



NEWS & VIEWS

The Newsletter of CMJ ISRAEL



KNOWING OUR Hebrew roots:



FIG TREE WITH PAG IN WINTER

And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing on it but leaves [MARK II: for it was not the time for figs] and he said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you henceforward for ever." And presently the fig tree withered away. MATTHEW 21

One explanation for this somewhat disconcerting passage is that the fig tree (te'ena, connected with expectation & judgement*) did not have the green fig (pag) that should come before the leaves, and therefore would not be producing its fig (te'ena) in season. This story is in context with Jesus' cleansing of the temple and seems to be a warning of Jerusalem's coming judgement.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word paga (possibly related to pag) means to strike or hit the mark. In Isaiah 53:6, "the Lord paga on him the iniquity of us all."

But paga also means intercession. In Gen 23:8, Abraham says, "Paga for

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Am I My Brother's Keeper?

After reading a book, watching a film, or discussing the horrors of the Holocaust, most people ask: "How could it happen? Why did so few stand up and help those suffering such atrocities?"

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, Jan. 27, Christ Church Jerusalem held a seminar, *Am I My Brother's Keeper?* The purpose of the seminar was to discuss past lessons and current responsibilities. From academics and experts, and from those who are suffering, we learned that genocide happens because of human choice - and bystander indifference. Studies have shown that in such crises the vast majority of people wait for someone else to show the way and then tend to go along with the crowd. It was shocking to learn that since WW II there have been many more genocides than ever before, and despite the lessons of the Holocaust, most people, though sympathetic still tend to look the other way.



• PUBLIC ACTION Uriel Levy, the director of a Zionist youth movement, *Combat Genocide*, aims to focus public opinion and governments to stop the rape, torture, and murder happening in the Sinai - just 30 miles from Israel's border. CG also works to prevent genocide worldwide and to promote the rights of refugees in Israel and abroad.

... But What Can We Do?

• STOP HATE: ONE RELATIONSHIP AT A TIME As a young man, Mohammed Dajani fought for the liberation of Palestine.



But one day when the "enemy" (young soldiers at a checkpoint) rushed his mother to the nearest Israeli hospital and saved her life, he had a change of heart. This was later reinforced when his father was also hospitalised. The Israeli staff "laughed and joked with him ... and treated him as a fellow human being." Prof. Dajani changed the direction of his life and founded Wasatia, a movement dedicated to teaching peaceful coexistence. "It's us and them."

• RAISE AWARENESS & FUNDS Filemon, an eloquent young Christian Eritrean, told his story of being kidnapped and taken to the Sinai.



With his parents on the phone, his Beduin captors hung Filemon upside down and plunged his hands into molten plastic. Listening to his screams, his family, although very poor agreed to raise the \$1,500 for his

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*Jer. 8:13; Hos 9:10, 16; Nah 3:12; Lk 13:6-9

release. A cousin working in Sweden was able to send the money to save his life, but some of his friends were tortured and killed. Because the ends of his arms are fused into stubs, Filemon waits for surgery. Israel's *Hadassah Hospital*, the *Cleveland Clinic* in the US, and both teams of doctors have volunteered their services which will cover the major part of the cost. \$100,000 is still needed for the prosthetics.

• **HELP WHERE YOU ARE** Sister Aziza, an Eritrean nun, gets a phone call almost every day from Beduin in the Sinai demanding money for the release of people she can hear being tortured. Aziza works with refugees in Tel Aviv (N & V Dec/Jan 2013).



"We cannot all argue, but we can all pray; we cannot all be leaders but we can all be pleaders; we cannot all be mighty in rhetoric, but we can all be prevalent in prayer."

CHARLES H. SPURGEON

• **PRAYER IS THE KEY** Because people care, Christ Church was crowded for the seminar. "But what can we do?" was the question. During Lent Christ Church will be praying and asking the Lord what He would have each of us do to help the suffering in our region. What is He asking of you?



... Silence Is Not An Answer

• **PRESSURE GOVERNMENTS** Retired from *Hadassah Hospital*, Prof. Dr. Eli Richter is the founder of *Jerusalem Center for Genocide Prevention*. His research shows that genocide can be studied and prevented like a disease and that "hate speech" by leaders and authority figures is the first stage of genocide. Richter collects evidence of incitement in order to pressure authorities, governments & the UN to take action. "Prediction and Prevention ... can and should be used to stop genocidal scenarios before the killing begins. Don't wait to count the bodies."



AN AMAZING STORY

Back in 1993, G. came into the gardens at Beit Immanuel out of curiosity. As we talked I had the opportunity to share my testimony with him. We became friends and he even came to visit our family when we lived in England. Every time we met we discussed issues related to God and our faith, but there was always a barrier that seemed impenetrable. In time, we lost contact with him when he moved away from Tel Aviv. But we continued to pray for him.

Not long ago I was surprised when I received an e-mail from G. asking to meet because he had something to tell us. And guess what? G. had become a believer! He had been searching here and there all this time, but there was always something missing and he was left as empty as before. Then last year someone witnessed to him briefly and he remembered all that we had spoken about. It was so good to talk and to share our experiences with the Lord!

