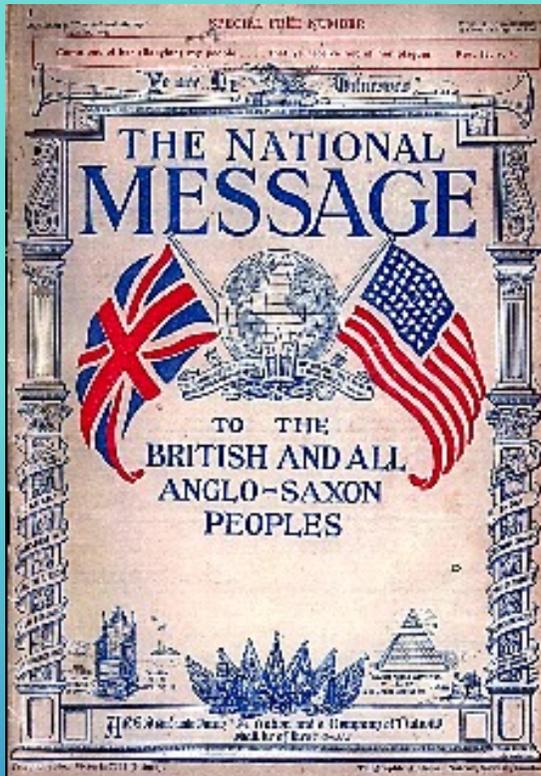


# Demise of The National Message



**And Secretary  
Stough**

# Demise of The National Message And BIWF Secretary (Harold Stough)

**L**OOKING BACK IN HINDSIGHT, IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO SEE THE INFLUENCE OF THE “HIDDEN HAND” using The British Israel movement to further its agenda. This was particularly so of the period between the two world wars.

Jewish Banker, Edward Hine, had already prepared the way, by influencing independent BI groups who were very numerous in his day, to amalgamate under the banner of The British World Federation. However, unlike many of the other groups, Hine did not accept the Germans as being Israel, although they were Saxons, but instead classified them as Assyrians!

This was of course very necessary to further the hidden hand’s agenda, of stealing Palestine from its occupants, to create a homeland for the Jews and thereby reinforce their identity of being Israel which they had stolen from true Israel now occupying most of Europe and other dominions to which they had spread, i.e. the Caucasians!

Dr. Wesley Swift, mentioned that the Rockefellers funded the BIWF, from its creation in 1919 (a good illuminati number) and perhaps they still do!

Several identity ministers and preachers were not too enamoured with Hine. For example William Greig referred to him as that “Prophet Hine, Polish Jew, English Sailor, Bell Ringer, Pew Opener, Parish Beadle, Christmas Hamper, and Company;”.

Once the enemy’s main objective had been achieved, the Identity movement was to be eliminated. This would be done slowly so as not to raise suspicion. In the early post war period, BI preachers could fill halls with several thousand people, now they will be lucky to have an audience greater than 50.

During this period of decline that is from 1946 onwards, Harold Stough was Secretary of the BIWF, whose father was a well known American Preacher. He was in post for thirty years during which he was well respected by the rank and file members, for his hard work in promulgating the BI message by facilitating conferences and other meetings.

However, his relationship with certain other board members was not so cosy, as their agenda was different to his, as we shall see from the following correspondence. In fact they were throwing the proverbial spanner into the work of expanding the BI message.

## **Document 1**

### **Statement by the Secretary**

At the Board meeting on Thursday, October 10th., after the opening Prayer and before the Minutes of the previous meeting had been adopted, and without notice of intention and certainly not on the Board Agenda for the day, before even all Board members had arrived the President made an astounding statement concerning the Secretary. It was to the effect that he had previously decided to come to that Board meeting with the intention of forgetting past differences he had had with the Secretary and starting afresh. However, apparently something the day before or on the journey to the Board meeting decided him that he must make a resolution concerning the Secretary. He then outlined his complaints which, as far as I can remember, numbered five in all.

