

Brought to the Fold



FROM JUDAISM
TO
CHRISTIANITY

BY
GERTRUDE STARGATT



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3rd Edition.

Dedicated to the memory of My Dear Mother.

"Until the day breaks."

PREFACE.

It is not without a note of praise to our heavenly Father, that we send out the third edition of this little booklet. To Him we give all the honour and glory, and graciously commend to His keeping the possibility of its use, that many others may be brought into that same fold where they will be cared for, loved and protected by the "Great Shepherd," who is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ; and Israel's Messiah.

On September the 11th, 1931, it pleased the Lord to call home my dear mother, so quietly and so quickly, no pain and no suffering, but fully prepared to meet Him face to face. To her memory I have dedicated this booklet.

In the month of April, 1931, the N.S.W. Mission to Jews appointed me as their missionary; and God has blessed our efforts in a very wonderful way. There are many open doors which give opportunity for the personal touch, which means so much in all missionary work. Those we cannot reach in this way receive portions of the Word in literature sent out to them by post. Efforts are also made to hold Gospel meetings on Sunday nights, women's meetings on Saturday afternoons, and we are praying for guidance to organise a class for the children. Monday morning is devoted to the Medical work, and we have been able to reach some in this way also with a message from the Word and by song.

We have the Divine assurance and promise that "The Lord will do great things." May it be so for His great Name's sake.
July, 1933.

DO YOU KNOW THAT—

God regards the people of Israel with changeless benevolence.—Isa. 54:10.

Chastisement, scattering, and judicial blindness, though prolonged and severe, is only temporary.—Isa. 54: 8-9.

God will never cast off His people.—Jer 31:37. The promise concerning the land and the people will be fulfilled.

The continued existence of the people of Israel is Divinely guaranteed and maintained.—Jer. 31:35-36.

There is an awakening and a stirring up amongst the chosen people which is fulfilling Prophecy.—Ezek. 37:1-16.

WHAT the Scriptures say concerning the Gospel and the Jew.

He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.—John 1:11.

Repentance and remission of sins, among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.—Luke 24:47.

Peter addressing the Jews: Unto you first God raised up Jesus.—Acts 3:26.

The power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first.—Rom. 1:16.

Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.—Rom. xi.:25.

If the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be.—Rom. xi.:15.

God is able to graft them in again.—Rom. xi.:23.

Brought to the Fold.

FROM JUDAISM TO CHRISTIANITY.

By GERTRUDE STARGATT.

I WAS born in London. My parents were English Jews, and as such we were brought up. We were not strict in our religion, but we knew that we were Jews, and, like most Jewish folk, whether orthodox or otherwise, we were taught to hate the name of Jesus, and all who were associated with it. If you came into our house on Friday night you would know immediately that we were Jewish by the white tablecloth on the table, for that is a sign that the Sabbath is in. We did not trouble about prayers and candles after my grandmother died; it was only while she lived with us that they were observed. We kept the three most important feasts, namely, the Passover, the New Year, and the day of Atonement.

About the year 1916 there came into our house one day a lady of Christian birth, and one who was giving her time taking the gospel to the Jews in that great centre, Whitechapel. Having discovered we were Jews, she immediately became interested in us; sometimes she met the brothers and sisters, but they, like me, ridiculed the whole thing. There were times, however, when Miss D. and I had quite long arguments, and it was during these conversations that I thought that I knew everything it was possible to know. These conversations went on for months, when one day Miss D. asked me if I would not go to the girls' club just for once, and if I did not like it not to go any more. I told her very plainly that I had no desire to go to a Christian mission to learn about God; we had our own synagogue, where I could learn all I wanted to know about God. Miss D. then made a remark to me that I have never forgotten. It was this: "Yes I know, but to learn about God is one thing, and to KNOW Him is another." I did not go to the girls' club, although this lady tried again and again to get me to go there. Apart from the girls'

