

NEWS & VIEWS

The Gate of the Year

MINNIE LOUISE HASKINS — 1908

I said to the man
who stood at the
gate of the year

*'Give me a light
that I may tread safely
into the unknown'*

And he replied

*'Go into the darkness
and put your hand
in the hand of God;
that shall be better than
light and safer than a
known way!'*

So I went forth
and finding the
hand of God

trod gladly into
the night.

He led me towards the
hills and the breaking
of day in the lone east.

So, heart, be still...

EDITORIAL

2010 was an amazing year for CMJ. We had a simmering sense of excitement all year as the Lord revealed some of the 'new things' in which He wants us be involved. These were shared in the last 'News and Views' in the 'Without a Vision' article. We are particularly pleased to be able to announce three new initiatives which are the fruit of that vision.

First, December saw the creation of CMJ France! - see Jane's article on the back page.

Second, we are delighted to be able to announce a new arrangement resulting from our work with other Jewish ministries. The following press release is being shared by both CMJ and Messianic Testimony:

'The Trustees and Directors of CMJ and Messianic Testimony have enthusiastically affirmed their commitment to work together in partnership, as the Lord leads. From the beginning of April 2011, the entire administration of Messianic Testimony will be outsourced to CMJ at their UK Headquarters at Eagle Lodge. Both ministries are passionate about sharing Jesus with Jewish people around the world and believe that so much more can be accomplished to the glory of God when like-minded ministries cooperate in sharing people and resources.'

Third, we are negotiating with Jews for Jesus to share the funding of two new evangelists who will work in London for both

ministries. Discussions are also continuing with Messianic Testimony and the other Jewish ministries for us to find new and more effective ways of working together throughout 2011.

The end of the year has of course been dominated by the death of our much loved administrator Kristine Luken. For any supporters who had not heard, Kristine was in Israel just before Christmas, staying with Kay Wilson, the Senior Shoresh guide. They were walking in the Jerusalem Forest when they were brutally attacked by two young Arab men. Kay was seriously wounded and tragically Kristine was killed. Despite a huge police investigation, at the time of writing, the attackers have not been apprehended. Kay is making a slow recovery. The staff and volunteers at Eagle Lodge and all those who knew Kristine are devastated by her brutal murder but we are also sure of where she is now.

Thank you for your prayers and letters of condolence. We are setting up, at the family's request, a memorial fund to support projects in the UK and Israel that were close to Kristine's heart. There is more information in this issue.

Robin Aldridge



2011 CALENDAR: It's not too late to order your copy of the 2011 CMJ Calendar. The images in the calendar were all taken in Israel but are not the usual photographs that are connected with Israel.

SALE — only £1 plus post and packaging.

NOW AVAILABLE: Jen Robin's CD 'Jerusalem' is now available. Priced at £10 including postage and packing, it is available to purchase from our website, www.cmj.org.uk, by post, or by calling 01623 883960.



KRISTINE LUKEN

1966 – 2010

On 12 January 2011, 150 people gathered at Holy Trinity Church in Southwell to remember Kristine Luken and give thanks for her life and for her faith. It was a very important moment, particularly for those who worked with Kristine and her close friends, as it provided time to look back and give thanks to God for someone whose joyful smile, will now be lighting-up a corner of heaven; to give thanks for her vibrant faith and her warm and loving personality. But it was also an opportunity to finish an extended period of mourning, putting away memories of her violent death and face the future with confidence.

The greatest tribute we in CMJ can give Kristine is to continue with renewed determination, the work

which Kristine loved – of sharing the gospel with Jewish people. During the service a number of tributes were given, which we thought would be helpful and appropriate to include extracts in this edition of News and Views.

At the families request we have opened the Kristine Luken Memorial Fund. Our intention is to invest all monies donated, to fund projects which Kristine was passionate about. Initially we will invest some of the gifts to the work of CMJ Israel. It will be spent on The Heritage Centres and on securing the Conrad Schick Model of Jerusalem for Christ Church. Other gifts will be used in the UK, toward the CMJ Conference bursary fund, which Kristine was responsible for and finally, to support the costs of putting on the Bride Song presentation at Swanwick



'As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.'

ISAIAH 62:5

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

PSALM 116:15

ALEX REFLECTS:

For us today, we grieve because our present will never again connect with Kristine's present. This creates a sense of loss. Our futures will be different, impoverished in some way because of our loss. It is a false Christian spirituality, which denies such loss – for it is Godly to recognise there is "a time to mourn, a time to weep, a time to be silent". But this is not the whole picture!

For we know there is the reality of eternity, and here within the mystery of eternity – we who are 'in Christ' will once-again connect with Kristine. A Christian funeral or memorial service is primarily a witness to the resurrection of Christ and our eternal hope.

I have with me the final thing Kristine gave to me, before she left after the

Staff Day – it is a simple Christmas card – her message inside states: "Alex, may His love and peace be yours in greater fullness." I hope this may become true for me and for all of us here today. I know it is already true for Kristine, now rooted with Christ in eternity.

ROBIN REMEMBERS:

'I feel as though I have known Kristine for much more than the two years since she first visited Eagle Lodge. She came to talk to me about CMJ and her heart for Jewish ministry but she communicated so much more. Her love for the Lord was obvious and shone from her eyes. After we had finished talking and praying together, it was I who felt encouraged. She had a genuine love and interest in other people. I received a message from her next door neighbour which simply said 'Kristine was the kindest person I have ever met. Her love of God was obvious.'