As Secretary I was not given an opportunity to reply to these charges before a vote of No Confidence was taken, a vote which insisted that I resign and seek retirement on the grounds of ill-health.

### **I Wish Now to Answer Those Charges.**

***1). That I had failed to include Chairman's revision of the draft of the September Board Minutes.***

In my notes and in those of Mrs. Pedley, the words concerning Mr. Couchman's being in charge of property and responsible directly to the

Board, did not appear. They may have been said around the table in discussion but were not part of the Resolution. It should be generally known that to add to, take away from or otherwise alter a Resolution is most improper.

For this reason I raised the matter subsequently at a General Purposes Committee before the Minutes were typed. It is my firm conviction that, as this doubt had been expressed, Committee members were agreed that the words be not included but could be put afresh to the Board in a new Resolution at its next meeting.

**2). That, at Swanwick three years ago, I had refused an instruction to send a loyal greetings telegram to the Queen.**

This I strongly deny. Having initiated, composed and sent at least one and sometimes two and three telegrams a year for nearly thirty years and several of these from Swanwick, why should I have refused on this occasion? What happened was that the President stopped me as I was rushing to the Main Building to 'phone Headquarters between the two morning sessions, to say that members had asked him that a telegram should be sent.

Under this pressure I suggested he himself send it as, after all, it went in his name. I do not regard this as a refusal. But the President made an issue of it, rebuking me in front of the assembly when the meetings resumed.

My personal attitude towards Loyal Greetings telegrams is that the founders of the Movement were correct in sending them once a year at the Annual Congress, the date most nearly coinciding with the Birth of Our Lord and the Feast of Tabernacles when traditionally, the vows of loyalty were renewed in Ancient Israel. However, some of our members seem to wish them to be sent every time we have annual gatherings such as Easter Convention, May Meetings, Swanwick and Congress.

**3). That a Committee Minute to do with Superannuation Schemes was incorrectly recorded.**

This arose following a private interview the President had with the representative of Sun Life Assurance Company concerning the alteration of the pensions in order that widows could be included. This was rather technical and Committee members themselves were not clear. However, it was corrected at the next meeting by revision and the matter ended. As an interested party, being one in the scheme, I acted merely as a scribe.

***4). That the music at Swanwick was “a shambles”***

This arose because on Saturday night, just before the play was presented, the President desired to have the audience sing one of the hymns on the sheet, not the hymnal. This could have been done but would have required a bit of organising in that the sheets had to be distributed and the music score found.

It would have delayed the meeting by about ten to fifteen minutes. Again, on Monday night, a misunderstanding occurred between two pianists as to which was to play for that session, one having stated that she would be responsible for the evening hymns but meaning the epilogue and the other assuming she meant the main evening meeting. Normally, the Chairman of each session agrees with the speaker the choice of hymn and arranges this with the pianist.

***5). That I thanked the Staff and helpers whereas the Chairman wished to do so.***

I did, indeed, thank them all, speakers, chairmen, pianists, office workers and Headquarters office workers all of whom I had personally asked to take part and also thanked the Hayes Manager and staff for their part. Had Mr. Soutter made his desires known I would gladly have called upon him but I had previously stated that all announcements would be made from the Convention Hall or the Chapel because of the noise and confusion in the Dining Hall. The Friday morning announcements, in my view, should concentrate on advising people concerning their luggage, times of departure, and other matters to ensure all goes well and with no after effects. Also to enlist help in loading.

