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# *Task Force on Missionaries & Cults*

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**a project of the  
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Inc.  
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**December 21, 2001**

## ***Action Alert Prepared for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs***

### ***Erroneous Classification of “Hebrew-Christian” Congregations in Yellow Page Phone Directories***

Dear Jewish Communal Leader:

The erroneous classification of “Hebrew-Christian” congregations in numerous Yellow Page directories throughout the country has once again begun to raise the hackles of local Jewish community leaders. It is, in fact, just one manifestation of the “Hebrew-Christian” movement’s deliberate efforts to blur the boundaries between Judaism and Christianity.

To all of those receiving this bulletin, it is simply common sense that a congregation which prays “in the name of Jesus” is not practicing Judaism and should not be grouped together with Jewish houses of worship, regardless of what they choose to call themselves. The issue, however, may not be as clear-cut to those unfamiliar with the deceptive proselytizing campaign being waged against our community. Many will ask: “why shouldn’t a congregation which calls itself a ‘Messianic Jewish Synagogue’ be listed under ‘Synagogues’? After all, these listings encompass Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform Synagogues, – why not ‘Messianic Synagogues’?”

The Task Force on Missionaries and Cults of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York has developed an information packet which CRC representatives may use when approaching their local phone directory publishers regarding this matter. The packet contains:

- a background article on recent “Hebrew-Christian” attempts to blur the distinctions between our faith communities;
- a sample letter to a phone-directory publisher which cites recent positive developments in phone directory categorization and quotes from *Meeting the Challenge*, the Jewish community’s united stance regarding the dividing line between Judaism and “Hebrew-Christianity”.

The “battle of the Yellow Pages” is but one front in the ongoing campaign by the “Hebrew-Christian” movement to have itself recognized as a ‘fifth branch’ of Judaism. As our office is working through its own channels to address and correct this situation, we urge regional Jewish leadership to take the time to act in a very “concrete” manner on an issue which reaches to the heart of how we define ourselves as a people.

Please contact our office to receive the above mentioned information packet at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Philip D. Abramowitz  
Director

