



Shalom News



Email: aeime@cmj-israel.org

www.cmj-israel.org

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Dear Family & Friends,

Shalom, He is Risen! Hallelujah! Happy Easter and Passover. This year both festivals fell on the same day, a very rare event. We celebrated Good Friday and then gathered in the evening to celebrate the Passover with our Jewish friends.

The Eime family is healthy and well. Michelle continues to home school the children and she is doing a great job of it. Our family grew in number as our niece (Rachel Neumann) joined us from Australia in January. She is volunteering in the Library at Christ Church. Rachel will be with us the remainder of the year.

In January I (Aaron) was asked by the Archbishop of Uganda to pay a visit to a Ugandan pastor (Umar Melinde , who is in a hospital in Tel Aviv. Umar was born a muslim, he is the 52nd child in the family (amazing how many kids you can have if you have 4 wives), he trained to be an Imam of Islam. Jesus found him and he became a Christian. He now has a large Church in Kampala and brings many muslims to the Lord. Because he converted from Islam and preaches Jesus, he has been marked for death and has already survived many attacks on his life. On Christmas Eve some Islamic attackers poured acid on his face in an attempt to kill him. Israel invited him to Tel Aviv and has been trying to heal him. His face is badly disfigured and he has lost the sight in his left eye. While his body is broken, his spirit is not. When I first arrived at the hospital he saw me, said 'Man of G-d, welcome'. He struggled to rise from his bed, his body in pain, he held my hand the whole visit and I think he encouraged me more than I was meant to encourage him. We invited him to preach the Easter message at Christ Church. He encouraged our whole community with his passion and enthusiasm. Pray for Umar, his family who have not seen him in 3 months as he heals here in Israel, pray for the people he shepherds back in Uganda. He is Risen, and Death cannot stop the plans of G-d.
http://eng.sheba.co.il/Sheba_News/312.htm



Travel Plans - CMJ is an International Mission Society. CMJ Hong Kong has invited Aaron to speak and teach in Hong Kong, China and Cambodia this August. Aaron is also scheduled to return to the US and Canada to maintain the family financial support and report on the work of CMJ Israel and teach Bible where ever he is allowed to. The dates for this are September/October. Please keep us in prayer as Aaron travels and the family holds down the fort in Jerusalem. We are grateful to have Rachel with us knowing that Aaron will be away for many weeks.

Christ Church Ministry: There are many changes to the Ministry at Christ Church these recent months and it has been keeping us quite busy.

We have moved our Heritage Center over into a bigger building that we hope will attract many more Israeli groups. The Heritage Center preserves the history and 'heritage' of the Mission in Israel. Its the place where we have the greatest contact time with Israelis. We also recently acquired a historically important model of the Temple Mount. The model is made by Conrad Schick in 1872. It is of the Temple Mount. But the important thing is his model can lift off the top platform allowing us to see the rooms, tunnels, cisterns and catacombs underneath the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount is off limits to Jews who cannot go underneath to see the rooms and tunnels, but through our model they can see what they are not allowed to see. We held an opening ceremony 12th Feb, to the media and archeologists. It was well received and with much interest. The ministry got a lot of publicity and we expect many more groups of Israelis to come.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/after-130-years-a-tiny-temple-mount-comes-home/>

Several groups of Israeli soldiers and Police have been coming to Christ Church via invitation from Roni and Angelina (Jewish Believers who work with the Heritage Center). These specific groups only want to hear about the faith of Jewish Believers. We sit together in a large semi circle and discuss the faith and answer any questions they have. And they have lots of questions. Some of each group took New Testaments.

Over the past few weeks we have also been in discussion with a local free tour company. They do a free tour of the Old City. We made an arrangement them to end their tours in our courtyard. Currently they are bringing 3 groups a day to us. The groups are a mix of Jewish and gentile, Christians and non believers. To the non believers we will give the gospel, to the rest we will explain our mission and the love G-d has for His people.

