Dear Friends,

The recent conflict in Gaza revealed an alarming trend in the United States. While support for Israel is still very strong among older age groups, it is markedly lower among the 20-35 age group. This generational shift away from supporting Israel is troubling.

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem therefore invites you to join us in raising up a generation of young adults who are biblically grounded and connected to God’s plans and purposes for Israel and the world. Through an array of educational tools and life-changing tour opportunities, the ICEJ’s Arise program is giving young adults a heart for the people of Israel, inspiring them to greater depths of faith, grounding them with sound biblical teaching, and connecting them to a global movement of like-minded and motivated young adults.

We ask you to partner with us to impact thousands of America’s millennial generation with these programs. The future of the Evangelical movement in America depends on whether we pass on our faith and biblical foundation to the millennial generation or not. They are looking for roots and a faith that makes sense. Help us connect them to the biblical and Hebraic roots of Christianity, allow them to walk the land where it all happened, and to meet the God of the Bible in a new and life-changing way.

They are depending on us!

For Zion’s Sake,

Susan M. Michael
US Director, ICEJ

COVER PHOTO:
Arise Young Adult Tour to Israel.
For more information go to www.arisegeneration.com

FOR MAGAZINE ARCHIVES
visit www.icejusa.org/wfj
Next month we will focus on the plight of the Christians in the Middle East. We will also look at the surge of anti-Semitism and the increased Aliyah it is producing.

Learn more about our upcoming events at: www.icejusa.org
The Arise Generation Challenge
Today’s young adults have access to more knowledge and information than any other generation in human history. Yet, they do not have the maturity and wisdom to know how to apply this knowledge to their lives. We are sending them into the world unprepared to face a barrage of lies and deception that no other young generation has had to confront before.

They are moved by the plight of the hurting and oppressed. So, anti-Semitic messaging that paints Israel as the oppressor deeply affects them. Studies reveal that many evangelical young adults are taking up the cause of the “oppressed” Palestinian people without the historical and biblical background with which to rightly judge the situation.

Meanwhile, their own evangelical faith is attacked as being bigoted and anti-intellectual, while their Bible is mocked as legalistic. The results are devastating in that some 60% leave their faith and take up positions to distance themselves from these negative stereotypes. One such position is being anti-Israel.

At ICEJ Arise, we are entering the midst of this battlefield not just armed with biblical truth about Israel, but an experience that will ignite faith, change lives, and impact the future. Experiencing the Bible in its historical and cultural context, seeing prophecy fulfilled in the modern restoration of the Jewish people to the land promised to Abraham some 4,000 years ago, and fellowshipping with like-minded young adults from around the world is life-changing.

If we want to see this change, we need to make it happen. We must step up to the plate and provide young people with this life-changing experience.

The information junkie generation needs guidance and they are screaming for it with silent voices. We must become their guide or the world will. They are depending on us!

The Mission

The mission of the ICEJ’s Arise program is to reach and influence Christian young adults, giving them a heart for the people of Israel, inspiring them to greater depths of faith, grounding them with sound biblical teaching, and connecting them to a global movement of like-minded and motivated young people.

Please support Arise at www.icejusa.org/arise
The Arise Tour Experience

Specialized tours to Israel connect young adults ages 17-30 to the land and people of the Bible. The millennial generation is seeking roots and connectedness. These tours are designed to ignite their faith; and connect them with the God of the Bible, and His plans and purposes for Israel and the world. All Arise tours include age appropriate activities as well as educational content for a mix of fun, learning, prayer, worship, and ministry.

HANDS ON MISSION TOUR

Demonstrate God’s love for the people through practical outreach projects and experience first-hand what God is doing in Israel today. Participants will find new friends from all over the world with whom to pray, worship, learn, and laugh.

