

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."

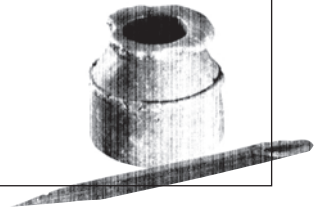
Mishkan is a forum for discussion, and articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, Pasche Institute of Jewish Studies, or Criswell College.

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

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Operation Mercy 1948

By Kai Kjær-Hansen



The term "Operation Mercy" or "Operation Grace" is used for the evacuation of Hebrew Christians in April and May 1948, when one hundred or more individuals left Palestine at the termination of the British Mandate.

Those who organized this operation, Christians as well as Hebrew Christians (not least those affiliated with the International Hebrew Christian Alliance), believed that through the grace of God they had "saved" these persons from imminent danger.

Others who remained in Israel, both Hebrew Christians and Christians, believed that the evacuation was not only unnecessary but constituted treason against the grace of God that came to expression in the establishment of the State of Israel; not only did the evacuated Hebrew Christians show cowardice, they were also "unfaithful."

In this issue of *Mishkan*, we let some of those involved in Operation Mercy share their perspective, so that we might understand them. And just as there was much disagreement in 1948, when the events surrounding Operation Mercy are *interpreted* today there are still different views, which will be clear from the articles.

With this issue of *Mishkan*, we hand the batons of editorial secretary and general editor to others. Bodil F. Skjøtt has served as editorial secretary since 1991, and I as general editor since 1995. Without being credited for his work, Birger Petterson has translated all my contributions into English. Seen in the rear-view mirror, it is clear that some things could have been done better. We take comfort in the belief that perfection belongs to the world to come. We are thankful for the "mercy" which authors of articles, successive linguistic editors, and layout designers have shown to us through the years, and for the editorial freedom given to us by the publishers.