Later she applied for the post of administrator at Eagle Lodge and we interviewed her via a Skype video-link. In spite of the picture breaking-up and the occasional loss of signal, it

was clear to us she was God's person for the role. Then started the long process of getting Kristine's Visa – it took months for all the requirements of the British Immigration Services to be met. During this time, Kristine's conviction of working at Eagle Lodge never wavered.

The big bicentenary celebration at Spitalfields occurred in the midst of this time and Kristine could not stay away, she booked a flight and joined us at Christ Church. When she arrived, she rolled-up her sleeves and started work serving coffee and champagne, carrying books and a very large birthday cake. She was immediately a member of the team. But most amazing was the ease with which she chatted with previous CMJ staff. She had a very easy manner and a genuine interest in

people's stories. She was fascinated by history and liked nothing better than to read back-copies of the 'Jewish Intelligence' and the 'Jewish Expositor'. Over time this interest gave rise to her writing regular column for the UK News and Views, entitled 'Rediscovering the Past'.

Kristine radiated goodness from the inner-core of her being – her close relationship with the Father and the Lord Jesus. She occasionally talked about her sadness at not being married as she longed for that human connection, but we are assured she is now with her Bridegroom, safe in His loving arms.'



KATHLEEN, KRISTINE'S TWIN SISTER, REMEMBERS:

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."
(Psalm 116:15)

Kristine Luken: a daughter, a sister, a friend, and a woman of God. Kristine was a beautiful woman, both inside and out, much like a delicate flower which has been cut before the blossom could fully open. Always gentle, compassionate, and peaceful; she had a childlike innocence which made it possible to do the impossible. Strong in her weakness, she went boldly where she believed God had called her to go. Kristine was willing to walk out what most of us only dream of doing – following the call of God. Most of us do not ask, for fear of what we might hear. She sought Him, she heard Him, and she responded to Him. She would not be deterred in her dogged pursuit of doing what she believed God had called her to do...all this despite the ridicule, questioning, and criticism that she often heard. So began

her journey, selling everything, literally, to follow God's call of being planted in the land of Israel and minister to the Jewish people. Kristine was courageous as she trusted God to guide her path in this pursuit.

She was a woman of passion; passionate about life, and passionate for God – to know Him deeply, personally and intimately. Jesus had captured Kristine's heart and she was never the same. She was willing to follow Him wherever He led, at all cost. While we may never understand why she lost her life in this senseless tragedy, we must never miss the wonderful example and testimony her life has left us with: Listen and you will hear, knock and God will answer.

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works; which God has prepared in advance for us to do."
(Ephesians 2:10)



CMJ FRANCE



November 11th saw Robin, Sue and Jane return to France. In gale force 7/8 winds with speed up to 65mph, we drove onto the ferry resigned to a six hour crossing and waves which would cause the boat to lurch up, down and all about! A wonderful welcome awaited us though, from the friends we had made at our previous visit in May. It was hard to believe we had only met many of these people six months earlier.

We had two objectives: to set up the association of CMJ France and to book the first CMJ France conference. We also had new churches to visit and new supporters to recruit. As a result, we now have nearly 100 supporters and six supporting churches following our two initial visits.

On Tuesday November 16th in St. Cyr de Bailleul, the Association of CMJ France was born. Six of us met together at Chris and Edith Powney's house in South Normandy to discuss the association and decide upon the offices. It seemed good to us to make Robin Aldridge the President of the Association in the short term. Edith Powney, who speaks fluent French made the obvious secretary for the Association, as well as being CMJ's first representative in France. It was agreed to ask Colette, a French friend of Edith's who works in finance, to become Treasurer. We had talked to Colette at a church meeting earlier in the week in our best Franglais and seen her passion for the Jewish people. Tom Fohner, the missionary pastor of the Evangelical church

in Houlgate, his wife, Mary, along with Jane Moxon signed the Association papers as witnesses. The six of us felt both happy and privileged to have been a part of this moment, knowing God had put it together.

It was only much later, back in the gite (our French holiday home kindly lent to us again by Robin and Jean Jones), we realised the only member of the group who couldn't speak any French was the first President of CMJ France. The imagined scene of his addressing CMJ's new French supporters caused much hilarity! Robin will, of course, hand on this position in due course.

The first CMJ France Conference will take place in the CPCV Conference Centre in Houlgate on June 17th-19th 2011, just across the road from the beach! We are hoping to have the CMJ France Director in place by then, supported by our many new friends in Normandy. The conference will cost 100 Euros per person and bookings will be dealt with by CMJ France's centre in Le Teilleul. This amount is a special price and if any non French CMJ supporters would like to bless this new CMJ work, donations may be sent to CMJ UK and marked, 'For CMJ France.'

A possible Director of CMJ France is praying about taking up the post, and hopefully we will know their answer shortly. Please pray for God's will for this person.

This is an exciting time. Please pray for CMJ France!

Jane Moxon



From l-r: Robin Aldridge, Jane Moxon, Edith Powney, Mary Fohner, Tom Fohner