I am now required by the Board, by a vote of eight to four, later corrected to seven to five, with Chairman abstaining, to resign on the grounds of ill-health. I am unable to comply with this, for the following reasons:

***1. It would be an untruth, for fortunately I do not have ill-health, and I am prepared to submit to a medical check, if Board members are in doubt.***

***2. To resign on the above grounds - and it is on these grounds that the Resolution was passed would imply that there was substance and validity in them, whereas one would have been, to my mind, illegal, another I strongly deny, and the other three I can only regard as frivolous and not to be balanced against forty-one years of service to the Federation.***

***On submitting these points to independent friends, they are amazed and their first reaction is that there must be some vital and most serious crime committed which the Board and/ or the Secretary wish not to be revealed. Because this cloud exists, I cannot resign on these charges, and unknown others implied.***

***3. To me the most cogent reason is that, since the age of seventeen I have devoted myself to proclaiming the Gospel in the light of British Israel Truth. I cannot renounce my calling and turn back after forty-five years of service. If I have to make the choice, as apparently I must, then I must bear the consequences.***

***4. As the laws of the land are rather complex, I must follow legal advice - wherever it may lead.***

On the Monday following the Board I was visited by the President and Chairman and was asked what posts I held in the Federation and for sight of my Contract of Employment, which on examination, revealed I have to give or can receive three months, notice. The President then said that

he had come for my letter of resignation and wanted it then, or that evening or the following day. Admittedly, I was somewhat shocked as I did not think it was the Board's intention to rush things that quickly or that I had no choice but to give it. I promised I would make a decision by the next Board, but was then told by the President that he strongly recommended that I write the letter of resignation, otherwise I faced dismissal, with loss of Employer's portion of pension. This I suggested was blackmail but later changed the word to duress. Even so, with full knowledge of the ultimatum, I cannot write such a letter and therefore await the Board's next action.

## **Document 2**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT July 1977**

British Israel Truth and No. 6 Buckingham Gate have been inseparably linked together for over 50 years. It was a great act of faith when a cheque for the leasehold was signed in 1924, a decade in which many of the nobility, the clergy, high-service heads and prominent people associated themselves with Israel teaching, No. 6 "opposite Buckingham Palace" appeared on our literature and stationery in fact one letter was addressed to "The Lost Tribes of Israel, opposite Buckingham Palace"!

It is of singular significance that this is Crown property. We are not the tenants of any individual or property development company. This fact alone presents a degree of permanence and security that would be lacking were we tenants of any company which would be subject, particularly in these days, to bankruptcy business failure, take-overs, etc.

The answer to No. 6 must be viewed, not primarily from the point of view of pounds and pence; even those are capable of producing different conclusions. Retention of No.6 must be viewed In the light of British Israel teaching as a whole, and this involves the responsibility of this Federation to proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, the end—time prophecies and the deeply cherished belief from the Scriptures that Israel must emerge from her present position of bondage to her inheritance as sons of God in the New Age, according to Hosea and Others.

We believe that David's Throne must be established for ever. We believe that this Throne is, as the National Message leader proclaims, the "bastion of sanity" But this can only be because it is the Throne of the Lord. This being so, as No. 6 is Crown property, the Lord is our Landlord and we are responsible to Him as tenants.

The British Israel World Federation is the only Christian organisation (the National Church should be of course) proclaiming the national message of the Bible, the Kingdom of God on earth, and thus the corporate responsibility of the nation-state as God's Israel. It was not mere chance that led our founder to move from Fetter Lane in the City to Buckingham Gate in Westminster, for it is in Westminster that we have the Throne, the houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, in other words, the Throne, Church and State. To preach the national message we must remain here. Nowhere in the British Isles is there a more significant place.

No. 6. Whilst singing the praises of No. 6 one is not worshipping, to use the cliché already mentioned - "bricks and mortar" One is fully conscious that No 6 as a building has many faults. Having been flooded out twice I speak feelingly! Had sufficient funds been set aside during the years, it could have been made more presentable.

Nevertheless, No 6, however imperfect, is a Mecca for British Israel believers the world over. The tourists that flock to Buckingham Palace frequently come to No. 6. Business men come during their lunch hours, We have had and still have, Members of Parliament and the House of Lords who, because of its proximity, can come for visits. Even Buckingham Palace staff members call. Our Reference Library is quite unique and a magnetic attraction for many.

