

Pastoral Tour to N. Rhodesia by the Rev. M. Konviser.

At the request of the Council for Rhodesian Jewry, the Rev. M. Konviser accompanied by Mr. Dave Shapiro (an Executive member of the Council) undertook a 2,000 mile tour through Northern Rhodesia, visiting the various Jewish communities.

Travelling by air, train and car, the delegates addressed the established congregations at Luanshya, Nkana, Mufulira, Ndola, Lusaka and Livingstone. These small communities in this outpost of the Empire are to be congratulated for the wonderful manner in which they have maintained their Jewish interests and activities. The beautiful synagogues and communal halls which have been erected on the Copper Belt and the subsidiary societies which have been organised are a true testimony to their consciousness of the fundamental values of Judaism.

The Rev. Konviser and Mr. Shapiro addressed these communities on the necessity of "Spiritual Reconstruction" with special reference to the forthcoming first Jewish Education Conference to be held under the auspices of the Council for Rhodesian Jewry at Bulawayo on the 28th and 29th April. Hebrew education and its problems aroused a great deal of interest in all these centres and delegates are to be elected to represent these isolated communities of the North.

Great credit is due to the congregation at Lusaka for the beautiful synagogue which was built by a mere handful of Jewish families. The Rev. Konviser was privileged to perform the consecration ceremony on Friday, 8th March. In the course of his consecration address he emphasised the necessity of restoring the equilibrium of Israel by creating new centres of religious life, since the vandalism of the enemy had destroyed the more ancient synagogues and seats of learning. He then gave a history and survey of the synagogue in modern life and stressed the importance of zealously guarding the "Ner Tomid" as the symbol of the eternity of the Jewish people. The new "Ner Tomid" was lit by Mr. H. Kollenberg, the first President of the Congregation. He then recited the consecration prayer specially composed for the occasion. The Council for Rhodesian Jewry is to be congratulated for this closer contact between the communities of Southern and Northern Rhodesia.

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