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THE LOST STORY OF HOW ONE CHRISTIAN SECT'S BIBLICAL BELIEFS KEPT 250 JEWISH CHILDREN ALIVE

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz June 2, 2016 , 12:30 pm

“And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. And in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee whithersoever thou goest, and will bring thee back into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”
Genesis 28:14-15 (The Israel Bible™)



Photo: Shutterstock.com

In a new book, a member of an obscure Christian sect has set out to document a chapter in the

Holocaust that brought Jews and Christians together, not in belief or even friendship, but as one family living under the same roof.

Following [Kristallnacht](#) in November 1938, Britain, the only willing host country, began the [Kindertransport](#), taking in over 10,000 Jewish children from Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Germany. Conscientious objectors and shunners of politics, the Christadelphians, an obscure Christian sect, were unlikely hosts, but in the face of the growing evil that threatened the Jews, they decided to take action. Their participation in the Kindertransport saved 250 Jewish children from almost certain death.

The Christadelphians were, and remain, an obscure branch of Christianity. There are about 50,000 Christadelphians today who follow the 19th century teachings of John Thomas. With no central authority, different groups vary, but all Christadelphians are Biblical Unitarians, emphasizing the Bible as divinely inspired. Daily Bible reading is a central part of their religious devotion.

According to Christadelphian belief, the Hebrew Bible is truly about the Jewish people, bringing a recognition that God made eternal promises to Abraham, and fostering a desire to work on the Jews' behalf.

Jason Hensley, a Christadelphian school principal from California who recently authored a book about his co-religionists' part in the [Kindertransport](#), claims that it is this Bible study that brought them to a greater affinity towards the Jews. So great was their love for God's Chosen People that they saw Jewish children as their own.



Jason Hensley (Photo: Courtesy)

He named the book "[Part of the Family](#)", because that was the phrase he heard almost every time he interviewed a survivor who was saved by the Christadelphians.

The book project came as a result of Hensley's visit last year to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC for a national conference of educators. Hensley was so affected by what he learned that he created a Holocaust course in his school. The message from the conference that impressed him most deeply was the reminder that the Holocaust is not about statistics, but about

individuals.

"Every person has a story," Hensley told *Breaking Israel News*. He sought out the Kindertransport survivors for interviews, eventually connecting with 35, and was amazed at what he heard.

Hensley's book tells the unknown story of the Christadelphian families who took in Jewish children and cared for them as their own while allowing them to maintain their faith. Hensley interviewed ten of the survivors saved by the Christadelphians.

One of those survivors was Ursula Meyer, nee Eichmann, who left her family at the age of 14 in Westfalia, Germany in August 1939, one month before war broke out. Her parents watched the Kindertransport train leave. It was the last time they would ever see her. She was received by the Sawyer family, Christadelphians who lived in Birmingham, England.



Ursula Meyer (Photo: Part of the Family/YouTube screenshot)

Ursula told a moving tale of her relationship with the Sawyers. At the height of the Blitz, Birmingham was heavily targeted by German bombers. Windows had to be covered so no light could show. A passing warden saw the reflection of car headlights on the Sawyer's windows and thought someone inside was signalling the Nazi bombers, directing them to their target. He broke down the front door, saw a German teenage girl, and assumed she was a spy endangering the entire city. He drew his pistol and pointed it at Ursula. Her adoptive father Norman Sawyer stepped in front of her, saying, "You shoot me first."

At the end of the war, Ursula, like almost all of the Kindertransport children, was left without parents. Out of 35 people interviewed, only two ever saw their birth parents after the war.

"Kindertransport was meant to be a temporary measure. The families had volunteered to take the children in until the danger passed," Hensley explained to *Breaking Israel News*. "After the war, when the children realized they had no family, they had to go to the family and ask, 'Can I call you mom and dad?'" In every case, the families agreed.

In a number of cases the children of the survivors thanked Hensley. "They wanted their parents

to talk about it but they didn't. It was too painful. One of the survivors was going through the pictures from the war and her grown daughter said that she had never seen the pictures before."

One of the most remarkable aspects of the story was the fact that though the children were placed with devout Christadelphians, almost all of the survivors retained their Jewish identities – with the help of their Christian families.



