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AIDL FACTS

The "Identity Churches": A Theology of Hate

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is a periodic report of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

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Introduction

Among several of the organized hate groups in the United States flows a current of particularly perverse religious bigotry. This phenomenon, known as the "Identity Churches," is a pseudo-Christian movement which holds to the belief that white Anglo-Saxons, not Jews, are the "true Israel," and God's chosen people. Members of the movement refer to the "true identification of Israel," claiming that Great Britain and, by extension, the United States, are the true Holy Land -- home to the true Israelites.

Among the basic tenets of the "Identity" movement is the doctrine of the inherent superiority of the white race. This doctrine holds that blacks and other non-white races are on the same spiritual level as animals and therefore have no souls. Vicious hostility toward these non-white races and relentless vilification of Jews are major components of this movement's theology of hate.

Many "Identity" adherents also believe that the second coming of Jesus Christ is at hand and that American cities will go up in flames preceding that event. This apocalyptic vision, according to "Identity" followers, will come about as the result of a gigantic race war that will follow an attack upon the United States by the Soviet Union. They further believe that only members of the "Identity" movement will survive to build a "new Israel" in America. "Identity" followers are preparing now for the racial wars and political and economic chaos which they envision will precede the second coming.

The Posse Comitatus, the Christian Defense League (CDL), Aryan Nations, the Christian Patriots Defense League (CPDL), certain elements of the Ku Klux Klan, and neo-Nazi factions are among those groups whose bigotry shares this common theological thread.

Anglo-Israelism

The "Identity" movement in the United States is rooted in Anglo-Israelism, a movement which developed in Great Britain in the mid-19th century. Anglo-Israelism identifies Anglo-Saxons with the Ten Lost Tribes. Its adherents claim that the promises made to Israel are to be fulfilled with regard to England and America.

Edward Hine was the chief proponent of Anglo-Israelism in Great Britain and in 1871 sold a quarter of a million copies of his book Identification of the British Nation with Lost Israel. Hine's beliefs were promoted in America in the late 19th century by two men, G. W. Greenwood who published Heir of the World, a monthly in New York, and the Rev. W. H. Poole, of Detroit, Michigan.

Anglo-Israelism is a belief based upon an ultra literal interpretation of the King James version of the Old Testament. In addition, followers of Anglo-Israelism brought together the texts from all the biblical prophecies about Israel. They interpreted these texts to mean that England and its former American colony must be the Israel to which the promises were made in the Bible, because they believed these promises to have been fulfilled in these two countries. A distinction is made in these textual interpretations between the fate of Israel and that of Judah. To Israel all the blessings of the Bible accrue; to Judah, represented in modern times by the Jews, belong all the curses of the Bible threatened in the prophecies.

Another "Identity" forerunner, active in the 1940's and 50's, was the Massachusetts-based Anglo-Saxon Federation, led by Howard B. Rand, which regularly attacked the legitimacy of the infant State of Israel.

As with its precursors, the "Identity" movement holds that Jesus was not a Jew -- that he was of Israel, not Judah -- but rather an ancestor of the present British, Germanic and Scandinavian peoples, who are therefore God's chosen people.

Dr. Wesley Swift

The best known advocate of the "Identity" doctrine in the United States was the Reverend Wesley Swift. Swift, a West Coast anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic bigot was the prime activist in the "Identity" movement in the post-World War II years. A one-time Ku Klux Klan organizer, Swift founded the Christian Defense League and during the 1950's was the leader of a Los Angeles church called the "Anglo-Saxon Christian Congregation." During that period he also ran an "Anglo-Israel Bible Class" in Los Angeles. In a display of bi-partisan bigotry, Swift once described Dean Acheson (President Truman's Secretary of State) as "a stooge for Stalin -- a Felix Frankfurter appointee," and John Foster Dulles (President Eisenhower's Secretary of State) as "a stooge for these Jews and. . . not to be trusted."

Swift was the top West Coast lieutenant of Gerald L. K. Smith, the notorious anti-Semite and racist who led the Christian Nationalist Crusade for over 40 years and published its hate sheet, The Cross and The Flag. Swift arranged meetings for Smith, shared platforms with him, and helped to distribute his materials. Swift also worked closely with Bertrand Comparet, then the attorney for the Christian Nationalist Crusade, who was another early "Identity" figure. Swift's strident anti-Semitism was illustrated by such public statements as "All Jews must be destroyed," and "I prophesy that before November, 1953 there will not be a Jew in the United States, and by that I mean a Jew that will be able to walk or talk."

