

THE HERALD

Mission news and updates from Christian Witness to Israel

May 2018



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TELLING JEWISH PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS

We're upgrading our systems

We are currently upgrading our software systems at CWI head office to enable us to work more efficiently and remain legally compliant with all of the new data protection laws.

Unfortunately, there will be some delay in our ability to acknowledge your gifts and letters while the new software is integrated with our system.

Please be assured that we are so grateful for your gifts and hope to have the upgrade done as soon as possible.

Thank you for bearing with us while we make this transition. If you have any questions please contact the head office team by email to info@cw.org.uk or by calling us on 01865 887830.



SUMMER OUTREACH IN PARIS

Join the CWI team from 3rd-12th August

Thank you to all those who replied to the letter from Joseph last month seeking support for the summer outreach in Paris – we appreciate the gifts that have been given so far! If you haven't replied yet, there is still time so please prayerfully consider if you can partner with us in this way.

We are still looking for volunteers to join us in August as we share the gospel with the local Jewish community and the crowds of Jewish tourists who visit there over the summer. Join us for:

- Ten days of outreach to Jewish people on the streets of Paris
- Jewish evangelism training from our experienced missionaries
- Visits to Jewish cultural sites

The cost is £1000 plus return travel. **For more details or to apply** visit cw.org.uk, email info@cw.org.uk or call us on 01865 887830



Welcome to your new look Herald.

We hope you like it!



God is doing so much through CWI that we never have enough space to tell you as much as we'd like. So, we have expanded the Herald to give you more fuel for your prayers and more reason to be encouraged by the way God is using CWI mission to impact Jewish lives.

With the Paris summer outreach fast approaching, I was so grateful to recently have the opportunity with Sarah Chan, CWI's Asia Coordinator, to teach a course on Jewish Mission and Evangelism to a group of French Chinese Christians in Paris. They were excited and passionate in their love for Jewish people – but came to realise the best way to show God's love to a Jewish person is to share Jesus with them.

While on a short break from teaching, Aurel Vidal, our missionary in Paris, and I went to have some ice cream. As we were eating, an elderly Jewish man and his two Jewish friends stopped and asked how it tasted.

This man ended up sitting down and chatting with me for twenty minutes, giving me the opportunity to share my faith. This man turned out to be a world famous violin virtuoso!

Meanwhile, Aurel was sharing the gospel with his Israeli film-maker friend who was producing a documentary of this Jewish virtuoso's life. What a great opportunity! Please pray for Aurel as he follows up locally with these two Jewish men.

Thanks to your prayers and God's grace, these kinds of providential encounters are not uncommon in CWI. As you read this edition of the Herald, you will see more of the way the Lord is using us to tell Jewish people about Jesus and the wonderful way he is working to bring Jewish people to himself.

Thank you for standing with us through your prayers and sacrificial giving so that we can continue to see Jewish people come to a saving faith in Jesus.

Yours in Messiah,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev Joseph Steinberg
CEO, Christian Witness to Israel

I am a new creation in Jesus!

Stephen an Orthodox Jewish man who professed faith in Jesus after contacting the CWI office and meeting up with CWI's Head of Ministry **Richard Gibson**, was recently baptised in Leeds.

At his baptism on 8th April Stephen said, 'When Richard asked me if I wanted to pray for God to forgive my sin and accept Jesus as my Saviour and Lord, because today is the day of salvation, I was ready to do that – it was what God wanted me to do. I prayed to ask Jesus to forgive my sin and be my Messiah and Lord.' As Stephen gave his testimony he went on: 'Soon I will be baptised... I go down into the water and symbolically die, like Jesus did, and am raised up as a new creation in Jesus to follow him for the rest of my life.'

Stephen, who is registered blind, has been sharing his testimony by handing out copies of the last issue of the Herald featuring his story. A keen fundraiser for many years, Stephen is also planning on doing a bungee jump later this year in order to raise funds for CWI.

Please pray for Stephen as he continues to grow in grace and follows his Saviour, and for Richard as he disciples him.

Stephen at his baptism in April and with the Herald featuring his story



The singing barrister

New CWI missionary **Philip Amos** began his ministry in North London in April. Philip reports on a Jewish barrister with whom he has been sharing the gospel:



I met Asher at a synagogue event celebrating the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence. We met again shortly afterwards at a Jewish bagel bakery to discuss our respective faiths.

Our conversation centred around God's requirement for the shedding of blood to atone for sin, something not possible since the temple was destroyed in 70AD, and how Jesus provided a once-for-all sacrifice by shedding his own blood. I explained how the New Covenant, as prophesied by Jeremiah, had been signed in his blood and we could now approach God through the ultimate sacrifice of his Son. Asher said he had never heard this explained before but acknowledged it made sense.

We read Isaiah 53 together on my phone as he said he had never read it. He was interested to learn that the passage is omitted from the weekly synagogue readings. He seemed moved by it and said he would read it for himself in his own copy of the Scriptures when he returned home.

