The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was established in 1980 in recognition of the biblical significance of all of Jerusalem and its unique connection to the Jewish people. Today the ICEJ represents millions of Christians, churches, and denominations to the nation and people of Israel. We recognize in the restoration of Israel the faithfulness of God to keep His ancient covenant with the Jewish people. Our main objectives are:

• To stand with Israel in support and friendship;
• To equip and teach the worldwide Church regarding God’s purposes with Israel and the nations of the Middle East;
• To be an active voice of reconciliation between Jews, Christians, and Arabs and to support the churches and congregations in the Holy Land.

From its head offices in Jerusalem, the ICEJ reaches out into more than 140 countries worldwide, with branch offices in over 80 nations.

Our vision is:

• To reach every segment of Israel’s society with a Christian testimony of comfort and love, and
• To reach and actively represent to Israel the support of denominations, churches, and believers from every nation on earth.

The Christian Embassy is a non-denominational faith-based ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends across the globe. We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by donating to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

There is an urgent need to know the truth about Israel and to know how to act upon it. Through this small group study, you will learn Israel’s story, why the battle against her rages, and why the God of the Bible has guaranteed her survival.

The return of the Jewish people to their homeland is a miracle, yet a global campaign is seeking to rewrite history and delegitimize Israel. Anti-Semitism is on the rise again. No other nation on earth is so systematically demonized. No other nation suffers the threat of constant annihilation while also having to justify its own right to exist.

This small group study will provide you with answers to critical questions as well as bring you a greater understanding of the political and biblical issues surrounding Israel.

www.icejusa.org/store/understanding-israel-small-group-study-0

TITLES:
Class 1: The Land and People of Promise
Class 2: The Calling and the Promise
Class 3: The Making of a Miracle: The Second Return
Class 4: Meet Modern Israel
Class 5: The Spiritual & Historical Roots of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Class 6: The New Anti-Semitism: Anti-Zionism
Class 7: Answering Israel’s Political Critics
Class 8: The Importance of Christian Support

TEACHERS INCLUDE:
Pastor Allen Jackson, World Outreach Church
Susan Michael, ICEJ US Director
Rev. Malcolm Hedding, ICEJ International Spokesman
Daryl Hedding, ICEJ US Deputy Director
Michael Hines, ICEJ US Outreach Director
David Parsons, ICEJ Public Relations

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THE TOP EIGHT REASONS WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD GO TO ISRAEL

THIS ARTICLE IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES TO INTRODUCE ISRAEL AND VARIOUS BIBLICAL SITES OF INTEREST TO THE CHRISTIAN READER.
Mllions of Christians have travelled to the land of the Bible over the last four decades and had their faith and biblical knowledge enhanced in transformative ways. There are so many different reasons why Christians are blessed and inspired by travel to Israel that it is an absolute must for anyone with the time and means to go there. Below is just a sampling of what awaits you in the land of Israel!

1. YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

My first trip to Israel was in 1978, when I had the opportunity as a University student to do a summer study program in Israel. I have never been the same! Over the years since, I have heard countless Christians tell me that their trip to Israel also changed their life. For me, the change was drastic. I, who dreaded the one year of French language I had to take, returned from Israel and gladly traded it for three years of Hebrew! I, who hated history classes, returned with an excitement and an appetite for history that has still not been satisfied. I, who never knew the first thing about world affairs or current events, returned from Israel an avid student of Middle East affairs – one of the most complex regions of the world. Those are just a few of the things that changed in my life; let’s explore other ways Israel impacts lives.

2. YOUR BIBLE WILL COME ALIVE

Before going to Israel, I read my Bible every day both devotionally and, as a Bible major in university, doctrinally. But in Israel, I began to study the Bible as a history book—an extremely accurate one backed by archeological finds. I read the Bible not just for spiritual meaning, but tracing the stories on maps and visiting the archeological remains of many of the cities. The Bible became so real that it literally stood up and took on a third dimension as an accurate, historical account from which we learn many spiritual lessons.

3. ENCOUNTER GOD IN A NEW WAY

God is not limited to any one location and therefore, we can pray from anywhere in the world and experience His presence in our lives. But, there is something to be said for taking a spiritual pilgrimage to get away from everyday life and seek the Lord with new fervor. A trip to Israel is the perfect getaway to seek the Lord. Walking where Jesus walked, hearing His words anew, seeing the illustrations from everyday life that He used, and understanding His teachings at new levels often leads to special encounters, even healings, that stay with the traveler when they return home.

4. MEET THE TRUE JESUS

As much as we like to think that we read the Bible as it is intended, most of us are highly influenced by our surroundings and understand the Bible in our own cultural context. That is why for centuries, European art depicted Jesus with a fair complexion, blond hair, and blue eyes. Studying the life and words of Jesus in Israel puts him in the correct cultural and religious context. He was the Jewish Messiah who said of Himself that He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. His parables, teachings, and lifestyle cannot be fully understood without the Hebraic context in which He ministered.