Swift died in 1970. In recent years, his mantle has been claimed by "Rev." Richard G. Butler, the leader of the Idaho-based hate group known as Aryan Nations, whose affiliated "Identity" church -- the Church of Jesus Christ Christian -- is, according to Butler, the direct successor to Swift's California church. Butler had attended Swift's congregation since 1963, having been introduced to the "Identity" movement by Col. William P. Gale (Ret.), another long-time "Identity" leader who promoted anti-Jewish propaganda through his own "Identity" church in California. Butler moved his operation to Idaho during the 1970's.

Who's Who in "Identity"

The following groups and individuals are in the forefront of the "Identity" movement in the United States.

Individuals

William Potter Gale -- A retired army colonel, Gale, 66, has long been associated with right-wing organizations. While in the army, Gale served on

General MacArthur's staff. He also organized and directed guerrilla operations in the Philippines during World War II.

Like his longtime associate Dr. Wesley Swift, Gale was one of the early leaders of the "Identity" movement. Gale has been "Minister" of his own "Identity" church, the Ministry of Christ Church in Mariposa, California. As head of this church, Gale has published a quarterly, Identity, which regularly attacked "anti-Christ Jews." In 1971, Gale authored a pamphlet outlining the racist ideology of the "Identity" movement, titled "Racial and National Identity."

Gale's anti-Semitic "sermons" have been broadcast in the Midwest. One of these sermons stated, ". . . if the Jews even fool around with us, or try to harm us in any way, every rabbi in Los Angeles will die within 24 hours. Let 'em start."

In early 1983, radio station KTTL-FM in Dodge City, Kansas, broadcast a taped message by Gale, which stated in part:

Yes, we're gonna cleanse our land. We're gonna do it with a sword. And we're gonna do it with violence. "Oh," they say, "Reverend Gale, you're teaching violence." You're damn right I'm teaching violence! God said you're gonna do it that way, and it's about time somebody is telling you to get violent, whitey.

You better start making dossiers, names, addresses, phone numbers, car license numbers, on every damn Jew rabbi in this land, and every Anti-Defamation League leader or J.D.L. leader in this land, and you better start doing it now. And know where he is. If you have to be told any more than that, you're too damn dumb to bother with. You get these roadblock locations, where you can set up ambushes, and get it all working now.

In a May 22, 1983 editorial, the New York Times condemned the "vile racism" of "[t]hese vicious messages." ADL has filed a formal complaint with the FCC on KTTL's programming practices.

In 1960 Gale organized the paramilitary California Rangers. A 1965 report issued by the California State Attorney General included the California Rangers among other groups termed "a threat to the peace and security of our state." According to this report, which recommended outlawing these paramilitary groups, the California Rangers were "closely linked in views, activities and personnel" to Dr. Wesley Swift and his "Identity" church, the Church of Jesus Christ Christian.

In April, 1972, Gale appeared at a Los Angeles meeting of James K. Warner's New Christian Crusade Church. The theme of this meeting was "How to Survive the Coming Anti-Christian Bloodbath." According to an account in Warner's newspaper, Christian Vanguard, Gale furnished advice about guerrilla warfare from his personal experience.

In addition to his association with Butler of Aryan Nations, Gale has been involved with yet another racist church, the Christian Conservative Churches of America (CCCA), the progenitor of the Klan-like Christian Patriots Defense League.

Gale has also been associated with the Posse Comitatus, the violence-prone, anti-Semitic vigilante group. He was involved in organizing Posse chapters in the Pacific Northwest and has been reported as head of the U.S. Christian Posse Association, a West Coast branch of the Posse Comitatus.

Sheldon Emry -- Pastor Emry of the "America's Promise" radio program and Lord's Covenant Church in Phoenix, Arizona, is a longtime Jew-baiter who is a preacher of "Kingdom-Identity" Christianity. Emry's Lord's Covenant Church is the sponsor of his "America's Promise" radio program on which he promotes his "Kingdom-Identity" beliefs over 30 radio stations around the country, primarily in the South and Southwest.

"America's Promise" produces a monthly "America's Promise Newsletter" and a periodical called "America's Promise Broadcaster." It also has published a number of "Israel Identity" books and tracts, among them materials charging that Jews are not Israelites and that Gentiles are "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Other materials deny the reality of the Nazi Holocaust.

