



Shalom News



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Dear Family & Friends,

Shalom from the Eime family in Jerusalem. **Merry Christmas** and a Happy new Year to you all. 2011 has been a very busy year. At the beginning of the year we moved to a new apartment in the southern suburb of Gilo, in Jerusalem. The larger apartment has been a great blessing to us, giving us plenty of room to host family and friends throughout the year. Now at Christmas time, it is wonderful to look out from our living room balcony across a field with a herd of goats and olive trees, to the 'not so little' town of Bethlehem.

We continued to homeschool this year and the children have progressed well in their studies. Tirzah is keen to follow in her older siblings footsteps and loves to sing, do puzzles, draw and write in her "school" books while Micah & Atarah work in theirs.

Aaron continued in his role as Deacon at Christ Church, assisting in the Sunday morning services, and leading the Sunday evening Bible Study. During the week he is busy as Manager of the Heritage Center (Museum) at Christ Church. As part of Aaron's job, he needs to travel abroad to teach about CMJ and raise funds for the ministry.

In July Aaron was invited to do a deputation tour of England on behalf of CMJ UK. CMJ UK is the founder of The Church's Ministry among Jewish People. Today the mission has internationalized, with CMJ organizations around the world. CMJ UK is the largest contributor of financial support to CMJ Israel. As a result once a year someone from Israel goes over to England to speak in churches and raise the profile of the mission of CMJ with stories from Israel. This time it was Aaron's turn, and not wanting to be away from the family, everyone came this time.

Highlights of the deputation tour... Living in the Middle East you sometimes forget how green the rest of the world can be, and England is green, all the time! It was refreshing to see and the kids enjoyed running around in the open parks and gardens. Aaron went to Liverpool for the first time and stayed in a guest house which turned out to be the former home of Brian Samuel Epstein, who was the manager of the Beatles, and yes there was lots of Beatles memorabilia on the walls! While in Nottingham the family had lunch in a very old pub called 'Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem'. It was at this pub that the Crusaders stopped and gathered on their way to the Crusades. 'Trip' in old English does not mean a journey, it means the break (trip) in a journey.

In November, Aaron was invited to Amman, Jordan by the Bishop in Jerusalem, to attend the Diocese Synod. Christ Church, though an independent mission, is still part of the Diocese of Jerusalem. So we were duty bound to attend and deliver a mission report. It was an interesting event. The conference was opened by the Princess of Jordan. She spoke in Arabic (of course) but then stopped, switched to English, turned to Owen (principal of the Anglican School in Jerusalem, run by CMJ) and Aaron and personally blessed them and encouraged them in their ministries. Not often you get a blessing from a real Princess! Aaron did not know what to expect from attending the conference, but was impressed by the Bishops report. He exhorted his priests, deacons and church leaders to show the Fruits of the Spirit and to make the Word into action. He revealed his vision of seeing the Church in the Middle East financially independent from the US and to make Jerusalem a sending Church.

Prison Ministry:

Several weeks ago Aaron took some volunteers from Christ Church and drove to the Rimonim Prison near Netanya to visit John and others. The Prison is maximum security and so we cannot bring anything into the Prison at all. No Bibles, no paper, no pens, no phones ... nothing. So after several pat downs and scanners we meet with John (the leader of the growing community in the prison), and two Russian Jews, Sergei and Keder. As the only Hebrew speaker there, Aaron spoke to the Russian Jews who could also speak Hebrew. They were reading the book of Daniel (they get to have Bibles but not us) and so I began to have a small bible study based around what they were reading. Both were depressed and in a state of hopelessness. Paul shrinks the Christian faith down to three words in Corinthians: Faith, Hope and Love and the greatest of these is Love. But Hope is there too. Aaron shared the joy of salvation as best he could and the hope that there is in Messiah. That Sunday night both Sergei and Keder joined in listening to our Bible study via speaker phone. They have done so ever since. It costs us about 300 shekels (\$80) per month in phone cards to arrange the Bible studies via speaker phone.

Pray for Keder who dwells in hopelessness and for Sergei who is struggling with forgiveness for his crimes. Many prisoners feel that G-d's forgiveness is far away, and find it difficult to know forgiveness as a reality. Please pray that they will know the forgiveness of G-d in Jesus.

Christ Church Ministry:

The Heritage Centre (Museum) is in a state of transition. It is written somewhere that "A clean desk is the sign of a sick mind", well Aaron must be ok because his desk is extra messy these days!! The desk is hidden underneath piles of papers to sort through and stacks of old artifacts. We are moving the Heritage Centre from its current location to the Alexander Lounge, within the Christ Church Compound. The Alexander building will house the new Temple Mount model of Conrad Schick and the rest of the Heritage Centre will be joining it soon. This is a great opportunity to rethink our displays, and to upgrade the presentations to include audio visual media. The Temple Mount model will be "unveiled" at the opening of the Heritage Center in it's new location. We look forward to sharing our history and faith in a new setting.