5. EXPERIENCE PROPHECY FULFILLED

While traveling in Israel we are surrounded by prophecy fulfilled and the faithfulness of God to His Word. We see that the Jewish people have been gathered from the North, the South, the East, and the West; from every nation to which they had been dispersed; first by ship and then by planes; and assisted by the Gentiles; all just as the Bible foretold. God is fulfilling His promises made to the Jewish people, which means Christians can also trust Him. He is a faithful God and His Word is true!

6. SEE A MODERN MIRACLE

The birth and existence of Israel is nothing short of a modern miracle. Out of the ashes of the Holocaust and the dust of the desert, in just over 65 years, they have created a thriving and prosperous country that is leading the world in innovation, technology, science, medicine, security, agriculture, and water conservation and production. This little country of some 8 million people is making the world a safer and better place. What a miracle!

7. TOUCH THE APPLE OF HIS EYE

Many Christians understand from their Bible that the Jewish people are God’s chosen people, but may have little appreciation for what that has meant for them. The Jewish people have carried a calling that no other people group on the face of the earth carries; it is to be the vehicle of God’s redemptive plan. This calling put them directly in the line of fire and they have suffered much throughout history as a result. To meet Israelis face to face and speak blessing and encouragement to them is often the highlight of a Christian’s trip to Israel.

8. LEARN HOW TO PRAY

Isaiah 62:6-7 instructs us to be watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem and to pray day and night until God’s promises to the Jewish people, which will bless the world, are fulfilled. After visiting Israel, understanding the security situation, sensing the spiritual tension, and getting to know the people and God’s promises to them, one will be able to intercede for the peace of Jerusalem with greater effectiveness, and experience the privilege of partnering with God in prayer for the people of Israel, the region, and in fact, the world. ☝️

EN GEDI CELEBRATION
If you have never stood on the shores of the Dead Sea on the first night of Succot, it is hard to comprehend what you are witnessing: the most diverse annual assembly of Christians anywhere in the world. Someone asked: “How do you keep everyone on the same page?” “We don’t!” came the simple, yet honest response. “We simply invite them to come and each year for 36 years, they’ve come!”

Suddenly the music swelled again as the worship team led the gathering in a new version of a very ancient creed: “We believe in the crucifixion; we believe in the virgin birth; we believe in the resurrection, and He’s coming back to earth!”

There was our answer. We believe! Many tribes, many tongues, and many nations. One Lord. One God. One Bible. One Creed. And a shared love for Israel and the Jewish people. The 36th Christian Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles began with one simple declaration – that in Jesus we can all become one.

GARDEN TOMB COMMUNION SERVICE
The gathering at the Garden Tomb did not include any big screens or colorful lights, and there was no dance team. And yet, as the worship team invited the pilgrims to join them in singing, the place was filled with a tangible sense of the presence of God. “God filled the skies with stars,” cried Saleem Shalash, a local Arab pastor from Nazareth. “He filled the whole earth with His creation. But He left the tomb empty!”

Accompanying Shalash in serving communion, Pastor Daniel Yahav read from Psalm 133, a psalm that declares the blessing of the unity of the people of God. “It is only possible because of what Yeshua did for us on the Cross,” he declared. “In Christ we are one.”

PARADE OF NATIONS
Since its inception in 1980 the Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, sponsored by the ICEJ, has been a vital and central part of our ministry of comforting Israel (Isaiah 40:1). Pilgrims come from around the world to worship the Lord, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and to bless Israel. The Parade of Nations on the first night in the Pais Arena is our time to acknowledge the many nations that are represented at this special event, which are a foreshadowing of the fulfillment of the prophecy found in Zechariah 14.

VISIT FROM THE PRESIDENT
We were honored to host Israeli President, Reuven Rivlin, who thanked the Christian pilgrims for their ongoing support for Israel, and also quoted the prophecy of Zechariah, recalling the great return of the Jews to the land of Israel to worship the Lord together with the nations.

“Dear friends,” Rivlin said. “Thank you. Thank you for coming up from year to year, to worship the King, the God of Hosts. To celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Thank you for standing with us! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they that [do], be blessed!”

PRAYER AT THE FEAST
Every day the conference program started with prayer and worship in the main auditorium. This important part of the daily schedule, well attended by the Feast participants, was led by Rev. Mosy Madugba, Director of the ICEJ-Nigeria. It was a blessed time of drawing near to the heart of the Father and giving Him praise.

The Feast 2015 concluded once again with a special prayer service. The finale event was held at the Jerusalem Pavilion and led by many of this year’s speakers and ICEJ leaders.

SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE FEAST
During the Feast, a daily program of seminars and teaching was offered, and each evening concluded with a celebration that is known for its outstanding musical and dance performances. The in-depth sessions brought balanced teaching from carefully selected teachers, scholars, and public figures. This year the subjects and themes were presented by many notable speakers, among them: Cindy Jacobs, who is a strong prophetic voice in today’s world; Angus Buchan, South African farmer-turned-evangelist who joined us for the third time; John Francis from London, UK, whose impactful ministry continues to grow in this famous European capital; and Jane Hansen Hoyt, the CEO of Aglow International.