Emry has offered for sale a number of extremist anti-Jewish publications. In a letter published in the September, 1975 issue of "The Liberty Bell," an anti-Semitic magazine, Emry praised a group of books called "The Treason Series." Emry labeled the books as "the most comprehensive I have seen on the historical origin and operation of the Anti-Christian conspiracy which seems poised for the final blow to destroy America and Christendom."

Books and tracts from Emry's "America's Promise" itself have included such items as "The Old Jerusalem Is Not The New Jerusalem," which "Refutes all 'Jewish' claims to be 'fulfilling Israel prophecy in Palestine'"; An Open Letter To Any Minister Who Teaches 'The Jews are Israel,' which contains "70 proofs that 'Jews' are Not descended from the children of Israel, and are Not fulfilling any prophecies to Israel"; and "the Jews That Aren't," described as "A newspaper article about a Russian Jew who claims 90% of American 'Jews' are Mongolian Khazars, Not descendants of Israelites!"

Writing in the August, 1977 issue of "America's Promise," Emry declared: "You should read 'The Hoax of the 20th Century' by Prof. Arthur Butz. He proves, in page after page, the '6 million Jews were killed by Hitler' is an outright fraud, but he proves top officials in the U.S. Government were in on the hoax from the beginning."

As a parallel to its anti-Semitism, "America's Promise" has attacked several well-known Christian fundamentalists who are supportive of Israel and the Jews. For example, in January, 1983, in a letter to "Identity Ministers, Elders, Teachers, and All Patriotic Christians," Emry charged that, "Some of the Identity Christians are still fooled by [Jerry] Falwell and others like him who get the confidence and trust of Christians by mouthing patriotic slogans, opposing obvious and open crimes (never opposing the secret money crimes however), and who then preach that being a Christian or a patriot is synonymous [sic] with praising and supporting the antichrist Jews."

Emry has in recent years been active with the Citizens Emergency Defense System, a far-right-wing survivalist group, associated with the Christian Patriots Defense League. He said that "Identity Christians should be physically prepared to defend themselves and provide leadership in the defense of their community and nation in any emergency."

Gordon Winrod -- A longtime anti-Jewish propagandist, Winrod, 53, is the son of the late Rev. Gerald B. Winrod of Kansas, whose notorious anti-Semitic and pro-German activities during the 1930's and 1940's earned him the title of the "Jayhawk Nazi." In recent years, Gordon Winrod has been the pastor of Our Saviour's Church in Gainesville, Missouri, where he conducts his "radio ministry" and publishes "The Winrod Letter."

Winrod's hatemongering activities became apparent with the first issue of his anti-Semitic monthly, "The Winrod Letter," in the summer of 1960. Winrod was then ousted from his Arkansas position and suspended from ministerial functions by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church. Subsequently, Winrod was named National Chaplain of the racist, anti-Semitic National States Rights Party (NSRP).

After leaving the NSRP in 1962, Winrod began devoting his full time to tirades against Jews through his radio broadcasts and publications. Winrod has advocated "killing all Jews" as the solution to America's social and economic problems. Though several radio stations have banned "The Winrod Hour," Winrod has managed to maintain his show on some stations by using code words, such as "anti-Christ" and "Pharisees" for Jews and Judaism. "The Winrod Letter" has offered for sale a number of virulently anti-Semitic books including The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, The Talmud Unmasked, Jewish Ritual Murder, and The International Jew.

Dan Gayman -- A former Missouri high school principal, Gayman has been a leading figure in the "Identity" church movement for almost ten years. Gayman, who considers himself a bishop within this movement, has organized his own "Church of Israel," situated near Schell City, Missouri. He has preached the racist, anti-Semitic theology of the "Identity" movement from this pulpit and on speaking tours across the U.S. and has made his sermons available in printed form and on cassette tapes.

Gayman's verbal attacks on the Jewish people have gone beyond simply denying that the Jews are the chosen people. In a lengthy tract, entitled "For Fear of the Jews," Gayman has written, "Today every word that is printed in America's newspapers, slick periodicals, and over radio and television is censored by the psychological Fear of the Jews. . ." In this work, Gayman further revealed his deep-rooted anti-Semitism, stating that it is necessary to "penetrate, expose, unveil, and bring to light the truth about Jews, political Zionism, the racial origin of the Jew and the Satanic origin of the religious philosophy called Judaism." Gayman has espoused such themes in his books, especially The Two Seeds of Genesis which purportedly "proves incontestably that the Jews are Satan's seed."