Connected! Tours NEW

Join fellow American young adults on tours to Israel throughout the year, particularly during summer and winter school breaks. These tours are designed for church groups and/or university groups and include online pre-tour and follow-up educational requirements. Unique programs that are educational, inspirational, and fun, studying not just the places but hearing from the people, meeting leaders as well as everyday people, and applying lessons learned along the way to one’s own life. The goal is a trip so impacting that lives are transformed.
The US Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem invites you to impact tomorrow’s Christian leaders in the United States. Your prayers and financial support will enable the ICEJ to:

- Take young adults to Israel on a tour designed to deepen their faith, and connect them to the Hebraic roots of Christianity, while building a deep appreciation for the State of Israel and a sense of biblical responsibility to the Jewish people.

- Build an ongoing educational program that includes pre-tour and follow-up programs to deepen their understanding, enhance their experience in Israel, and equip them to combat anti-Semitism.

- Mobilize pastors and leaders to use these resources to build their own tour program for the young adults in their congregations and schools.

To donate go to www.icejusa.org/arise
In July, a group of 40 young Christians showed great courage and character by visiting Israel during a time of conflict as part of the ICEJ Arise summer tour. Despite seeing rockets flying into Israel from Gaza on the television news, the participants trusted in God for their safety, and it proved to be an amazing testimony to all they encountered.

For over ten years, the ICEJ’s Arise young adults program has brought hundreds of young Christians on tours to Israel to help them discover their biblical roots and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. This year was no exception, as the 40 participants from eleven countries made their way to Israel to participate in the 2014 Arise Summer Tour.

The group consisted of an interesting mix of young adults from various cultural, ethnic, social and professional backgrounds, ranging from students to teachers, relief work volunteers, youth pastors and doctoral candidates in robotic research. But, they had one thing in common in that all were thirsty for more of Jesus.

The ten-day tour offered a life-changing experience, as they journeyed throughout the Holy Land. The itinerary featured such cherished biblical sites as the Mount of Beatitudes, Mt. Tabor, a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and a trek up Mt. Arbel with its commanding view of the Migdal valley where Jesus often ministered. This was followed by several days of touring in the City of the Great King, Jerusalem, including visits to the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Garden Tomb, as well as prayers at the Western Wall and...
solemn reflections at Yad Vashem.

One of the Jerusalem highlights was the half-hour hike through Hezekiah’s tunnel, an underground passageway and stream built by the ancient Israelite king some 2700 years ago as a way to provide water for the city during the Assyrian siege. It starts at the historic City of David and ends near the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus healed a blind man.

Other memorable stops included floating on the Dead Sea, an overnight stay at a Bedouin tent in the Negev desert, camel riding, and a sunrise hike up to the famous mountain fortress Masada.

All the while, the group also took part in daily devotions, and praise and worship sessions, which made the trip truly unforgettable.

The final days were spent in Tel Aviv to see the old port of Jaffa, linked to the prophet Jonah and the Apostle Peter’s vision, and to enjoy shopping and some beach time.

Apart from visiting biblical sites, the tour also included several hands-on service projects, since the Bible teaches us that faith without works is dead. One project was a visit to an IDF base where we spent time with soldiers, encouraging them during a time of war. The group was given a short history of the IDF, played a game of football with soldiers, and planted olive trees with them as a symbol of peace.

Speaking to his disciples on the Mount of Olives, Jesus told them not to be troubled by wars and rumours of war, and this was surely a message the participants took to heart. Despite pressure from family and friends to postpone their visit to Israel due to the hostilities in Gaza, they still decided to come. The fact that they fully trusted God to look after them produced a real sense of His presence throughout the tour.

Prior to the trip the Arise team prayed that God would shelter the group from harm, and He surely heard our prayers. We were protected throughout by both rocket alarms and the Iron Dome missile shield. We only saw some indirect effects of the conflict, such as seeing some popular spots less crowded than usual.

While visiting the Old City of Jerusalem, several souvenir shop owners commented on the smaller number of visitors, which has been hurting their businesses. In Tel Aviv, a local named Tamar noted that she had never seen the beaches so empty in mid-summer.

Despite the rocket threat from Gaza, the Arise group was never hindered from taking in the whole land.

Paul and Jessica Parkhouse, Arise directors for the UK, said the rocket threat was in the back of their minds, but they were never afraid. Instead, all they saw were Frisbees and paddle balls in the air on the beaches of Tel Aviv.

