM FOR
THE JESUS CONNECTION

"Informative and moving...an important contribution to the making of better Christians, better Jews, and a better America."

Rev. Billy Graham

"Compelling...Leonard Yaseen stands four-square in the midst of a 'new revolution'."

Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum

"Yaseen builds bridges across the gap of mutual ignorance and suspicion...most welcome."

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh

"Reminds all of us of the extraordinary debt we owe to the very many talented and generous Jews who have made our lives and the lives of all humanity, for all time, so much richer in so many ways. As you turn page after page, the stupidity and foolishness of anti-Semitism are brought home very forcefully...his warm and sympathetic reminder to all Christians of our Jewish origins makes clear the theological and historical bonds which unite us in our common quest to serve God and to work together for the building of His Kingdom."

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

"I'm happy to commend Leonard Yaseen's book, THE JESUS CONNECTION. My hope is it will be an effective force in the stemming of the tide and will help create greater understanding of Jew and Christian in their efforts to live together in the world their common Father gave them."

Rev. Robert Schuller

"I enjoyed it. It associates affection, regard, reverence and nostalgia with the great Jewish leaders of our day. Such emotions are positive. As the Jewish Jesus said, 'Perfect love cast without fear.' In any case, this is a good book, a friendly book, a simple yet sophisticated book. I highly commend it as a most useful aid to the urgent task of reconciliation."

The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr.
Bishop of New York

"Anyone who reads this book, I believe, will come away the better for it, inspired by Mr. Yaseen's deep sense of the goodness of humanity, and challenged to rethink old categories and presumptions on the basis of how the human community can be enriched by the joyful acceptance of religious and ethnic pluralism. It beautifully evokes the true spirit of interreligious dialogue, corrects common misperceptions, and calls us once again to the service of the One God, the God of Israel, whom Christians profess side by side with the Jewish people. In this sense it is a prophetic book and an important one."

Rev. Eugene T. Fisher

"The section on the Jesus connection should be must reading for Christians to understand the attitudes of Jews who respect Jesus but deplore the things done in that name. Jews also need to study it to be reminded of the Jewishness of Jesus. One cannot...read this book without a hearty 'Amen' to his conclusion that the Christians and Jews have much more to unite them than separate them."

Rev. Arnold T. Olson

IN LITTLE MORE THAN A DECADE ALL CHRISTENDOM WILL CELEBRATE AN HISTORIC EVENT - THE 2,000th YEAR SINCE THE BIRTH OF THE JEWISH JESUS. HIS LIFE WAS TRAGICALLY BRIEF. HIS CRUCIFIXION (WITH TWO COMMON THIEVES) WAS WITNESSED ONLY BY A HANDFUL OF FOLLOWERS AND MOCKING ROMAN SOLDIERS. YET HIS DEATH HAS PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

MISSIONARIES FOR JESUS HAVE TRAVERSED THE GLOBE: IMMENSE CATHEDRALS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN HIS NAME; SCULPTURES, PAINTINGS, AND MURALS HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO HIS ETERNAL GLORIFICATION. THE GRIM INSTRUMENT OF HIS EXECUTION, THE CROSS, HAS BEEN LOVINGLY SYMBOLIZED IN BILLIONS OF GOLD, SILVER, STONE, AND WOOD REPRODUCTIONS

EXISTENCE IN AN EARLIER, TROUBLED WORLD MEANT STRUGGLING WITHOUT DIGNITY OR SECURITY, A FERTILE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE SPIRITUAL COMFORT INHERENT IN THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS. NOW ALMOST A BILLION CHRISTIANS CONSTITUTE POWERFUL RELIGIOUS BODIES DOMINATING NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AUSTRALIA AND PORTIONS OF ASIA AND AFRICA.

AS WE APPROACH THE YEAR 2000, MANY DENOMINATIONS DEVOTED TO JESUS CHRIST EMBRACE AND WORSHIP HIM IN SEPARATE WAYS, LEADING FREQUENTLY TO CRUEL DIVISIVENESS. BUT ONE ALL-PERVASIVE ATTITUDE PERSISTS, SHARED BY SOME MEMBERS OF EVERY DENOMINATION, AND THAT IS THE CONSCIOUS SEPARATION OF JESUS FROM HIS PEOPLE.

CENTURIES OF (IRRATIONAL) ^{SUCH} INDOCTRINATION HAVE RESULTED IN GHETTOIZING, DEGRADATION AND ^{VIEW} GENOCIDE. IN THIS CENTURY ALONE, THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SHATTERED BY MINDLESS ANTI-SEMITISM.

