

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the final edition of News and Views for 2020. For all of us this year has been and continues to be a testing time as we try and navigate the best way forward during a pandemic. Let me repeat what I wrote in the recent Autumn Appeal letter, namely we are "trusting an unknown future to a known God." In this edition you will glimpse many signs of this trust in action as plans are made for some key advocacy work and a major

international outreach in Poland. In these articles and throughout this edition, I hope you will be encouraged as you hear news of key events and ongoing ministry. Ministry rooted in God's faithfulness and redemptive plans for the Jewish people. May I thank-you for your interest and support.

Shalom,

Alex Jacob

PAUL AND JANEY HAMES' ZOOM PRAYER MEETING REPORT



Janey and I have co-led a monthly "praying for Israel" meeting in Leicester for 10 years. On a good night we get 20 people but most often around 10 faithfuls turn out! When Corona Virus hit and the country went into lockdown in March the monthly meeting was postponed. That seemed an appropriate time to try something new. As Zoom became the normal way of meeting we decided to try a fortnightly get together focussing just on CMJ's work. We quickly realised that Zoom has no borders so not just local people, but national and international supporters could join us to give thanks for the work that had

happened and to pray for the future opportunities in outreach and education. Each meeting we have a representative from one of CMJ's international societies and one from CMJ UK giving their update and prayer requests. It's exciting to tell you that we regularly have 80 plus people join us in prayer. Staff, Trustees and supporters have come together from the UK, Ireland, Israel, America, Canada, South Africa and India so as well as the prayer time we have a social time too when former colleagues and old friends can have a catch up. We thank God that even in the midst of a crisis that stops us physically meeting there is opportunity to get together virtually in a way that's impossible under normal circumstances. We'd love you to join too. The meeting happens on the second and fourth Wednesday

CMJ UK ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME ALISON DAVIES AS ONE OF OUR NEW TRUSTEES!

I was brought up in an extended family of Believers and taught to love Israel from an early age. Genesis 12:3 was

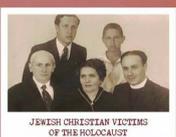


one of the first Bible verses I learned. I have had a connection with CMJ since the 1970's and knew many of the staff and volunteers when the headquarters were in St Albans. I am committed to the '3 E's' of CMJ UK (Education, Evangelism and Encouragement). Now I am in the early years of retirement (from General Practice), I am looking forward to being part of the future that the Lord has for CMJ UK, and the One New Man body that is His bride.

Find out more about all of our Trustees on our website www.cmj.org.uk/board-trustees

of each month at 6.30pm. This relatively early start is the most convenient time for most nations. (Our future plan is to include Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand by way of a pre recorded contribution). If you haven't had an invitation but would like one please email Marie at the CMJ office mariew@cmj.org.uk. we look forward to seeing you soon!

BAZYLI & ANNA JOCZ



AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER NOW!

Available to pre-order now at www.cmj.org.uk/shop

"Bazyli and Anna Jocz - Jewish Christian Victims of the Holocaust" by Kelvin Crombie
You can find out more about the book and watch the book launch on our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/c/CMJUK

If you prefer to order over the phone please contact us on **01623 88396**



POLAND OUTREACH

- LIFE FROM THE DEAD -



The plan originally born out of the vision and commitment of Daryl Fenton (CMJ Israel) and Avi Snyder (Jews for Jesus) is that in July 2021 an array of ministries and individuals will launch a two-week evangelistic campaign in Warsaw, Poland, to be known as Life from the Dead. The goal is that there will be a clear and attractive proclamation of the Gospel, with a focus on the message, "to the Jew first".

Warsaw in the past was the focus for much CMJ ministry, yet this ministry came to an abrupt and tragic end as the Nazi's invaded Poland. During the war, 460,000 Jewish people were herded into the Warsaw ghetto (a small enclosed section of the city of about 1.3 square miles), where many died from disease and starvation. Others lost their lives in the ghetto uprising, while others were taken to Treblinka where nearly all perished. However, Warsaw's sufferings aren't limited to the tragedies of the Jewish people alone. Over 200,000 Poles lost their lives in Warsaw's resistance to the Nazi's. The war was then followed by 45 years of Soviet oppression.

For Jewish Believers in Jesus to return now to Warsaw and to proclaim the Gospel is nothing less than Life from the Dead. Also for a range of Christians from around the world, along with local Polish Christians to stand with and share in this proclamation with their Jewish sisters and brothers is in itself a powerful declaration of the reconciling power of Yeshua.