Christmas at Christ Church:

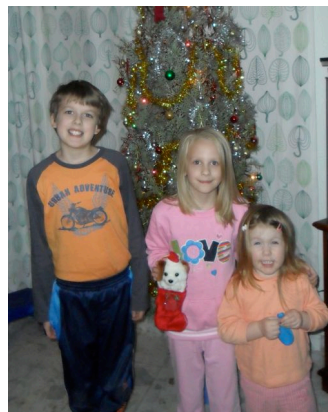
We are also busily preparing for Christmas Eve at Christ Church. This is one of the biggest events of the year for us. We expect between 1500-2000 (or more) Israelis to visit this year for Christmas Eve. We have arranged Bibles from the Bible Society, we had the Gospel of Luke in Hebrew printed for the occasion and we are training the staff in presenting the Christmas Story and the Gospel. This is a joint event with the Guest House and Church. It is such a great thing to see all departments working together to share the Christmas Story with as many Israelis as possible. Please pray for our team of staff and volunteers this Christmas, we need energy and enthusiasm.

As a family, we will celebrate Christmas Day by attending the family service on Christmas morning at Christ Church, followed by a meal at home shared with a few friends. A fairly quiet day to reflect and recover from the Christmas Eve events.

Blessings to you all this Christmas Season.

In His Service,

Aaron, Michelle, Micah, Atarah & Tirzah



Aaron's Teaching: "Where do we get our identity from?"

When I travel overseas the one thing I miss about Israel is the Sabbath. One day of the week where everything changes. I know in our Western countries people say that Sunday is our Sabbath, but it isn't really. We might go to church in the morning for an hour or so, but then the day looks remarkably like all the others. The shops are open for 24hs, sports are played, people go to work. However in Israel everything stops. The shops close, most of the cars stop driving on the roads, the air gets cleaner because of the lack of cars, so the sky seems brighter and the birds can be heard. It really does feel different.

We often describe ourselves to other people by what we do. For example: "My name is Aaron and I'm a doctor ..." It is often how we describe other people: "She is an actor... He works at Walmart..." We sometimes find our identity in the mission work that we do too. But on the Sabbath you can't work, so you lose your identity. Instead, we have to find our identity in the Lord.

When John the Baptist came out of the desert he got the people really excited and expectant that the Messiah was close. He was asked by the leadership of the day, "Who are you? Are you Elijah, the Prophet? The Messiah?" (John 1). He answered, "No" and then described himself by using the Scriptures. He said he was "The voice of one calling in the desert prepare the the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3). Our English translations often place a coma after "in the desert" implying it is John himself in the desert. But the Hebrew Bible places a coma after "voice of one calling". Meaning John is the voice, he is calling, and what is he saying? He is saying that it is "*In the desert*" where you should prepare for the Lord. John baptized in the desert, it was in the desert that the Messiah would come from, so prepare for Him there. Jesus was propelled by the Spirit into the desert. Jewish tradition held that redemption would come from the Wilderness. Jesus also found His identity through Scripture. He couldn't declare He was the Messiah because the word Messiah was a loaded term. People would assume he was the conquering King, ushering in the Kingdom of Israel, driving out the Romans and establishing the physical throne of David. So how did Jesus tell people which type of Messiah He was? By using Scripture. In Luke 4, Jesus reads from the Isaiah scroll, Isaiah 61. He reads "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, *because* He has anointed me ..." In Hebrew the text does not have the word "*because*", the word in Hebrew is Y'an. It means, sit up and pay attention, the very next sentence is very important. The next sentence says "Adonai has anointed me". The literal Hebrew says, "G-d has made me Messiah". To make a Messiah is the same word in Hebrew as To Anoint. Jesus says in Luke 4 that "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". So He tells us His identity using Scripture. He says He is Messiah and what type of Messiah that will be. Jesus tells us He has come not to slay Romans, but to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind and release the oppressed.

Where do we get our identity from? From our families? From our work? Our ministries? John and Jesus found their identities in the pages of Holy Scripture and so should we. Our families will change, our work and ministries will fade. But the Word of G-d will remain. We should let G-d tell us who we are. He knows us better than we know ourselves. Follow the link below and read some of the wonderful things G-d has to describe who we are.

<http://www.sw-mins.org/identity.html>

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