Michael Horn from Germany, a first time visitor to Israel, came because it was the dream of his wife Rebecca. "We had a lot of fun here," he stated.

Kevin, 26 and from Canada, agreed that the Arise summer tour was a great experience.

"There were a lot of 'best moments' during the tour," he noted. "Mt Arbel was one of the highlights for me, while the most spiritual part was the night we spent in the Bedouin tent."

Kevin added that the Arise team did more than just organize the tour, but their leadership style really spoke into people's lives.

Several other Canadians were on the tour, thanks to scholarships provided by ICEJ-Canada. One was 21 year-old Verone Rodrigues, from Toronto. He recounted how he fell to his knees and thanked God the moment he found out that he could go.

"It's not every day that a person from my community gets this sort of chance to travel, and not just to any place but to Israel," he explained. "I couldn't be more grateful ... I am excited to go back and spread the good news about this amazing land."

"Interestingly enough, there was no fear within me to come, because I know that wherever God's will for me is, that's where I need to be, and wherever that is, there is safety," Verone added. "So don't let anything stop you from coming to Israel!"

"If you have an opportunity to visit Israel, you have to go," concurred Natalie, 23 and from South Africa. "God speaks to people when they are here... Israel is the most special place in the world. It's God's place! He chose Jerusalem."

On the last evening of the tour, the group met with Porit Avigdori of Tailor Made Tours, the travel company which arranged the tour package for Arise. She said all the hotel managers where they stayed were contacting her to only rave about the group.

"This group has been absolutely amazing," assured Porit. "You came to Israel during the worst time possible, and it was very encouraging to everyone you encountered."

For more information on tours to Israel for young adults, please www.arisegeneration.org/tours
Amid mounting criticism of Israel during the recent Gaza conflict, the ICEJ and its international branches were able to muster public support for Israel at rallies held around the world. When reports and pictures from these rallies started to come in, the Israeli media picked up on the story, providing welcome news from far off countries at a time when other global protests seethed with hatred for Israel and the Jewish people. Indeed, news of Christians standing up for them was like 'cool water to a weary soul.'
When Will Hamas Learn
Terrorism Doesn’t Pay?

The 25 mile strip of land, in-between the Mediterranean Sea and Israel’s southwest border, known as the Gaza Strip, has been home to over ten thousand rockets launched at Israel since 2006 and in return has suffered billions of dollars in damage. As a result of the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords, the territory was designated to be a part of a Palestinian State under the same Palestinian Authority (PA) that governs the West Bank. Hamas, however, won local elections in 2006 and subsequently kicked the PA out of Gaza in 2007. They have been ruling the area since.

Who is Hamas?
Hamas is a jihadist, Muslim Brotherhood organization that is labeled a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Japan, and Egypt. Their charter calls for the destruction of Israel and their spokespersons and clerics regularly espouse their commitment to this goal.

The primary reason that Hamas rules Gaza is not to provide a better life for its inhabitants, but to have a base from which they can build the military capability to destroy Israel. If their intentions were otherwise, Hamas would have used the $100 million worth of cement and construction materials they received to build much needed housing for its ballooning population. Instead, Hamas chose to build an underground network of tunnels designed to deliver hundreds of terrorists inside Israel. Some of the tunnels were large enough for trucks to drive through, and many were equipped with supplies for sedating and transporting kidnapped Israelis.
In fact, a major terrorist attack was being planned for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, on September 25th. If Israel had not entered Gaza and discovered these plans, over 200 terrorists would have snuck into Israel through the tunnels intent on killing thousands of Israeli civilians and kidnapping others.

Hamas also demonstrated callous disregard for their own people, allowing some 160 children who had been used for child-labor to die while building the tunnels and by executing some 17 men who had overseen the building of the tunnels so they could not provide intelligence to Israel. Life has little meaning to Hamas fighters who glorify death in the cause of Jihad.

Complicity of the UN
With inhabitants numbering around 1.82 million people, Gaza is an overcrowded area with one of the highest population growth rates in the world. Most of the inhabitants are considered refugees by the UN who provides them with schools, sustenance, hospitals and the like. Hamas does provide some social services, but the presence of the UN relieves Hamas of much of the burden.