Warsaw in the centre of Polish national life and each summer significant numbers of Jewish people visit the city to explore their Polish heritage and to honour their fellow Jews who perished in the ghetto and the Holocaust.

At the moment our plans are somewhat tentative but we are confident that a team will be put together and outreach will take place using street outreach, art exhibitions, concerts, personal conversations, social media, discussions, dinners and preaching events.

The dates are set for July 18th to 31st July. I have been asked to lead and put together a UK segment of the mission team. It is proposed that the UK team (along with teams from Israel and the USA) will share in the CMJ conference (16th-18th July) and then travel together from the conference centre to Warsaw.

CMJ UK is fully behind this international and multi-agency event. If you would like to consider being part of the UK team, please email me directly on alexj@cmj.org.uk registering your interest and I will send you an application form.

Each team member will need to cover their costs which will include attending the CMJ UK conference, food and accommodation in Warsaw (this will be arranged for you) insurance, transfers and return flights. More detailed information will be given in the near future, but I think realistically one would need to set aside about £1500 to cover full costs.

Please do pray for this event, also pray if you should be part of the team- you will need to be over 18 on 1.7.21, in good physical and emotional health and in good standing with your local Church/Messianic Fellowship (References may be required). No specific skills are required, but clearly previous experience in evangelism along with some practical and language skills (Polish speakers are most welcome!) will be useful.

In conclusion, an intriguing legend offers a rendition of how Jews first came to Poland. During the middle ages, while fleeing persecution elsewhere, a vision directed them to a safe haven – a place whose name in Hebrew means "God dwells here"- Polanya, Poland. What a miracle it would be if Life from the Dead made this ancient vision a reality, for Jewish people and all people today!

Alex Jacob



Feasts and Festivals

Jane Moxon's Report from The Pleasaunce Teaching Week

We were thirteen in all – Alison Marchant and her twelve disciples!

God's Covenants, Feasts and Faithfulness run by Alison Marchant, a recent CMJ Trustee, captivated everyone from the beginning with the teaching on Covenant. One woman gave a lovely testimony of receiving understanding and healing from this teaching.

Our Passover that evening was filled with anecdotes remembered from Alison's years in Israel with CMJ. Those who had never been to a Passover were intrigued by their personal Seder plate and enjoyed sorting out the what, why and when of eating through the symbolic foods, with various comments when they bit into the Hillel sandwich! We were not allowed to sing in COVID-19 2020, but Alison, our rabbi for the week, read out the words of the song sung at Passover, Dayenu, meaning, it would have been enough. The richness of this fun song caused people to assess not only God's faithfulness to His Ancient people but also to them as grafted in ones. Our 4 cups of wine / grape juice, we tried to drink reclining as the freemen did in Bible times, but personally, I have never found this to be a great idea since the amount that goes down me is sometimes greater than the amount that goes in me!

Alison is thoroughly prepared and building a sukkah became an easy activity. The group was organised - some to build, some to collect foliage, and the rest to make fruits to decorate the booth. I cut out large bunches of grapes from coloured paper and enjoyed shading them to look quite grape-like. Others were tackling pineapples or pomegranates. They made a surprising excellent display, hanging from the sides and ceiling of our sukkah. Alison gave her teaching on the Feast of Tabernacles from the sukkah. Being unable to sing and be joyful inside to celebrate Simcha Torah, we went outside to be socially distanced worshippers. We sang all the worship songs we could from memory and when we ran out of new ones we started again. Our singing gave way to Israeli dancing and our social distancing became somewhat socially challenged.

The Purim party is the spontaneous acting out of the re-telling of the story of Esther and how through her bravery, God saved the Jewish people from Haman's wicked plot. If you look at our picture you can see Haman hanging from the coat stand having got his just deserts. It's a time for laughter over silly things, as when the King's wanna-be new wives queued up to parade before him, dressed as best they knew how from Alison's costume box.

Alison and I presented the work of CMJ in the UK and in Israel and some of the things God is doing today.



The group were surprised and glad to have good news from Israel to tell others.

All the Feasts were covered and Alison's gentle and quiet delivery and gave her disciples time to absorb and reflect on what they heard. This was helped by references to her life in Israel and her explanations of why things are done and what they mean. After a final session on Covenant we took Communion – together but with our own individual glass and piece of matza. It was a lovely ending to the teaching week. People were extremely touched by the week and thanked Alison profusely. Alison gave everyone a 'piece of fruit' to remind them of the Feasts. God's faithfulness was so obvious through the teachings. There had been such a sense of the Holy Spirit being with us. The unity between us was amazing. It almost seemed we had been hand-picked!