→ JESUS PROCLAIMED A GOSPEL OF LOVE, TRAGICALLY, MANY WHO CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS TRANSFORMED HIS TEACHINGS INTO A GOSPEL OF HATRED FOR THEIR OWN PEOPLE, HIS FLESH AND BLOOD, THE JEWISH PEOPLE

2. 2.
HOWEVER, ^{COVER} AFTER NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS ^{MUCH} OF PERSECUTION IN THE
NAME OF JESUS CHRIST WE ARE NOW WITNESSING A REMARKABLE REVERSAL
IN THE ^{VOYANTIC} TROUBLED HISTORY OF JUDAIC-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS. THE VERY
SAME CHURCH THAT ^{ALIGNED ITSELF FROM HIS FAMILIAR JEWISH FAMILY} TRANSFORMED THE JEWISH JESUS INTO AN ENEMY OF
HIS PEOPLE AND SOUGHT ^{FREQUENTLY} TO IMPOSE ITS BELIEFS THROUGH COERCION, HAS
NOW COME FORTH WITH A POLICY OF ECUMENICAL RESPECT TOWARD ^{Jews AND} JUDAISM.

THE LATE, REVERED POPE JOHN XXIII HAS DRIVEN OUT MOST OF THE
DEMONIC PHANTOMS OF THE PAST MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR JEWS TO GAIN
NEW UNDERSTANDING FROM THE LIFE AND MEANING OF JESUS, CERTAINLY
ONE OF THEIR MOST ILLUSTRIOUS KINSMAN, ^{E/ AND HE HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE}
^{ABOUT THOSE ROOTS OF JUDAISM} FOR XMS TO LEARN MORE

YES, POPE JOHN XXIII IS ONE OF THE REASONS WE ARE HERE IN
THIS BEAUTIFUL CHURCH, COMMUNICATING CORDIALLY AND CANDIDLY: TWO CON-
REGATIONS EXPRESSING GOOD WILL - EXACTLY WHAT JESUS MEANT WHEN HE

* →
|

THERE IS A MORE REALISTIC REASON THAT WE JOIN TOGETHER ON
THIS SUNDAY MORNING. YOUR OWN PENNY WINTERS HAD THE VISION TO
ARRANGE THIS PROGRAM, DEFYING CONVENTIONAL, SAFE TRADITION IN
HER QUEST FOR A BETTER BALANCED WORLD. SHE WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED,
WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION, BY YOUR COMPASSIONATE PASTOR, DR. JACK BISHOP
KUDOS ALSO TO RABBI SILVERMAN FOR HIS COOPERATION AND SPLENDID
SERMON. WOULD THAT IT BE POSSIBLE FOR MORE PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE
WHAT WE ARE SHARING TODAY.

VERY LITTLE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER. FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH, PRESIDENT
OF NOTRE DAME ^{UNIVERSITY} IN HIS INTRODUCTION TO THE JESUS CONNECTION OBSERVES,

"TO BUILD BRIDGES ACROSS THE GAP OF MUTUAL IGNORANCE AND SUSPICION WE WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO ORIGINS TO RECOVER THOSE COMMON THREADS WITH WHICH WE CAN HOPE TO HAVE A FRESH SHARED IDENTITY."

OUR SHARED IDENTITY BEGINS IN THE FIRST CENTURY. THERE WERE NO MIRACLE MEDICINES THEN TO CURE OR EASE THE PAIN OF ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH FROM LEPROSY, SMALLPOX, TUBERCULOSIS OR MYRIAD OTHER DISEASES. THERE WERE NO SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS FOR THE MYSTERIOUS FORCES OF NATURE—GRAVITY, THE TIDES, EARTHQUAKES, LIGHTNING, STORMS. PEOPLE EXISTED ~~FOR THE MOST PART~~ IN THE FOUL GRIP OF ABJECT POVERTY. THE JEWS, OPPRESSED BY THE ^{BRUTAL} POWERFUL ROMAN EMPIRE STOOD ALONE AS ETHICAL MONOTHEISTS IN A SEA OF PAGAN NATIONS. IT WAS A TIME OF OVERWHELMING TYRANNY, SUPERSTITION, UNREST AND APPREHENSION.

TO MANY JEWS, JESUS OF NAZARETH WAS THE ANSWER TO THEIR PRAYER OF OVERTHROWING ROMAN DOMINATION. JESUS WAS OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH LINKED TO DAVID, ABRAHAM AND MOSES. A JEWISH MOTHER, MARY, NURSED HIM. JOSEPH TAUGHT HIM ^A CARPENTER SKILLS. ^{AS} DESPITE THESE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, HE BECAME KNOWN AS A GREAT TEACHER AND TALES OF HIS MYSTERIOUS POWERS ACCOMPANIED HIM EVERYWHERE.

IT IS ERRONEOUSLY ASSUMED THAT JESUS ~~ULTIMATELY~~ REPUDIATED JUDAISM, ORIGINATED ^{AN} ENTIRELY NEW RELIGIOUS CONCEPT, FOUNDED CHRISTIANITY, WAS REJECTED BY HIS FELLOW JEWS AND THUS CRUCIFIED. ~~IF THE GOSPELS ARE INTERPRETED CORRECTLY,~~ IT'S SIMPLY NOT TRUE.

