

Growing Number of Christians Now Celebrate Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur

On the night of Rosh Hashanah, thousands of people will leave work, gather in congregations across the globe and worship God, the ruler of the world.

Ten days later they will begin a fast and gather again to pray, this time atoning for their sins. On both occasions, they will praise Jesus Christ and pray for his return. They are not Jews, nor are they Jews for Jesus. Rather, these congregants are members of an evangelical Christian movement called the Living Church of God.

On the days Jews know as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, these Christians celebrate what they call the Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement. "We're not trying to be Jewish," said Dexter Wakefield, a Living Church minister and the church's spokesman. "We're obeying God's commandments. The holy days have great meaning for the Christians who keep them."

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