Jane Moxon

Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles by Jane Moxon

We were definitely going to build a sukkah again. Last year we invited friends one evening, the music group another and then family to celebrate with us. We had great fun dancing and waving our lulavs to all points of the compass and up and down and chatting about the meaning of Sukkot.

The full article is available on our website. Visit www.cmj.org.uk/blog



GOD'S UNFAILING WORD

A Study Guide

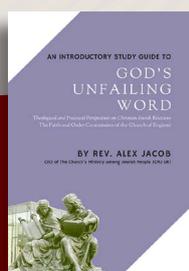
In issue 4 of News & Views 2019 there was an article outlining the forthcoming publication and promotion of the Church of England report- **God's Unfailing Word**. This report sets out the Churches thinking about Christian-Jewish relations and this report will shape many aspects of Christian-Jewish engagement for future generations.

CMJ UK has led a careful response to this major report and a few weeks ago a series of 'mini videos' have been placed on the CMJ UK website and YOUTUBE site. These videos outline what CMJ sees as the strengths and weaknesses of the report. In addition to this there are a number of discussion points raised and a useful list of follow up resources is given. These videos are complimented by a CMJ study guide booklet. This booklet is available to purchase from the website shop and is free to all members of the Romans 15:9 network.

I would like to encourage you all to see these videos and if you are a Church leader please will you consider inviting a CMJ speaker to lead a meeting in which this report is discussed and the CMJ response is outlined. In addition to Church meetings we hope to be able to engage well on this issue with Bible Colleges and theological students. Again if you have any contacts with colleges or theological institutions please share these with me (you can email directly on alexj@cmj.org.uk) as helping the current and future generation engage with this report is a key advocacy priority for CMJ UK in 2021.

Alex Jacob

Purchase the booklet for just £2 from our Online Shop www.cmj.org.uk/shop



Vacancy

Communications Manager (Part-time).
We are looking to appoint a permanent
Communications Manager
(Part-time - 20 hours a week).
Hourly rate £14.78.
For further details contact John on 01623 883961
or johnb@cmj.org.uk
Closing date: 10th January 2021
Interview date: 20th January 2021

THINKING ALOUD

by Alex Jacob

I am writing this as we enter the third week of our second 'national lockdown' and we have just heard the encouraging news of a potential major breakthrough with a vaccine. Clearly there is much to think and pray about over the next few months as we try and plan ahead.

During this and the previous 'lockdown', I like nearly all of us have had to come to terms with significant restrictions and disappointments, yet despite these restrictions I have still enjoyed some important freedoms, opportunities and choices. In thinking aloud about this I have come to see that in some ways that this present lockdown reality has connections with Christian discipleship.

As a Christian I have a wonderful freedom, this is part of the gift of the Gospel (Galatians 5:1, Romans 8:1-2 etc.) yet within my Christian life I have certain obligations and restrictions (Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 5:25-32 etc.). It is vital for me not to use this freedom in such a way that is contrary to the way of the Spirit (Galatians 5:13-18). In fact in much of the ethical teaching of the New Testament the wider context is how Christians balance personal freedom and individual conviction, alongside the corporate unity and discipline of living as part of a Church community.

Some people, who are not Christians, see the Christian faith as being oppressive and restrictive to individual freedom. They understand that some key freedoms especially in terms of ethical (sexual, economic, personal etc.) choices will be removed from them if they became a Christian. Overall they see Christianity as 'hemming people in' to a restrictive and oppressive lifestyle. In responding to this I need to try and show that the obligations and restrictions I take on as a Christian are in place not to damage my life choices, but to offer protection to me, and to others. These restrictions are a necessary component to helping all of us to seek life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

Before the lockdown I used to drive up the A1 to Eagle Lodge nearly every week, this busy trunk road in most places has major safety barriers separating the carriageways heading north and south- while these barriers restricts my freedom and hems me in, I am thankful for them. They are necessary to help keep me and others safe on our journeys.

Happy driving and navigating through life in these testing times.

Alex



Eagle Lodge, Hexgreave Park, Farnsfield, Notts, NG22 8LS, England.
Tel: 01623 883960 Email: office@cmj.org.uk Web: www.cmj.org.uk

News & Views Editor: Rev. Alex Jacob
Layout Design: CMJ UK

CMJ UK is a working title of The Vincent Society, a charitable incorporated organisation, England & Wales Registered Charity Number 1153457