The praise and worship was again led by an international team of singers, musicians, dancers, and other artists under the leadership of Ray Ramirez from the ICEJ. Special musical guests included an award-winning singer from Brazil, Ana Paula Valadão Bessa, and an acclaimed international worship leader and music producer, Eddie James.
EXPERIENCE ISRAEL
And the Christian Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles

October 13 - 24, 2016

Travel to Israel for the Christian Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles and tour the land of the Bible. Join thousands of Christians from more than 80 nations to worship the King of Kings in Jerusalem! There is no better time to visit Israel than during this Feast of the Lord!

Tour Includes
- Round-trip International Airfare from New York City
- 9 Nights in 4 Star Hotels (Double Occupancy)
- Israeli Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Daily, plus 2 Lunches
- English Speaking Tour Guide
- Air Conditioned Bus with WiFi
- On Site Teachings with ICEJ Staff
- Feast of Tabernacles Registration
- Entrance Fee to all Sites on the Itinerary
- Tips and Minimal Travel Medical Insurance

Sites and Experiences Awaiting You!
- Mt. of Olives
- Garden of Gethsemane
- Mt. Zion
- Caiaphas House
- Garden Tomb
- Masada
- En Gedi Waterfall
- Float in Dead Sea
- Old City of Jerusalem
- Christian Quarter
- Church of Holy Sepulchre
- Shepherd’s Field
- Mt. Herzl
- Shopping on Ben Yehuda Street
- Yad Vashem
- Galilee
- Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee
- Jesus Boat
- Capernaum
- Mt.ental, Golan Heights
- Tel Dan
- Mt. Beatitudes
- Magdala
- Yardenit Jordan River Baptism
- Mt. Carmel Druze Lunch
- IDF Military Base
- Caesarea Maritima
- Farewell Dinner in Tel Aviv and the Christian Celebration during the Feast of Tabernacles!

For a Brochure and More Information Please Contact:
ICEJ-USA • PO Box 332974 • Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2974
Call: (888) 772-7732 x 735 • Email: tours@icejusa.org

Shay
“It was my 35th Feast ... to be in the midst of ‘prophecy being fulfilled’ was/is a thrill! This is one time of the year I know I am doing the right thing!!”

Bill and Sandra
This trip changed our lives FOREVER and its impact will strengthen us for God’s work and purpose. We will never be the same, and we love being part of ICEJ and the work it does.

Mary
I learned way more than I expected…God showed me so many special things, I feel He filled my heart up, my cup runneth over. I long to go back!
IN 1995 LEROY AND THERESA DIENES had the opportunity to travel to Israel. In the end Leroy was unable to make the trip, so Theresa, who was four months pregnant, travelled with a friend. While there she had the opportunity to walk through the tunnels that run alongside the Temple Mount, also known as Mt. Moriah. It was in those tunnels that she felt the Lord tell her the baby would be a girl, and she should be named Moriah.

Fast forward seventeen years later when beautiful, sweet Moriah experiences two episodes that are unexplainable and leave her with pain worse than a migraine. The 24/7 pain would not go away and left her sick, in bed most days. For three years she endured, trying medicines and dietary changes, but nothing worked.

She missed school many days, sometimes months at a time, giving up cheerleading, drill team tryouts, varsity volleyball, and the friends she loved to be with. Doctor visits offered no answers or remedies and cost increasing amounts of money while Moriah lost some 40 pounds and grew frail in body and spirit. She was angry and confused, and having given up on ever being healed she concluded that for some reason God wanted her to suffer.

Then the doors began to open for her to travel to Israel with the ICEJ for the Feast of Tabernacles. Her parents had already signed up to travel with another group to the Feast, however, Moriah and her aunt decided to go on the ICEJ’s tour. Moriah was praying that she would have a miraculous touch on the trip and return home healed, but the first day of touring in the hot desert made Moriah feel as bad as ever.

That evening at the opening night of the Feast, Brazilian Apostle Rene Terre Nova was speaking about reformation when he stopped and said, “I want to change the subject.” He began to talk about healing and ended the evening by saying, “If you have any type of sickness, illness, or disease, come to the stage.” People were literally sprinting to the stage area for a touch by God. Moriah’s parents were sitting in the front so they joined the throngs and began to cry and intercede for their daughter’s healing. They knew she was in the crowd somewhere, and prayed for a Divine touch upon her wherever she was.

Moriah had stayed in her seat knowing she could receive the blessings of God anywhere. Then the speaker said something that echoed her very thoughts, and it touched her so deeply that she burst into tears. He said, “Why do you think you are worth suffering? Do you honestly think that God would make such a masterpiece to then say, you’re worth only that?”