In 1973, Gayman became affiliated with an extremist "Identity" group, the Louisiana-based National Emancipation of Our White Seed. Gayman assisted Buddy Tucker, a notorious anti-Semite and leader of the "White Seed" group, in publishing its anti-Jewish periodical, "The Battle Axe News."

Gayman is close to other anti-Semitic individuals and organizations. He has been linked to Aryan Nations and its own Identity-related Church of Jesus Christ Christian. Under the direction of "Rev." Richard Butler, Aryan Nations has sponsored meetings of leaders of the "Identity" movement. Gayman appeared at the Kingdom Identity Conference at the Aryan Nations headquarters in Hayden Lake, Idaho in 1979 and delivered a speech on "The Aryan Warrior's Stand." Gayman has

also been associated with James K. Warner's New Christian Crusade Church, whose monthly Christian Vanguard has promoted Gayman's cassettes.

Gayman has been editor and publisher of "Zion's Watchman," a national "Identity" monthly. In addition to his duties as "pastor," Gayman has been administrator and principal of the Christian Heritage Academy and Bible Institute, part of his "Church of Israel" complex.

James K. Warner -- Warner, of Metairie, Louisiana, is a longtime anti-Jewish agitator and propagandist. Now in his 40's, Warner has been engaged in extremist, anti-Semitic activities since the early 1960's. His anti-Jewish operations include the New Christian Crusade Church, the Christian Defense League and a mail-order book service called the Sons of Liberty. The Christian Defense League has been described as "the action arm" of the New Christian Crusade Church, and the Sons of Liberty as "the book publishing division" of the Christian Defense League.

In the early 1960's, Warner was an officer in the late George Lincoln Rockwell's American Nazi Party. After breaking with Rockwell, Warner was associated with the National States Rights Party, another leading anti-Jewish, anti-black group, currently headquartered in Marietta, Georgia. He has also been active in the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Early in 1971, Warner founded the New Christian Crusade Church, now headquartered in Metairie, Louisiana, which publishes Christian Vanguard, a shrill, anti-Jewish and racist monthly tabloid. In a mailing introducing the New Christian Crusade Church, Warner expounded the "satanic" conspiracy theory often promoted by anti-Semites. He denounced Jews as the "Sons of the Devil" who are "going all out to destroy the white race." Warner expressed the hope that his church would make white people aware of their true racial identity so that the "Satanic Host" and the "apostles of Satan" could be destroyed.

The Warner-led Christian Defense League has declared that "we are closer each day to outright dictatorship by organized Jewry" and that "this Jewish control of America must be stopped and now!" In early 1978, the Christian Defense League initiated a campaign against NBC-TV's docu-drama, "Holocaust." Warner, in a letter to NBC-affiliated television stations, condemned the presentation as "outright Zionist propaganda" and added: "It is a well known fact that CBS, NBC and ABC are owned and controlled by Zionist Jews."

A credo of the New Christian Crusade Church has been that "[t]he Jews are not the 'chosen people'; they are the physical offspring of Cain, the satanic seed line." Christian Vanguard has proclaimed that "the real enemy is Satan's offspring, the Jew." And Warner himself has declared: "Whenever I've seen a chance to move ahead against the Jews, I've been willing to pitch in and do my part." Warner wrote in the February, 1982 issue of "The CDL Report": "We non-Jewish Americans demand that the Jews living in America keep their big noses out of our racial and religious affairs. Let us pray for the day when the last Jew leaves our shores FOREVER. Let us free America from JEWISH DOMINATION."

Robert E. Miles -- Miles, 58, a self-described racist, has a long history of involvement with the Ku Klux Klan and other such organizations. Around 1970, Miles began devoting his full time to the activities of his "church," the Mountain Church of Jesus Christ the Saviour, also known as the Mountain Kirk. Using

both his "Identity" Church and the United Klans of America (UKA), Miles has fostered racial hatred in the state of Michigan and beyond. From 1969 to 1971, Miles held the position of Grand Dragon, Realm of Michigan, for the United Klans of America, the largest Klan group in the U.S. Although he later resigned from the UKA, Miles has commented, "I am still, always was, and always will be a Klansman."