DID JESUS EVER RENOUNCE JUDAISM? HE WAS BORN, LIVED AND DIED AS A JEW. HE NEVER HEARD THE WORD, CHRISTIANITY. ^{AND TIRING} HIS TEACHINGS WERE ALL BASED ON HEBREW SCRIPTURES. ^{THE ONLY BIBLE READ} AND THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL. ^{AND REVIEWED WITH THE HEBREW BIBLE}

DID NOT JESUS DENOUNCE THE HIGH PRIESTS AND THE GOINGS ON IN THE TEMPLE? ^{SEVERAL OF} THE HIGH PRIESTS PROBABLY DESERVED HIS CENSURE.

4.

BUT CRITICIZING THE RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY OF HIS DAY WAS NO MORE ANTI-JEWISH THAN LUTHER OR CALVIN WERE ANTI-CHRISTIAN IN THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF CERTAIN ACTIONS OF THE CHURCH. WHICH OF US HAS NOT FOUND FAULT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT — RELIGIOUS OR SECULAR, (PARTICULARLY THE I.R.S.!) WE DON'T GO ALONG WITH EVERYTHING — DOES THAT MAKE US LESS AMERICAN — DID THAT MAKE JESUS LESS JEWISH?

DID THE JEWS COLLECTIVELY REJECT JESUS? HIS DISCIPLES WERE ^{So were} ALL JEWS, AND PETER, AND JOHN THE BAPTIST AND ALL THE EARLY SAINTS. ^{BISHOPS AND} HIS FELLOW JEWS WITH WHOM HE CAME IN CONTACT LOVED AND ACCEPTED HIM. MOST JEWS DID NOT EVEN LIVE IN THE HOLY LAND AT THE TIME OF JESUS — THEY HAD BEEN DISPERSED OVER A PERIOD OF 500 YEARS BEFORE HIS BIRTH. A "NATIONAL" JEWISH POLICY WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

^{DID} IT IS AN ILLUSION THAT JESUS PREACHED CHRISTIANITY OR THAT (IT SPRANG UP FULL-FLEDGED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS DEATH.) IT WAS HIS JEWISH FOLLOWERS WHO FOUNDED A NEW SECT OF JUDAISM WHICH EVENTUALLY BECAME CHRISTIANITY.

JEWISH/CHRISTAIN SERVICES WERE HELD IN SYNAGOGUES FOR FORTY YEARS AFTER JESUS' DEATH. THERE WERE NO CHURCHES THEN. CHRISTIAN SERVICES TODAY ARE STILL PATTERNED ON SYNAGOGUE CUSTOMS AND CONVICTIONS: THE CONCEPTS OF HEAVEN AND HELL, THE PSALMS, THE WORDS AMEN AND HALLELUJAH, THE LORD'S PRAYER AND BAPTISM, THE BELIEF IN A MESSIAH AND RESURRECTION. THE LAST SUPPER WAS A PASSOVER CELEBRATION. EVEN JESUS' ^{PENULTIMATE} LAST WORDS ON THE CROSS, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" WERE FROM THE 22ND PSALM.

THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM WITH ITS BRILLIANTLY ATTIRED CLERGYMEN,

BEAUTIFUL LACE COVERED ALTAR, MUSIC AND INCENSE, PRAYER SHAWLS AND HEAD COVERINGS SERVED AS THE INSPIRATION FOR CENTRAL FEATURES OF LATER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

WELL, WHAT HAPPENED TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY? WHAT WAS THE PARTING OF THE WAYS?

SEVERAL EVENTS CREATED A TURNING POINT IN CHRISTIAN/JEWISH RELATIONS. THE ROMANS DESTROYED JERUSALEM AND THE CITIZENS WHO HAD REMAINED IN TINY JUDEA, THE ONLY NATION THAT BELIEVED IN ONE GOD, WERE NOW ^{completely} DISPERSED, SCATTERED, NO LONGER CONSIDERED A FACTOR IN HISTORY. IN ORDER TO EXPAND CHRISTIANITY, RELIGIOUS LEADERS NEEDED TO CONVERT GREEKS, SYRIANS, ROMANS, AND OTHER PAGANS. A ^{however,} ~~PAINFUL HURDLE REMAINED~~--PAGANS STRENUOUSLY OBJECTED TO ADULT CIRCUMCISION REQUIRED UNDER JEWISH LAW. THE CHURCH ELDERS DECIDED TO ELIMINATE ^{THIS REQUIREMENT} CIRCUMCISION TO ENLARGE THE NEW FAITH AND, IN THE PROCESS, ^{BEGAN TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM} ~~DESERVED~~ JUDAISM.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, MANY JEWS FELT THEY HAD TO TURN AWAY FROM THE NEW SECT BECAUSE PAUL, ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS, TESTIFIED THAT ^{JESUS SPoke TO HIM AS THE LORD WHO WAS DIVINE} IN A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT HE HEARD THE WORD OF GOD THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS HIS SON, AND THEREFORE, DIVINE. FOR MANY JEWS, IT WAS ONLY AFTER HIS DEATH THAT THEIR BELIEF IN JESUS AS THEIR MESSIAH WAS SHAKEN, FOR JUDAISM HAD NO TRADITION OF A DYING MESSIAH, ONLY A KINGLY MESSIAH WHO WOULD LEAD THEM AND BRING RELIEF FROM ROMAN TYRANNY.

