

Faith Hope and Love, and the Greatest of these is .. not Faith!



# Shalom News



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## Dear Family & Friends,

Shalom from Jerusalem. This update finds the Eime family in two different locations. Michelle and the children have gone to Australia (thanks to the generosity of grandma) to visit family. Its been a long time since the children have seen the grandparents. Aaron will remain in Jerusalem and spend the evenings working on writing down his teaching material into books.

Sometimes the best stories have to remain unsaid. We wish we could tell you all of the exciting things G-d is doing, but we are never sure who really is reading the internet, or who else gets a copy of the Newsletter. Instead We will report that Aaron went to Hong Kong on behalf of CMJ HK. The mission was two fold. Aaron raised support for the Heritage Centre in Jerusalem. For the most part raising funds to cover the salaries of the local Jewish believers. The second part of the deputation tour was to teach the Chinese church the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. Aaron also went to mainland China and spoke to both government and underground churches. Aaron went to places where foreigners had not been before and so the communities there wanted as much material as possible. Aaron taught bible between 6-8 hrs a day. The emerging Chinese church lacks trained leadership with the majority of the shepherds having not been trained in bible schools or seminaries. The communities are like blank pages and eager to be filled. China opened up some new taste sensations to go along with Jewish Roots teachings. Aaron snacked on snake soup, skewers of rat and generous portions of ducks tongues. Conclusion; snake tastes exactly like chicken. Cliche I know but its true.

After a short rest with family Aaron then headed to Northern Ireland on behalf of CMJ Ireland. CMJ Ireland began in 1810, one year after the original London Jews Society in 1809. CMJ Ireland was instrumental in helping set up the Heritage Centre with initial start up costs and constant support. This was the first time Aaron had gone to Ireland. The purpose of the short 5 day deputation was to increase the awareness of CMJ Ireland amongst the churches, the share the vision of the Heritage Centre, raise support and teach Bible. Ireland had arranged 11 events in 5 days, so Aaron was very busy and the trip was a success in all areas.

Prison Ministry, we are planing a trip to visit the prisoners again soon. Pray for favor with the guards as we would like to be allowed into general population. This would give us more contact time with the prisoners the the usual 20 minutes we get on a normal visit. The prisoners continue to call in every sunday night to join in our bible study via speaker phone.



## **Faith Hope and Love, and the Greatest of these is .. not Faith!**

It is common in the Jewish tradition to constantly break down the essential ethical intention of the 'whole' Torah and its 613 Commandments into a summary. Examples of this are Micah 6:8 *'He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your G-d'*. The rabbi Hillel, born 110 BCE, was asked to summarize the entire Torah while standing on one leg. He is quoted as saying "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah, the rest is the explanation, go and learn." This thinking is reflected in the teaching of Jesus when He says *'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.'* *Matthew 7:12*. Paul follows this tradition when he breaks down the 1050 Commands in the New Testament to just three words. *'And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'* *1 Corinthians 13:13*

We place great emphasis on believing in Jesus. In having faith! Now I am in no way advocating that believing in Jesus is not important. It is! However faith is not to be at the expense of either love or hope. Love is faith in action and a choice! And the New Testament places the activity of love in a very high regard. Love as Paul says *'fulfills the Law'* *Romans 13:8*. Faith, Hope and Love and the greatest of these is .. not faith!

Hope, the third word can often be neglected. Yet hope is a very powerful and attractive word. And it is an even more powerful word in the context of evangelism. Tikvah, Hebrew for hope, is not something weak or vain. Its not that we 'hope' to win the lottery, or 'hope' that we get a job. Hope is different to optimism and is not a vague positive emotion. Hope in the Hebrew Bible is something certain and a sure anticipation of something unseen. Romans 8:24 Paul says *'In hope we have been saved'*.

We are asked in 1 Peter to be prepared to give an account of the Hope that we have, not in the Faith that we have. Apologetics is not limited to the defence of the faith but also for the reason of our hope. So when a group of 30 Israelis came to visit the Church last Friday, it was Hope that we shared. Interestingly the group came deliberately to talk to a Jewish Believer (a Messianic Jew) about his faith and they also wanted a Gentile Christian to share his faith too. And so we did just that for nearly 90 minutes. We shared our testimonies and histories of our faith journeys. We answered their questions, discussed prophecies in the Hebrew Bible as to why we thought Yeshua (Jesus) was the Messiah. At the end we took them into the Church and described to them the hope that we have, and how that hope is certain. And that explains the light in our eyes and the spring in our step. These people are surrounded by enemies, the threat of war constantly hangs over their heads, the economy of the world is in danger of collapse and the future looks so uncertain. The situation looks hope-less. When you are in a position of hopelessness then Hope is the one thing you are desperate for. We live in a hope-less world and we have the precious gift of hope to share if we are bold enough to do so.



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*'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the Hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.' 1 Peter 3:15*



### **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