During the 1970's Miles served nearly six years in federal prison for his role in the bombing of school buses in Pontiac, Michigan. Miles' Mountain Church was relatively inactive while he was incarcerated but it resumed full operation upon his release. Through his bi-monthly newsletter, From the Mountain, Miles has often promoted other anti-Semitic literature including that of Willis Carto's Liberty Lobby and George P. Dietz's Liberty Bell Publications (the largest publisher and distributor of pro-Nazi literature in the U.S.), as well as the publications of Lyndon LaRouche's U.S. Labor Party (the political vehicle -- now known as the National Democratic Policy Committee -- of LaRouche's National Caucus of Labor Committees).

Miles' religion is a coarse amalgam of violence, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and racism. Miles has stated, "Our nation is the nation of our race, under a white God, for a white people. . . we are in a war for our race's survival." Like his colleagues in the "Identity" movement, Miles has claimed that "Israel is the white Race" and "Jews are imposters." In support of this view, Miles has written that Jews are "the product of Eve and the serpent" and were "murderers and liars from the beginning."

Several notorious hatemongers, including Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard of the UKA, Dr. Edward R. Fields of the National States Rights Party (NSRP), and Don Black, Imperial Wizard, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, have made speeches in Michigan under the auspices of "Unity Now," another project whose Michigan operations were directed by Miles.

Miles has been a featured speaker at recent gatherings of The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord and the Christian Patriots Defense League, and spoke at a summer, 1982 Aryan Nations Congress, sponsored by Aryan Nations. Together with Klan leaders, Miles attended a major Klan unity meeting at Stone Mountain, Georgia during the 1982 Labor Day weekend.

Thomas Arthur Robb -- "Pastor" Thomas (or Thom) Arthur Robb, 37, of Harrison, Arkansas, is the editor of a virulently anti-Semitic and racist tabloid, The Torch, published in Bass, Arkansas by The White People's Committee to Restore God's Laws, which lists Robb as Director. He also publishes Robb's Editorial Report, a monthly newsletter signed by Robb and containing his anti-Semitic and racist views. Robb, who has been a printer by profession, began publishing his hate sheet in the late 1960's under the title The Message of Old Monthly in Tucson, Arizona, later changing its name to The Torch.

Robb received some national notoriety when his name appeared in the press as the national chaplain of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a Klan group headquartered in Tusculum, Alabama, and headed by Don Black. Robb and some 30 other Klansmen received a permit to march from the Capitol to the White House on November 27, 1982. The proposed march received national attention and media coverage, and anti-Klan groups promised that there would be a large counter-Klan demonstration. Faced with this, the Klan canceled its march and the Klansmen drove in a

police motorcade to Lafayette Park. They left their white Klan robes in shopping bags during the brief gathering, in which Robb stepped forward as the Klan spokesman, and, holding a Bible, spoke against a bill in Congress granting amnesty to illegal immigrants in the U.S. The Klansmen thereafter dispersed. In the meantime, the anti-Klan protest erupted into violence and rioting -- an intense rampage that lasted two hours.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, Robb was apparently influenced by such anti-Semites as Kenneth Goff, a one-time follower of Gerald L. K. Smith, and David K. Stacey, a hate peddler who gave his mailing list to Robb in 1970.

Robb has affiliated himself with the "Identity" movement. His publication, The Torch, bears the sub-heading, The REVOLUTIONARY Newspaper of WHITE Christianity. Robb has written to potential supporters for his group:

The laws of God as set forth in the Holy Bible is the only cure for the black plague and Jew parasites that are destroying our race and nation. Will you be the next victim in this age old battle between the Children of Darkness (Jews) and the Children of Light (the White race). If you would like to associate with others of like convictions and dedication, then please fill out the form below. There are no membership dues.

I, the undersigned desire to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. I am a WHITE CHRISTIAN of non-Jewish, non-Negro of [sic] non-Oriental descent. I believe that Jesus Christ and His laws offer the only solution to the Jewish sickness and insanity affecting America and our whole racial nation.

More recently, Robb has shown links with other haters. The April, 1980 issue of The Torch ran an interview with Manfred Roeder, a leader of the neo-Nazi movement in West Germany who is now in a German prison for his role in a terrorist bombing. The introduction to the interview was written by George P. Dietz, publisher of The Liberty Bell (a neo-Nazi hate sheet) and head of Liberty Bell Publications.