She wept as she had many times before, but this time it was far deeper and much more intimate with Him. The next morning she awoke completely restored! That first day without pain is a day she will never forget. When the tour group went to the baptismal site on the Jordan River, Moriah was baptized in order to start life anew and leave behind all the tears, anger, confusion, disbelief, heartache, depression, and pain she had carried. When she came out of the water she felt light as a feather and absolutely free. It had all been washed away, never to return.

Moriah is still pain free and has her life back. Her parents are thrilled to see their lovely daughter living without pain and without need of doctor visits. Moriah’s conclusion to all of this is, “God sometimes says to wait…and that is hard to be okay with that. But the faster you understand that He has a plan, the easier it is to simply wait.” ️️
US BRANCH OF ICEJ ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO REACH HISPANIC CHURCHES

THE US BRANCH of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has launched a strategic partnership with the Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition (HILC) which is a subsidiary and ministry of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) and Conela. HILC’s vision is to establish the world’s largest and most influential pro-Israel Latino entity.

The first activities of the ICEJ-HILC partnership will be Bless Israel Weekends in Hispanic churches across the USA. They will consist of a Friday night Bless Israel event followed by Saturday workshops on topics such as Pro-Israel Activism, Effective Intercession for Israel, Biblical Significance of Israel, Move of God in the Middle East, and Understanding the Issues of Arabs and Jews in the Middle East.

A training seminar was held on December 4th in Cooper City, Florida to train some 20 Hispanic pastors and young adult leaders to become ICEJ-HILC speakers on these various issues. The goal of the training session was to prepare a team of speakers to present Bless Israel Weekends around the nation.

Susan Michael, US Director of the ICEJ said, “we are very happy to be partnering with HILC so that our outreach to Hispanic churches is effective and far reaching. The ICEJ has tremendous substance and experience with the Israel issue, and HILC has access to the churches as well as the expertise in reaching them. Together we are far more effective than we would be each on our own.”

“The Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition is honored to Partner with ICEJ and Susan Michael to engage, empower and equip the Latino Evangelicals in the Pro Israel Movement,” said Mario Bramnick, President of HILC. “ICEJ’s 30 years of involvement in the Pro Israel Movement will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our leaders.”

Bring an ICEJ Speaker to Your Church or Community

To Book a Speaker Call 615-895-9830
Some places in the world have to be seen to be believed. You cannot comprehend the depth of the Grand Canyon, they say, until you stand on the edge looking down, nor the power of the Niagara Falls until you hear the roar of the waters with your very own ears.

Israel is no different.

The Bible never sounds the same when you have heard the psalms of David echo off the canyon walls of his wilderness stronghold at En Gedi or the words of Jesus drifting on the slopes of the Mount of Beatitudes. Passages of Scripture that never quite made sense, suddenly come alive. Questions that you never thought had an answer effortlessly find resolution in a hundred little nuances of language, culture, and landscape, converging together to open your eyes to the intent of the author. It’s a land scored with the signature of God.

An estimated half a million evangelical Christians visit Israel each year. All leave changed. But sadly not all walk away truly understanding what they’ve seen. For many Israel remains a land locked in a past time. The archeology and history enrich their appreciation of the Word of God, but the story ends 2,000 years ago. Modern Israel, rather than being the centerpiece of God’s enduring purpose in the world, is little more than a footnote at the back of the book. An historical accident; no less, no more.

A year ago David Brog, Executive Director of Christians United for Israel, and one of the foremost American Jewish voices for Israel, observed that “the days of taking evangelical support for Israel for granted are over.” With the emergence of an increasingly sophisticated “evangelical-friendly, anti-Israel narrative” more and more mainstream pastors are becoming less convinced that the Jewish people have a legitimate biblical claim to the ancient land of Canaan, especially those reaching the millennial generation. Studies conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life point to the fact that support for Israel among the leadership of the evangelical church is now less apparent in the United States than in the rest of the world.

It is against this backdrop that the US leadership of the ICEJ has determined to find a way to enable a new generation of pastors and ministry leaders to encounter Israel for themselves, not just as a place to deepen their biblical or archeological knowledge, but a place in which to transform their understanding of the covenant-keeping purposes of God.

“The ICEJ is uniquely placed to help pastors connect the dots between the promises of God in His Word and the reality of their fulfillment in our day,” says ICEJ US Director, Susan Michael. “We want them to understand the big picture: past, present, and future. Why? Because only then will they be equipped to lead their congregations into a deeper understanding of the truth of Scripture, its implications for how we live our lives and witness to our world.”

Starting with our 2016 Envision Pastors Conference and Tour in January, the US Branch will be sponsoring over 150 pastors, ministry leaders and their spouses to encounter Israel in the next twelve months working with various denominational networks including the Assemblies of God, Southern Baptists, Foursquare, and others to offer these tours at a dramatic 60% discount on a regular price. The aim is to educate, enlighten, and inspire the next generation of church leaders to grasp the depth of the faithfulness of God to His Word as demonstrated in the return of His covenant people to their land.

