

**Mishkan** is a quarterly journal dedicated to biblical and theological thinking on issues related to Jewish Evangelism, Hebrew-Christian/Messianic-Jewish identity, and Jewish-Christian relations.

**Mishkan** is published by the Caspari Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies.

**Mishkan's** editorial policy is openly evangelical, committed to the New Testament proclamation that the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus (Yeshua) the Messiah is "to the Jew first."

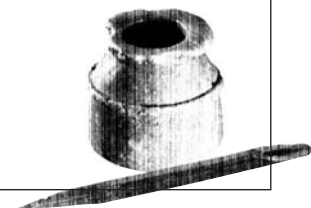
**Mishkan** is a forum for discussion, and articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors.

**Mishkan** is the Hebrew word for *tabernacle* or *dwelling place* (John 1:14).

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

# A Missiological Opportunity

By Kai Kjær-Hansen



The theme of this issue of *Mishkan* is Intermarriage, and more specifically, Jewish-gentile couples. By implication this includes those Jewish people who are dating, co-habiting, or thinking about marrying gentiles.

The demographics and sociological impact of intermarriage are described. But more than that, the articles underscore how Jewish ministry and Jewish evangelism should be challenged by the high intermarriage rate and see it as a significant missiological opportunity.

The articles are edited by Tuvya Zaretsky, Director of Staff Development with Jews for Jesus. He has a Doctor of Missiology degree from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon on studies related specifically to this topic.

Tuvya Zaretsky maintains that "spiritual harmony is possible only when both partners share a common faith in God through the Messiah, Jesus," but with the important addition that this "can be accomplished without disregard for their different ethnic identities and cultural preferences."

Jewish-gentile couples are at great risk of relational failure – the divorce rate is double that of Jewish-Jewish marriages. On the other hand, Jewish-gentile couples seem potentially more open to spiritual ministry.

It is said that at the turn of the millennium, nearly one third of all American Jews were married to non-Jews. The rate of Jewish intermarriage in the United States is over 50%, and in some countries in Europe as high as 70%. The intermarriage rate in Israel is comparatively low, at only about 10%, but approximately 450,000 Jewish Israelis are married to non-Jews.

Considering these figures and the documented claim that Jewish-gentile couples provide a significant missiological opportunity, people involved in Jewish evangelism need to take up the challenge and reach out to this group.