I shared my testimony, telling Asher how Jesus had transformed my life and led me to experience the love and peace of God in a personal way. Asher acknowledged this was a beautiful thing but said he could never leave his Jewish heritage. I told him of the many Jewish people who had received Jesus as their Messiah and testified that far from losing their Jewishness, they felt they were now 'complete' and continue to celebrate their Jewish heritage.

I offered Asher a Hebrew New Testament and a book on the resurrection of Jesus but he refused saying his wife would be terrified if she saw him reading them!

We both share a love for singing – I said I would come and watch him sing in his synagogue choir and he was interested in watching me perform in my gospel choir – apparently he enjoys gospel music!

Please pray for Asher as I continue to tell him about Jesus.

Andrey's Story: Forgiven and Restored

A photograph of two men standing on a sandy beach. The man on the left is wearing a light purple short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark pants. The man on the right is wearing a maroon polo shirt, a dark baseball cap, glasses, and a watch. He has his arm around the shoulder of the man on the left. In the background, there are waves breaking on the shore and several colorful kitesurfers flying in the sky.

Aviel with Andrey (left) after his baptism in the Mediterranean Sea

Aviel Sela met Andrey, a 24-year old Jewish man, when they worked together in a garage before Aviel became a full time CWI missionary in Israel. Having made an initial profession of faith, Andrey started attending a local congregation but soon fell back into his old ways. Thankfully, the Lord hadn't finished with Andrey as Aviel explains:

I first met Andrey in 2015. He had emigrated from the Ukraine to Israel and was a skilled mechanic. Despite this, the move had not been an easy one and he developed an alcohol problem after he arrived in Israel. This caused issues for him and made it difficult for him to hold down a job.

We became good friends when we began working together. I started to pray for him and shared the gospel with him a number of times. At first he wasn't interested but one night he had a frightening dream when a black figure he identified as 'Death' came for him. It was only when he began crying out to God that the figure left him alone.

Troubled, Andrey came to me the next day and asked what he should do. I again explained that he needed to be reconciled to God and after work we drove to his flat where we prayed together. Andrey confessed his sins and sought the Lord's forgiveness through Jesus. After we had finished praying Andrey spoke of the peace he now felt and began attending a local congregation.

Sadly, a few months later he returned to the world, drinking heavily again and living an unholy life. I lost touch with Andrey after he left the congregation but decided to call him again recently. He told me that he'd had enough of the life he was living and needed to return to God. I offered to start meeting with him again to study the Scriptures which is just what we began to do.

In the three years that passed since I first met Andrey there has been an ongoing spiritual battle in his life. Praise God that his hand remained on Andrey and despite his backsliding the Lord has spiritually restored him.

Andrey has now settled in the congregation I attend where he has made good friends, is enjoying the fellowship, and is growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. It was such a joy recently to see him baptised by the church in the Mediterranean Sea.

Please pray for Andrey's ongoing walk with the Lord and for me as I continue to disciple him.

Even God can't help me!



At the end of last year, **Igal Vender** met Leah in Tel Aviv. She is a 52 year old Jewish woman who has been an addict for the past twenty seven years, twelve of which were spent in prison. After initially dismissing the idea that she could be helped, Leah's life took a miraculous turn for the better as Igal reports:

The first time I met Leah she scoffed at the idea that anyone, God included, could help her with her problems. After decades of addiction, nothing she had tried nor any help she received had made any difference. I explained how Jesus had died so that people could be set free from their sin but when I offered to pray for her she laughed in my face.

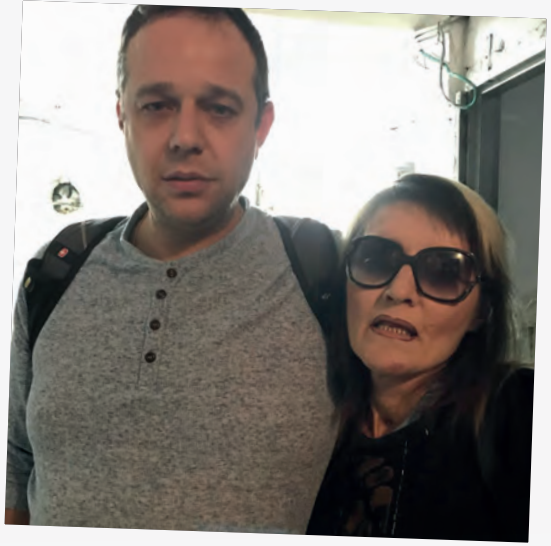
The second time I met her at the café my church runs for the homeless in Tel Aviv, I shared how God had set me free from similar circumstances to those she was in. Once again Leah laughed at me, repeating her claim that even God couldn't help her. This time I opened my Bible to John's Gospel

and read from chapter 3. I explained how God so loved the world that he sent Jesus to be an atonement for our sin. Suddenly, her attitude changed and she spent the next two hours telling me her tragic life story. At the end of the conversation I offered her a place at the rehabilitation centre which she refused. This time however, she asked me to pray for her.

