

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second edition of News and Views for 2021 that I hope will give you a flavour of our on-going ministry as we share about the online event with Canon Andrew White, meet Bishop Andy (the new Bishop of Sherwood), find out about the new publication on Jewish Evangelism from the LCJE, meet

another of our new trustee and conclude with my Thinking Aloud reflections.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and do please continue to pray for the new ministry opportunities emerging for CMJ UK as the Covid restrictions begin to ease.

Shalom

*Alex Jacob*

## Suffragan Bishop visits Eagle Lodge



Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood  
and Rev. Alex Jacob, CEO CMJ UK

On Thursday 27th May, we had a special visit from our new Suffragan Bishop Andy Emerton, Bishop of Sherwood. All CMJ UK staff gathered together to welcome Andy in his new post and shared a snippet of our roles within the team. It was great to fellowship as an entire team since lockdown started. The afternoon ended with Bishop Andy praying a blessing over the work of CMJ. Since 2008 Andy is now the 4th Bishop to visit the Office, Bishop George Cassidy being the first.

*Marie Wheeler*

## MEET THE TRUSTEE - TIM BUTLIN

Tim first joined CMJ in 1980, training in Birmingham before four years on staff in Israel. He



returned to the UK having met Roz in Jerusalem, with the first of their three children. Tim was a Trustee from 1996 to 2008 and also wrote his MTh dissertation on the part CMJ played over 200 years of growing Jewish ministry. After 30+ years of parish ministry, he has re-joined the Trustees. Tim's passion is for the One New Man of Ephesians 2 to become visible to the whole world, as Messianic expressions of church flourish in Israel and in the diaspora alongside the church from the nations, functioning in parallel, in unity and in mutual support.

**Find out more about all of our Trustees on our website**  
[www.cmj.org.uk/board-trustees](http://www.cmj.org.uk/board-trustees)

## JOIN US THIS SEPTEMBER FOR A UNIQUE CMJ UK TOURING HOLIDAY...

**The Pilgrim Fathers**, enables us to follow the story of five men from North Nottinghamshire, the Pilgrim Quadrilateral. From here the main leaders of the first Separatists groups travelled to Holland and America.

Jane says "I enjoyed writing this Olive Press Research Paper so much that when I finished it, I was still living in it. The people had become real, I saw them and, when I read their writings, I was there listening to them and feeling their dawning revelations, their commitment to Jesus, their determination, the humiliation of their undeserved persecutions and their great grief at the many partings they had to face. All of this takes place at the same point in history as CMJ was founded. Amazing!"

Come and see these places and hear the stories of courage and conviction, on the CMJ Pilgrim Fathers Tour on 11th - 19th September. It starts in Nottinghamshire and ends in London. You will visit places where not only the Pilgrim Fathers went but where some of the founders of CMJ lived and hear what happened to them. **For further information email Jane:**  
[janem@cmj.org.uk](mailto:janem@cmj.org.uk)



# COVID HORROR

## *Hamas negotiator says it was worse than being kidnapped*

by Charles Gardner

An Anglican minister who has long been involved with reconciliation in the Middle East has spoken of his dealings with Hamas, the terror group behind the latest violent confrontation with Israel.

Former 'Vicar of Baghdad' Canon Andrew White, who led a thriving church in the heart of Iraq before being forced to flee, has been sharing his experiences in an online interview while still recovering from a serious bout of Covid.

Arranged by the Church's Ministry among Jewish people (CMJ), hundreds of supporters tuned in to the broadcast.

Having suffered with Multiple Sclerosis for the past 20 years, the intrepid cleric suspected a major flare-up of the disease and was admitted to hospital in Guildford, where he was diagnosed with a very bad dose of the coronavirus.

"It was one of the worst experiences of my life," he said. "I've been kidnapped and locked up in dungeons. But this was worse. I was in total and utter isolation. I completely lost the use of the right side of my body and lost my vision for two days, which was so frightening. I was allowed no visitors – not even my wife – for 18 weeks, but I've gone from the Covid zone to the glory zone."

There was, however, some joy during his time in hospital. Concerned that he would have no-one with whom to speak Hebrew, Arabic or Aramaic, it turned out that a Filipino nurse who had worked in Israel spoke fluent Hebrew, a Jordanian physiotherapist spoke Arabic and a consultant neurologist spoke Aramaic – the language of Jesus which Andrew speaks when he's not in England. Not only that, but the consultant had been in Andrew's Sunday School at St George's, Baghdad, when he was ten years old! "We immediately started speaking Aramaic and praising God that we were there together."

Having trained as an anaesthetist before becoming ordained, Andrew now spends much of his time working among refugees in Amman, Jordan, where he runs a school with 400 children (formerly part of his Sunday School in Baghdad) as well as a medical clinic for which funds have tragically dried up since he was taken ill. He longs to return there.