What amazes me is that our prayers are never in vain. God always answers them in His perfect time.

- Beit Immanuel



There's Something Different ABOUT THIS SCHOOL

A NUMBER OF MONTHS AGO ONE OF OUR TEACHERS TOLD THE story of an Israeli messianic family with an 11-month old baby diagnosed with a brain tumor. The challenges facing this family seemed insurmountable, but our students decided to uphold little Netaley and intercede for her regularly, believing that God would save her life. They sent her pictures and encouraging notes with their prayers written on them. Netaley underwent surgery, chemotherapy and rehabilitation. Just a few weeks ago 18-month old Netaley and her mother paid us a visit. Little Netaley giggled along with our students and enjoyed all the attention. Her mother told the children, "We have received an overwhelming amount of support from believers from all corners of the world, but it has touched our hearts deeply that the children of Makor HaTikvah have taken such a caring interest in her." Netaley cannot walk yet, but our students are committed to praying for her until she is 100% well.



THIS HAS BEEN A VERY ACTIVE YEAR WITH LOTS OF GOOD things happening at our school. We have two children from a Christian family of African refugees that escaped from jail in the Sinai four years ago. She arrived in Israel alone with their two youngest children. He came later with his oldest. They were traumatised from the ordeal and still have many problems. A volunteer from the Christ Church congregation goes to their home once a week to work with the children and it's helping. And now that the father has a job at the Latrun Monastery they are doing better.

We continue to see the incredible faithfulness of God to us here at Makor HaTikvah. Despite financial struggles at the beginning of the year, the Lord has provided what we need each month. We are now awaiting word from the Ministry of Education to let us know if we will receive official state recognition (this could happen at any time). We appreciate your prayers and support for this school which is providing a full Hebrew education for our messianic children. ♦

- Cookie Schwaeber-Issan, Principal Makor HaTikvah, Hebrew school (grades 1-9)

More than 50% of our school now come from religious Muslim families, and one amazing thing is that there's so much peace at the school. One new family (Muslim father/ Christian mother) is very needy. The parents have problems and the children have physical, emotional and learning delays. They have been in and out of several schools already and carry a lot of rejection. We struggled for months, then someone donated the money to hire an assistant for the second semester. It hasn't been easy, but it's a real witness and their father is grateful. On our first outing this year to the Bible Society's olive tree garden, he took some of the Bibles and Christian books that were offered. And at school the next day he asked for more. This is quite a miracle! He now comes to our assemblies to hear the stories. He says, "There's something different about this school!" ♦

- Marion Jadon, Principal The Sunshine Nursery School





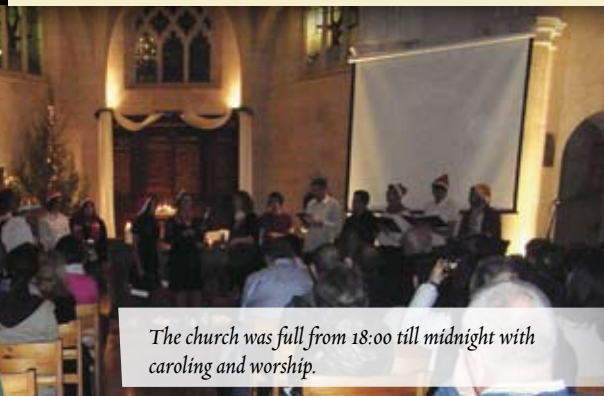
“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

ISAIAH 9:6,7

me ... that he will give me the cave.” In Isaiah 53:12, “He bore the sin of many, and *paga* for transgressors.” Is 59:16 “He saw there was no one, and wondered that no one (*m*)*pagia*. ...”

David Nekrutman, Director for the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding & Cooperation, writes, “I am often faced with terminology Jews tend to avoid because of their Christian connotation, but the language and concepts are in fact quite Jewish. Intercession is one of those words ... Intercession is more than just praying. It’s an ongoing commitment to remain in a position before God for a particular situation *until the case has been solved.*”

We constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. 2 THESS. 1:11



At the Women’s Christ Church Christmas party Irene Duce-Poe-Levi encouraged us with stories and pictures from her remarkable life. Irene is 94 years old, still teaching and ministering - and driving her car!

Enroute to Israel in 1948

The church was full from 18:00 till midnight with caroling and worship.



The Old City’s Christian elderly (& a few Muslims) enjoyed an afternoon Christmas party at Christ Church. Jewish believers made cakes, cookies and served coffee, and a local Arab pastor gave his testimony. And everyone was happy to receive a gift - warm socks, gloves, or a hat.



Neighbours from the village of Migdal were invited to a Christmas Open House at Beit Bracha. The Christmas Story from the book of Luke was read in both English and Hebrew, Christmas carols were sung - and there were lots of Christmas goodies! Books, Bibles and fruit from the trees at Beit Bracha were gifts to take home.