

Thinking Aloud

by Alex Jacob

Last summer Mandy and I had some holiday time spent in Ireland, and we did some walking in the border area of County Armagh and up to the shores of Lough Neagh. Following this, I read the book *Hard Border - walking through a Century of Irish Partition* by Darach Macdonald (New Island, 2018). A quote struck me in this book by Italian scholar Claudio Margis who observes that – “A border has two sides to it, it’s ambiguous: at one moment it is a bridge on which to meet, at another, a barrier of rejection and exclusion.”

I have been thinking a lot about borders recently, partly due to the Brexit debate (sorry to mention it!) The concerns over a ‘hard border’ in the very place I had my holiday walks, and partly because of time spent in Israel, especially visiting my CMJ Israel colleague Aaron Eime and his family who lives right on the ‘green-line’ border in Gillo. Both of these borders are geographical and political. However, borders can be more than geographic and political; they can be cultural, social, economic and religious. I became very aware of this during the mission conference which took place in New York in January (see earlier article on *New York Ministry*). During this conference, we explored ways of reaching out to the Haredim and helping them find Yeshua. If this is to happen it will require the skilful navigation of ‘community borders’, and this will require much prayer, empathy, faith and wisdom.

Please pray that all borders may become places of meeting and not places of rejection and exclusion.

Happy walking and meeting.

Shalom,

Alex



Image © David Dixon

Vincent Society AGM

The AGM of the Vincent Society (the legal name of the charity known as CMJ UK) will be on **Saturday 13th July 2019** at 2.30pm at the Derbyshire Hall, The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU.

All members are very welcome to attend and vote – in particular to vote on the election of trustees. Nominations for new trustees must be received by 31st May 2019. For more details of how to make a nomination see our website www.cmj.org.uk or call **01623 883960** if you do not have internet access.

Update from our London CBE

Loneliness is said to be the emotional plague of our times. A number of my contacts talk about suffering from loneliness...

➔ Continue to read about our *Community-Based Evangelist's encounters with 3 people in the blog on the website (or requested printed copies from the Office) and from this, how it should impact on our prayer life.*

What is the link between St Andrews, YoYo and Jerusalem?

In terms of my UK background, I was located in York before coming to Israel. My church is a village church there, not far from the Archbishop's palace, called St Andrew's Church. I was an intern youth and school's worker with a Christian charity called York Schools and Youth Trust (YoYo for short), working in most of the schools of the city to help bring the Christian faith alive for students of all ages...

Joanne Hastings

➔ To find out how all these links to Jerusalem, read Joanne's blog on the website (or request a printed copy from the Office).



Getting to know Wayne & Ann Hilsden before our Conference

Ann and I are blessed beyond words. We've been married for almost 43 years. All four of our sons serve the Lord - and they've given us 6 awesome grandkids!

I often say to people: “We moved to Israel so long ago that the Dead Sea was still only sick.” Some say Israel ‘devours its inhabitants.’ (Ezekiel 36:13). Well, against all odds we are still alive and well and enjoying perhaps our best season serving in the Land.

It was in 1981 that Ann and I received our call to Israel...

➔ To find out where Jim Cantelon, more than 2,000 Israelis (including Jews and Arabs) and a Jerusalem shopping centre fit into the story, go to the blog on the website (or request a printed copy from the Office).

Come and meet Wayne & Ann at our Conference – see leaflet enclosed.

NEWS&VIEWS

2019: Issue 1



The Church's Ministry among Jewish People

Editorial:

Welcome to the first edition of *News and Views* for 2019 where there are the regular features plus reports about the Bible Comes to Life Exhibition in St Albans, a major mission conference in New York, and exciting news about our new CMJ president.

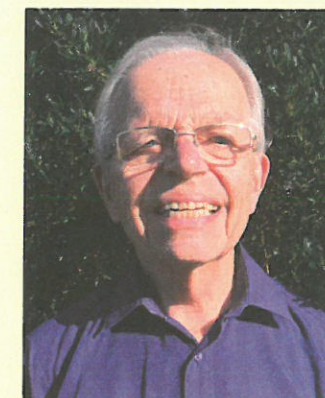
There is also information about a new CMJ book – I can't vouch for the author, but the subject of the book sounds exciting and significant!

