

A call for prayer and assistance

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

In Jerusalem, as around the globe, the news is filled with disease and death. Like many in the UK, both Jews and Arabs in Israel are fearful and anxious. The word *coronavirus* is acquiring an ominous sound, much like *pestilence* referred to more than forty times by the ancient prophets in the scriptures. It was a pestilence – two plagues – that swept through Rome in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Each lasted fifteen years. By the time they finished, Rome had become Christian! The hope and love of those early Christians changed the hearts and minds of an entire culture about Jesus.

Christ Church, Jerusalem, has been a witness in word and deed in the Holy Land since the 1830's, and an important part has been our ministry to the poor of all communities here, especially Jewish believers in Jesus and Arab Christians.



Today we had the painful task of making redundant 70% of our workers at the Christ Church Guest House. It was a government edict. More will follow soon. Tens of thousands are now unemployed. Israel is not a wealthy country and can provide only limited unemployment benefits to its citizens. Those who live in the West Bank have very few social benefits to fall back on. At this critical time, Christ Church and our Mercy Fund will need funds and wisdom as we cooperate with other churches and ministries and government social workers to help those in need.

While this virus may be one of God's ways of shaking the nations, it is also an opportunity for us to show mercy to the people of Israel (Romans 11) and to Palestinians in a very practical way. As you know, our faith allows us to be a beacon of hope in a struggling world. In Jerusalem, where the Gospel is radically misunderstood and Christians have often desecrated the name of our Savior, we are asking you to remember us during this Lenten season and on Good Friday in particular. *"For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jew's spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings."* (Rom 15:27)

Specific prayer requests:

- Pray that we will have God-given opportunities to bless (in word and deed) all communities during this crisis.
- Pray for our Mercy Fund - we are being swamped with requests for assistance and soon will run out of resources to help those in need.
- Pray for the work of all CMJ ministries - the church, our three guest houses, and the Anglican School. Pray that God will provide for the needs of each ministry at this time. Much of our income is dependent on tourism.
- Pray for the protection of our staff - physical, emotional and spiritual.



The Church's Ministry Among Jewish People

We know, of course, that many of you will be beset with similar challenges as fear and disease spread globally. And we pray that the Lord will grant His church the strength for the challenges we all face. Yet it is also our hope that like Paul's Macedonian disciples of Romans 15, you will be able to share with those suffering in Jerusalem.

**To contribute
by bank transfer to:
Sort code 16-00-15 Account 23111430 Ref "Mercy Fund"
or
make cheques payable to
CMJ UK
with "Mercy Fund" on the back of the cheque & post to:
CMJ UK
Eagle Lodge
Hexgreave Hall Business Park
Farnsfield
Nottinghamshire
NG22 8LS**

In Messiah Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daryl'.

The Rev. Cn. Daryl Fenton
Director of CMJ Israel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Pileggi'.

The Rev. David Pileggi
Rector, Christ Jerusalem