Besides editing his own materials, Robb also distributes other anti-Semitic and racist publications. He offers these through a distribution entity called Message of Old located in Harrison, Arkansas. Books offered are standard anti-Semitic tracts such as The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, The International Jew, and books on Holocaust "revisionism," such as The Hoax of the 20th Century, and The Six Million Reconsidered.

Organizations

Aryan Nations -- This racist and anti-Semitic organization, based in Hayden Lake, Idaho, is built around Rev. Richard Butler's Church of Jesus Christ Christian, which, according to Butler, is a continuation of the church founded decades ago by Wesley Swift. Neo-Nazi in its trappings, rituals and philosophy, Aryan Nations has forged links with other standard-bearers of bigotry. A violent and stridently anti-Semitic Texas Ku Klux Klan leader, Louis Beam, is the

Aryan Nations' "Ambassador-at-Large." At an "International Congress of Aryan Nations" held at Butler's church in 1982, at least 13 Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazi and other racist groups were represented. Moreover, Butler has developed a close relationship with German neo-Nazi Manfred Roeder.

The link to Roeder is particularly significant in that it may represent a potential for Butler's wider influence among Roeder's worldwide Nazi contacts and to the anti-Semitic groups in the U.S. which Roeder has visited or worked with -- including James K. Warner's New Christian Crusade Church, William Pierce's Washington-based National Alliance, George Dietz's Liberty Bell Publications, and The Spotlight, the weekly newspaper published in Washington by Willis Carto's Liberty Lobby.

Aryan Nations' ideas about Jews and blacks are violent. In a pamphlet explaining the organization's insignia, part of which resembles the swastika, the slogan linked to the symbol calls upon "the Aryan Warrior" to smash "the lying murdering Jews." The ultimate aim in the organization's program is the establishment of "a national racist state."

Closely connected with Aryan Nations is the National Chronicle, a twice-monthly newspaper published in Hayden Lake by Butler's 89-year-old associate Hal Hunt, a former Klansman who has publicly advocated violence against Jews.

Christian Defense League (CDL) -- James K. Warner's Christian Defense League of Baton Rouge and Arabi, Louisiana is an extremist anti-Semitic group which has called itself "the voice of true Christianity in America" and has proclaimed its "ultimate aim must be to organize the White Christian majority, and to forge them into a force or movement that can sweep the anti-Christ from our churches and those that support the anti-Christ Jews from any political positions they may hold."

The CDL is closely allied with the tax-exempt New Christian Crusade Church which is part of the "Kingdom Identity" movement. The church, based in Metairie, Louisiana, was created by Warner in 1971. Warner also founded the Christian Vanguard, currently edited by Thomas E. O'Brien. The Christian Vanguard has printed articles bearing such headlines as "New Research Into Jewish Ritual Murder," "American Jews are Khazars Not Israelites," and "Inequalities of the Negro Race." Warner also operates a mail order book service called The Sons of Liberty which he founded in the mid-1960's.

The CDL has allied itself with other extremist groups. In 1976, Warner and a number of other extremists from the United States and other countries participated in a convention of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, then led by David Duke, held in the metropolitan New Orleans area under the banner of the World Nationalist Congress.

A CDL promotional advertisement appeared in the September 26, 1977 issue of Liberty Lobby's The Spotlight. The CDL ad, captioned "Fight Zionism!" read in part, "The Zionists have managed to take prayers out of your schools. They have managed to integrate MAJORITY schools while keeping theirs segregated on 'religious grounds.' They have forced manufacturers of food products to put their 'K' and 'U' symbols on food and passed this Kosher Tax on to you!" The ad ended with "If you are fed up and want to organize to fight back then write to: CHRISTIAN DEFENSE LEAGUE. . ."

Since the early 1980's the CDL has been among those extremist groups active in the "Identity" movement through its affiliated New Christian Crusade Church. In April, 1983, the Christian Vanguard published an ad for cassettes entitled, "Germany And The Third Reich," "Hitler Jugend" and "Third Reich Marches," as well as ads for "Identity Sermons."

Posse Comitatus -- An organization composed of loosely affiliated bands of armed vigilantes and survivalists, the Posse has been in existence since 1969. The name Posse Comitatus is Latin for "power of the county," and the Posse literally believes that all government power is rooted at the county level. Unauthorized, self-appointed Posses seeking the return of vigilante "justice" have been organized on the county level in California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. These groups are considered violent and dangerous by law enforcement officers.

