

NEWS & VIEWS

EDITORIAL

To all supporters and friends of CMJ. As I take on the role of Acting CEO within CMJ, one of my new responsibilities is to edit and commission the content of News & Views. I am pleased to do this, for I greatly value the impact News & Views has had over many years in terms of informing and encouraging supporters. I am sure that News & Views (complimented by the CMJ website, Prayer Focus and the Olive Press Research Papers) will continue to play a key role within the ongoing task of communicating the vision, values and ministry of CMJ. In terms of this editing and commissioning role, I would welcome any feedback, ideas, article submissions, questions and comments from supporters. Please do contact me via my CMJ e-mail address, alexj@cmj.org.uk.

In this edition we have two major items – firstly, reflections from Robin Aldridge on his three years as CEO and secondly, a report from Jane Moxon on the very first CMJ France conference. I commend both these items to you.

As I begin my new leadership role, I do so with confidence based on the following realities:

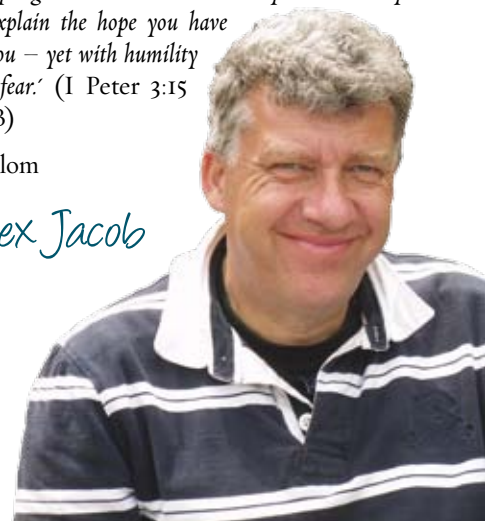
- 1) A clear sense of God's call,
- 2) The partnership of a motivated and gifted staff and Council team, and
- 3) The support of prayerful, generous and diligent CMJ supporters.

For all of the above I am most thankful! As I look forward, my prayer is that all of us linked

with CMJ may corporately and individually fulfil our callings – namely to *'treat the Messiah as holy, as Lord in your hearts, while remaining always ready to give a reasoned answer to anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you – yet with humility and fear.'* (1 Peter 3:15 CJB)

Shalom

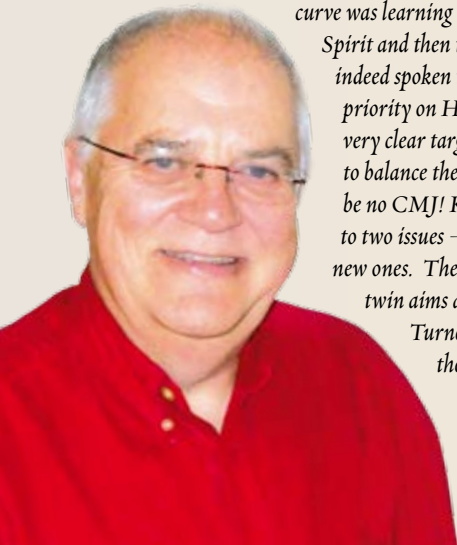
Alex Jacob



REFLECTIONS

Three years is a very short time in the history of a ministry that has been in existence for 200 years, therefore it is important to keep the last three years in perspective. I find that difficult as my last three years have been dominated by CMJ! Alex asked me to reflect on that time and there are many things I could have chosen to write about but on reflection there are two things that stand out for me.

As someone who spent their working life in education and working for local government I knew a lot about management and leadership in a secular environment but less about how to lead and manage a Christian organisation. Perhaps my main learning curve was learning to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and then to seek for confirmation that God had indeed spoken to me or one of the team about the priority on His heart. Council had given me some very clear targets – to increase the support base and to balance the budget. Without these, there would be no CMJ! Key to the former was to give priority to two issues – retaining supporters and winning new ones. The two key jobs at HQ focussed on these twin aims and I thank God that He sent Jacki Turney and Jane Moxon along to take on the roles of Supporter Care Manager and Supporter Development Manager. Without the skill of these two wonderful people, we would not have succeeded in expanding



the supporter base. Similarly, without Alan Bowell, the Finance Manager, we would not have been able to keep track of the budget and ensure that we narrowed the gap between income and expenditure. But God has also been very generous to us in providing a whole range of volunteers whose help has enabled Jane and Jacki to focus on the key targets. But what else was God saying to us?