We invite you to pray for this initiative and to encourage your pastor to take advantage of the few remaining places open in our 2016 February and April tours. Don’t delay. Find out more today by calling 615-895-9830. www.icejusa.org/israelencounter
PASTORS EDUCATIONAL TOUR

A one-of-a-kind journey to educate, enlighten, and inspire pastors and ministry leaders.

Tour Dates: April 4 – 13, 2016

This 10-day Israel Encounter will provide:

- A life-changing experience with the Lord and His Word in the land of the Bible
- A deeper connection with the scriptures and the Hebraic roots of our faith
- Rich insight into your pastoral role in these prophetic days
- Understanding of the biblical significance of modern Israel

Your ministry will be transformed as the Bible comes to life and you discover truth in a personal and dynamic way.

Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane and worship on the Sea of Galilee. Study the Word together with Christian Leaders from across the US. Discover the biblical significance of Israel and gain a deeper understanding of God’s calling on this generation.

Return home with deeper insight and renewed passion to make a greater impact than ever before.

ISRAEL ENCOUNTER: Discover the Truth – Face to Face!

Call 615-895-9830 or visit israelencountertour.com
This past summer ICEJ Arise was blessed to host 45 young adults representing five continents as they toured the land of Israel. The theme for the 2015 summer tour was ‘A leap of faith,’ and many participants testified that their being in Israel was literally that. This year ICEJ USA sent twelve enthusiastic Americans on the tour from Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, Colorado, Kansas, and California. All of the tour participants travelled some distance to come to Israel, with some journeying from as far as Australia and China, to experience what was to be an adventurous, and in many cases a life changing, tour. For over ten years the ICEJ young adults department has been organizing tours to Israel, and during such tours thousands of young adults have experienced the joy of connecting with the nation of Israel and learning what it means to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Outreach Projects
What makes the Arise Summer Tour different from other tours is the “hands-on” aspect as the tours incorporate outreach projects. The second day of the tour was the first project at a moshav (farming community) near Tiberias. Here the group had the chance to glean fields for the organization, Leket Israel, which provides food for the poor and underprivileged as commanded in Leviticus 23:22. The Leket staff told the group that they were one of the best volunteers they had the pleasure of meeting and that the Arise group broke a record and picked 2000 kilos of tomatoes in 90 minutes! Naturally the Leket staff asked if Arise could come again in the future as we were a happy and hard working group.

Our second project was in Bethlehem where Arise visited a local Arab church, the First Baptist Church of Bethlehem under the leadership of Pastor Khoury. He shared with the group the challenges they encounter but also the testimonies of how God is using FBC to minister to the people of Bethlehem. The group then went on to visit and play with children at various orphanages in Bethlehem. The orphans touched the hearts of the Arise group, and their stories, which were often too tragic to comprehend, brought many to tears.

Changed Lives
It is important to note that there are different reasons why young people come to Israel: for some it has always been a dream, for some it is an exciting summer vacation, and for others they come specifically for the educational experience. Whatever the reason the tour always leaves a positive impact. One 22 year old American theology student, Monika, found this out for herself and shared, “I initially came to Israel because my parents wanted me to go. I soon realized when I got here that God had a bigger plan for me on this trip; to bless me with new friendships, new understanding, and to encourage my giftings.” Heinrich from Australia came on the Arise tour as a gift for his 21st birthday. He said that his mother had visited Israel when she was the same age and told her happy memories to him hoping that he too would one day visit the land of the Bible. Heinrich now has wonderful memories of his own to share with family and friends.

Tour Highlights
Highlights of the tour included rafting down the Jordan River; baptisms; relaxing in the natural water springs of Gan HaShlosha; sunrise devotional at the top of Masada; floating in the Dead Sea; a night at a Bedouin tent in the desert; camel rides; the Mount of Olives, Western Wall and Tunnels in Jerusalem; and Yad Vashem. Special guest speaker and human rights expert Calev Meyers was also a favorite of the group as he spoke about the legal implications of Israel, the United Nations, and what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza.

We encourage you to take a leap of faith, come to the land of the Bible, and see for yourself the amazing things happening here! (☞)

Peter Ecenroad is the ICEJ US Arise Director.
Join us for 10 exciting days of exploring the land of the Bible and see where it all happened. Show God’s love for the people through practical outreach projects and experience firsthand what is happening in Israel today. Make new friends from all over the world as we pray, worship, learn, laugh and experience the Holy Land. Together let’s take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, visit Timna Park and see a replica of the Tabernacle, walk through the Old City of Jerusalem, take part in a Shabbat meal, be a helping hand through a social project, float in the Dead Sea, ride a camel and sleep in a bedouin tent in the desert, hike Masada before sunrise, relax on some of the most stunning beaches in Israel... and much more!