Author of *The Glory Zone in the War Zone* (published by Destiny Image), his experience reminds him of



*Charles Gardner poses with Canon Andrew White in Jerusalem in 2014.*

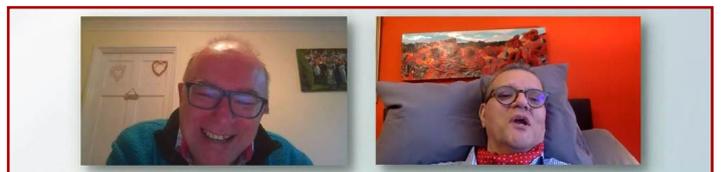
Paul's letter to the Romans in which the Apostle says that "our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Rom 8:18). Andrew added: "I want to share with people the glory of the presence of God. A lot of my work has been in reconciliation, and has included working with Hamas leaders. I am called to be a peacemaker. You can't make peace with nice people; nice people don't cause wars. I've had to learn to be a friend of enemies."

"I was working on getting hostages out of Gaza years ago – only because I know the bad guys," adding that he has often been saved from major calamity through God's miraculous intervention.

Canon White comes from an Assemblies of God background and takes great pride in his connection with Pentecostal pioneer Smith Wigglesworth, reputed to have raised 14 people from the dead. Andrew's grandfather was the legend's right-hand man and he inherited Smith's Bible, which the fearless negotiator takes with him wherever he goes despite the fact it's falling to pieces.

Canon White, whose Baghdad church was founded in 1864 by missionaries from CMJ's Jerusalem headquarters, has a long connection with the ministry. "Going against the Jews is going against Jesus, because he was a Jew. So we must love the Jews," he said.

He called for the Church to return to its roots, reminding them of the fundamental role played by Israel, for whom we should be praying, adding that we should also not only be praying, but also 'paying', for the persecuted church who were in desperate need of funding.



*The recording of An Evening with Canon Andrew White: From Covid Agony to Covid Glory is available on our website [www.cmj.org.uk/canon-andrew-white](http://www.cmj.org.uk/canon-andrew-white) (Left: John Brooks, Deputy CEO CMJ UK Right: Canon Andrew White)*

## Ground breaking new book on Jewish Evangelism published by the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism

by Alex Jacob

Since the beginning of CMJ (1809), CMJ has always sought to partner with others in order to strengthen our shared witness into the 'Jewish world'. In 1980 CMJ was present in the city of Pattaya (Thailand) for the first meeting of the Lausanne Consultation on World Evangelism. One of the outcomes of this was the birth of a network known today as the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism (LCJE). Over the past 40 years many CMJ staff have shared in LCJE gatherings, theological symposiums and practical outreach events, and I believe we have given and gained much from this enduring partnership.

In order to mark this 40th anniversary LCJE decided to update some previous publications and add new material – the result of this is the new LCJE book – Jewish Evangelism. This book marks some of the exponential changes seen in our world and within the field of Jewish mission over the past 40 years, it also gives a clear call to witness to the on-going significance of Jewish mission within the unchanging Gospel call to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). This publication is offered to the whole Church with the hope that many from this new generation will be inspired to intercede for the salvation of the Jewish people and to find ways to share in this mission imperative.

Many people worked extremely hard in contributing to this new book. It was challenging to work as an

editing and writing team especially as due to covid limitations we did not have any 'face to face' meetings. From the beginning the desire was for as many people as possible to be involved in this project and by so doing to represent the diversity of voices and convictions within the LCJE network while focusing on what uniquely unites us: a passion for the salvation of the lost sheep of Israel. The book is divided into five chapters, and a general editor was assigned to each chapter-

**Rev Alex Jacob** - The History of Jewish Evangelism

**Dr Tuvya Zaretsky** - The Jewish Community and Jewish Evangelism

**Dr Darrell Bock** - Theological Considerations and Jewish Evangelism

**Dr Richard Harvey** - The Top Ten Challenges Facing Jewish Evangelism and How to Respond

**Susan Perlman** - Strategies and Initiatives in Jewish Evangelism

In addition to these general editors significant support was given by Bodil Skjott, Dr Dan Sered and Dr Rich Robinson.

This book will be distributed widely in many national and Church settings. Do please pray for much 'fruit from this labour'. Currently the book has been made available freely via the LCJE online network – the link is: <https://lausanne.org/content/lop/jewish-evangelism-lop-67>

It is hoped that a printed version will also be available soon - maybe some advanced copies will be available to purchase at the CMJ Conference (July 16th-18th).

## FEASTS AND FESTIVALS - BETROTHAL AND WEDDING CEREMONIES

*"For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready...Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" (Revelation 19:7, 9)*

'Ani L'Dodi V'Dodi Li' - I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine is taken from the Song of Solomon and Jewish wedding rings are often inscribed with this beautiful sentiment. Ancient Jewish betrothal and marriage rituals point to the coming of the Messiah and the great celebration of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. You'd be hard put to find an occasion more joyous than that of a Jewish wedding. Paul and I have been to several and they're noisy,

joyful events with lots of dancing and celebrating with good food and drink flowing, of course!