Unfortunately, the UN also perpetuates the sorry state of affairs in Gaza. First, they refuse to treat Palestinian refugees like all other refugees, and provide for their resettlement, thereby keeping Palestinian refugees in an ongoing state of limbo. In addition, Palestinian refugees are the only refugee group whose children and grandchildren are also awarded refugee status. So, while there are only 30,000 original refugees from 1948 alive today, the UN is caring for some 5 million Palestinians, keeping many in “refugee camps” rather than providing for their absorption into host countries.

Also, the UN in Gaza cooperates so fully with the Hamas government that at times the lines are blurred between the two. For example, the UN Development Program office in Gaza allowed “non-UN employees,” without any paper trail, to oversee the procurement and use of the concrete that was then used to build Hamas tunnels. When rockets were found in UN schools they were conveniently turned back over to Hamas, and the UN published as fact the civilian casualty figures provided by Hamas.

Not only did Hamas control reports of civilian casualties, they controlled the foreign press itself! Now that journalists are safely outside of Gaza, some are complaining that Hamas threatened and prevented them from giving an objective report on the ground. So, they are putting footage on YouTube that proves Hamas fired rockets next to hotels and UN buildings, and that Hamas operatives wore regular street clothing so their casualties were counted as civilian.

The UN has never explicitly denounced Hamas by name for any of this.

Israel’s Military Operation
Hamas was behind the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teens in June, and then launched some 200 missiles aimed at Israeli population centers, causing Israel to take military action to stop the rockets, destroy the tunnels, and restore calm. Over the course of the month-long operation Hamas fired over 3,000 rockets at Israel endangering the lives of 6 million civilians.

Israel uncovered over 30 tunnels and destroyed about half of Hamas’ missile stockpiles which were found in homes, mosques and schools. Hamas alleges that out of the 1,800 people killed over 70% of them were civilians, but Israel says that some 900 combatants were killed while firing on Israeli troops in Gaza.

During Operation Protective Edge, Israel repeatedly stated that the people of Gaza were not their enemy. They went out of their way to warn the inhabitants of buildings and neighborhoods with leaflets, text messages, telephone calls, and a “knock” on the building with an empty shell before they would fire at a target. Many missions were also aborted because civilians were seen in the vicinity.

The truth is, had Israel not gone to such lengths to save the lives of civilians, urban warfare in a city as densely populated as Gaza City would have resulted in tens of thousands of deaths. Nevertheless, the images of dead children broadcast on both TV and social media drowned out any attempts by the spokespersons of the Israeli government to explain their regard for civilian lives.

Everyone involved has paid a hefty price because of the terrorist regime ruling Gaza. While Hamas suffered a military defeat, the people of Gaza lost homes, businesses, and a future; and Israel’s reputation suffered greatly in the public arena of images vs words. Unless the West places conditions on their funding--conditions like the demilitarization of Gaza, an end of Hamas rule, and education to prepare the people for peaceful coexistence with Israel—it will happen all over again.

Susan Michael is US Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem
When Hamas recently launched its third rocket war against Israel in the past six years, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem sprang into action over the ensuing weeks to assist the weaker segments of society in the hard-hit areas of southern Israel.

Thanks to the success of the Iron Dome in protecting Israel's major cities, the most vulnerable communities remained those in the vicinity of Gaza, where residents have only seconds to find shelter. The people there have been suffering under repeated bombardment for nearly 15 years now, with the younger generation really knowing no other way of life than daily 'Code Red' warning sirens.

**Break from the Battle**

Over the recent summer months, the ICEJ has sponsored multiple day outings and weekend respite for hundreds of poor families, children, the elderly, and the disabled from the western Negev area. Nearly every day, buses have been taking scores of people to safer areas of Israel - such as the Golan, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea - for a much-needed break from the conflict. The ICEJ’s Czech branch also joined the effort by sponsoring 45 children from Ashdod and Sderot to summer camps outside Prague. Additionally, the ICEJ sponsored a fun summer camp for 130 Arab children from a Bedouin village in the Negev battered by rocket volleys.