It is not strictly true to say that members contribute in order to maintain a building They do, but they also pay to assist the work that is done in and from this building. Every bit of money that the Federation has got, every property it owns, was raised from friends and members who gave, fully conscious of the fact we were based at No. 6 which needed to be maintained. We would be breaking faith with them in severing the tie between the organisation and the address. One talks about the field, but

to my best recollection never has the Field, or any part of it been self-supporting. The Field has largely been maintained by funds from Headquarters. The question of targets for lectures given could be raised, but these sums do not equate to the sums paid out to lecturers. Neither is there a sum over and above these fees which would pay commissioners and organisers salaries.

However, I firmly believe that we must continue to exercise prudence in dealing with sums expended, and I would recommend that if it is felt retrenchment must be made, we should consider letting off the Basement of No. 6, thus saving on the rates for this portion, distributing some of the overheads to the new tenants, and also bring in an income. By careful planning the surplus stock which cannot be accommodated elsewhere at No. 6 could perhaps be stored at Chiswick, Mount Avalon, or even Portsmouth. I have, in this connection, seen during my travels some very well designed book shelves for stock at Dallas, Windsor, Ontario and Vancouver.

## **Bible Prophecy**

No B.I. would doubt that we are now living in the last days. Some define them as great tribulation and that is the time of Jacob's trouble, a period seemingly exclusive to Israel. Personally I believe we are in that period now. It is the time of Babylon's destruction and surely this is never more graphically fulfilled than in the present day when investment values have fallen, when property which was considered safe, is a very grave risk, and when inflation is beyond control. There are, perhaps, no better verses in the Scriptures to define inflation than those which enjoin us not to lay up treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.,. Or yet again in Haggai 1;6 "where he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes". James, who enjoins us to "be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord" tells us that our gold and silver is cankered or, as the Greek has it, corroded or eaten away.

I plead that to consider the monetary awards which might accrue would be going against Scripture, particularly prophetic Scripture, for thieves

break through and steal even in the Banks, literally, and by inflation. Bank failures are occurring more than we realise, and the U.S. and British banking systems are closely, interlocked. Not only does Britain have alarming trade deficits, unemployment and a fantastic increase in bankruptcy cases, but America has the problems of New York City being bankrupt and on the day I left Los Angeles a headline proclaimed that the State of Illinois was bankrupt.

I must repeat my illustration and my firm conviction that we are, as our Lord said we would be, in the days of Noah (incidentally in His days the world was in liquidation!). In those days money or bank accounts were of no avail. They too would have been flooded out and lost. But what mattered was the security of Noah's dwelling place. Even Noah himself would have been helpless without his Ark, and a Schofield note points out that the word for "pitch" which made the Ark safe and seaworthy, is the same word translated atonement". He adds "It is atonement that keeps out the waters of judgment and makes the believer's position 'in Christ' safe and blessed." I maintain that the Federation can be protected by God throughout this economic storm if we claim the promises and trust in Him.

Chronologically the years 1975, 76 and 78 have been marked as singularly important. Certainly 1985 and 86 marking the end of the seventieth Jubilee period, which has spiritually significant overtones relating to our Lord's return, should be prayerfully noted, and the year 2001 is given by all commentators as the year of the Millennial Sabbath, and our present lease, and tenants sublease, runs to 2001.

Surely in these vital days we should not think of leaving this established place of witness, when the world so much needs this Truth, but on the contrary should be planning how much more activity we can generate from this building. I recommend that even more staff be employed, and more centralisation of objectives, so that we can send out ever—increasing amounts of literature, and make more contacts with representative bodies and M.Ps.

We have a lovely lecture room of which we should be proud, and to which we can confidently Invite many for private or public gatherings to hear the Bible message for these days.

## **Our Faith**

A friend of mine, a business man and chemist by profession, who is interested in Israel Truths told me in private conversation that to leave No. 6 would mean “losing face with your members and prestige as a movement”. This I am sure is true I cannot believe that the rank and file of our members would like us to move. Even if they have never visited No.6 they cherish the thought of its location. The many who do live elsewhere, make it their first port of call when they visit London. They would not understand our lack of faith if we moved out. Neither would the general public think much of an organisation that has spoken and written about the significance of London, its churches, museums, Law Courts, etc. which did not fight to the last, using every resource available to keep itself there.

