

To a people of promise ...

# Christian Witness to Israel

... the message of Messiah

## Sarah Chan's December NewsLetter 2009

The first Hong Kong Jewish Mission Convention in November was very encouraging. Over a thousand people in total came for the three-day special event. The first day was a Youth Rally and I was impressed by the massive crowd of young people (370 of them!) who were eager to hear about Jewish mission. The second day was a "Mission Celebration" for all local churches and we had two Jewish speakers to testify to God's promises in Jewish mission. The final day featured seminars on Christian Anti-Semitism, Replacement Theology and the current scene in Jewish mission, and on that day we had 110 participants, including pastors, Christian leaders and seminary students. Many of them signed up for further information and prayer updates from Jewish mission. A Prayer Diary for Jewish evangelism was published especially for the Jewish Mission Convention.

Another praise item is that this year's CWI HK annual rally went well. CWI's Israel Field Leader David Zadok and I spoke at a number of different churches and seminaries in Hong Kong. People in the Far East often "meet to eat" and David is getting used to the tradition of "meeting and eating" amongst the Chinese churches and has become almost "a natural" at using chopsticks! Indeed, we were well looked after and I was tremendously grateful by the faithful prayers and generosity of our supporting churches. Thank you very much for all your prayers for our meetings and travels.



CWI-HK members at the CWI rally

We also had a reunion gathering of former CWI Summer School students from Hong Kong. After their Summer School experience in London, they had all been given the opportunity to report and share the vision of Jewish mission in their home churches. I wish I could show you their beautiful and professionally-produced PowerPoint presentations and photos of the CWI Summer School! Please pray for our Summer School students. Several of them are seriously considering theological training in preparation for full time Christian ministry in Jewish mission. Pray they may be guided about their future ministry.



David and I speaking in a seminary in HK

"A Kosher Encounter" – a ten-minute drama based on a true story – was one of the highlights of the Hong Kong annual rally. The whole production, including scripts, stage design, make-up and the cast, was all done by our talented Summer School students. The story was about a door-to-door encounter during the Summer School outreach in July this year. The script was excellently written so that although the sketch was brief it was precise enough for the audience to get a real visual sense of Jewish evangelism:

The sketch began with two Summer School students walking down a quiet street in a Jewish area of a London suburb. They approached a house with a *mezuzah* on the doorpost. A *mezuzah* (Hebrew for "doorpost") is a wooden, metal or glass case about three inches in length which is placed on the doorpost of a Jewish home. We all felt for the two students as they nervously but bravely rang the door bell after seeing the

huge *mezuzah*, and as they tried to remember all the appropriate manners, body language and Jewish-sensitive terminology during their conversation with a Jewish lady. The drama successfully presented a picture of cross-cultural Jewish evangelism and how they met “Helen”, the Jewish lady, during the door-to-door outreach in London (I saw myself in that door-to-door visiting scene!).

The most moving scene in “A Kosher Encounter” was when the two students finally prayed together with “Helen” and she asked them for a Bible with both the Old and New Testaments. Helen received a Bible after their visit. Please pray for Helen as we (the CWI London team) continue to visit her and follow up from the Summer School outreach.

Back in London, I’m continually encouraged in my work and I’ve also met several new friends. Recently, I invited my Israeli friend for dinner and she asked if she could bring her Israeli friends Rachel and Ben. Israelis are free and easy going. Rachel and Ben are fun and lively! When we tried to fix our date, everyone was busy and it took a long time to check each one’s diary. In the end, they agreed to come to me on Friday – Yes, a *Friday* evening – for Shabbat dinner! Rachel phoned and asked if she could bring their Shabbat candles and a loaf of *Challah* for the evening. *Challah* is the special twisted or braided Sabbath bread. I was expecting Rachel to bring the traditional two loaves – which represent the double portion of manna given to the Israelites during their wanderings in the desert so they would not have to gather food on the Sabbath – but she brought a single loaf.

Rachel lit the candles and said the traditional blessings in Hebrew before our Chinese dinner. Both Rachel and Ben were frank when they asked questions about my faith and work and we spoke about the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New. I must admit that it was slow going at the beginning and there might have been a slight tension, but, after a bowl of my popular Chinese sweet corn soup and few dishes of hot and spicy food, everyone definitely seemed to relax and get warmer. Before the end of the evening, Rachel and Ben planned to fix a date for the four of us to meet again at their home. Ben was very direct and honest. He said, “Sarah, I must say that I was not sure about you in the beginning, but now I feel more relaxed around you, although I know you’re a Christian. We really enjoyed our time together.” Pray that I may be able to build up trusting friendships with Rachel and Ben and that

I may find the opportunities to witness and share the gospel with them.

The ladies group will meet again in December. June, who is Jewish, and Tan, who is a Muslim, and I, are the main co-ordinators of this ladies gathering. We usually meet at June’s home and the majority of those who meet are June’s Jewish friends. Many of them are either in medics or mental health (both June and Tan are psychotherapists). Each time we meet, we speak about religion, especially Judaism and Christianity. When there’s a question on religion or the Bible, June always asks me for my Christian viewpoint. Pray I may have wisdom and boldness in my answers and my witness to the ladies.

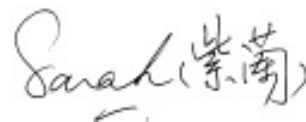
Pray for my Jewish neighbour Lisa who looked after my place while I was away. We have become good friends and she is open to the gospel. She has been quite ill and I was able to help her by shopping for food. Lisa has mentioned that she would like to visit my church again so please pray that she will come to church with me.

I’ll be spending my Christmas holiday with my Jewish friend Norma. Pray that during our time together I may find many opportunities to share my faith with her.

Thank you for your fellowship and partnership in the gospel.

Wishing you God’s richest blessings for the New Year and throughout 2010!

With love in Messiah,



Sarah

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Sarah with Norma