We met again shortly after and read a portion of the New Testament together. As we discussed the passage she questioned where God had been all her life.

I encouraged her to turn to Jesus, repent of her sins and seek his forgiveness but she said she didn't

Leah was ready to go to rehab and, even more than that, put her trust in Jesus



IGAL WITH LEAH ON THE WAY TO THE WOMEN'S REHABILITATION CENTRE

want to, before turning away and walking out. This time she wasn't laughing.

Shortly after that meeting, out of the blue I received a phone call from Leah. She was sobbing and told me she didn't have the strength to continue. She was ready to go to rehab and, even more than that, was 'ready to give Jesus a chance'.

We arranged to meet at the bus stop so I could escort her to the women's rehab centre in another city. When we met, Leah told me that she felt she had forgotten something.

I jokingly replied that she had forgotten to repent of her sins and put her trust in Jesus. To my surprise she replied that it was exactly what she needed to do and acknowledged the fact that up until this point she had just been laughing at the suggestion. We prayed together right there at the bus stop as Leah began the most important journey of her life.

Please pray for her.

Did you know? Tel Aviv has one of the highest rates of homelessness in Israel – with around a third of Israel's homeless population on its streets. Pray for Igla as he reaches out to them.

Comfort My People



Esme is an elderly Jewish believer whom **Richard Gibson** has known for over twenty years. Recently Richard received a phone call from the hospital to come immediately as they thought she was about to die. This led to an encounter with her son Lloyd, a professing Jewish atheist. Richard reports:

I arrived at the hospital to find Esme unresponsive in bed. I started to read Psalm 23 to her and had just finished the first line: *'The Lord is my shepherd...'* Before I could read the next line, her frail, broken voice responded, *'...I shall not want'*. Esme was barely conscious as she breathed out alternate lines until we had finished the Psalm. God's Word reached into her dark situation and brought his marvellous light.

Wonderfully, God extended her days enabling her son Lloyd and his partner Rena to travel from Canada to see her.

I have known Lloyd for over fifteen years through his visits to his mum every summer. Esme asked if I would share the gospel with

him because he wouldn't listen to her. This was the beginning of a meaningful friendship. Whenever he visited his mum we would spend many hours discussing religion, atheism, faith, Jesus and the Jewish people. Lloyd is a lifelong atheist and never understood his mum's faith in God let alone how she, as a Jewish woman, could follow Jesus.

I invited Lloyd and Rena to come to the Leeds Messianic Fellowship Passover meal I led on Good Friday. There they heard about Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

They could only stay a week, so it wasn't long before we were saying a sad farewell in the hospital before they headed home. As we



said goodbye I told Lloyd that my ambition for him was that he would share his mother's faith. 'What do you mean by that?' he asked. I replied, 'I want you to have faith in Jesus as your Messiah and Lord like your mum.' He looked at me for a moment and, smiling, said, 'I'm not against that.'

I was stunned! Then quickly replied, 'Well neither is Jesus!' The amazing thing is that Lloyd used to be very much against it, not willing to entertain any notion of God let alone Jesus!

Lloyd went on to tell me that he thought God was after him as he keeps bringing his followers into significant parts of his life. We were

both tearful as a nurse came into the room to check on Esme. Despite the emotion, I did not feel it was quite the Lord's time for Lloyd but we promised to meet online to continue the conversation.

Please pray that Lloyd will be convicted by God until he comes to faith in Jesus. Pray too for the salvation of Esme's daughter and also for Esme who is currently waiting for a place in a residential care home.



The story of how Esme came to faith in Messiah can be found in Richard's book *The Unusual Suspects*, available from [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Email us at info@cwj.org.uk if you'd like to receive regular news and prayer updates about Richard's ministry in Leeds



CWI 175th Anniversary Celebration DVD now available!

The 3-hour DVD includes:

- Updates from our missionaries in Europe and Israel
- Joseph Steinberg looking to the future of Jewish mission
- John Ross on the history of CWI spanning the centuries
- Simon Ponsonby on why the Church needs to engage with Jewish mission

**The DVD costs
£10 plus postage.
To order your copy
please call
01865 887830
or email us at
info@cwj.org.uk**

GDPR: Stay in touch with CWI

If you are in the UK, enclosed with this Herald you will find a letter and form regarding changes in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) for CWI communications you receive in the post.

If you are in the UK or Europe and are subscribed to receive email communication from us you should also have received an email asking for your opt-in consent to continue receiving emails from us. Please respond to this email as soon as possible.

Please make sure to pay attention to the enclosed letter and respond appropriately. If you have any questions, feel free to **contact us at info@cwj.org.uk or call us on 01865 887830.**



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