Leaving London has proved a mistaken and false move by other societies. I have learned of one Charity that moved out of London to Hertfordshire, now regret it and would like to return. They lost voluntary workers, and communication with other branches is more difficult since people are reluctant to make the journey to Hertfordshire, Another case was a Christian Youth Movement which moved to the West Country, and although not short of money is in danger of collapse. It had cut itself off from its voluntary workers and leaders, as well as other religious groups. This Society used to have over 500 people at Swanwick.

## **Violence**

It has been suggested that London may yet be the scene of much violence, left-wing and right-wing uprisings, terrorist bombs etc. and that it would be well to get out quick. Without meaning offence I suggest this view should be utterly repudiated. No one on the staff, to my knowledge, has demonstrated any fear; in fact they would regard it as an insult to their faith. During the war we cherished the 91st Psalm which was known as the ARP Psalm, We still cherish it. I am sure Board members know this Psalm well, Again, as we are in the days of Noah, we are reminded that these days featured violence in the land, But Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habbukuk, and particularly Isaiah (60;8) tell us that "violence shall no more be heard

in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders". Surely we can trust God as Noah did, to see us through troublous days, if and when they come. If the Palace, Parliament and Churches move out of Westminster then we can think again on the matter in terms of a temporary evacuation.

Our Accountant has presented financial reasons why living in London is too expensive. I still maintain that we are paying a fabulously low rent, and that the saving here should be offset against the higher expenditure which it is maintained that London requires,

Chief amongst the expenditure total is the high rate of Westminster, but rates are high everywhere and can we be sure that any other locality would give us the half-rate concession that Westminster does because we are a charity? These are decisions made by local Councils. Again, would we escape all the other high charges? Surely lighting, heating, telephone, cleaning, security, would follow wherever we went.

Dilapidations too are presented, but these would come even if we left before the lease expired. In fact we are more likely to get a low dilapidation charge at the expiry of the lease than we are now, bearing in mind that it is obviously the Crown's intention to demolish the rear of the building, leaving only the front elevation which is protected, that they may rebuild new premises which will have a greater economy for space. They may not require us to restore the building for them to demolish it the next day. Surely our 76 years' tenancy would give us that concession.

As Secretary it fell to my lot in 1955 to negotiate the new lease with the Crown and the sub-lease with the tenants, Many of us felt at the time that God had blessed our undertaking, for it followed so soon after a time of shock and dismay when we were faced with the terms which then seemed high for a renewal of the lease.

We met the crisis contracting our activities in the basement, ground and third floor, instead of having the entire six floors. The rent negotiated for the three floors was nearly nine-tenths of the total amount! And economies were made in the sharing of overheads. Surely by committing the matter to prayer we can again expect God's guidance and mercy.

Finally, I regard myself as one in a succession of those who hold the office as Secretary. Similarly Board Members too are trustees of the responsibilities they inherit. Although it may be stretching a point, I believe that just as the Palaces are Crown property for the use of successive Sovereigns, so No 6 is not only a building but a trust committed to its successive Boards of Management. The Constitution may provide a legal right for the Board to dispose of property investments, but do we have the moral right to dispose of this particular property which is so much a part of the B.I. witness? If the Board does think it has this right without question, and decides so, then I plead that,

**(a)** the members of Israel branches and affiliated overseas groups should be given the opportunity to present their views, and a chance to join their resources with ours, should they so desire, in enabling this building to be retained and maintained.

**(b)** The members of the Federation themselves should be permitted to vote in a Referendum (we blamed the successive Governments for not letting the people have a say before we joined the Common Market) in which case the arguments both for and against should be presented.