THE NEW DOCTRINE WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE. CHRISTIANITY GRAVITATED TOWARD ROME BUT THERE WAS NO WELCOMING COMMITTEE AND FROM CAESAR DOWN, CHRISTIANS WERE TREATED BARBARICALLY. AS A SMALL SECT, ^{xy} IT WAS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE GOOD WILL OF ROMAN

AUTHORITIES FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE. THE GOSPELS COMPILED ABOUT THIS TIME TRIED TO REINFORCE THE NEW RELIGION BY APPEASING THE ROMANS AND BLAMING THE JEWS.

A CATHOLIC SCHOLAR, FATHER JOHN HARDON IN HIS BOOK CHRISTIANITY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, OBSERVES THAT "THE GOSPELS HAD A TENDENCY TO OBSCURE AND EMBELLISH, IF NOT DISTORT, THE FACTS TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF AN IDEALISTIC FAITH. AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF REPE-TITION, MYTHS TAKE ON THE SEMBLANCE OF REALITY AND ARE PERCEIVED AS EVENTS THAT HAPPENED EXACTLY AS PORTRAYED." THE LATE METHODIST SCHOLAR DR. BERNHARD OLSEN IN HIS LANDMARK BOOK, FAITH AND PREJUDICE, SAYS "SOME CHURCHES CONTINUE TO TEACH THE SAME OLD STORY THAT THE JEWS KILLED JESUS, WHEREAS MOST CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS HAVE NOW CON-CLUDED IT WAS THE ROMANS WHO CRUCIFIED HIM."

THE GOSPELS DEPICT PONTIUS PILATE, CAESAR'S REPRESENTATIVE, AS A FAINT-HEARTED WEAKLING MERELY ACQUIESCING TO THE JEWS IN THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS. HISTORIANS MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBE PILATE AS INSOLENT, RAPACIOUS, AND CRUEL, RESPONSIBLE FOR CRUCIFYING THOUSANDS OF JEWS WITHOUT TRIAL, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER JESUS' DEATH. HE WAS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED FOR CORRUPTIBILITY, VIOLENCE, AND ENDLESS CRUELITIES.

EUGENE J. FISHER OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, IN HIS BOOK FAITH WITHOUT PREJUDICE, COMMENTS "THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PROTRAYS A KINDLY RULER (PILATE) PUSHED BY JEWS INTO KILLING JESUS. SINCE THE GOSPELS WERE WRITTEN AT A TIME WHEN THE SURVIVAL OF THE CHURCH DEPENDED ON ROMAN TOLERANCE, IT IS UNDER-STANDABLE THAT PILATE'S ROLE BE TONED DOWN...IT WAS NOT EXPEDIENT TO CONDEMN ROME JUST WHEN CHRISTIANITY WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CONVERTING ROMANS. CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS REVEAL ANOTHER PICTURE. PILATE WAS

SO BRUTAL THAT EVEN ROME COULD NOT TAKE HIM FOR LONG. AND HE WAS RECALLED BECAUSE OF HIS EXCESSES. HE WAS KNOWN TO LINE THE ROADS OF JUDEA WITH CRUCIFIED VICTIMS, SENT TO DEATH ON THE BAREST HINT OF "REVOLUTIONARY" ATTITUDES. JESUS WAS ONE OF THESE."

ANOTHER VITALLY IMPORTANT POINT CONCERNING JEWISH GUILT INDICATED IN THE GOSPELS - THE JEWISH HIGH PRIEST (IN THIS CASE CAIAPHAS) WAS APPOINTED BY ROME. THE ROMAN PROCURATOR, PILATE, EVEN KEPT HIS VESTMENTS. HE COULD NOT CONDUCT A SERVICE WITHOUT ROMAN PERMISSION.

IF ROMAN AUTHORITIES BECAME DISPLEASED WITH A HIGH PRIEST, HE WAS DEPOSED AND A NEW ONE, MORE AMENABLE TO ROME, WAS APPOINTED IN HIS PLACE. IN THIS SENSE, THE CHIEF PRIEST CANNOT BE CALLED A "JEWISH" LEADER AT ALL. THOUGH ALWAYS A JEW BY BIRTH, HE GAVE LOYALTY ONLY TO ROME AND DID THE WILL OF ROME." IN OTHER WORDS, CAIAPHAS IN THE TIME OF JESUS DID NOT REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, BUT WAS CLEARLY A COLLABORATOR.

