

Editorial:

To all members and supporters of CMJ

Welcome to the final edition of News and Views for 2019. These past few months have been especially busy for the UK staff team and the articles in this edition will give you a flavour of what's been going on. The main article focuses on deputation visits and has been written by Jane Moxon.

There are also an article about the New Age Fair Outreach and the new report by the Faith and Order Commission.

Shalom,

Alex Jacob



Forgiveness and Freedom From Addiction

Our London-based CBE sent this report from a recent new age fair outreach.

We met hundreds of people and gave away hundreds of gospels and tracts. There were 10 professions of faith and we encountered over 60 Jewish people. One Jewish lady came to the stand for prayer for her back which had been injured in a car accident years ago. Her husband had died in the accident. I explained the gospel to her and began to pray, inviting her to forgive those who caused the accident. After prayer, she said she had been thinking about forgiveness recently and was so struck by it coming up in the prayer. She now felt peaceful.

When I followed up with her, she said her back was much better. We met a young woman battling drug addiction who asked for prayer for the strength to stay "clean" – the gospel was explained to her and she gave her life to the Lord

Some comments from visitors to the stand:

"... prayers gave me the comfort and strength I need at this trying time in my life"

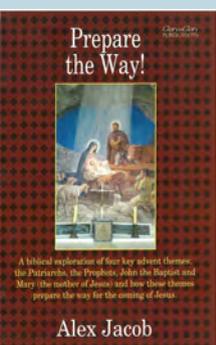
"so spiritually uplifted and feel so much healing, thank you so much for such empathy"

"thank you, Jesus, I am hearing better"

"when I closed my eyes during the prayer, I felt so peaceful"

"amazing talking to a soul filled with the Spirit of God"

"just what was needed - divine timing!"



Looking for an Advent resource? **Problem solved!**

How does the birth and subsequent ministry of Jesus connect with the big picture of God's past promises and future purposes?

Alex Jacob explores the wider theme through the Church's traditional preparation for Christmas during its 'advent' season.

Prepare the Way! is available to purchase from our website now at www.cmj.org.uk/shop

WHAT A BLESSING!

Your purchases from the Gospel Cards catalogue over Christmas 2018 generated OVER £580 for CMJ UK! Yes over £580! This was our first year doing this and we raised more than the other 27 charities! Your copy was in last quarters Mail Out. Let us know if you need more catalogues. You can also use their website and mention "CMJ UK" when you get to the Order Summary page. Let's see if we can raise even more this year!
www.gospelcardsetc.com

Deputation Tours

by Jane Moxon

A deputation tour just means a 'Speaking tour' doesn't it - or does it?



Rosemary Saunders Tour

The dictionary says a Deputation is a group of people appointed to undertake a mission or take part in a formal process on behalf of a larger group i.e. "he had been a member of a deputation to Napoleon III". The same dictionary says, Speaking is "the action of conveying information or expressing one's feelings in speech (without necessarily representing anyone but yourself)".

It's clear, a tour I do on behalf of CMJ is not merely a Speaking Tour, even though we are conveying information. Since we are representing the 'larger group,' the Church's Ministry among Jewish people, it's a Deputation Tour!

Let's look at the aims of CMJ to see what we are representing...

Aims of CMJ's work in the Churches

- To teach the Jewish Roots of our Faith and thereby put that Faith on its proper Biblical foundation.
- Explain the work of CMJ past and present giving it context and understanding of the Society.
- Examining what we as CMJ need to understand in the wider world issues i.e. seeing God's Hand in all History through the lens of Biblical prophecy.

In fulfilling these aims we show:

- The underlying Truth of Covenant, the Covenant God made with Abraham and its implications throughout history.
- The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31) first for the Jewish people and for us as the grafted in ones or Gentile Believers (see Romans 1:16 & Romans 9 -11).
- The relevance of all the Biblical Feasts and how they relate to the New Covenant.
- Finally, and most important we want churches to come on board with the work of CMJ, realising that Jewish Roots (or Biblical Roots) of our Faith, are the foundation on which we, the Church stand. We worship the Jewish Messiah; the Word made Flesh.



Kelvin Crombie Tour



Pedro Santos Tour



Robert Sakr Tour

The tours I have organised and actioned have been with a mixture of CMJ colleagues and others who either used to work for CMJ, like Kelvin Crombie, or who grew up with CMJ, as in the case of Robert Sakr or are specialist guests like Dr David Schmidt.

By taking CMJ colleagues from Israel on tour in the UK, church groups can hear first-hand about the work of CMJ from our four centres in Israel.

