



Radio Ministry



Zoom Meetings



YouTube Videos



With what great optimism we greeted this year: “2020, the year of plenty!” Instead, it proved to be the year of shaking of every institution that humankind had trusted in. It goes without saying that CMJ South Africa, along with many other organisations, has been affected by the restrictions surrounding the Corona Virus, and we have had to look at new ways of adapting to the changing face of ministry.

Life since Lockdown

Little did we know that our Roots & Shoots Conference, “*The Heart of Worship*,” held on 22nd February this year, would be the last for the foreseeable future.

We were thrilled to have a full house at Christ Church Kenilworth, our “home” since our thrice yearly conferences began in 2007, and were looking forward to the day when we could celebrate our fortieth *Roots & Shoots*. Sadly, at the time of writing, our celebration is on hold - thanks to that pesky virus.

Our two weekly Torah Study Groups (Young Adults and over-35s) at St Martin’s Church, Bergvliet, suffered a similar fate. On Tuesday nights, the over-35s groups numbered anywhere between 70 to 100 people, seated in close proximity to one another. Alas, not the ideal setting for social distancing.

But praise God for modern technology. While all of us can attest that “Zoom meetings aren’t the same,” it enabled us to communicate, and gave us a sense of normality during the worst days of that initial lockdown.



TORAH IN CYBERSPACE

Although protesting that he isn’t comfortable with the medium of online communication, our director, John Atkinson, did an amazing job of continuing with our Monday night Torah group on Zoom. Having completed the annual Torah cycle, we embarked on a fascinating series looking at Biblical ethics from Jewish and Christian perspectives alternately. John didn’t shy away from difficult topics that are

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TORAH IN CYBERSPACE

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seldom taught in the average Church Bible study. He tackled topics as diverse and contentious as abortion, capital punishment, Jew-Gentile relations, and fertility treatment! It provoked much discussion and, as always, John reinforced his teachings with copious notes on each topic. The latter teachings were recorded and are available from John on request. He will send you the link where they can be downloaded if you email him at this address: john@cmj-sa.org

We are all eagerly anticipating the series titled "Galatians in the Light of Torah" which will commence in February next year.

Watch this space! 

Things you Never Knew your Smartphone Could Do...

In no way do I want to minimise or trivialise the devastation COVID-19 has wrought on individuals, communities and the economy. Families have lost loved ones and businesses have been destroyed.

However, in one regard lockdown proved to benefit a particular branch of our ministry, namely that of radio. Our Sunday programme, *Messiah's People*, has been on air for the past 27 years, ever since the inception of Ccfm Radio. It was previously hosted every fortnight by Doogie St.Claire-Laing, and then every week since John and I took over.

The benefit that lockdown brought us was a marked increase in listenership judging by the emails and WhatsApp messages received. The early days of lockdown gave us a captive audience of new listeners who discovered the programme and have been tuning in ever since.

I've been hosting the programme solo for a number of years recording at the studio in Muizenberg. With lockdown, however, I had to find a way to record at home. Once again, modern technology came to the rescue.

I now record the programme on my smart phone (!), then access Ccfm's computer via one of those wonderful pieces of software that allow you to do so, in order to select music, and then send it all via another wonderful software programme to our fantastic sound engineer, Duran Fielies, who puts it all together.

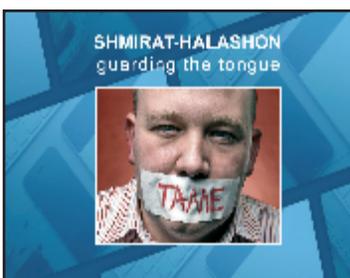
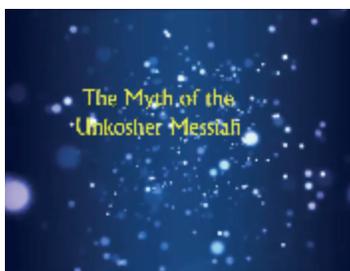
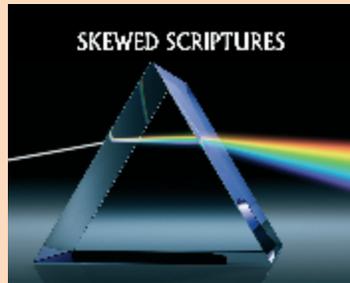
The programme is broadcast at 17h00 every Sunday. 