Prison Ministry: We continue to have the Prisoners phone in and listen to our Bible Studies on Sunday nights. The Prison community is always changing as prisoners leave, are changed locations and new ones arrive with different needs. We continue to pray with them and share the forgiveness that is in Messiah. Depression is one of their main concerns, so pray for them to see the Hope that rests in Messiah. Easter and Passover was a busy week, and we had though to cancel the Sunday Night Bible Study due to fatigue. However over the weekend I received many phone calls form Prisoners saying 'no one has come to tell us about Passover or Easter, please tell us, no one else has come' So I gave a bible study on John 20. We had an animated discussion for an hour and it was translated into Arabic, Russian, Hebrew and Georgian (a small group of Georgian drug smugglers decided to join in this time)

Please continue to pray for us and the ministries we are involved in at Christ Church. Pray for safety and sufficient funding and resources to continue the work.

In His Service,
Aaron, Michelle, Micah, Atarah & Tirzah



Easter and Passover

Where do we get all the tradition and customs of Easter? Originally the festival was called Pascha (πάσχα), which is the Greek of the Aramaic word for Passover. There are many opinions as to where the name Easter came from, most point to a fertility goddess Ishtar of the ancient world. Just to remind you that our current days of the week are also named after foreign gods. Sunday - the day we all go out and worship the Sun, Monday - the day we all go out and worship the moon, Thursday - the day we all go out and worship Thor ... etc. Many of the months of the Jewish calendar are also named after Babylonian gods, which they adopted the names for the months during the exile. Try not to get too hung up on that fact, if something is named after an ancient god, its means just that and not more. No one actually worships an ancient god.

During the Passover/Easter one of the more common discussions I had many times was the question how Jesus could die Friday and rise Saturday night, and have that called 3 days? The text tells us the women went to visit the tomb while it was still dark, on the first day of the week (John 20), so that's early Sunday morning. The text also explains Jesus was taken off the cross and put into the tomb on Friday, just before the Sabbath was to begin (Luke 23). Friday afternoon to Saturday night don't make 3 days in many peoples minds. This is where we put our kippers on and think Jewish calendar. If I asked you how many days a week you work, most people say 5 days a week. Then I respond by saying 'wow, you work five 24hr days, you must be really tired', you of course reply chiding me saying 'no, I work five days of 8hr shifts per day'. So when we say we work a day, we don't mean a literal 24hr day but a part of a day. Days start in the evenings according to the Jewish calendar. They get this idea from the creation account, in which G-d says there was Evening and there was Morning, one day (Genesis 1). So when Jesus dies on Friday afternoon that is the day that started Thursday night. He is on the Tomb Friday night to Saturday (Shabbat), that is the second day, and He rises Saturday night (because the Tomb is empty Sunday morning) which in a Jewish calendar is now the third day.

Easter is an 8 day festival, starting on Palm Sunday and concluding on Resurrection Sunday. Who has 8 day festivals in the ancient world? The Jewish people do. Passover is 8 days, as is Succot and Hannukah. The early Jewish disciples of Jesus celebrated Passover and it is they who created the 'liturgy' of the 8 day 'holy week' to remember the events and life of the Messiah. Easter doesn't start in Rome, nor is it the sole realm of the Catholic community. The oldest orders of service we have are from the Armenian Orthodox in Jerusalem, dated several hundred years after Jesus.

A more modern tradition in Israel is called Mimouna. It closes the Passover. It involves parties and dancing and lots of cake eating. It is a North African tradition from the Jewish community of Morocco. The Jews of Morocco would give their Arab neighbours all their hametz (leaven and flour) at the start of Passover. After Passover ended the Arabs would then cook lots of cakes, sweet breads and pastries and share them with their Jewish neighbours. The Moroccan Jewish community numbers some 600,000 in Israel and that tradition has been brought with them from Morocco.

I hope your celebrations of Passover and Easter reminded you of our redemption, hope and joy in a risen Messiah. Hag Sameach!

Note to Supporters:

We are so thankful to the many people who have supported us financially in the past and for those who have committed to continue supporting us in the next phase of our Mission in Israel. For our American Supporters, please note that all checks are now to be sent to:

CMJ/USA, PO Box 334, Sewickley, PA. 15143