

Editorial:

Welcome to the third edition of News & Views. I am very pleased and thankful to core CMJ staff who have worked so hard during the significant restrictions resulting from the covid-19 pandemic, in order to produce and distribute this edition. In this edition you will be able to read an interesting article from

Charles Gardner – *Raised from the Ashes*, along with news from our London based Community Evangelist in which she introduces us to Steph's story; this article is a clear testimony to how key parts of the CMJ ministry are bearing fruit. There is also news of a new CMJ book, a report about the CMJ Online

Conference plus regular features such as my *Thinking Aloud* column.

I hope you will enjoy reading through this edition and that you will be encouraged and sustained during these challenging times.

Shalom,

Alex Jacob

2021 Membership Verse

The new CMJ Membership verse for 2021 has been selected. The verse is Jude :21. Once again the translation used for the verse is the Messianic Jewish Family Bible (Tree of Life Edition).

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, eagerly waiting for the mercy of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah that leads to eternal life.”

Judah (Jude) 21



New CMJ book out now!

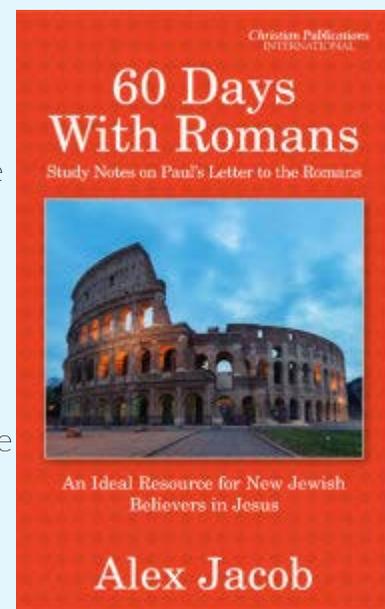
Rev Alex Jacob (CEO CMJ UK) has written a new book – *60 Days with Romans*. This insightful book will help the reader gain an overview of arguably the most important New Testament letter. The study notes are concise, punchy and encourage searching reflection. This book is the third in a series of devotional reading notes and follows on and compliments, *100 Days with Luke* (2018) and *100 Days with Acts* (2019).

Already a number of Church leaders have used these books as a study resource for Bible study groups, home groups, Lent studies and follow on meetings from the Alpha Course. Equally a number of new Jewish Believers in Jesus are using these books to develop a New Testament study pattern.

You can purchase this new book in three ways at present- from the new CMJ Shop page on the CMJ UK website www.cmj.org.uk/shop by email at office@cmj.org.uk or by phone on 01623 883960. The book is available at a special introductory price which includes p&p at £8 or you can purchase all three study books for £16. Special discounts will be available for Church leaders and CMJ members who wish to purchase a bulk order for group study.



Rev. Alex Jacob
CEO of CMJ UK



Raised from the Ashes

Football team tragedy is a parable for our times

by Charles Gardner

A colleague of mine was eager to get home from a conference we both attended last week because his home team (Derby County) were playing Manchester United in the FA Cup.¹

Now it may surprise you to learn that, in spite of spending much of my journalistic career as a sports editor, I am not a football fan.

But I tell the following story as a parable of our times, and of God's amazing story, especially as it relates to his chosen people – the Jews.

My colleague and I went our separate ways and I thought no more of his excitement until, shortly after arriving home, I joined my wife in front of the telly where she was absorbed in a movie – all about Manchester United! It was a harrowing, yet very moving, account of the disaster that virtually wiped out the 'Busby Babes'² as their plane crashed on take-off in heavy snow at Munich in 1958.

Twenty-three people died including the father of a very dear family friend of ours in faraway South Africa who was accompanying the team as a sports reporter for the Manchester Guardian.

Of course, it was a terrible tragedy, and put the future of the club itself in jeopardy – footballers in those days may also have been famous, but they evidently did not live on fortunes.

And yet, with only two of their original team in the squad – Bobby Charlton and goalkeeper Harry Gregg – they literally rose from the ashes of the plane crash to reach the final of the FA Cup just three months later, complete with the new club badge displaying a Phoenix! I remember playing on the farm of our family friend that year (I was just nine) being vaguely aware of something amiss.

Ten years earlier, a much greater tragedy was turned into triumph of a sort when the state of Israel rose from the ashes of the Holocaust, which saw six million Jews wiped out by the Nazis, and then miraculously (with a population of only 600,000) held off five invading armies determined to strangle the new nation at birth.