Shalom,

Alex Jacob

A Ray of Light!

Introducing the new CMJ UK President



It is indeed a privilege to be asked to be the President of CMJ UK. Jill and I have been married since 1964. I was then a solicitor but God called me to the Anglican ministry and I was ordained in 1974. With our three young daughters, our homes have been in Nottingham and in St Albans diocese.

Towards the end of the '80s we felt God nudging us towards serving abroad. It became clear that we would be working with CMJ. Our first High Leigh was in 1988 when we were given a warm welcome into the Family that remains an active part of our life!

We arrived at Beit Immanuel in January '89 to begin 'ulpan', the Hebrew learning course. Soon we were needed at Stella Carmel. Here in a largely Druze village we met Arabs, Jews, Christian workers from throughout Israel and visitors to the land. Thank you Lord for calling us to such a place for 3 months in preparation for Jerusalem!

It was a huge privilege and opportunity to be at Christ Church for 8 years. It was not without its heartaches and challenges but in so many ways we saw God at work as we ministered to regular worshippers and thousands of visitors as well as being responsible for overseeing the life of the community on the compound. So often at the end of a Sunday Jill and I would reflect and praise the Lord for all that had been happening that day.

After nearly 3 years as Director for the Israel work we came back to the UK when I was 65 to connect more with our expanding family. For several years I was a Trustee of CMJ and now this...

I hope I can contribute a slice of wisdom as being around to provide encouragement for those who are actively serving with CMJ today and all who are part of this amazing Family!

Ray Lockhart

New CMJ Book

Published this month!

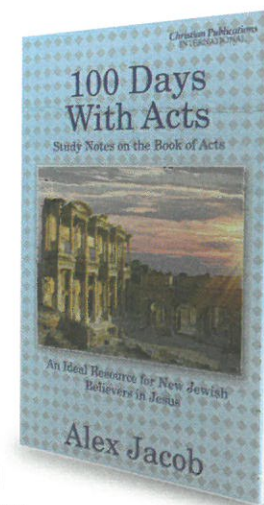
100 Days With Acts by Alex Jacob is a brand new CMJ book and mission resource.

It is a follow-up to *100 Days With Luke*, published in 2018. Both these books provide excellent teaching notes and reflection points for practical Bible study.

Many Church leaders have greatly appreciated *100 Days With Luke* in terms of equipping new believers, and others engage well with regular Bible study. The book has been widely used in both private and group study.

The new book is available for only £9 including P&P. To get your copy today visit www.cmj.org.uk/shop or phone the Office on 01623 883960.

Discounts are available for purchases of 10 or more.



Being Lifted Up Down Under by Shoshanah Crookes

"Travelling to see my Dad in Australia for 4 months was an exciting prospect to me. Having only met him for the first time in 2005, we had to make up for time lost. Spending time with my earthly father was one thing, but during my visit, I needed to find a church to worship my heavenly Father with other believers.

"A short walk away was Son City Church and over the months, I became part of their family, but something was missing. There was hardly any mention of Israel or the Jewish people and no prayers were forthcoming either. I decided it was up to me to change that..."

➔ To find out more, follow the link to the website blog that Shoshanah has shared with us. Printed copies can be requested from the Office.



New York Ministry

This month I shared in the 'On the Derekh: Helping the Haredim Find Yeshua' conference. This may well have been the most important conference on Jewish outreach this decade. It took place between the 27th and 31st of January. This conference was hosted at the Feinberg Messianic Centre in the heart of Jewish Brooklyn. It was an invitation-only event aimed at outreach workers, theological practitioners and prayer warriors who have a special burden for reaching the Haredim (*ultra-Orthodox Jews*) around the world with the Gospel.