club, she had a meeting for Jewish mothers, and to this my mother went occasionally, not because she was interested spiritually, but was attracted to Miss D. herself. For one of these meetings a lady who lived in the country sent to the Mission a big box of flowers, which were in bunches, and on each bunch was a tiny card with a text printed on it. My mother, who was present at the meeting that day, came home with a bunch of flowers, and, cutting the string and placing the flowers in water, intended to throw the card away, when I said to her, "Don't throw the little card away; I would like to put it on the wall for fun." I said "fun" then because I did not know that the inclination was put in my heart by God. At first mother did not want to give me the card, but after persuading her I would put it where no one was likely to notice it, she gave it to me. Up on the wall went the little card, placed over the sewing machine, and so little was my interest that I forgot the card existed. Months went by, and it was during this time that I was so dreadfully nervous that I would never stay in a room alone. One day mother

went out and left me in the house alone. As soon as she was gone I became restless, looking around the room to make sure that no one was there to hurt me. While looking round in this way I looked up, and for the first time since I had placed the card on the wall, my eye caught sight of it. It would be impossible to impart just what took place, but, the more I looked the less nervous I felt, until the words seemed to sink right into my very being, and took such wonderful possession until all fear went completely out of me. I have never been afraid since. **The text on the card was—Isaiah, chapter 12, verse 2: "I will trust and not be afraid."**

This was not the end, but the beginning. God's Spirit had begun to work, and I began to reason if these words can have such wonderful influence over me, then there must be something after all in the things that Miss D. had so often told me about. I began to long for more light, and to desire to go to the girls' club.

Not long after this Miss D. came to see us again. I was so glad, because I did so want to go to the club, but Jewish pride would not let me go without being asked again. We chatted for some time, but I'm afraid I did not take much notice. I was wondering if she would ask me about the club. She got up to go, and I thought, "Well, she is tired of asking me; oh, well, it doesn't matter, I won't bother going at all." Then, just as she got to the door, she turned back and said to me: "You haven't been to my girls' club yet?" I had not told her of my experience, therefore I replied casually, "No, not yet." She extended to me the invitation once more, and I promised I would go and see what it was like. When the evening came round I kept my promise. We spent an hour together, and the time was occupied as follows: The first half hour in table games, the second in devotion. There was a hymn, and then Miss D. opened the pages of God's Word: not at the New Testament, but the Old, dealing with some prophecies concerning the Messiah, for that is the hope of every Jew. I came away feeling both impressed and interested, and

went again and again, with many a doubt and intended opposition, but the Mighty Spirit of God had begun His great work in my heart, and who could hinder? This went on for months, and in my determination to find out the truth, I studied the scriptures in the quiet of my own home. We had an Old Testament—how I do not know—but in the midst of plenty of opposition and ridicule, I persevered, and within twelve months I had gained an intellectual knowledge that Jesus Christ was not only the Saviour of the world, but that He was also the longed-for Messiah of my own people. On one occasion my brother-in-law came to see me, and demanded to know what was all the trouble about. How glad I was to be able to tell him that I had found Jesus, who was our Messiah, and referred to one of the prophecies as proof, but, alas, he was like the rest of us—bitter against the truth—and went out of the house very angry.

The day of "Atonement" was drawing near, and I had not thought of it till a friend of mine (who, by the way, was a baptised



GERTRUDE STARGATT.

believer) came to our house and opened up a discussion on the subject. Of course, I said that I could not fast now that I knew the truth. A heated discussion took place, and what would have been the outcome of my stand I do not know, for my argument to them all was: If Jesus made the Atonement for me, then it was useless for me to try and make Atonement for myself by fasting for twenty-four hours.

Little portions of the Word became a strength to me as I remembered it, one especially: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," and on these words I rested. How very wonderfully our heavenly Father undertakes for us, but not in the way we would expect, for does not His word say: "Your ways are not my ways, neither are your thoughts my thoughts." When the day of Atonement came round I found myself in hospital dangerously ill with typhoid fever, thus a way out of the difficulty was made. The Lord was not satisfied that I should only know Him intellectually: He wanted me to know Him personally. That was another reason why He placed me there, and it was there that in my weakness I let