Ursula Meyer cherishes the photos she has of her family members who perished in the Holocaust.
(Photo: Part of the Family/YouTube screenshot)

"Almost unanimously they said there was no religious pressure," said Hensley. "Often the families helped them keep a connection with Judaism, and in most cases the kids went back to Judaism after the war."

While the story of the Kindertransport is not a new one, Hensley's book uncovers a previously unknown, Biblically-motivated aspect of that story: a community of Christians whose firm belief in the Hebrew Bible was the direct catalyst for the saving of hundreds of Jewish lives. By welcoming these Jewish children as a "branch" on their Biblical family tree, the Christadelphians represented the roots of today's growing movement towards mutual respect and a sense of brotherhood between the two faiths.

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**Phillip Andrews**

Adam, the sect that followed haMashiach Yahusha, followed Ruach haKodesh as He taught the followers the MEANING of the TANAKH.

They were not subjected to Seminary or Rabbinical school....therefore they were not perverted by the precepts of men.....TALMUD..ZOHAR..BIBLE.

FEW today follow Ruach haKodesh....

Paul wrote to his fellow countrymen the BOOK OF HEBREWS. Each chapter gives an explanation of the old covenant and then the new.....Enlightening.

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**Robin Cross** · Works at Self employed

Not all Germans were Nazis. There is a story - which I believe to be fact - of an SS officer living in Berlin had kept a family of 5 alive throughout the war. I can dig up the details but I think that many Jewish and German Authorities know about this man already.

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**Rose Rogers** · Nashville, Tennessee


True the problem is none of them really stood up to do anything about it, much like the American population does when the government commits murder.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 5 · Jun 2, 2016 7:11am

**Phyllis Pearson**

Rose Rogers - Yes you're right Rose, much the same as today when people of a

religious group cause havoc all around the world, the rest of that group/religion say nothing as well.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  2 · Jun 2, 2016 4:37pm



Kokro Bakroe · Paramaribo, Suriname

Max Schmeling, the first european and german haveyweight wold boxing champion, refused to become a nazi. he also hide about 5 Jewish children during the war.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Jun 2, 2016 6:47pm




Araxi Mangou

Thank you for this article, which really brought tears into my eyes.

This is the first time I hear about Christadelphians.

I can assure you though, this same love exists today towards Jewish people by "born again" Christians who love the same Creator and His Son.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  3 · Jun 2, 2016 7:20am



Phyllis Pearson

I have family who 'were' Christadelphians! While I do not doubt their religious fervour, having been in a few of their meetings, in Wales, and we felt very much accepted, by and large, but we were excluded from everything else in their service. We believe the Lord's Table is for all, and they don't and that means all who acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

One cannot fault their zealousness or devotion to presenting the Bible as the Word of God. But I would have loved to have been part of the Lord's Table. We've been in a number of churches but never before excluded like that.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  1 · Jun 2, 2016 4:43pm



Araxi Mangou

Phyllis Pearson I am so sorry to read about the treatment you received in Wales. I honestly dont understand why, because in the country I live now , which is not my birthplace, there are actually churches treating born again Christians in the same way. For me this treatment is spiritual blindness. Dont take it so hard, and pray for them.

The Lord's Table is for all Christians who have repented from their sins, accepted Jesus as their Saviour. They read the Bible every day, have private relationship with God through Jesus , by worshipping and praying and Gloryfing the Father, thus being ready for good deeds.. I hope you are now settled in a Church that has LOVE to all his congregation. Good luck and God Bless you.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Jun 2, 2016 11:47pm



Ralph Karen Eitel · Customer Relationship Officer at MyBudget

Phyllis Pearson the reason for the discernment the Christsdelphians place on the memorial is their understanding of Christs body being made up of those who understand and accept the atoning sacrifice brought by the death of Christ who was born a man, lived as a man and died a man and yet in all without sin.


Only those that accept Christ the son of God as their High Priest mediating for them toward God through baptism into Christ is invited as a Brother or Sister to partake of

the Lords body as they are part of it.

1 Cor. 11 puts it this way

"27Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

For more info you can visit the Wikipedia page.


