

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."

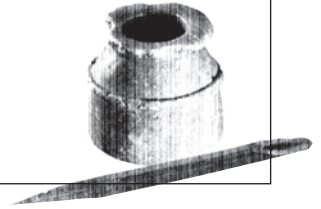
Mishkan is a forum for discussion, and articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, Pasche Institute of Jewish Studies, or Criswell College.

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

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds . . .

By Kai Kjær-Hansen



The name of Jesus of Nazareth has an attraction for believers today, whether or not they know the etymological meaning of Jesus' Hebrew name, Yeshua. Formally it is the short form of Yehoshua/Yoshua – or "Joshua" – which name's first bearer was Joshua ben Nun. Etymologically it means something like "the one by whom the Lord saves." Philo gives a philologically imprecise but objectively correct translation when he says that the name means "the salvation of the Lord."

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds" – indeed, but note the following words: "in a *believer's* ear"! What Jesus has done influences the believer's attitude to the name – whether you say "Yeshua" or "Jesus." History has also influenced the Jewish people's attitude to the name of Jesus, but negatively. This is not least due to the church's crimes against Jewish people – often perpetrated in the name of Jesus.

Instead of saying Yeshua, Jews often say Yeshu, deleting the final letter, *ayin*. While most Israelis today do not know the meaning of Yeshu, it is still known among orthodox Jews: *yimach sh'mo v'zichro*, "may his name and memory be blotted out."

In this issue of *Mishkan*, we print the results of a survey on Israeli knowledge of and attitudes toward Jesus, his person, and name(s) – a survey conducted by a professional company in Israel for Jews for Jesus. Following this are theological and historical articles about the person and name of Jesus.

His name in Hebrew, Yeshua, is not only a reminder of the fact that salvation is from the Lord of Israel. He himself – the Jew with the common name and the unique ministry – personifies salvation.