**Sea of Galilee**
- Mount of Beatitudes • Sea of Galilee
- Boat ride • Yardenit baptisms

**Eilat, Timna Park, Bedouin Camp**
- Replica of the Tabernacle • Arad
- Desert camel ride • Bedouin meal

**Jerusalem**
- Mount of Olives • Western Wall & Tunnels
- Garden of Gethsemane • Yad Vashem
- Garden Tomb • Friends of Zion Museum

**The Dead Sea & Masada**
- Float in the remarkable mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea • Sunrise hike at Masada

**Outreach Projects**
- We will engage in outreach projects to bless the people in this beautiful land

**21-31 July 2016**
www.icejusa.org/arise
Young Adults 18-30 yrs old
Tour Price $1250 (Excluding Flights)
NATION BUILDERS
The Contribution of Holocaust Survivors to the State of Israel

BY CARRIE BURNS, PHD
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS DEVELOPER AT ICEJ-USA

OUR GENERATION HAS THE PRIVILEGE of caring for and learning from the very oldest and last survivors of the Holocaust. Many survivors in Israel are frail, weak, poor, and alone. As a result of this final life-stage, coupled with the haunting photos of the Shoah, it is understandable to mistakenly regard survivors as always having been feeble and fragile victims.

The suffering of survivors is well documented. Though each endured their own particular ordeal, there are common threads to their stories: education cut-short, years of starvation, catastrophic loss of loved ones, forced to do the unimaginable, relentless terror, and helplessness to extreme cruelty and violence. Many were too exhausted and emotionally destroyed to go on. But not all...

Research shows that survivors who prevailed share similar character traits. Though they may bear a heavy burden of memories, loss, and stress-related disorders, they also show remarkable similarity in these specific traits: resiliency, adaptability, resourcefulness, initiative, and tenacity. These rare and valuable attributes are difficult to teach, but were precisely those most needed to build the new State of Israel.

With a cursory look at survivor biographies it quickly becomes apparent that survivors were builders of the fledgling nation of Israel and even leaders in their fields. Many survivors, who were recovering from illness and deprivation, found their way to Israel with unparalleled determination to start a new life.

As a little girl from Czechoslovakia, Hanna Bar Yesha was deported to Auschwitz with 70 members of her family. She survived the ordeal as well as a death march, and made her way to Israel in 1946. There she participated in the War of Independence. Hanna explains, “I had just turned 13. At that moment I decided to come to Israel, because I wanted to belong to someone, but also to belong to my nation.” Hanna later co-founded a Kibbutz, and became the principal of a secondary school.

At the age of 5, Aharon Barak, who was born in Lithuania, was sent to the ghetto with his family and other Jews. He miraculously survived the war, and afterward made an arduous journey to Israel through much of war-torn Europe. Finally in Israel, Barak studied law, became the Dean of Law at Hebrew University, and served for 28 years on the Supreme Court, 11 of which were as Chief Justice.

These are just a couple of examples out of many. According to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, “the struggle of the survivors to come to Israel, to rebuild their lives, and become active partners in the most important communal endeavor of the Jewish people in the 20th century, is a wondrous achievement that knows no equal in human history.”

In addition to establishing schools, Kibbutzim, synagogues, and building infrastructure, survivors helped build the nation in the following fields (this list is incomplete): Translation, Arts, Law, Media, Construction, Transportation, Education, Research, Agriculture, Defense, Engineering, Business, Finance, Writing, Journalism, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Shipping.

It appears that building the nation of Israel was good medicine for survivors. In a 2010 study, researchers found that “Holocaust survivors from countries other than Israel showed less well-being and social adaptation than did comparisons, but no difference was found between Israeli Holocaust survivors and Israeli comparisons.” In sum, the Holocaust survivors of Israel are normal people who survived the horrific, and who, in addition to the challenges of coping with trauma, not only built their own lives, but also the life of one of the most remarkable nations on earth.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY
Most Holocaust Survivors today were merely children or teenagers when they came out of the ashes of the Holocaust. Many, having lost their families and precious years that could have been spent in school, came to Israel, only to find their Jewish Homeland embattled in the struggle to survive. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem would like to pay tribute to four residents of the Haifa Home who contributed to building up the country of Israel.

What does it take to be a nation builder?

LOOK AHEAD, AND DON’T LOOK BACK

After the German “Blitzkrieg” of 1939, the situation for Polish Jews deteriorated drastically. Genia Schwartzbert was one of those that experienced it first-hand. Her father died in a concentration camp, and soon after her mother did as well, this time in a labor camp. Genia survived, and ten years after the victory of the allied forces, Genia left behind the horrors of her past and started a new life in the freshly born state of Israel. She married and had children, but disaster struck again. Her husband died when the children were still young. Raising and providing for three children all by herself was not easy, to say the least. Tragically, Genia’s horrors continued. Her eldest son died when he was barely 40 years old and later one of her grandsons died in one of Israel’s wars.