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Keith Townsley · Captain (Ret) at U.S. Navy


Beautiful story.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  3 · Jun 2, 2016 7:44am



Gail Masterson Rogers · Southeast Missouri State University

Thank you for sharing this article. I pray that our God, Elohim will enable all of us who are Christians to stand with Israel and protect the Jewish people in whatever trials and persecutions that may come.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  4 · Jun 2, 2016 9:29am



Phyllis Pearson

I am sure that HaShem will have a specila reward for the Christadelphians.

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Cornelia Rusu · Bucharest, Romania

"We hidden children had a mission, a mission to proclaim and recognise goodness. For the first fifty years after the Holocaust, survivors bore witness to brutality, evil and bestiality. Now is the time for us and our generation, to bear witness to goodness. For each one of us is living proof that even in hell, in the hell called the Holocaust, there was goodness, there was kindness, and there was love and compassion." Abraham Henry Foxman {the National Director of the Anti-Defamation League from 1987 to 2015)

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Luiz Felipe Haddad · Federal University of Rio de Janeiro


Congratulations to Christadelphians. Christians and Jews must be brethren, because we share Abraham's Covenant. About the first ones, not caring whether Evangelicals whether Catholics like me. God bless His Sons and Daughters.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  1 · Jun 2, 2016 3:06pm



Bobbie Becker · University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Thank you Jason Hensley for the noble work and service you performed in bringing to light the miracles performed by these beautiful Christian people.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  2 · Jun 2, 2016 3:27pm



Caleb Plew · Customer Service Representative (CSR) at Lowe's Home Improvement

Jason the author of the book is a good friend of mine and fellow believer in the hope of israel as a christadelphian.. He is still reaching and looking for more survivors to interview and learn from. Thank you very much for the kind words. Jason was very appreciative of them. For anyone curious about our beliefs please give this a read.

<https://prophecyandnews.com/.../the-christadelphians-who.../>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/.../subdivi.../christadelphians_1.shtml

Id be happy to answer any questions if anyone has them.

Like · Reply · 2 · Jun 2, 2016 5:24pm · Edited



Vangie Martinez

That's interesting I never knew about this sect.

Like · Reply · Jun 2, 2016 7:26pm



Samir Halabi · Works at France, Israel, Italy and the UK

I have never heard of the Christian sect before, however they must be wonderful people in looking after these 250 Jewiish children who came on the 'Kinder-Transport just before the outbreak of world war two, but didn't in any way try to proselytize them in any way whatsoever. therefore they deserve a Kol-Hakavod.

Like · Reply · Jun 3, 2016 3:27am

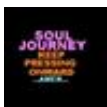


David Brooks · Frederick, Maryland

As an added note: Christadelphians are a relatively small group, but are widespread across the world. Having volunteered as a Christadelphian missionary, I've seen some of the good work done with the young, the old, and the outcast (such as those suffering with Leprosy). We understand that "faith, without works, is dead".

As another note for some reading: our practice of a closed communion isn't meant to exclude. We take communion with those of "like precious faith".

Like · Reply · Jun 4, 2016 9:38am



GMichael LottSr

<https://m.facebook.com/gmichael.lottsr>

Like · Reply · Jun 3, 2016 3:18pm



Judy Shaw

You made one mistake in writing this. John Thomas was a well studied Biblical student, but Christadelphians do not "follow the 19th century teachings of John Thomas", we follow the teachings of God and Christ in scripture. John Thomas' writings are only one tool that helps us to search out the Truth in God's word.

Like · Reply · 2 · Jun 4, 2016 11:47am



Janet Henriksen · Newcastle, New South Wales

The statement "Christadelphians represented the roots of today's growing movement towards mutual respect and a sense of brotherhood between the two faiths." has some merit in that their constant preaching of the Promises to Abraham, the Jewishness of Christ (ifrom

Greek "Anointed", Messiah) and the fulfillment of the Prophets of the Tanakh today including the revival of Israel perhaps has rubbed off on some Christians (there is even an accusation to that effect). But on the vast mass of those who call themselves Christians? Not a dent. Thankfully, it's not a numbers game! The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: (Deut 7:7)

It's not about who is liked by the nations, or who gets support. Cain killed his brother Abel, but Cain has no inheritance. Abel won. We all die, what then is our inheritance? The Tanakh and New Testament agree on that:- if people actually read them they agree on that.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) ·  1 · Jun 5, 2016 1:34am

**Graham Longfils**

My parents were good friends with one of these refugees called Inge and knew others too.

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