

**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 Pasche Institute of 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."

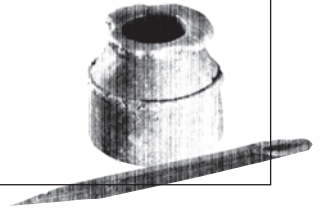
**Mishkan** is a forum for discussion, and articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, Pasche Institute of Jewish Studies, or Criswell College.

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

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

# Who Would Have Believed It?

By Kai Kjær-Hansen



In 1885, the Jew Ben Israel Jakob Haisraeli, alias Jakob Wechsler, from Kishinev, translated two of Joseph Rabinowitz' sermons from Yiddish into Hebrew. In the preface Wechsler wrote, "A few months ago who would have believed that the Messianic movement which is emerging among us would have assumed larger dimensions from day to day?" Wechsler adds that some may say, "This movement has no viability, it will soon be blown out and extinguished."

Editing this issue of *Mishkan*, which focuses on the Messianic movement in Germany today, I recall Jakob Wechsler's words. There are several similarities between the past and the present.

After the Holocaust, who would have believed that Jews would once again become an important minority in Germany – today the third largest Jewish population in Western Europe?

And who would have believed that once again there would be groups of Jesus-believing Jews in Germany? The fact that they are few compared to the Jewish population in Germany as such is not important in this context. They are there – and in such an emphatic way that it is possible to write a doctoral dissertation about Messianic Jews in Germany. Who would have believed that following the Holocaust?

German academic Stefanie Pfister did this in 2008, with a dissertation about Messianic Jews in Germany. She is presenting her research in this issue of *Mishkan*, followed by articles by people who are involved in Jewish evangelism in Germany today, namely Avi Snyder and Vladimir Pikman.

And as usual, this issue includes other articles about Messianic theology and history.