By taking guest speakers, who have specialist subjects, on tour, church groups can be challenged and encouraged by topical issues or events that demonstrate the purposes of God through history to bring about His declared Word.

A question I have considered is this: have the dozens of deputation tours I have organised, the tens of thousands of miles I have driven, and the hundreds of churches visited resulted in my aims, stated above, being achieved? Could I perhaps have recorded these talks (and shared them) and put them onto CDs / flash drives or simply put the file online for anyone interested? Is the result measurable? Should it be measurable and if so, what is the difference between a secular organisation and a Christian ministry? Both want to expand their work, both need funds and both rely on advertising and personal promotion. Both might want to know how many new customers the company / society has in a set period or how many new shops / churches have agreed to promote the business.

The difference is in what drives it. What is the motive?
Motive will then determine method.

- The secular organisation is out to gain new customers to increase sales in order to make profit for the company and its shareholders.
- A ministry founded by God is out to help Him build His Kingdom in order to make not customers, but partners understand Biblical Truth. This, like the mustard tree, used as a symbol of the Kingdom of God, grows naturally and silently. The increase of partners and churches who support CMJ will come 'silently' as the work continues to follow God's direction. God will bring new supporting churches and partners on board as He has done throughout the last 210 years.



So back to the question -

Pedro Santos Tour

Do we need to go in person, or would the internet do the job for us?

I believe there is no substitute for meeting people face to face. I have witnessed hundreds of times the difference meeting and engaging with people makes. On occasions I may have considered a helicopter and a megaphone, to reach people more effectively (just in case anyone takes me seriously - only joking!) but it's those hundreds of meetings all over Britain meeting people that make the difference. To engage with people and get to know them is not possible through the internet. We are social beings. Politicians know the value of face to face encounters or they wouldn't bother to visit as many areas of the country as they can whilst canvassing for their party. That you bother to go to the extremities of our 'Sceptred Isle' never fails to impact the people who live there. No place is too big and no place is too small, every place has people who can make a difference!

Do I have any funny stories from all these tours? Yes, of course, but they will have to wait for another time!

Jane Moxon

Israel 2019 - A Prayer Tour By Sue Aldridge

Our first 10 day Prayer Tour took place this Autumn and deeply impacted our group. Memories of the first sight of the Western Wall were powerful as were early morning prayers in the garden at Christchurch, Bible study on the Autumn Feasts, time with Idan (Heritage Centre), and the many 'chance' meetings we had with other pilgrims. We had five precious days in Jerusalem.

One highlight was Friends of Zion Museum where we were challenged to say our 'Hineni' - 'Here am I' to upholding God's purposes for Israel. At the Anglican International School Rosemary showed us round, sharing the amazing influence the school has for good - and for God! Our visit ended perfectly with prayer for the school in the chapel. We also walked, praying very quietly around the Temple Mount early one morning and later learned a lot and laughed a lot as David Pileggi blessed us with his wisdom and his wit!

Our Garden Tomb communion was deeply significant and unforgettable to us all as was our visit to Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center - an essential in trying to understand the Jewish experience.

At beautiful Beit Bracha we used the Bedouin tent for prayer and spent days around the Lake and in the Golan.

We walked in silence down from Beatitudes to Tabgtha and felt God surely with us as we celebrated communion at the lake side.

Visiting the newly excavated site at Migdal was exciting and we were moved by the beautiful church built to commemorate the part that women played and still play in ministering to Yeshua. 'That's us' said one woman quietly.

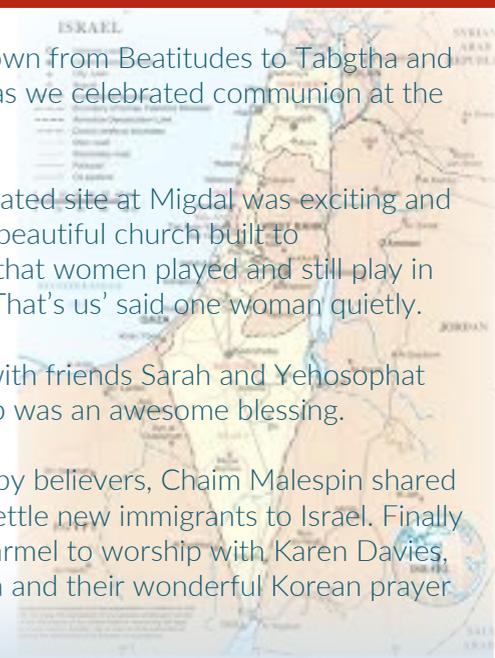
Our final Shabbat was with friends Sarah and Yehosophat whose anointed worship was an awesome blessing.