**There are three distinct parts to the ancient Jewish wedding:**

- Shiddukhin (mutual commitment)
- Erusin (engagement)
- Nissuin (marriage)

**The full article written by Janey Hames can be found on our website at [www.cmj.org.uk/blog](http://www.cmj.org.uk/blog)**

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE!

If you don't receive our Weekly News Update via email and would like to, please either email the Office on [office@cmj.org.uk](mailto:office@cmj.org.uk) or call us on **01623 883960** and we'll add your email address to our database. It's full of CMJ news, forthcoming events and quick links to our online meetings. We only email once a week with our News update and never pass your email onto anyone else.

# THINKING ALOUD by Alex Jacob

## ***Building empty Pyramids or living out the Gospel?***

Culturally sensitive and Biblically astute evangelism has always been at the forefront of our work within CMJ. Evangelism within a 'Jewish context' is part of our DNA. For this we are both humbled and deeply thankful in equal measure, and we make no apologies for this. However, it is good to be aware of, and to reflect upon the insights of those who would want to challenge us on this.

A few days ago I read an excellent article in the evangelicals now newspaper (June 2021) by Glen Scrivener, I would like to share part of this with you now. Glen is an evangelist and trains others in evangelism with a focus on podcasts and online outreach. In his article he shares a criticism of evangelism (or more specifically the 'evangelical Church') from an unlikely source, namely a Buddhist. The wider context for this criticism is the recent scandals within the evangelical world with a focus on Ravi Zacharias and Jonathan Fletcher.

The Buddhist challenger begins - "Could Christians suffer fewer scandals if they paid less attention to converting others and more on transforming themselves? Might time and resources be better spent teaching congregations to develop self-awareness than encouraging them to evangelise their neighbours? Could it even be that the imperative to convert others is really a subtle, unconscious strategy to avoid looking at oneself?"

The challenging questions then continue and the Buddhist reflects - "How did Fletcher and Zacharias get that way. I am sure they started out as devoted and sincere Christians, but I am just as sure that the need to fulfil 'the Great Commission' led them to start making compromises, than exaggerating,

then becoming a good actor, then becoming blind to personal issues- pride, lust for power, sexual desire, etc. They had no time to look at themselves; they were too busy planning how to save others."

I think Glen responds to this challenge with a deep dose of grace and Biblical wisdom. The temptation which he avoids is simply to ignore, deny or react defensively to such a critical critique. Rather he responds with this four-fold reflection - " I think we have muddled a number of different elements in our theologies of church, mission and the Christian life. First, evangelists have been divorced from the church. What Ephesians 4:11 has brought together - the 'evangelists' and the ministry of the whole body - we have put asunder. We send evangelists away on their solo missions when they're meant to equip the saints towards all-of-life, whole-of-body mission. Second, we have divorced pastoring from evangelising, imagining that seeking lost sheep can happen apart from the feeding and protecting of the flock. Third, we divorce in our thinking and practice the 'building of the church' from the 'reaching of the world', when in reality the church is God's evangelistic strategy. Fourth, we consider our job to be 'gaining converts' when more fundamentally, we must 'offer Christ'.

Glen then concludes; "The church is not empty, seeking to suck the world in, we are full and must flow out! Yet if we never consider our 'fullness' in the Lord Jesus we have nothing to give. We become a pyramid scheme with little to offer our new recruits, except the expansion of the scheme. What our Buddhist challenger is urging us towards is, in fact what will fuel a truly healthy mission. It's the inward (and, more importantly, upward) look that will set our hearts on fire with a contagious love for Christ. He is the centre, not evangelism."

As I think aloud on some of this as a mission leader and practitioner I am aware of the temptation at times to exaggerate success and model enthusiasm; maybe the tentative excuse one hides behind is the need to give 'a positive spin' on the work in order to gain new support and inspire others? Equally, I am aware of the pressure to 'be strong for others' rather than to be open about 'one's own struggles'. Maybe this is part of the cost of leadership? I am sure many reading this will be aware of some of these issues for themselves, and have their own insights and challenges.

The challenge for us as CMJ, a mission agency of the Church is to endeavour never to set up our pyramid building projects but rather to find ways to live out (and equip others to do so as well) the Gospel, with gentleness, self-awareness, hope and a contagious love for Christ - nothing more and nothing less!

## 2022 CALENDAR COMPETITION!

Thank you to everyone who entered our 2022 Calendar Competition! We had some wonderful entries. The winners will be informed very soon and a free copy of the calendar will be on it's way to them.

If you'd like to pre-order the CMJ UK 2022 Calendar full of photos of Israel, Jewish Holiday dates as well as UK high days and holidays please email [office@cmj.org.uk](mailto:office@cmj.org.uk) They are just £4 each and £2 P&P (UK postage).



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