IF WE INTERPRET THE GOSPELS DISPASSIONATELY MANY SECTIONS PROVE THAT HIS JEWISH FOLLOWERS LOVED, ACCEPTED JESUS AND WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH. MARK, CHAPTER 14, VERSE 2 - "WE CAN'T SENTENCE HIM OR THERE WILL BE A RIOT". LUKE, CHAPTER 19: 47,48 - "CAIAPHAS SOUGHT TO DESTROY HIM AND COULD NOT FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WERE ATTENTIVE TO HIM". MATTHEW, CH. 27: 17, 18 - "THE HIGH PRIEST ENVIED JESUS AND HAD HIM ARRESTED BECAUSE OF HIS POPULARITY WITH THE PEOPLE."

PORTIONS OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN CONFIRM MODERN DAY THINKING OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIANs THAT THE SANHEDRIN, THE FULL SUPREME COURT

OF JUDEA, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONVENED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ON A MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAY TO TRY JESUS. THERE WAS NO GATHERING OF ALL THE JUDGES OF THE HOLY LAND AND THERE WAS NO TRIAL.

JEWISH THEOLOGIANS AGREE THAT UNDER JEWISH LAW, NO CRIME HAD BEEN COMMITTED. CLAIMING MESSIAHSHIP WAS NOT EVEN UNUSUAL - DOZENS OF PEOPLE BEFORE JESUS HAD CLAIMED TO BE MESSIAHS.

JOHN, CH. 18: 13-15 - STATES - "ONLY CAIAPHAS (A ROMAN COLLABORATOR) AND HIS FATHER-IN-LAW INTERVIEWED JESUS BEFORE HE WAS TURNED OVER TO PONTIUS PILATE."

UNFORTUNATELY, SOME PARTS OF THE GOSPELS DIMINISH JESUS' JEWISH BACKGROUND, EMPHASIZE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM AND STIGMATIZE THE JEWS. THE GOSPEL OF JOHN PARTICULARLY CONVEYS THE IMPRESSION THAT JESUS WAS ALIENATED FROM HIS OWN PEOPLE ALMOST FROM BIRTH. BLAMING THE JEWS COLLECTIVELY FOR JESUS' DEATH IS THE SINGLE MOST DAMAGING PERCEPTION THAT HAS AFFLICTED ANY PEOPLE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

CZARS, KINGS AND DESPOTS HAVE CONDEMNED INNOCENT VICTIMS TO TORTURE AND DEATH. FESTIVALS LIKE GERMANY'S OBERAMMERGAU CONDITIONED GERMANS TO ACCEPT NAZISM, RESULTING IN THE BLOODIEST GENOCIDAL SLAUGHTER IN HISTORY.

9

EVEN ATHEISTS IN RUSSIA HAVE APPROPRIATED THESE NEGATIVE IMAGES, REPACKAGED THEM AND TRANSLATED THEM INTO FORMS SUCH AS ANTI-ZIONISM. TODAY, IN MOSCOW, A SO-CALLED CENTER FOR ZIONIST INFORMATION DISTRIBUTES VAST AMOUNTS OF VICIOUS PROPOGANDA FOR USE BY LIBYA, SAUDI-ARABIA, SYRIA, WHICH IN TURN SUPPLY THIS AMMUNITION TO RACISTS AND HATE GROUPS IN THIS COUNTRY.

ONE OF THE MOST TROUBLESOME DOMESTIC CRISES NOW CONFRONTING US IS THAT OF THE FARMERS AND OUR FOOD SUPPLY.

HOW IN THE WORLD DID THAT BECOME AN ISSUE OF ANTI-SEMITISM? FOR 2 PRINCIPAL REASONS: 1) PROFESSIONAL RABBLE-ROUSERS DELIBERATELY BLAMED "THE JEWS" AND 2) MANY FARMERS ACCEPTED THAT BECAUSE THE SEEDS OF PREJUDICE WERE PLANTED CENTURIES AGO - AND THAT KIND OF INDOCTRINATION CAN'T BE WIPED OUT OVERNIGHT. THE IDEA OF JEWISH BANKERS FORECLOSING ON FARM MORTGAGES IS ABSURD - THERE ARE NO MAJOR JEWISH BANKS - THEY ARE CONTROLLED BY NON-JEWS AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

WHEN A BLACK MUSLIM PREACHER WHO IS PAID MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BY AN ARAB DICTATOR WHO HAPPENS TO BE THE WORLD'S LEADING TERRORIST CALLS JUDAISM A GUTTER RELIGION AND INCITES 25,000 PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE TO RISE AND SCREAM INVECTIVES, THAT'S ANTI-SEMITISM AND IT'S HAPPENING NOW.

AT THIS MOMENT I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW SOME IN THIS AUDIENCE MIGHT BE A LITTLE FED UP WITH TALK ABOUT JESUS, ANTI-SEMITISM, EARLY ROME AND SO FORTH AND SO ON. YOU MAY WELL WONDER HOW ALL THIS APPLIES TO YOU WHEN IN FACT, THE PEOPLE IN THIS AUDIENCE ARE BASICALLY OF GOOD WILL.