In preparing for the conference I re-read three Olive Press Research Papers by Michael Eldridge:

- Paper 9 (2011) - 'Flawed Messiah-The Story of Sabbatai Sevi';
- Paper 29 (2016) - 'Understanding Hasidic Jews - General Observations (Part 1)';
- and Paper 30 (2016) - 'Understanding Hasidic Jews - Distinctive Beliefs (Part 2)'.

(All these papers can be downloaded for free from the resources page of the CMJ UK website.)

The conference had a number of important teaching streams and some practical mission initiatives. I particularly appreciated the reflection upon how best we can reach out to the Haredim and the spiritual and practical challenges which we face in doing so. I want to share with you the following 20 points which were all agreed to be key in trying to do this and should be part of any outreach strategy and discipleship support.

- 1 Commit to praying regularly for the Haredim
- 2 Study the Haredim communities and find out as much as you can about their values, hopes and fears.
- 3 Be prepared for a long-term focus and commitment.
- 4 Realise you can only deal with people where they are (only God knows where they will be in the future).
- 5 It is better on balance to trust and believe a testimony of faith in Yeshua and be proved wrong (vulnerability) than to choose to be suspicious and not to trust and close down any possibility of a deepening relationship. However, as always, we must exercise appropriate discernment.
- 6 Don't just teach discipleship, try and model it.
- 7 Keep confidences.
- 8 Maintain appropriate privacy. Don't turn new disciples into trophies.
- 9 Build up knowledge and share from the Scriptures.
- 10 Realise all decisions have consequences.
- 11 Resist giving too much advice to new disciples. Do not become the 'Holy Spirit for them'; resist becoming their new 'authoritative Rabbi'. Realise that 'power dynamics' are being played out in every discipleship encounter, but this is especially true for those from 'closed communities'.
- 12 Provide safe houses when necessary. Have you ever the right to tell (or suggest) someone to step away from a 'closed community' unless you can offer some meaningful support?
- 13 Realise there is no such thing as a 'closed community' - the LORD is also at work within.
- 14 Show compassion, develop empathy.
- 15 Learn to deal with your fear.
- 16 Know your calling.
- 17 Try to build supportive teams, networks and communities.
- 18 Be willing to start small.
- 19 Realise that the Gospel spreads naturally through relational networks and identity groupings.
- 20 Don't necessarily try and extract individuals from a community but equip those to stay who can open up new networks for the Gospel and subsequent discipleship.

I hope you find these 20 points helpful. Please pray for this important Gospel work.

Alex Jacob

BIBLE Comes To Life!