the great tempter Satan conquer me. I lost all faith, and gave up the hope I had so much fought for. I remember the day my mother came to see me, and I imparted to her the news that I had given up the idea of Christianity. How glad she was, for it had all been such a trial to her to see me fall away from our religion, as she put it. With God's grace and mercy I recovered strength, and I realised afterwards that God gave me my life back again that I might have the opportunity of being reconciled to Him. After three months I came home, and when I got stronger I went back to the life of the world and of self-pleasing to try and forget my association with Christianity or its people. This went on for some time, and no matter where I went or what I did there came a time when nothing pleased me: I was very discontented and miserable. One Sunday night a Jewish friend of mine asked me to go to the pictures with her. I readily agreed, but God's power was greater than mine. He had called me, and He would not let me go. How glad we are when we have experienced that He means every word He says: "I will never, never let go your

hand" (Weymouth's Translation). I shall never forget that night in the pictures. Not a word of it could I remember, only the title, which was a text, "He that hath no sin, let him cast the first stone." My mind became a perfect blank as far as the picture was concerned, and I was very glad to get home and go to bed, where I just sobbed as if my heart would break. Mother, hearing me, asked me what was the matter. When I told her she thought it was all nonsense, but when she left me I could stand it no longer. I lifted my heart to God in a very simple but earnest prayer that if He really loved me, and that Jesus was the Messiah, would He show me a way out of my unhappiness. He did, slowly but surely. He answered my prayer, I came back to Him, I took up the old threads again, and after a while I accepted the Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour.

What a difference there is between **learning about Him and knowing Him.** There is no need for me to say that there was fresh opposition; there was plenty of it, but He who brought me through so much taught

me a wonderful lesson of dependence on Himself. After a time mother came with me to church, but when the sisters and brothers found out, they interfered, and told her they would not have anything to do with her if she followed my footsteps. However, two years after she heard the story of the Crucifixion, and the Lord revealed Himself to her, and she found courage to confess Him in public. How much there is to thank God for. To those who read this story and can see how merciful and long-suffering the dear Lord has been to me in that He has brought me safely through the awful tunnel of darkness into His most marvellous light, I will surely praise Him for His love and patience, and take courage to stand for Him. It is better to suffer for Christ than to have the pleasures of sin for a season.

Here ends the story of my conversion, and with it my heart goes out to the good Shepherd who brought one of His lost sheep back to the fold. Should any read this story who have not accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour, I hope that they may be led to do so now, for we receive

no greater joy within us than when we
receive the Christ as our Saviour and Lord.

In tenderness He sought me,
Weary and sick with sin,
And on His shoulders brought me,
Back to the fold again;
While angels in His presence sang,
Until the courts of heaven rang.

Chorus:

Oh, the love that sought me!
Oh, the blood that bought me!
Oh, the grace that brought me to the fold,
Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold.

He pointed to the nail prints,
For me His blood was shed,
A mocking crown so thorny
Was placed upon His head;
I wonder what He saw in me,
To suffer such deep agony.

N.S.W. MISSION TO THE JEWS.

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Mountain, Rev. R. B. Robinson, Evangelist E.
Davis, Messrs. P. R. Allen, W. H. Dibley, J.P.,
Paul Finn, R. Hickson, L. V. Solomon, F. J.
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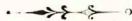
Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Mr. G. E. Ardill, J.P.

Missionary: Miss Gertrude Stargatt.

1. The Organisation shall be known as the Mission to Jews, N.S.W.
2. **Object:** The evangelisation of Jews in the State of New South Wales.
3. **Methods:**
 - (a) Circulation of suitable literature, letters, tracts and Gospels, personally and by post.
 - (b) Arrangement of a mission room where meetings may be held and interviews arranged with Jews who may be inquiring concerning Christianity.
 - (c) Employment of suitable agents as Missionaries, and otherwise to work amongst the Jewish population.
4. **Character of the Work:**

It shall be thoroughly unsectarian. All who are loyal to the Bible as the Word of God, and who hold to the evangelical doctrines of the Christian faith shall be eligible for membership of the Committee.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.



A Daily Prayer—Psalm 122-6.

Almighty and most merciful Father, Thou who art the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, look down in pity upon Thy chosen people, Israel, still in darkness concerning the Messiah. Open their eyes we beseech Thee, that they may see Him, not only as their Messiah, but as Saviour, Lord, and King.

Bless all Hebrew Christians; preserve them from all danger, and persecution, and may they "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Amen.