At a Return Centre run by believers, Chaim Malespin shared his vision to bless and settle new immigrants to Israel. Finally we visited Kehilah HaCarmel to worship with Karen Davies, Peter and Rita Tsukahira and their wonderful Korean prayer partners.

Tour members agreed they had been 'totally changed' and several said they'll never be the same again. Thank you Holy Spirit!

Fancy a prayer tour in 2021? Pray about it - we'd love to have you with us next time

Sue's full report will be available to read on the website very soon at www.cmj.org.uk/blog



Thinking Aloud by Alex Jacob

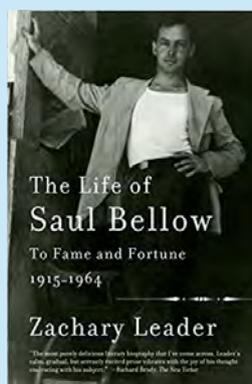
I have been reading the biography of the Jewish writer and most acclaimed American novelist of the twentieth century Saul Bellow by Zachary Leader (Vintage, 2017) and I am intrigued, saddened and moved by what is written about Saul's first encounter with the Gospel while he was in hospital aged eight. Let me quote part of this for you:

It was in hospital that Bellow became a reader, "read everything I could get my hands on" not only his hospital chart but the funny papers, stacked beside the patients beds ... He also read Ragged Ann, Black Beauty and Uncle Tom's Cabin. His most important reading, though, was kept from his parents. "There was nobody to talk to except the ladies from the Bible Society, the Christian ladies we used to call them, with copies of the New Testament" (elsewhere "a New Testament for children"). He and the ladies would read passages aloud, and when they went away he read the whole book himself. The Gospel stories in particular "were a real shocker, because I didn't have any idea about all this other side of things." He'd heard of Jesus, but only "marginal information, unfriendly (why should it have been friendly?)". He was shocked when Jesus died, never having read a story in which the hero died. "I was nuts about the guy" the adult Bellow recalled to a friend. "I was moved out of myself by Jesus", he wrote in a letter of June 22, 1991, to the biblical scholar Stephen Mitchell.

"That Jesus was a Jew "counted heavily" in his favour. At the same time, "I would never have joined the enemies of the Jews as supporters of Jesus. That would have been impossible." The charge that the Jews crucified Jesus troubled the eight-year-old.

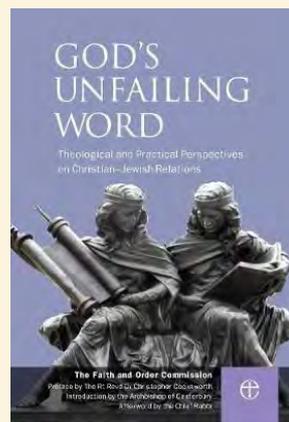
"I thought the Jews should really not have done that," he remembers thinking. He was also worried about being blamed: "How could it be my fault? I am in the hospital." As he concluded at the time, "I didn't have it all quite straight."

In thinking aloud about this I pray that those of us like the young Saul who don't get it all quite straight may by God's grace and in His perfect timing make the right connections, break through the prejudice and fear and be straightened out.



Happy discovering and straitening!

Alex



"God's Unfailing Word"

Faith and Order Commission

by Alex Jacob

The Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England have undertaken a major piece of work which addresses the theological and practical perspectives of Christian-Jewish Relations.

The document is called "God's Unfailing Word". This report has been in the making for a number of years and draws upon the work of many key theological and missional thinkers and practitioners. The report will be presented to the public for the first time at The Queens Foundation, Birmingham on Thursday 21st November. I am planning to be there and I will be very interested in what the report says. I did see a confidential draft report back in March 2019, and I was invited to submit a response on behalf of CMJ. I was very pleased to do so, especially as I felt there were a number of errors in the report and some disparaging comments relating to CMJ. I did my best to challenge and refute these errors and comments. It will be of interest to see if my response has been used in updating and correcting the draft document. The report covers critical issues such as mission and evangelism, teaching and preaching and the Land of Israel. There is also a useful section looking at the historical and theological contexts of the 'partings of the ways' between the emerging Church and Rabbinical Judaism in the First Century. Within this there is in my view a very helpful validation given to the role of Jewish Believers in Jesus.

I am sure this report will be significant in shaping the thinking and doing of many within the Church for generations to come. Please join me in praying that this report will be honouring to the witness of Scripture and the vision and calling of CMJ. Visit the Romans 15:8 blog (www.cmj.org.uk/romans158/blog) in December for an update on the launch.



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