

Poetry and Hope

– *brother Michael*



Kate Stevens



Jean Carr

EARLY IN MARCH, BEFORE THERE WAS ANY HINT OF SPRING, WE hosted a presentation about the Palestinian reality, given by Kate Stevens and Jean Carr. They have been our friends for many years and had recently gone to Israel/Palestine in order to “go deep” into the reality of the West Bank. That means that they met with persons, heard their stories, stayed in their homes and helped with the olive harvest.

The facts about both the Holocaust suffered by the Jewish people and the present day suffering of the Palestinians who live under the oppression of militant Zionists are well known, and were presented to us without judgments, but with clarity by Kate. Jean shared her experience through the poetry that she wrote each night as a way of processing the experience. As they said: “This is a right and left brain presentation.”

The issues, not only in Israel/Palestine, are so large in our times, and our hearts are so fragile. It is easy to feel overwhelmed, submerged, victimized, as we face such large systematic injustice. Yet it is when we meet “face to face”, perhaps in poetry, perhaps in prayer, that we can sense we have the strength to continue on our journey no matter how hopeless we feel at times.

We trust in God’s faithful love. We know how deeply we can feel the pain and suffering of other persons and peoples. When we nurture all that is good, we, as one family, can be strong and move with strength into our future. ■