## **Glastonbury**

It has been suggested that an alternative could be found at Glastonbury in the form of a Bookshop. To my mind this is quite wrong and should not be considered for the following reasons;

**(a)** Bookshops are expensive to maintain and we should be severely limited in the books we could sell. We could not even recommend all the modern Bibles, let alone literature of a doctrinal, charismatic or other movement which would give us a denominational association. Neither could we sell many of the present day novels. Even a book by Daphne du Maurier was criticised when mentioned in the N.M. In fact, WH, Smith seem to have sold out their Bookshop in Glastonbury which, let us face it, is largely deserted from October to April. On the

other hand, we sell £400 to £500 of books at the Abbey Bookshop each year, and of course books are sold at Mount Avalon, Renting a building for this purpose would bring heavy and steady overheads, as well as the necessity of providing qualified staff, But I suggest we might make enquiries to ascertain if at any time Mrs. Welsford, the Proprietress of the Abbey Bookshop, is prepared to sell that business.

**(b)** If money is to be invested in property in Glastonbury, I would remind the Board that the most suitable property for our needs is the building presently/owned by Miss Lacey, from whom we bought Mount Avalon, for this building and the garden and out-buildings were part, in effect, of the Mount Avalon holding. We have been told that Miss Lacey, who I understand is over 90, has given the Federation first refusal on her property. This is not in writing, but her Agents know this, and have in fact told our Agents. The eventual acquisition of this land and building would be the completion and consolidation of Mount Avalon, and would provide the necessary room for teaching staff and an overflow for accommodation when Mount Avalon is full.

To sum up my remarks, I strongly advocate:

- (1)** That we retain the leasehold of No. 6 until the expiry date of the lease.
- (2)** That we continue to make the necessary economies and seek to bring in additional income, i.e. by the letting of the library to other organisations as a meeting room.
- (3)** That we anticipate dilapidation by doing essential repairs and improvements and in the succeeding years, so that we can have the benefit of these improvements, and so reduce our ultimate commitment,
- (4)** That a special fund should be started to which all should be asked to contribute, both at home and overseas, for repairs, maintenance and preservation of our witness from this address,

(5) Because we can spare the basement on the grounds that it is not wholly necessary to us, this should be let either as a block or as separate offices, and tenants should be given a concession on their rents for an Initial period, provided they incur the expense of making their letting(s) habitable. We should then effect a saving on rates, a portion of overheads, and have an Income without expenditure.

(6) I am opposed to the letting of the third floor, with our staff moving to the basement. I am sure that in maintaining our witness here we can keep the ground and third floors. The move to the basement would involve a heavy expense in the preparation for its use. It would not be suitable for our particular needs, and is a further retrenchment unnecessary at this stage. We should be thinking in terms of expansion of our witness with our space put to the fullest use. We should think of the time when the National Message Editorial staff may have to be accommodated here. If the basement is let, some alternative space would be required for stock and book packing.

(7) The value of morale, a factor in staff relations and in that of visitors, may be discounted, but not overlooked. Let us not be too defeatist and retrenchment-minded, but have faith that our greatest days, in fact the whole purpose of our existence, may be just ahead.

### **Document 3**

## **Letter to The President and Board of Management**

**47d Holland Park,  
London  
W11 3RS  
Nov 10, 1987.**

**Dear President and Members of the Board,**

It was somewhat of a shock to receive the November letter and to learn of the deplorable decision to incorporate The National Message with Wake Up, and I urge, nay plead that the Board reconsider this matter. But I do agree to the extent that there should be but one official Journal. To expect members and readers, in these days, to support two journals is not realistic, BUT it should be the other way round: The National message should incorporate wake Up!

I feel confident that the two officers of the Federation who are also officers of Wake Up and therefore Christian Israel foundation would have declared their Interest and not taken part in the discussion nor the voting. It is, therefore, to the others I make this appeal. Incidentally it was announced that we would learn the identity of the new editor. Does this announcement mean that Rev R. H. W. Cox is now the editor?

To be historically accurate Wake Up never received the full backing of members of the Federation. Amidst much controversy and some bitterness it was launched at a time when members felt that the National Message needed whole-hearted support and Federation funds should not be diverted. Even now, although popular in many quarters, it is largely maintained by a large Canadian order.