BUT OUTSIDE THIS HANDSOME EDIFICE AND AWAY FROM THIS ENLIGHTENED ENVIRONMENT ARE FORCES WHOSE HOSTILITY THREATENS ALL OF US. 'NEED I TELL THIS INFORMED AUDIENCE WHAT A SERIOUS THREAT RELIGIOUS FANATICISM AND HATRED ARE TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE WORLD TODAY? VERBAL AGGRESSION IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE IT ACCELERATES INTO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. AND GENOCIDAL DOCTRINES BASED ON FURY AND BIGOTRY AGAINST ONE GROUP HAVE A BOOMERANG EFFECT AND ENCOMPASS ALL GROUPS.

THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE SPANISH INQUISITION ARE A CASE IN POINT. IN THE BEGINNING, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PERSECUTED JEWS FOR WORSHIPPING A "FOREIGN GOD" BUT SOON THERE WAS TORTURE AND BURNING OF PROTESTANTS FOR REFUSING TO ADHERE TO THE STRICTURES OF CATHOLIC ORTHODOXY.

EVENTUALLY, CATHOLICS THEMSELVES WERE JEOPARDIZED, THOUSANDS IMPRISONED AND PUT TO DEATH AS HERETICS. ULTIMATELY, NO ONE WAS ABOVE SUSPICION. IN A SINGLE DAY AN HONORABLE CATHOLIC FAMILY OF "PURE BLOOD" COULD BE STRIPPED OF ALL ITS POSSESSIONS MERELY BECAUSE OF A FANCIED SLIGHT TO AN OFFICIAL OF THE ALL-POWERFUL INQUISITION. AS FOR SPAIN, BY THE MID 1600's ITS GLORY WAS ONLY A MEMORY, ITS POWERFUL FLEET DISBANDED, ITS PEOPLE IN FERMENT, ITS ECONOMY IN RUINS. SPAIN WAS NO LONGER AMONG THE POWERFUL NATIONS OF THE WORLD - A CREDO OF HATE HAD DESTROYED ITS UNITY.

ARE LESSONS LEARNED FROM DISASTERS LIKE THIS? IN EUROPE, COUNTRY AFTER COUNTRY EXPERIENCED THIS KIND OF HATRED AND DIVISIVENESS AND THE LATEST EXAMPLE, GERMANY, COST THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 20 MILLION PEOPLE, LEFT A SHATTERED CONTINENT AND A DIVIDED COUNTRY.

11, 42

FOR TWO CENTURIES THIS NATION HAS CAREFULLY MAINTAINED SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS DISTINCTION AND PROVIDED US WITH PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOM. IT IS DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM THAT HAS MADE AMERICA THE GREAT BASTION OF CIVIL, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES.

SINCE VATICAN II PARTICULARLY, CHURCH LEADERS OF EVERY DENOMINATION HAVE CONDEMNED ANTI-SEMITISM. THE JESUS CONNECTION CONTAINS A NUMBER OF PERSONAL VIGNETTES ILLUSTRATING HOW ATTITUDES ARE IMPROVING - HOW CHRISTIANS IN THIS CENTURY HAVE RISKED THEIR CAREERS AND THEIR LIVES TO HELP OTHERS IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIANITY.

POSITIVE FACTS RATHER THAN TIRED PLATITUDES ENCOURAGE ECUMENISM AND ILLUSTRATE THE ABSURDITY OF STEREOTYPING. INCLUDED IN THIS VOLUME ARE PHOTOGRAPHS AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES, A CROSS SECTION OF 150 JEWISH PEOPLE WHO HAVE ENRICHED OUR SHARED UNIVERSE: MEDICAL PIONEERS WHO ESTABLISHED THE FIRST BLOOD BANK, DEVELOPED STREPTOMYACIN, DIGITALIS, INSULIN AND POLIO VACCINES. AND OUR BEST AMBASSADORS OF GOOD WILL HERE AND ABROAD CINEMA AND TELEVISION PERFORMERS LIKE SHATNER AND NIMOY OF STAR TREK, MICHAEL LANDON, LORNE GREENE, JOAN COLLINS, KIRK DOUGLAS, CARY GRANT, DEBRA WINGER AND TONY RANDALL. MUSICIANS AND WRITERS LIKE THEODORE WHITE, TOM STOPPARD, VICTOR BERGE, BILLY JOEL, BOB DYLAN, DINAH SHORE AND BEVERLY SILLS - PUBLIC SERVANTS LIKE ARTHUR BURNS, HAROLD BROWN, WILLIAM PALEY, ADMIRAL RICKOVER, AND GIANTS OF THE PAST LIKE EINSTEIN AND FREUD, AND THOSE WITH ONE JEWISH PARENT, FIORELLO LAGUARDIA, DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS AND OTHERS.