The prophet Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of Dry Bones had been fulfilled, for the Sovereign Lord had promised: "I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life." (Ezek 37.5)

The ensuing years saw more prophecies fulfilled as God's people returned to their ancient land from every corner of the globe. Isaiah had prophesied: "He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth." (Isa 11.12)

In further encouraging them not to fear, the Lord of compassion had declared: "When you pass through the rivers, I will be with you...when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze... since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you..." (Isa 43.1-4)

In fact, all who trust in the blood of the Jewish Messiah, spilled for the sins of the world, will likewise be raised to new life. Right now, Christians around the world are walking through fire, just as Jews everywhere are continuing to experience, but Jesus assures us that He will wipe away their tears and lead them to His everlasting kingdom of peace as He raises them up from the dust, clothed in their resurrection bodies.

Death will have been swallowed up in victory. "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Cor 15.54-57)

I was greatly encouraged to hear a report of how over 300 Christians had come together for a service of repentance in High Wycombe, where confession was made for the crime of having expelled Jews from the town in 1234, nearly 800 years ago.

Britain subsequently expelled all Jews in 1290, and it was nearly 400 years before they were allowed back. Jews have suffered much wicked persecution over the centuries at the hands of so-called Christians. It's time we turned that around and instead acknowledged our great debt to them – for the patriarchs, the prophets, the Scriptures almost in their entirety and, of course, for Jesus himself!

As for the confessional service, I am told that even the Buckinghamshire town's Muslim mayor took part, along with a Rabbi who spoke of how very dignified it was on the one hand "and hugely transforming and therapeutic on the other", adding: "There was a moment when tears welled up in response to all the compassion being expressed".

"To feel that the historic pain of Jews was being addressed and that the fear lying deep within our collective Jewish consciousness was being responded to was emotional and cathartic. Memories of tonight will stay with me for a long while. I will share them with colleagues, family and friends."³

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have a duty to preach the gospel "to the Jew first" (Rom 1.16) – but not only in word. We need to express our love for them like the Christians of High Wycombe have, identifying with our Lord's compassion for his ancient people, who have risen from the ashes to become "a banner to the nations" – a signpost of God's everlasting commitment to Israel, and to all who bless them. (Jer 31.3, Gen 12.3)

1 Sadly, Derby lost the fifth round tie 0-3.

2 The nickname given to the all-conquering team led by the legendary Sir Matt Busby, who was injured in the crash.

3 For full story, see Christians confess Anti-Semitism.

Charles Gardner is a renowned journalist and author. He is also the editor of our Prayer Focus publication and regular Guest Blogger on our website.



Bearing Fruit: CBE ministry leads to Jewish missionary going to Columbia

Our London Community Based Evangelist, Tania, led Steph to faith and now she has been called to be a missionary in South America! Here is Steph's story:



My name is Steph, I am Jewish and I came to faith in Yeshua (Jesus) through Tania in April 2015. I had been searching for the truth since 2013 when a friend of mine was the victim of a violent attack and we were told he was unlikely to survive. At that time, I said my first prayer and by the grace of God he survived.

That time in my life was the beginning of my journey to faith. Determined to work out the truth, I read the Jewish, Christian and Islamic texts and found myself drawn to Jesus.

It wasn't until a particularly difficult time in my life, however, that I felt the urge to go to church and had a deep sense that I needed Jesus. After 'church shopping' for a while I met Tania one evening at a church I was visiting, before I had an opportunity to escape as I was used to doing! She kindly invited me for coffee the following weekend, when she explained the gospel and invited me to put my life into God's hands, which I did. I haven't looked back since and have been on an amazing journey of faith and discovery. Tania has been kind enough to spend many an evening over the past few years discipling me and she has demonstrated incredible patience as I started to really understand the gospel, in particular the concept of grace (that was definitely a lightbulb moment after many months of discussion)! Alongside Tania's discipleship, I have been part of a wonderful church in north London where I have been able to grow in faith.



Approximately two years ago, the Lord began speaking to me about mission and, in 2019, I travelled to Belgium with a small group from my church for a short-term mission trip. The place I now feel strongly called to longer term is Columbia. The Lord has spoken clearly to me about that country and I have recently been accepted by Latin Link mission agency to go to Columbia in 2021.