On the other hand, The National Message has been the Official Journal of the Federation since 1922 and before that for several years it was The National Message and Banner as it was merged when the Federation was formed, with The Banner of Israel, which takes us back, if my memory serves me, to the last century. It has a long and glorious history of witness and countless servants of Israel Truth have made most valuable contributions. They must not be dropped as forgotten relics.

Much, much more could be said and written but it all resolves itself into: Let's keep our priorities correct and maintain the Federation and The National Message at the forefront of our loyalties. Welcome others of course, but not to the point of arranging our oblivion. And may God guide and overrule is my prayer

**Yours Sincerely,  
Harold E Stough**

## Document 4

### Letter from Harold Stough to Miss Price 8 June 1978

Dear Miss Price,

Thank you for your letter.

Please assure Mr Kemble that I am not hurt by what happened on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 1978, – I am **exceedingly relieved** that I did not have to continue to "do battle" with those ghastly Edmonds and their clique, for the sake of Orange Street, as I know it would have been so, I told Mr Kemble that he needed more men, I am so glad that Mr Currie is going to continue to serve. Keep him at it.

“A house divided against itself cannot stand”, and Orange Street must rid itself of those "takeover" types who want to dictate from a distance – **if it really wants to add new members to fill the empty pews** – those few people disgust us. Those of us who believe in **practising their Christian principles**, when they go back on agreements and ride roughshod over those who stand in **their** way and **ignore rules of the church**, and **so deny all the church stands for**, with those people in the church, **who will want to join?**

The way the **properly trained and ordained clergy** at Orange Street are treated is a **scandal** – they are treated like "office boys" by those **inferior** to themselves and Mr Edmonds and his "middle-aged assigns" sons in addition – lamentable ignorance and downright bad behaviour – they lower the tone of the whole church and turn meetings into "chaos and farce"!

They seem to forget that **God does not pay his debts with money!** – "Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, **I will repay**" – **and he does!** They should read Psalm 37. Those three equally silly "old ladies" who totter along with them are quite pathetic in their **vanity**, thinking they run the church when it is the presence of their group that drives other people away – they are, including Mrs Price and Mrs Shawl living in a bygone age when they think they only have to take over the church and occupy the pulpit and the use of the British Israel movement will all desert their

various churches and flock to hear **them** – when heaven only knows how many they have **driven away** from the church already over the years with their "dreary and obscure diatribes" – during my time I've seen new faces but they do not return, and I'm **not** surprised!

In his letters to the seven churches, St Paul is devastating in his **condemnation** of those who call themselves **Christians** and who **are not** – for the **shame and discredit** they bring on the whole church.

The way Mr Loughton was treated at the previous meeting was **outrageous**, he has been **shamelessly exploited** of these, and then not one word of acknowledgement or thanks, no presentation for services **given** to the church, no one can claim he was **paid** – and dismissed as he was – having heard of it from **Mrs Robbins myself** that the money they loaned him had **been cancelled – it is now expected from him** – and that silly vain little Mr Shawn has the cheek to say to him, you will still come to the church won't you? What! To sit and listen to Mr Sean and Mrs Price and co - waffling away in the pulpit! I hope he has more sense.

They want ministers **to do the work** while **they give the orders** – then blame the ministers if the people don't come **to listen to them!** Who would? It is no use Mr Kemble trying to get young people to that church if he is not going to be in the pulpit when **they get these himself.**

**The deacons have no right to tell the ministers who shall fill the pulpit – that is the ministers' pulpit he should occupy** the place himself – he is the one, people go to hear.

Please excuse this hasty epistle as I'm writing sitting on a stool in the passage as the Diaconate are insulting the "walls against damp" and I cannot get anywhere to sit in the rooms – I shall be very pleased when they are finished

**Yours sincerely**

**H. Stough**

**PS Mr. Laughton should be made Minister Emeritus**

## Harold Stough Obituary



Harold was born on May 19th, 1912 in Wheaton, Illinois. His father Henry W. Stough was a noted evangelist of his day in America. It was Henry who introduced Harold to the 'Identity' ministry; and in 1932 Harold decided he had to go to the heart of this teaching, which was in London, England. The British Israel World Federation had its headquarters at 6 Buckingham Gate, which was right opposite the Palace.

