

March 28, 1974

Editors
Australian Jewish News, Melbourne
" " Times, Sydney

Dear Editor:

I hope you will do me the kindness of publishing the message that follows and which is intended for all my friends in Australia, whom I remember very fondly and whose friendship I cherish.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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COUNTERPOINT 5734

Our trip to Australia in July-August 1973 was for me and for my wife one of the most exhilarating and unforgettable we had ever undertaken. I returned overwhelmed by the friendliness, hospitality, and charm of Australian Jewry.

Most of all, I was deeply impressed by how well, comparatively, you were faring in sustaining a vital Jewish life so far from the populous centers of world Jewry.

Towards the end of my trip, after assessing my experiences and impressions, and especially after meeting with your most precious treasures -- your young people of secondary school and university age -- I recommended that Australian Jewry adopt a method that has proved eminently successful in the United States. The seminar system allows for a period of concentrated Jewish living on all levels and in all dimensions -- intellectual and emotional, personal and social. It will, I suggested, fill a need of your young people for an experience of Judaism in a multifaceted way.

I am grateful and flattered that this recommendation has been accepted and will, please God, be implemented in COUNTERPOINT 5734. I have met with many, if not all, of the Americans who will be visiting with you this coming July to cooperate in your efforts. I am fully confident that their vitality, concern, ability, experience, and sense of excitement will inspire all those who will attend.

To the young people who participate, this will afford an unprecedented opportunity for an intensive week, in a happy spirit, of meeting with young American intellectuals, rabbis, and students who will understand your questions -- and, more important, who will understand you; for meeting new friends from elsewhere in Australia who, like you, may be expressing an interest in broadening your horizons.

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In addition to ^{the} proposed seminars, a number of stimulating talks are planned in Sydney, Melbourne, and other centers.

I trust that all adults will cooperate fully in what may well turn out to be a brilliantly successful effort to stimulate within your youth its great resources for Jewish commitment -- resources that, from my own brief observations,

I know already exist in abundance.

Not only do I approve of COUNTERPOINT 5734, but I wish circumstances permitted me to attend! I know I would enjoy it. May it be the resounding success I know it can be, and may God bless all of you.

Norman Lamm