EXHIBITION

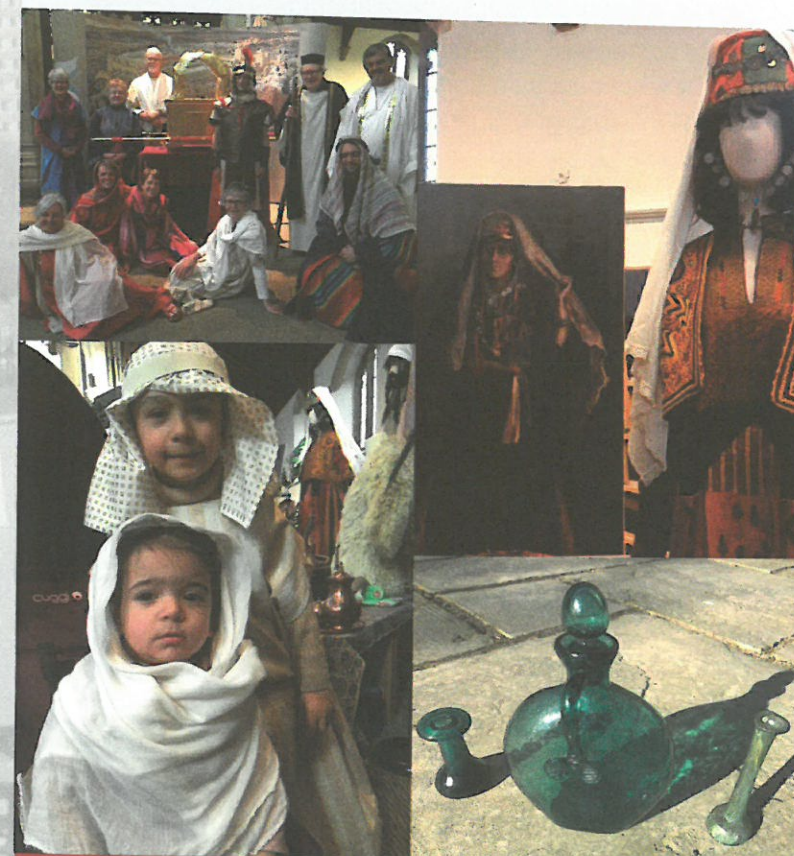
comes back to

St Albans

by Paul Hames

We find as we travel the country that every exhibition has its own flavour and emphasis. At some places, the highlights are the schools visits which give us an opportunity to engage with lots of children. At others places the public sessions attract people who wouldn't normally set foot in a church, and at others still people arrive and say they last saw the exhibition in their town in 1987 or some other year in history! For those people, the BCTL was often the catalyst that drew them into a relationship with Jesus and eventually to support CMJ/Jewish ministry and to explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith.

Our last stop was St Albans in February and blessings were in abundance! Some special friends from Leicester joined us - Keywan and Nasim with their children Daniel aged 4 and Hannah aged 15 months - a family of Iranian Muslim background believers who drove a 200-mile round trip in a day because they wanted 'to help CMJ in their important mission work'! Our son Dan also joined us and delighted the children with his Joseph character wearing the famous coat of many colours! Another special visitor was Daniel Perez who brought with him two new Jewish believers from Ethiopia!



Three fascinating 'coincidences' also happened:

- Janey and I were staying with vicar Tony Hurle and his wife Lydia in the Vicarage. On the first night as we climbed the stairs to our room, Janey noticed a painting on the wall. It was a woman dressed in what was a Middle Eastern wedding gown. Janey went straight to Lydia and asked about the painting. The woman was Lydia's grandmother, and after mission service in what was then Palestine, she returned home with a souvenir - a beautiful Bethlehem Bride's costume, complete with a dowry headdress. She wore the costume for a portrait sitting. The dress is almost the same as the one we display in the exhibition. We are wondering if they and the same?! Needless to say, we borrowed the portrait and had it on display next to our Bethlehem Bride.
- The second happy coincidence also involves the Bride Costume. The mix of fabrics used in Middle Eastern clothing doesn't always match - in our Western eyes. One way of displaying your wealth was to incorporate imported pieces of material into your clothing; only the rich could afford that luxury. Our 19th century Bride's embroidered jacket is lined with a distinctive piece of tartan material - very chic and flamboyant in its time! Jos and Sue Drummond were among our volunteers at the exhibition - Jos was International Director of CMJ's work worldwide from 1985-1994. They took one look at the jacket and said, "See that tartan? That's our family - Drummond tartan!" Jos bought his Drummond tartan scarf which was identical to the lining of the jacket. We displayed it alongside the portrait. Using both these stories, we explained the significance of the Bridal costume to our visitors. They will become the unforgettable snippets which entice the next generation of exhibition visitors to become CMJ supporters, and in 30 years who knows that they won't return and say "I remember the Bible Comes To Life at St Albans in 2019".
- Our third story revolves around a couple who visited. After looking at the exhibits, they introduced themselves as Francis and Frederica and told us they had some items which may interest us for the exhibition. Francis's father was George Graham Brown, Bishop of Jerusalem in the 1930s and 40s. We agreed to visit them on our way home after the exhibition to view their treasures! Among the rare and beautiful artefacts were a beautiful Roman glass bottle presented to the Bishop on a visit to the archaeological dig at Megiddo, and two Egyptian glass bottles believed to be for collecting tears, possibly Roman maybe older. Psalm 56 v 8.

What a privilege it is to meet such remarkable people and hear their stories.

Why not invite the exhibition to your church and see who turns up?