

# CMJ Ireland News

Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland

For the LORD will not cast off His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance. Psalm 94 v14

## The Great Sign Of Our Age

The Lord's prayer starts with plea for return of exiles. The very first line of the Lord's Prayer stresses the importance to God of the great sign of our age – the return of the Jews to their ancient land.

It has long been understood from the Scriptures that Christian support for Jewish Aliyah (immigration to Israel) is expected, but in the opinion of esteemed theologian Dr Fred Wright, it is absolutely fundamental. This, he says, is because the opening petition of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples – repeated by millions of Christians worldwide on a regular basis – focuses prominently, among other things, on the return of the exiles.

*"Hallowed by thy name"* – or *"may your name be sanctified"* in more modern versions – is obviously our Lord's priority.

Dr Wright points out that there is only one portion of Scripture that explains how the Lord's name may be sanctified, and it is found in a passage from Ezekiel chapter 36 (beginning at verse 16) that, in the Hebrew Bible, is headed *Kidush ha Shem* (The Sanctification of God's Holy Name).

Jewish exile is a consequence of their rebellion against God whose holy name is constantly profaned while they remain in foreign lands, *"for it was said of them, 'These are the Lord's people, and yet they had to leave his land'."* (v20)

So it is out of concern for his holy name, which they have profaned (a word used five times in this short passage) by their exile, that the Lord will bring them back (vv 24-26).

Of course, it is also true that God would wish his name to be hallowed in every way. Yet on 14 occasions throughout this passage, the Lord says *'I will'* in respect of a benefit of Jewish resettlement in their ancient homeland – not just for his people, but for everyone including his own reputation; even the desolate land would blossom like a rose.

Their return would also hasten their national salvation and the coming of their Messiah (Zech 12.10, Rom 11.26, Rev 1.7) and the church would benefit from the richness of its Hebraic heritage (Rom 11.11). In short, Aliyah is the last great sign prior to the return of the Lord Jesus (Matt 24.32f, Luke 21.24).

The return of the exiles from the four corners of the earth of course is a fulfilment of *many* biblical prophecies, thus confirming the reliability of the Scriptures, and is a 'banner to the nations' of the imminence of God's rule through the Jewish Messiah. (Isa 11.11) And so, although the modern nation state of Israel may be seen by many (including Christians) as an irrelevant political issue to be avoided, it is in fact the complete opposite. It is the greatest sign of our times, confirmed not only by the Scriptures (Gen 15.18f, Isa 43.5f), but also by the 1920 San Remo Treaty when the major powers of World War I ratified Britain's Balfour Declaration of 1917 through which we promised to do all we could to prepare a home in their ancient land for the Jewish people.

So remember, when you pray *'Hallowed by your name'*, that you are also pleading for the return of the exiles in order that God's reputation will no longer be profaned. And this great phenomenon will clear the path for His kingdom to come!

**By Charles Gardner**

Ed. We thank Charles for sharing many of his articles with us and for the full text of this one please use the following link.

<https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/502842/>

## Autumn Meeting

Our autumn meeting was brought forward this year because we wanted to work in with the visit to Ireland of Dr Richard Harvey. Richard is a longstanding friend of CMJ, having been an outreach worker for CMJ UK in the 1980's. Since then he has become a major figure in Jews for Jesus, Dean of Studies at All Nations Bible College, a speaker in demand worldwide. A Jewish person who has become famous for his stance as a follower of Yeshua the Messiah, a thinker who defines Messianic Jewish Theology. Over the years I have noticed how, while being known internationally, he was willing to help small groups. Richard used the story of his own family to show how Jewish people think and feel today. Then he related it to the Bible narrators preparing us for Jesus (Yeshua.) For his personal voyage you might be interested in looking at <http://www.mmjt.eu>

The meeting was held in Knockbreda Church Hall, on Saturday, 21st September. Rev Billy Holmes and Canon Gill Withers, on guitar and violin, led the opening worship. The rest of the meeting was all in Richard's hands. He was well provided with visual aids and happy to take questions from the floor.



Rev John Pickering, Canon Gill Withers & Dr Richard Harvey

Richard blew the shofar taking us into a time of prayer led by Canon Gill Withers with Mrs Daphne Davidson playing a closing hymn. Richard showed a remarkable attention to each person he met afterwards. Lavinia had her CMJ book table and Richard also had some of his own books for sale at a very reasonable cost. The kitchen helpers rose to the occasion as usual. We have been blessed in CMJ with the colourful variety of speakers we've known, persons strong in faith. Richard gave us much to think about and much encouragement.