It says in Proverbs that without vision the people perish! Trying to discern the will of God for CMJ and turn that into concrete action has been both exciting and challenging. The central importance of prayer in this process was wonderfully demonstrated by the way God spoke to us during the Bicentenary Day of Prayer which revealed His heart for young people and led us to appoint Jen Robins as the young people's worker. Similarly two years ago, at a Yom Kippor prayer meeting, God laid on the hearts of the leaders of different Jewish ministries the importance of unity. This in turn has led us to work closely with each other, going beyond warm words to actual co-operation and collaboration. Then came two opportunities, one in France and the other in Holland to help set up CMJs in both countries. It felt like a Macedonian call. This has led to the setting up of two 'new' CMJs but the word we had was 'open up the old wells', for CMJ had ministered in both countries earlier in the century.

My second reflection is how hard is the work of Jewish evangelism in the UK. Evangelism has been at the heart of CMJ for 200 years but we only had two full time evangelists in 2008 and then Stuart moved to set up the "Jesus Experience" charity after 18 months. This resulted in much prayer and in reviewing our strategy. I believe we are now improving our evangelism with an expanded team and my one regret is not being able to see the fruit of these changes but in Alex CMJ has someone for whom this remains a central target. May God bless him and CMJ in the coming years.

Every blessing, *Robin*

CMJ France
Conférence
Houlgate CPCV
17-19 Juin
2011

OPERATION OVERLORD

D-DAY

D-Day arrived. With Brittany Ferries we crossed the English Channel, arriving a day early in order to be ready for the conference and to pray together. As we prayed, I had a prayer picture where I was holding what I thought was a baby, but wasn't. I tried to see it as a baby but the picture wouldn't change: I realised I was holding a huge seed pod! The following day, when more of the team had arrived, Sue Aldridge had a picture of a match lighting a fire which took the shape of France. Earlier in the year in Holland we had been given various pictures in prayer which showed a move down the western coastlands of Europe and we understood, as those who have gone before us did, that God was the OverLord of this campaign!

Also, on the eve of the conference we discovered an amazing fact – during a late evening walk by the seaside villas built by rich Parisians, we saw a column. It was a stone pillar. The inscription on it said William the Conqueror had set sail from there for England. We knew he had conquered England. What we didn't know was that he had taken merchants with him, Jewish merchants. These merchants and their families were the first recorded Jews to come to Britain.

Like pieces of a jigsaw being put together, the picture only becomes apparent gradually. I stand amazed at the depth of the truth that we have not 'done a work for God' but that we are part of a picture far bigger than we are, bigger than we can comprehend.

“AN EXCEPTIONAL WEEKEND”

Friday afternoon came and the delegates started to arrive. They were eager and friendly. The sense of God's presence was almost tangible - there was an immediate unity and bonding together. It was, as Jen, our Young People's worker said, '*... like a staff conference, where everyone already knows everyone.*' And yet they didn't.

Michele and Peter Guinness were wonderful – both in the content of what they said and the way they said it. With love and gentleness they delivered (in French) their teaching, which was very well received by the French people. The whole conference had Life.

But I will let the French speak for themselves....

Yves Coenne, a Messianic Jew and his wife Nadia wrote, "*We had an excellent weekend*".

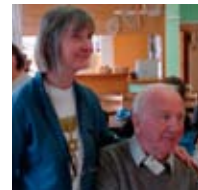
Daniel Behue wrote (translated) about the Sunday :

"The day began at 7.30 with a prayer meeting and Bible study by the pastor from Houlgate, Thomas Fohner. 'Prayer opens the way ahead for the day in the spiritual realms and leads to success in the natural'.

Robin spoke about prophecy being fulfilled as Messianic Assemblies grow in Israel and more and more Jewish people come to recognise their Messiah in Yeshoua.

There was an anointing too on the humour of Covenant Players as they presented their evangelistic message (Our Lord loves humour).

After this good spiritual food we returned to the dining room with plenty to talk about over the last meal together.



‘Car Dieu est un Dieu puissant, Il règne de son saint lie



The afternoon was reserved for a marvellous couple of teaching sessions brought to us by Peter and Michele Guinness who showed their mastery of the French language and the heart they have for France.

Then followed a time of absolutely wonderful praise in Hebrew. With great anointing our sister, Sue Aldridge led this time of praise both in singing and dancing and was joined by the whole conference.

It was with faces filled with joy that we had our photo taken on the steps of the centre - after that came the time to say our good-byes over teas and coffees and little gateaux.

This was drawn-out for there were still so many things to say to one another before leaving this first meeting with CMJ France, which was a total success.

Thanks be to God who has poured out His favour on this gathering so that this first stone might be the cornerstone of a building He desires to raise up in our nation: a heart for His People."

Bruno Passerat: "The first conference of CMJ France was an exceptional weekend. Despite coming from varied backgrounds and locations, the unity was visible and enriching. An unforgettable weekend!"

Dominic and Marie-Helene wrote: "It was brilliant! We had a wonderful retreat with CMJ at Houlgate. It was the best one that we have ever been to, as it was so well organised by Edith Powney and Jane Moxon. We felt that there was a sense of unity among all those who were involved in the conference. We would like to thank Edith, Jane, Robin and Sue Aldridge, and the speakers Pastor Tom, Peter and Michelle Guinness, for such a great retreat.