If you would like to hear more about Steph's missionary journey or find out how to support her, please get in touch with the CMJ Office – office@cmj.org.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 14th October @ 2pm
Afternoon Lecture
with Paul Hocking

Wednesday 11th November @ 2pm
Afternoon Lecture
with Booby Ann Cole

Regular CMJ Prayer Meeting every
2nd and 4th Wednesday on Zoom.
6.30 - 7.30

Please see our website
www.cmj.org.uk and our Facebook
page www.facebook.com/CMJUK
for regular updates on events.

AGM 2020

The date for the
2020 AGM will be
24th October at 2pm.

It will be an Online AGM and details will be available nearer the time on our website.

Election will be for 5 vacancies of varying terms from 3 to 5 years. The longer terms of office will be taken by the trustees with the most votes (or longest lengths of previous service if no election takes place)

Please see our website www.cmj.org.uk/agm for the Agenda and New Nomination form or contact the Office for a copy to be sent to you by email or by post.



Many people (not just football fans) will be aware of the death of Jack Charlton OBE, DL (1935-2020). 'Big Jack' as he was fondly known was a world cup winner, Leeds United stalwart and the Republic of Ireland manager.



Jack Charlton OBE

His football achievements were legendary, although I fear I must point out to my discerning readers that he never had the good sense or privilege of playing for Cambridge United - everyone's CV is lacking something of vital importance!

What struck me most from reading some of his obituaries and hearing media reports was the tribute he played to his younger brother Bobby Charlton. At a special award event for Bobby, Jack said;

"Bobby was a great player - he could really play, while I could never really play - I could stop others from playing, and in a team there is room for both."

Bobby and Jack both played in the world cup final (the only brothers to ever do so) of 1966, arguably the greatest moment in English sporting history - although I was only 5 at the time, memories and images from this match still linger - and the phrase "...they think it's all over - it is now" is perhaps the best known phrase in our shared cultural history.

As a Christian I know about the Bible's teaching of being part of a team - or to use Paul's image - being part of a body (see 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4). As a CEO of a mission charity I know about trying to oversee and encourage others in a staff team. As a sports fan I know about the need to try and build a team and to play as a team, and not simply as gifted (or not so gifted) individuals.

I am not sure if you would regard yourself to use Jack's phrase as a 'great player' or as a 'stopper' - but whatever your perception of yourself is, whatever gifts you or others may discern, whatever opportunities you have, and whatever limitations you are aware of - be sure of this; you have a contribution to make to the life of the Church and the mission work of the Kingdom. There is room for you!

Shalom, Alex

A report from first time attendee and CMJ UK Social Media Manager, Philippa Hulett

It was my first CMJ Conference. It was everybody's first CMJ Online Conference!

When the Conference Planning Team heard the Conference Centre wouldn't be reopening until the 6th July, a day after our planned conference, it was disheartening at first; how could we miss out on all our hard work just by one day?! Soon, I realised it was of course perfect timing. Many conference goers might not have been comfortable travelling or being with so many other people so soon. It also gave us an amazing opportunity to do something new!

I watched the Online Conference from home and made it a real family day. Evangeline our daughter (8 going on 13) enjoyed the children's talks by Olly Goldenberg while my Mum learned more about the fascinating history of CMJ through the Five Firsts talk by Paul Hames.

There were around 800 devices that logged on to watch on the day! It's amazing looking at the website analytics to see people joined us from all over the world from Australia to USA, Canada to India and lots of other countries in between.

I did miss out on a Shabbat meal (actually, all the delicious meals at the Hayes Conference Centre!) but I was delighted as a first time conference goer to receive my complimentary copy of '100 Days with Luke' written by our own CEO, Rev. Alex Jacob.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on the day and for all your prayers and support leading up to the event. Also, thank you to those who have booked for 2021. We look forward to seeing you there!

Philippa Hulett

You can still view the conference on our website (please email the Office if you need the 'members only' link). Don't forget to book for next year! www.cmj.org.uk/conference-2021

Christmas cards and Christian Gifts that assist our ministry!

Once again this year we shall benefit from the sale of Christmas cards and the other cards and gifts available from **Gospel Cards, etc.** Last year your support for this initiative raised over £500 for CMJ UK. Please remember to mention our name if you place an order - thank you. Full details of the cards, etc. are on their website www.GospelCardsEtc.com or 01656 647551 (10am - 1pm).