On February 17, 1983, near Medina, North Dakota, Gordon Kahl, a longtime member of the Posse Comitatus, allegedly shot and killed two U.S. marshals and wounded three other law enforcement officers. Kahl has been indicted for these shootings and, as of this writing, is a fugitive.

Posse members combine their extremist views on law and order with belief in the power of the gun and what they describe as devotion to God. Another component of their "philosophy" is that Jews are in control of the financial and political establishment. A Posse newsletter circulated in January, 1983 made numerous anti-Semitic references such as 'the corrupt Jew-owned Federal Reserve'; 'the Jews who create recessions and depressions'; and the 'Jews who control Reagan.'

The Posse claims to have a national membership which exceeds two million, but a realistic assessment indicates that figure to be a gross exaggeration. Two or three thousand members nationwide would be a more accurate estimate.

The Posse has attracted Klan types, Minutemen, and some notable anti-Semites. Among the avid promoters of Posse Comitatus during the period of its development in the seventies were Arch Roberts' Committee to Restore the Constitution, of Fort Collins, Colorado, and "Western Front," run in Los Angeles by collaborators of Gerald L. K. Smith. David Ernest Duke, formerly national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (currently the president of the National Association for the Advancement of White People), has said: "We work with the Posses wherever we can. . . We get their material and funnel it to our groups."

The Posse Comitatus has focused its major attacks upon the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Reserve Banking system, as well as the concepts of firearms control, environmental protection, regional planning and urban renewal.

Posse Comitatus members have founded and are members of "Identity" churches of their own. Some are called Life Science or Basic Bible Churches and their creeds differ from what most Christians would recognize. The churches are based on "Identity" beliefs which hold that Blacks are inferior and that Jews are the seed of the devil. These churches provide Posse members with an alternative to conventional churches and a theological base for their racist and anti-Semitic views.

Several Posse members have run unsuccessfully for public office, most notably James Wickstrom of Tigerton Dells, Wisconsin, who has run for the U.S. Senate and for Governor of Wisconsin.

The Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord (CSA) -- The CSA is a paramilitary survivalist group which operates a "Christian" communal settlement called Zarepath-Horeb on 224 acres of secluded land near the Arkansas-Missouri border. Purportedly a "church," the CSA is a purveyor of violent anti-Semitism and racism.

The one hundred or more men, women and children of Zarepath-Horeb (named for a Biblical purging place) believe American society to be approaching economic collapse, famine, rioting and a "coming war," all of which they await by stockpiling arms, food, and wilderness survival gear, and by training in the use of weapons in a mock village called Silhouette City. Kerry Noble, an elder and ordained minister of the CSA, has explained: "We are Christian survivalists who believe in preparing for the ultimate holocaust."

To this end the CSA operates the "Endtime Overcomer Survival Training School," offering courses in urban warfare, riflery and pistol craft, military tactics, "Christian martial arts" and wilderness survival. In addition to the Training School, run by the CSA leader Jim Ellison, 43, a former San Antonio fundamentalist minister who founded the Zarepath-Horeb settlement in 1976 because "God spoke to me," the members conduct seminars throughout the Midwest and South at which they demonstrate weapons available for "self-protection" and offer for sale riot guns along with quantities of hate literature.

The CSA church has declared: "We believe the Scandinavian-Germanic-Teutonic-British-American people to be the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel which Jesus was sent for." The CSA's anti-Semitism and racism flow from such beliefs. Its members are told that "Jews of today are not God's chosen people, but are in fact an antichrist race, whose purpose is to destroy God's people and Christianity through its Talmudic teachings, forced inter-racial mixings, and perversions." The Jews, says Bill Thomas, organizer of the CSA seminars, are "the seed of Satan, not the seed of God."

The CSA offers for sale from its official booklist a number of anti-Jewish, pro-Nazi and racist materials including the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, The Talmud Unmasked, Who's Who in the Zionist Conspiracy, The Negro and the World Crisis, and A Straight Look at the Third Reich.

The Christian-Patriots Defense League (CPDL) -- The CPDL is an extremist survivalist group involved in paramilitary training. It preaches a conspiracy theory of history pointing to "an almost certain and inescapable collapse of the present structure" of America caused by Communism, which is only the surface of "the Pharisaical anti-Christ system."