Something that really moved us was the play performed by The Covenant Players. Robin Aldridge gave a beautiful sermon about how he believed that when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He accepted the cup spiritually which was the Covenant between God and us, therefore turning us into His Bride."

Edith Powney: "We thank God for all the fellowship and teaching at Houlgate and we thank all those who prayed for this first conference of CMJ France and for the groundwork done over the last year. We are grateful to supporters in the UK for the finances that were needed to plant CMJ in France. As the reports testify, the conference was 'far beyond anything we could ask or imagine'."

President of CMJ France, Mr. Robin Aldridge said, "I am thrilled, it has far exceeded my expectations!"

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The delegates all spoke about the next conference and we are already looking at venues for next year. Please join us in praying for the right place as we shall have outgrown the CPCV centre in Houlgate by then. Please pray for the right person to become CMJ France Director and for us to hear what God is saying about the strategy for the advance!

Recent sources indicate that there are up to 800,000 Jewish people in France, the third largest population of Jews in the world, 60% of whom are in Paris, where Kit Templeton of CMJ worked until her death in 1984.

And of course, after the invasion of Normandy, CMJ has its sights on Paris.

For a jigsaw to make a picture, all the pieces must be in the box. We had all the pieces in the box of CMJ France's first conference and they came together to make a beautiful picture. Praise the Lord!

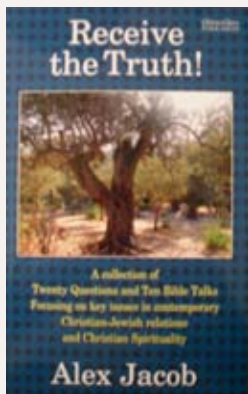
Jane Moxon



IN FRONT OF THE CENTRE WAS THIS YOUNG SAPLING — A SYMBOL OF THE NEW CMJ FRANCE

u. Avec sagesse, amour, Oui Dieu est un Dieu puissant'

NEW BOOK FROM ALEX JACOB



Alex's new book is an excellent introductory resource for those wanting to explore Jewish-Christian relations from a clear biblical focus. Set out in two sections, the first part of *Receive the Truth* addresses key questions such as: why is it important to see Jesus in His historical Jewish context? What is Messianic Judaism? Has God finished with Israel? Surely God is doing a 'new thing' with the Church?

Ten Bible talks are delivered in the second part of the book based on, for example, Genesis 3, John 3 and 4, Romans 1.

Available now from headquarters. Price £5 (plus P&P)

CHURCH LEADERS & CMJ REPS' STUDY TOUR

with Alex Jacob & Jane Moxon

NOVEMBER 15TH - 25TH, 2011

£909/£949 plus flights. ELAL special price return flight – £300

Teaching from Rev. Alex Jacob, Director of Advocacy for CMJ and Rev David Pileggi, Rector of Christ Church, Jerusalem.

An excellent choice for all Church leaders and their spouses.

For more information, please contact:

Shoresh Study Tours, MIB Travel

Tel: 0871 976 6428 Email: mark@mibtravel.co.uk

Jane Moxon CMJ: janem@cmj.org.uk / 01623 883960

10 DAYS IN ISRAEL! The Big House Young Adult Israel Tour

1ST – 11TH OCTOBER 2011

Have you ever read through the Bible and wondered what it would be like to visit some of the place you read about? Have you ever tried to imagine what Jesus saw, as He walked through Jerusalem or around Galilee? Have you ever tried to visualize yourself in the crowd as Jesus delivered His sermons on the surrounding mountains?

Well... stop wondering and start exploring!

In October, CMJ Youth Worker Jen Robins, along with Paul & Janey Hames, CMJ UK representatives, and previous managers of the Christ Church Guest House in Jerusalem, will be leading a tour for Young Adults ONLY!

As well as experiencing and visiting the places of the Bible and important "Jesus" landmarks; over the 10 days we will also be meeting local Jewish and Arab congregations to grasp a greater understanding of the real peace process in Israel, which is Jesus Himself.

Paul and Janey lived and worked at Christ Church, Jerusalem for five years, and Jen worked alongside them for nearly three years. Between them, they have a wealth of understanding, depth of love for the

Bible, and treasured experiences in Israel which have opened their eyes to the Land of Jesus.

In Jerusalem we will be staying at Christ Church Guest House, situated in the Old City, just inside Jaffa Gate. It is a beautiful centre, with Middle Eastern-style rooms, an intriguing history and a wonderful Christian community, made up of local Jewish and Arab believers, and international volunteers.

Whilst in the Galilee, we will be staying at CMJ's retreat centre Beit Bracha in Migdal, which has beautiful scenery and the same sense of a wonderful community. This again is drawn, as local believers and international volunteers work and live together.