IN OUR DAY TO DAY EXISTENCE, JEWS ARE NO BETTER OR WORSE THAN OTHERS. AND PHYSICALLY, NOT ALL JEWS RESEMBLE PAUL NEWMAN OR PAULETTE GODDARD ANY MORE THAN ALL CHRISTIANS COMPARE FAVORABLY

WITH ROBERT REDFORD AND MERYL STREEP.

THE ^{JESUS} ~~CONNECTION~~ CONNECTION IS MY EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO A GROWING TRADITION OF MUTUAL RESPECT WHICH ~~IS~~ THE KEYSTONE OF DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM.

IF AFTER READING THIS SLIM VOLUME YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TRANSFORMING WHATEVER ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE GAINED INTO POSITIVE ACTION, YOU WILL WANT TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION GROUPS, SEMINARS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES. ADULTS CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING NEW VALUES FOR YOUNGER GENERATIONS, HELPING THEM TO DISCARD STEREOTYPES, PROVIDING GUIDANCE IN EXPLORING THE COMMON ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM, STRESSING PARTICULARLY JESUS' JEWISH HERITAGE. WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BE BETTER PREPARED TO REJECT BIGOTRY.

JEWS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS CAN BE APPRECIATED AS A GREAT TEACHER AND PROPHET. FATHER HESBURGH OBSERVES, "OUR CHRISTIAN BELIEF IN THE DIVINITY OF JESUS EXPRESSLY AFFIRMS OUR RECOGNITION OF HIS FULL HUMANITY -- AS A JEW." IT IS ERRONEOUS TO EQUATE JESUS WITH EXTREME ELEMENTS IN THE PAST RESPONSIBLE FOR JEWISH HUMILIATION, PERSECUTION, AND NEAR ANNIHILATION.

THE NOTED ISRAELI THEOLOGIAN, PINCHAS LAPIDE, HAS SAID, "WHAT UNITES US IS EVERYTHING THAT IS KNOWN AND INVESTIGATED WITH THE TOOLS OF SCHOLARSHIP ABOUT JESUS. WHAT DIVIDES US ARE THE THINGS THAT DIVIDE NOT ONLY JEWS FROM CHRISTIANS BUT ALSO KNOWLEDGE FROM FAITH... FAITH IN THIS CHRIST HAS GIVEN MILLIONS A BETTER LIFE AND AN EASIER DEATH. WITH CHRISTIANS THE FULLNESS OF REDEMPTION IS STILL IN THE FUTURE. IF THE MESSIAH COMES AND TURNS OUT TO BE JESUS OF NAZARETH,

I DO NOT KNOW ANY JEW IN THIS WORLD WHO WOULD HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST IT."

TODAY WE FACE MONUMENTAL PROBLEMS DEMANDING THE BRAIN POWER, JUDGMENT AND DEDICATION OF ALL CITIZENS OF OUR COMPOSITE SOCIETY. PEOPLE, NOT OIL OR TECHNOLOGY ARE THE GREATEST RESOURCE. TO WASTE HUMAN ASSETS BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN HOW WE PRAY TO THE SAME GOD DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE.

THE WORLD IS MOVING TOO FAST. WE HAVE TROUBLE COMMUNICATING OUR VALUES. WE ARE BEWILDERED BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM & INSTABILITY BY OUR DRUGGED SOCIETY, AND BY VIOLENT CRIMES IN OUR STREETS. WE MUST HOLD AND SHARE WITH OTHERS. THE HUMAN CONNECTION AND THE JESUS CONNECTION ARE ONE.

H.G. WELLS HAS WRITTEN THAT "CIVILIZATION IS ULTIMATELY A RACE BETWEEN EDUCATION AND DESTRUCTION" MY SINCERE HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL FIND MY MODEST BOOK A CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING AMERICA AND THE HUMAN FAMILY WIN THE BATTLE FOR MUTUAL RESPECT OVER DESTRUCTIVE BIGOTRY.

RECENTLY, I READ AN EXCERPT OF A SERMON BY A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER WHICH SUMMARIZES OUR MEETING TODAY. HE OBSERVED, "IN THAT TIME WHEN OUR NEED IS GREATEST TO FEEL CHRIST WITH US, WHEN DEATH APPROACHES US OR ONE WE LOVE, WE TURN AGAIN TO JEWISH SCRIPTURE: "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT. YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL. FOR THOU ART WITH ME....

THANK YOU.

The Betsy Nolan Group, Inc. Public Relations
215 Park Avenue South at 18th Street • Suite 1602
New York, New York 10003
212 • 420 • 6000

"If Christians were Christians, there would be no anti-Semitism. Jesus was a Jew. There is nothing that the ordinary Christian so dislikes to remember as this awkward historical fact. But it happens, none the less, to be true.

John Haynes Holmes
"The Sensible Man's View of Religion"
1933

"Christians don't care about anti-Semitism and many Jews pretend it doesn't exist," says Leonard C. Yaseen, who as the retired founder of a pathbreaking international consulting firm, could be living the kind of retirement most people dream about. Rather, he has embarked on a personal crusade to make his voice heard, to awaken people to the fact that after almost 2,000 years, anti-Semitism is still a contagious disease.