The CPDL is the principal group of four "cooperating" organizations under the control of John R. Harrell, an Illinois millionaire. During the 1960's, he served four years in federal prisons after pleading guilty to charges of harboring a military deserter and of bail jumping. The other organizations he heads are the Christian Conservative Churches of America, CPDL's progenitor which Harrell founded in 1959 "to blend Christianity and Patriotism together to effectively oppose Zionism and Communism"; the Citizens Emergency Defense System, a private militia; and the Paul Revere Club, a fundraising operation.

In 1979 Harrell proclaimed that CPDL's purpose is to awaken and organize "patriots" who find themselves in the wilderness contending against "humanism, modernism, communism, regionalism, Judaism, integration, taxation, gun confiscation" and other "atrocities perpetrated by evil men" among whom are the "Christ-hating International Jewish Conspiracy." Racism and anti-Semitism are an integral part of the CPDL militancy.

A chief activity of the CPDL is the "Freedom Festival" held twice a year since 1979 at a 55-acre estate in Louisville, Illinois, owned by Harrell and donated to the movement. At the CPDL's summer Freedom Festival in 1980, more than a thousand persons attended some 55 classes in such subjects as "Handgun Use for Personal Defense," "Concealment of Valuables and Weaponry," "Archery, Cross-bow, Black Powder Guns," "Street Action," and "Knife Fighting." Along with courses in guns and combat, the CPDL Festivals have made available quantities of racist and anti-Semitic literature -- e.g., The Negro: A Beast; The Origins of the Jews; and copies of National Vanguard, published by the National Alliance, a neo-Nazi group.

Harrell announced in 1980 the opening of a 232-acre "permanent base" in Missouri's Ozark region about 25 miles from Fort Leonard Wood, and more recently the opening of another survival base in West Virginia.

Conclusion

The American hate movement, of which the "Identity Churches" are a part, represents a small fraction of the population of the United States. As such, the danger posed by the "Identity" movement lies not so much in membership figures, but rather in its potential for violence and in its use of religious themes to advance bigotry.

Increased public awareness of the nature of this movement, as well as active attention by law enforcement authorities to the violent aspect of the "Identity" phenomenon, are the essential antidotes needed to combat the poison spread by "Identity" propagandists.

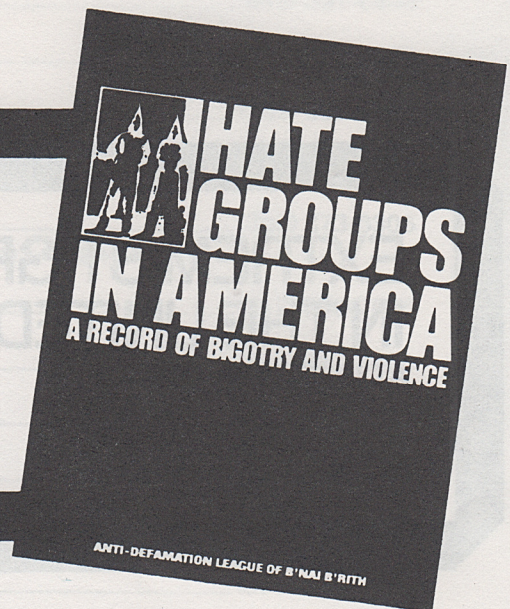
The Identity Church Movement is not the first example in modern American history of the misuse of religion in the service of racist and anti-Jewish bigotry. In the 1930's, 40's and 50's, such ostensibly religious figures as Father Charles Coughlin, Gerald Winrod and Gerald L. K. Smith promoted virulent anti-Semitism wrapped in Christian clothing. What distinguishes that form of religiously based hatred (which is by no means extinct) from the "Identity" phenomenon is that this earlier hatemongering was derived from traditional Christian sources of anti-Semitism which for centuries stereotyped the Jews as eternal "outsiders" guilty of deicide, and in league with evil forces -- references that have been significantly modified by the mainstream Catholic and Protestant churches in our day.

The "Identity" Movement, while not abandoning these concepts and the convenient anti-Jewish conspiracy theories to which they lend themselves, has gone a step further: It seeks not simply to scapegoat the Jews, but to supplant them, to deny the Jews their rightful historical and religious role by expropriating it. As noted earlier, "Identity" activists claim they themselves are the "true Jews." This doctrine is a particularly insidious (if also ironic) form of anti-Semitism in that it goes beyond familiar forms of Jew-baiting, seeking to deny the Jews of the world their most fundamental human right -- namely, that of their existence as Jews. The dangers implicit in such a doctrine are all too obvious.

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