In light of all this grief and pain, Genia did not give way to bitterness and despair. She served the land of Israel faithfully, cultivating soil in one of Israel’s moshavim (similar to kibbutzim) for twenty years. Later she worked in a kitchen, feeding 150 needy children. This brave lady embodies the saying: “Learn from the past, but never live in it.”

BE COURAGEOUS

Before World War II broke out, driven by his Zionist ideals Benjamin Ginsberg joined a religious Jewish group called “Chabad Halutzim,” or “Pioneers.” These young men wanted to acquire agricultural knowledge for cultivating soil in their
long-awaited Jewish homeland. So they prepared themselves by working on farms across Europe. Joining the group was a very dangerous move, but Benjamin’s conviction that one day there would be a Jewish state, for which he wanted to be well prepared, gave him courage. As the war was inevitably approaching, he also connected with an underground movement that provided Jews with new IDs.

Benjamin survived the war while living in Holland. With the exception of Benjamin and his one sister, the whole Ginsberg family perished in the Holocaust. Every day in Holland Benjamin ran the risk of having his real identity revealed, but he was determined to persevere until he got an opportunity to board an illegal ship to the city of Haifa. Two years after his arrival, he had to face another war: Israel’s War of Independence in 1948. With great courage, he eventually made his dream of a Jewish Homeland become a reality.

HAVE VISION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Two of Chaya’s brothers died during the war. Her father returned from labor camps broken in spirit and sick. In 1948 Chaya’s family, originally from Yasi in Romania, made it to Israel on different boats and were reunited in Haifa. After having worked in the gardens of a kibbutz, while at the same time learning to be a dressmaker, she served in the army for two years. Later she fell in love and got married, but shortly after that the 1956 War broke out. Unfortunately, Chaya’s husband was drafted to the army and died at the young age of 46.

Next Chaya dedicated her life to the education of children in Israel, so that they would have greater opportunities in life than she ever did. She lavished them with love, so they could grow into strong people. Today, Chaya is still in touch with some of “her children,” who are now doctors, commanders, and police officers. Chaya married again, but when her new husband had a stroke shortly after their wedding, she dedicated her life to looking after him until he passed away 10 years later. “We were not strong, but we had to build a strong and safe nation for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren,” said Chaya with great faith.

STAY COMMITTED AND PASSIONATE

When Nachum arrived in Haifa at the age of 18, he had already lost his whole family. He worked very hard and lived sacrificially to save money so he could make his dream come true – to literally build the nation of Israel. Five years later, with some funds saved up, he took a preparation course to launch a construction company. Nachum became very successful, having constructed many schools, gas stations, and playgrounds around Israel.

His love for Israel and his generous heart were greatly displayed in 1965, when a hospital in Haifa desperately needed a heliport, but did not have the finances. Nachum called them and said, “I have the necessary materials, and I will build it free of charge.” Nachum ran his company until the age of 72. But today, at 80, he regrets having retired that early.

It is because of people like Genia, Benjamin, Chaya, and Nachum, and also thousands of other nation builders whose stories are mostly untold, that the children of Israel can live in a highly developed, secure, and democratic state today. We should never forget this, and at the same time, we have to express our gratitude.

You can help these heroes to live out their lives with dignity and in a loving environment by adopting a Holocaust Survivor.

Visit www.icejusa.org/adopt to learn more
SURrounded by thunderous applause and a rain of confetti, the winner of this year’s Beauty Pageant for Holocaust Survivors, Rita Berkowitz is the picture of happiness; with her arms wide open, she takes the moment in with a big smile. Still vivacious at 83, no one would have guessed that Berkowitz, now declared Beauty Queen, once had to hide from the SS soldiers under a bed at the home of her Christian neighbors.

You could say that the Beauty Pageant, hosted by the ICEJ-sponsored Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors, was first created for these types of elated moments. Now in its third year, the event gathered large crowds at the Haifa Garden Congress Hotel in November, including other Holocaust Survivors, their families, and even the local media.

A concept of Isabella Greensberg – a psychiatrist devoted to working with Holocaust Survivors in Haifa – this beauty pageant is as polarizing as it is emotional for everyone involved. Although deemed controversial by its detractors, the event is in its essence, a celebration of the undying nature of the human spirit.

Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Aid Director, shrugs at the opinions on the event’s divisiveness, “This evening is for the survivors. The 13 ladies, who took part in this year’s Pageant, were never spoiled; some of them had never even worn a dress! We’re here to celebrate their lives, to redeem their youth. It’s a fun, classy evening.”

The ICEJ’s Executive Director, Dr. Jürgen Bühler, was presented with an award for the ICEJ at the event: “Acting in accordance with Social Justice,” which reiterated the great purpose of this initiative. “There are millions of Christians around the world who want to make a difference in Israel today,” said Bühler. “When I was watching the Holocaust Survivors dancing tonight, I was reminded of what the prophet Isaiah said in chapter 61: ‘I came to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning.’ And that’s what we have seen tonight.”