Sound engineer, Duran Fielies, putting our programme together



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We didn't know what was worse, the disease itself, or the draconian policies that were inflicted on us to restrict our movements

At the beginning of lockdown, with our movements curtailed and regular meetings on hold, it was all too easy to fall into the habit of languishing at home eating comfort food and watching movies. This was all in a bid to while away the time or try to make sense of the numerous conflicting theories about the Corona virus. We didn't know what was worse, the disease itself, or the draconian policies that were inflicted on us to restrict our movements.

Having a teaching ministry, the desire to fill people's heads had to find an outlet! The thought came to me (I think God-inspired) to produce YouTube videos. This was confirmed by a fellow believer. But all I had at my disposal was PowerPoint, and my first efforts were amateur indeed. They have slightly improved in technical quality since then. My prayer is that the message will triumph over the medium.

My first video, *The Myth of Saul who Became Paul*, has received 1,224 views to date. Not exactly viral when one considers that videos on how to make pancakes garner 100,000 views in a single day. Nevertheless, for what it's worth, please check out my humble efforts. The first three are a series titled *Skewed Scriptures* in which I challenge teachings that misrepresent Jesus as an anti-Torah Messiah. The fourth one, *Christians and the Evil Tongue*, focuses on rabbinic teachings on the misuse of speech, and also on how Christians violate Biblical principles in their use of social media.

If you think these videos are worth passing on, please let others know and please click "like" (or even subscribe) and add a comment. This helps YouTube know that the material should be promoted.

Please let me know what you think of them. 



JEWISH HUMOUR

"I'm Jewish. I don't work out. If God had wanted us to bend over, he would have put diamonds on the floor" - Joan Rivers

The Last Tour



“There are many unanswered questions in this lifetime, and I would love to have an answer to the begging question of why this last tour ended the way it did”

- Jane Price

When I first heard about CMJ’s tour to Israel I was so excited as my parents had been twice and told me how special it was to them. So I said to the Lord: “Now it’s my turn to go visit your Holy Land”. But it seemed I was too late. In no time it was fully booked and I was so disappointed upon learning that it was John’s last tour.

I told God I would leave it up to Him to decide whether or not He would like me to go. Not too long after, I received a phone call saying that someone had cancelled and there was a single space to fill. Naturally I grabbed the opportunity and secured my place. The Lord had made a way for me.

So it goes without saying that the disappointment when the tour was cut short was nothing short of extreme. Does the Lord really close a door after opening it?

I had the most wonderful time travelling through the Negev and discovering the advanced ways in which the Israelis have built farms and watering systems in the middle of the driest and hottest of deserts. We also overlooked the Gaza strip and heard soldiers practising at the shooting range nearby.

The highlight for me was Ein Gedi Kibbutz on the Dead Sea. I am a bird fanatic and this luxurious little lodging was an island of paradise with birds singing all around us and the Dead Sea in plain sight. We covered quite a bit of the southern part

of the country and continued to travel northwards until we reached the sea of Galilee, which was simply amazing.

The greatest disappointment we encountered as Corona Virus closed in on us was that Jordan shut its borders, thus prohibiting us from visiting the caves in Petra. But the Lord, by His grace, allowed us to be stuck in Israel rather than Jordan. I reckon we would have had quite a time trying to get out of there amidst the pandemic! Then, there was also the huge disappointment of not making it to Jerusalem at all. We were all so looking forward to seeing this incredible and historical city.

There are many unanswered questions in this lifetime, and I would love to have an answer to the begging question of why this last tour ended the way it did, but one thing I can say for sure is that there was no waste of energy during the time I was in Israel, and the challenges we faced gave me the opportunity to be even more grateful for what I did see. The Lord walks with us wherever we go. He kept us safe and healthy throughout our tour and brought us all home safely too, despite all the risks we encountered.

COVID-19 might have robbed me of physical experiences but it can never take away the spirit-filled experience I had in March 2020. Israel will always remain in my heart, with its eternal door still wide open. *(Jane Price)*

A huge thank you to everyone who has faithfully supported us in prayer and financially during these difficult times. As we have been unable to host our *Roots & Shoots* Conferences due to COVID restrictions, and as speaking engagements have also been curtailed, our finances have seen a decline. If you are not already a supporter of this ministry, would you prayerfully consider donating either on a once-off basis or by monthly stop order.



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