The Federation also had the well-known Bible College at Harrow Weald in Middlesex. He was sent there to study under great theologians such as David Davidson and Dr Pascoe Goard. Another pupil who later became well known in the teaching and also became a great friend, was Tom Price. Both became members in 1934 of Orange Street Congregational Church in Leicester Square. They both preached there over the years.

Harold's first job with the BIWF was in the office producing the youth magazine; in fact it did so well that he was transferred to the well-known senior magazine 'The National Message'. In the mid to late nineteen thirties, he met and married a young lady, Miss Phyllis Dorsett.

Their residence was a charming flat in Holland Park, where they lived for the next 60 years. After the Second World War, in approximately 1946, he was approached by the Chairman on behalf of the Board of Directors

and asked if he would become the secretary of the BIWF. Although this was not a position he sought, he was very much touched that they had even considered him, being quite junior to a number of gentlemen around at that time. He accepted the offer, and for the next 30 odd years until he was retired, he occupied this position, and he did it well! Many a person called in to 'Number six' to ask Harold, "where does it say..." or "what does it mean..." or "can you tell me". He even had telephone calls from overseas. They were the good years with Harold at the helm.

On his retirement he was asked by the members of Orange Street Congregational Church to become their Pastor, which post he held until his death.

Harold will be remembered as a very well educated gentleman, polite, kind, never saying a bad word against anyone, a great lecturer and a wise counsellor, and best of all, a great theologian whose foundation was solidly based on the Bible. His theology was thoroughly logical and practical. I will also remember him as a great friend who had a lovely sense of humour.

Harold's decline started in 1999 with the death of his dear wife. Within the year he had a severe stroke, which virtually destroyed his memory and vast biblical knowledge. Sadly, this meant that he had to be cared for in a nursing home.

Harold passed away on the morning of Saturday, January 17th 2004. We who knew him can rejoice that he is now reunited with Phyllis and with the Lord

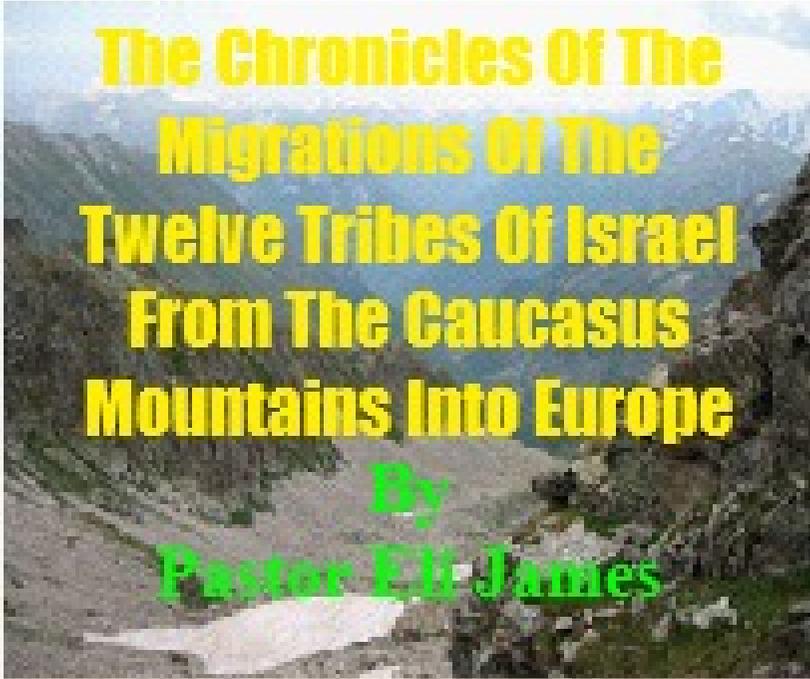


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