

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."

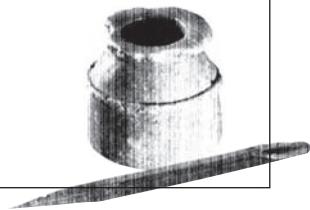
Mishkan is a forum for discussion, and articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors.

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

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Who Destroyed What

By Kai Kjær-Hansen



In the early 1970s the Danish Israel Mission moved its office from Copenhagen to Christiansfeld, a town in the southern part of Jutland. In Copenhagen, the mission had a reading room with literature in different languages for Jewish seekers, the majority of whom came from Eastern Europe.

Some of these books and journals – a portion of them from the 19th century – are now on the shelves in a storeroom in Christiansfeld. Nothing is cataloged. Some of the books are still in the same boxes in which they were moved from Copenhagen more than 30 years ago! These are not cataloged either. They once were, but the catalog has (I believe) been lost.

Among the items to be found in the boxes are first editions of writings by Yechiel Lichtenstein, a teacher at Institutum Judaicum in Leipzig, in German and Hebrew. There are novels by Scandinavian authors – in Hebrew – and other things of interest, but they are well hidden away. Other mission organizations can probably tell a similar story.

Having read the article by archivist Bob Shuster, "Developing a Ministry Archives," in this issue of *Mishkan*, I can see what should be done. He gives a number of practical suggestions. If you don't have the resources to set up or keep up your own internal archives, try to find an outside archive which can secure the (hi)story – even if it hurts to give to others what seems like the soul of one's history!

In this issue of *Mishkan* other painful stories are told. It is one thing when our opponents destroy our archives. It is another when our own people do this, not with evil intentions but in ignorance.