"No one cares about anti-Semitism until it touches him," Yaseen continues. "The recent wave of violent terrorism has made all Americans, Jewish or not, realize that their lives are endangered because of religious fanaticism."

Enthusiastic Praise

To speak to the world of his concern, Yaseen wrote THE JESUS CONNECTION: To Triumph Over Anti-Semitism in which he

goes to the very heart of the contradictions between Christians who venerate Jesus and yet denigrate His people, the Jews. In lay persons' terms, Yaseen offers an informed and innovative discussion on how to better relations between Christians and Jews. Yaseen's book has received enthusiastic and appreciative review from religious leaders of all denominations, including Rev. Billy Graham, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum and Bishop Paul Moore. The Los Angeles Herald-Examiner said, "...if the book finds its way to the readers for whom it was intended, it could do a great deal of good."

Surprising Commercial Success

And has the world been receptive to THE JESUS CONNECTION? Since its publication in October 1985, THE JESUS CONNECTION (Crossroad Publishers, New York City) has sold over 20,000 copies and has gone back for a second major printing. This despite the fact that because of its title the book is often displayed only in the more remote area of the religious book section.

A False Sense of Security

Yaseen takes to task armchair scholars who say that anti-Semitism has lessened. "There are too many right thinking people with a Pollyanna attitude," said Yaseen in discussing a book published last year in which the author pointed to the increase in the number of Hanukkah candles lit by Jews as an indication of a lessening of anti-Semitism.

"Such writers," continues Yaseen, "are lulling Americans and American Jews into a false sense of security."

"Even as Jews in this country were lighting more candles, terrorists were singling out Jews in the airport attacks in Rome and Vienna; Leon Klinghoffer was murdered solely because he was Jewish; Louis Farrakhan indulges in rabid attacks on Jews; synagogues are continually defaced and vandalized; and American farmers blame 'Jewish bankers' for the loss of their farms. Americans may want to think things have gotten better. But they have not!"

Most Americans' reaction to anti-Semitism is one of silence and indifference. "That's equivalent to consent," says Yaseen. "A deadly price will be paid for indifference."

Each Person Can Make A Difference

What can the individual do? "Make a commitment with yourself to make a difference," says Yaseen. "Arm yourself with knowledge, understand the basis of the problem. Readjust your thinking; get the facts. The man in the street can begin at home: speak out against loathesome stereotypes. Why, even after 2,000 years, are many Jewish kids still called 'Christ killers' by other children? Because not enough parents have said 'Not true! That is not acceptable!' You can't be a genuine Christian and hate Jews. It's a basic contradiction."

Did Yaseen himself ever suffer from anti-Semitism?
"Interestingly, I was more fortunate than most Jews growing

up. Since neither my appearance nor name* were particularly 'Jewish,' for the most part I suffered only minor harassments as a child and as an adolescent. Later, for the same reasons, nothing life threatening happened to me or my family. But I don't live in a vacuum; I was aware of anti-Semitism directed towards others in corporate society. I determined that I did not want my children to inherit the consequences of anti-Semitism. I wanted to do what I could to change what I knew was wrong. Because it did not happen to me did not mean it couldn't, any more than it couldn't to a Christian."

Breakdown Of Values

In THE JESUS CONNECTION Yaseen asks: "Is it not time for both Christianity and Judaism to reach out in friendship towards goals of common understanding? If we do not, if appeals to innate prejudice are left unchecked, we will witness a breakdown of all those values we hold dear. The consequences of that are tragic, for with that the way is paved for the extermination of innocents, the entrapment of complacent bystanders, the engulfment of bigots themselves, and ultimately the destruction of entire civilizations.

* Yaseen is an Arabic name; it is the name of the first book of the Koran and means "genesis" or "God." It is probably the result of an Arab marrying a Spaniard just before the Inquisition some 500 years ago. Yaseen's grandparents immigrated to Texas from Germany where his father grew up and Yaseen grew up in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Anti-Semites are blinded to the danger of hate as a weapon that will be redirected to themselves. It's a deadly boomerang."

A Waste Of Resources

"Anti-Semitism just doesn't make economic sense," says Yaseen. "It dissipates needed and necessary assets--human ones. At a time when there is underemployment and half the world is starving, with hundreds of thousands of people at war, we can't afford to dissipate any assets. Look at what happened to other countries when they did."

An Opportunity

Last October marked the twentieth anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Vatican II (1962-65) and the historic declaration Nostra Aetate, which examines the profound bonds linking Christianity to Judaism and the Jewish. Pope John XXIII himself believed the time had come to eliminate anti-Semitism, and foster mutual respect and knowledge between Christians and Jews.

THE JESUS CONNECTION examines the problem and offers the solution in clear, cogent, lay terms. As Yaseen says, "Well meaning people must band together in a common commitment to end anti-Semitism."

#

Available at all leading bookstores or
call 1-800-ALL-BOOK.