With a glittering crown and a pageant sash across her chest, Rita Berkowitz addressed the audience: “I wish that we all come to know peace, and are given the opportunity to quietly live in our country. Never forget, even today, never forget the Shoah and what this older generation went through.”

Towards the end of the event, when asked for more comments, Berkowitz adjusts the flower bouquet in her arms and says with a smile, “We should do this every year.” ☺️
In a complex and dangerous world, there are few allies more important to the United States than Israel. The tiny Jewish State has an outsized impact in advancing America’s security, enriching its economy, and improving life for its people. In turn, America is Israel’s most critical ally on the face of the planet. Many wonder: how exactly do these two great allies work together?

To fight common threats like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and Iran, the US and Israel share intelligence and jointly develop military capabilities. For instance, America funded the creation of Israel’s remarkable Iron Dome defense system, which has knocked countless terrorist rockets right out of the sky. It will soon be used to guard American troops abroad.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter credits Israeli technology and innovation used in Iraq with saving U.S. soldiers’ lives. Our soldiers also routinely train together and our generals coordinate at the very highest strategic levels.

Israel and the US are also intimately tied economically. With a population of just 8 million – Israel is a vital research and development hub for American companies like Microsoft and Facebook. It has more foreign companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange than any other country besides China. Thirty years ago, Israel and the United States signed America’s first free trade agreement.

Israel and the USA also cooperate in scientifically vital research areas. From biotechnology, to clean energy, to healthcare, American and Israeli scientists are working together to improve all our lives. For example, Israel is home to the world’s largest and most advanced water desalination plant and has already pledged to use its technology and expertise to help California cope with its draught.

Perhaps most importantly, Israel and the United States share an unwavering commitment to the values of democracy and human rights, the rule of law, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly. The US-Israel friendship helps spread these values in an area of the world suffering from radicalism, fundamentalism, and discrimination.

When Israel declared independence in 1948, America was the first country in the world to formally recognize her. In the words of President Johnson, “America and Israel have a common love of human freedom and they have a common faith in a democratic way of life.”

While a recent policy dispute between the two governments over the Iran agreement created unavoidable tension, both governments have voiced hope in putting it in the past. Thanks to our shared values, the Israel-America friendship will continue to flourish and grow stronger in the years to come. ☺️
Join the growing number of Christians worldwide who are partnering with the ICEJ to help Israelis in need and who understand the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of the Jews to the land of their forefathers.

COVENANT PARTNER
Show your love and support for Israel by partnering with the ICEJ in ministry. Become a Covenant Partner at a giving level of at least $30 a month. Supporting Israel and the Jewish people through your Embassy in Jerusalem, will provide Christian love and comfort to His people. In return we would like to encourage you with the following ICEJ resources:

- A beautiful partnership certificate
- The Word from Jerusalem magazine
- Online access to free teaching from the ICEJ’s annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem
- A special year-end gift of appreciation

AMBASSADORIAL PARTNER
Partnership in ministry is a gift God gives to strengthen and undergird His work. Become an Ambassadorial Partner with the ICEJ with support at a giving level of at least $100 a month. Together, we will defend and support Israel and comfort His people. In return we would like to encourage you with the following ICEJ resources:

Everything in the Covenant Partnership level plus:

- Exclusive access to the ICEJ’s quarterly Mid-East Update conference call from Jerusalem
- An invitation to attend our annual ICEJ-USA Leadership Briefing

Be a part of that future generation spoken of in Psalm 102, and know that you are partnering with the Lord in His work to restore Zion, for the set time has come!

BUILDING OF ZION PARTNER
The Lord will call her walls Salvation and her gates Praise. As we walk together side by side, the ICEJ would be honored if you would become a Builder of Zion Partner at a giving level of $2,500 a year or more. Together, He is increasing our efforts to restore His people, and bless the nation of Israel. In appreciation, you will receive from the ICEJ the following resources:

Everything in the Ambassadorial Partnership level plus:

- Opportunities to meet with ICEJ leadership or receive personal briefings on ICEJ projects.
- An additional gift acknowledging you as a Builder of Zion Partner.

Send in your commitment for 2016 today to icejusa@icejusa.org or go to www.icejusa.org/partner or call us at (615) 895-9830. You will receive a beautiful partnership certificate.
Take a Trip to Israel. Make it a Priority This Year!

February 22 - March 2, 2016
Israel Encounter Pastors and Ministry Leaders Tour

April 4 - 13, 2016
Israel Encounter Pastors and Ministry Leaders Tour

May 1 - 10, 2016
Yad Vashem Christian Leadership Conference

July 21 - 31, 2016
Arise Young Adult Tour

October 13 - 24, 2016
Feast of Tabernacles Conference and Tour

January 17 - 27, 2017
Envision Pastors and Ministry Leaders Tour and Conference

www.icejusa.org/tours or email tours@icejusa.org