**Jane Stewart**

## CMJ in Coleraine

After almost twenty years, it was a joy to welcome Rev Pedro Santos, director of Beit Immanuel, back on a short visit to Ireland. St Patrick's Church, Coleraine, have been very supportive of the Ministry in Beit Immanuel and Pedro was

delighted to personally thank the congregation and speak at the Harvest Celebration on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Pedro spoke from Isaiah 55 and shared that at this time of thanksgiving for all that the Lord has given to us we should "offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." At the end of the service he presented Canon John McCammon with a gift of a Menorah for the Church. During the harvest lunch folk had the opportunity to chat with Pedro and hear more about the ministry and the 1,500 Israeli's who visited the centre during the "Open House" Festival in Tel Aviv.



It was a short journey across the river for a special CMJ Evening Service in Killowen Parish attended by approximately 90 parishioners and friends. After an introduction by Rev Billy Holmes, Pedro blew the Shofar marking the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. During a slide presentation, he shared some amazing stories about the work taking place at Beit Immanuel where Jewish believers are disciples at two growing Messianic congregations and where Jews and Arabs meet together on a regular basis. We received wonderful hospitality at both churches and a great day of blessing for all!



**Pat Davidson**



On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October CMJ's white van 'Vincent' arrived outside Willowfield Parish along with the UK BCTL team and were met by an international group from YWAM Radiant London on outreach serving at Willowfield, ready to help unload the artifacts. The Exhibition got off to a great start with over 200 people attending on the first evening. Naomi, a member of the BCTL team and a British Sign Language interpreter, translated for a lovely group of deaf people who had come to view the Exhibition. The church was buzzing with life!



Five schools attended the Exhibition during the three days as well as opening to the public in the evenings and on Saturday. The Ywamer's dressed in their Biblical Characters interacted with the pupils who came to experience what life was like during Biblical times. The children had the opportunity to sit in a tent, blow the shofar and to hear that the Bible has some dodgy characters in it but how God can and does restore them to the people He wants them to be. On Friday night three large youth groups, aged between 10 -16, from Willowfield's "Kid's Klub" came to learn more about Shabbat, be blessed by the team and the younger ones danced the night away as they sang "Shabbat Shalom!"



**Pat Davidson**

## Fountain of Tears

"O Lord, that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I would weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!" Jeremiah 9 v.1

Those words inspired the FOUNTAIN OF TEARS\*, a thought provoking memorial site at Auschwitz Birkenau. It is a sculptured dialogue of suffering between the Crucifixion and the Holocaust. It is a wall with seven panels, with a figure facing each panel. Each figure depicting a crucifixion scene.

As well as having the opportunity to re-visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, probably the most well-known, our Tour took us to many of the other death camps throughout Poland and we heard so many stories. At one such site we heard the story of Thomas Tovi Blatt (left) and Karl Frenzel, a death Camp Commandant when they met in a hotel room in Hagen, Germany in 1983. The following is a clip of their conversation.



(Copyright 2012 Victor Smart & Chris Webb H.E.A.R.T)

**Thomas Blatt:** At least a quarter- million Jews were murdered at Sobibor. I survived why would you want to speak with me?

**Karl Frenzel:** I would like to apologise to you

**Thomas Blatt:** You want to apologise to me?

**Karl Frenzel:** I would like to apologise. Nothing can be done about the victims. What happened - happened. We can't change anything about that. But I would like to extend my personal apologies to you. I am not angry with you and the other witnesses, those who already testified and those who are still to come.

**Thomas Blatt:** You would like to apologise?

**Karl Frenzel:** I can only say it again in tears. Not only am I beside myself now, no back then too. I was greatly bothered by it all.

**Thomas Blatt:** But you didn't prevent any of it from happening. You took part in it.

**Karl Frenzel:** You don't know what went on inside of us. You don't understand the circumstances in which we found ourselves.



Sobibor Railway

**Thomas Blatt:** And we, and our circumstances?

To read the whole interview (and it is well worth the read!) use this link. <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/survivor/blatfrenzel.html>

Back home it was moving to hear Susan Pollack's talk recently in the Belfast Synagogue. Susan, another Holocaust survivor from Hungary, spoke with no bitterness but with joy to be alive.

As we approach January 27th 2020 which marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi extermination and concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau let us encourage our family, friends and fellowships to recognize the great horror and join in with the various events around the country.

\* <https://fountainoftears.org/>

**Lavinia Bowerman**

We would like to thank all our members, volunteers and friends for your prayers and support in 2019 and ask that you would pray for:

- \* The committee as they develop the strategy for next year.
- \* A clear vision of the Lord's will for CMJ throughout Ireland.
- \* Speaking engagement in Castledearg Parish on 23rd January.
- \* Planning underway for the CMJ Holocaust Service in Coleraine.
- \* New ways and opportunities to share about CMJ and for more Parish Reps and volunteers to help promote the Ministry.