**Shelters from the Storm**

Over recent weeks, the ICEJ also has delivered nine life-saving portable bomb shelters to communities along the Gaza border. The Lifeshield bomb shelters have gone to schools, kindergartens, youth centers, medical clinics and community centers that previously would have closed in times of crisis unless they had shelters. One shelter went to a Bedouin village near Beersheva which has also fallen victim to Hamas rocket attacks this summer, marking the first time a Bedouin town in the Negev had a bomb shelter.

**Relief for Local Residents**

In addition, the ICEJ has funded emergency relief services for needy families and the elderly in the embattled town of Sderot. This assistance has included food for families, plus games and toys for children stuck inside at the height of summer. The donations also have covered emergency help to repair damaged homes, transport to buy medications, and other special needs for the elderly.

Thanks to the generosity of Christians worldwide, the ICEJ has been bringing timely and tangible relief to Israelis under fire. These humanitarian relief efforts quickly caught the attention of the Israeli media as well. Some 24 reports and interviews appeared in Israeli television, newspaper, radio, and Web-based news outlets about what the ICEJ was doing to help during this time of crisis. This included:

**TV:** Channel 1 (4 reports), Channel 2, Channel 33-IBA News, Arutz 20-Moreshet, and I-24

**Print:** Israel Hayom (3 reports), Yediot Aharonot, Ma’ariv, The Marker

**Radio:** Reshet Bet (5 reports), Gal Galatz (Army Radio), Radio Darom, Radio Lelo Hafsaka, 103 FM

**Web news sites:** Mako, Arutz 7, Mynet

Our own report follows on some of the specific relief projects undertaken by the Christian Embassy during the conflict.
Breaks from the Battle

ICEJ takes Israeli families away from the front lines

-by Birte Scholz

During the recent conflict with Hamas in Gaza, the ICEJ sponsored numerous day outings and weekend respites for needy families from Israeli communities in the South to enjoy a few days of respite in quieter parts of the country. Some 500 Israelis from Sderot, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and other vulnerable areas benefited from these breaks away from the front lines of battle.

Disabled visit Jerusalem

One of the first groups to enjoy a break consisted of 35 families with disabled adults who are assisted by a care center in Sedot HaNegev near Gaza, where the warning time for incoming rockets is a mere 10-to-15 seconds. Because the center has only one bomb shelter that holds just ten people, they have several dozen regular patients who have had to stay home during the conflict. Many of the family homes also lack shelters, and they are not able to reach any nearby ones in time due to their handicaps. So the families have been living in constant fear all summer.

But, during a visit to Jerusalem sponsored by the ICEJ, we found the families smiling and in good spirits. Looking over the Old City of Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade, they described their lives under fire and如何Interop.Working with loved ones with severe mental, physical and emotional disabilities.

Kobi Bublich, a 47-year old handicapped man, came with his father and mother from Moshav Shuva, which is only three kilometers from Gaza.

"We don’t have a safe room in our house and with Kobi we cannot move fast," said his mother. "When the ‘Code Red’ alarm sounds we just stay in our home and pray the whole day. Sometimes at night he is fast asleep when the alarm sounds, and I throw myself over him to protect him. The situation is very hard, and I am tensed up and stressed the whole day."

In the last rocket war in 2012, Kobi’s father once picked him up on his back and ran towards a shelter during an alert. But the father tore ligaments in both shoulders and now cannot work.

Still, the family was glad to be away from the conflict for a day.

"Thank you so much for this visit to Jerusalem," smiled Kobi's mom. "We love this day so much."

Respites in the North

A number of Negev families enjoyed longer respites in the Galilee and Golan, and were elated to finally find some peace and quiet.

Hiking on a nature trail and swimming in an ancient spring, Chana, a mother from Ashdod, said her five children were thrilled to be outside and playing without fear at last.

"It is a lot better here," added one young man. "We can disconnect for a while from the missiles and all the bad things going on down there."

We interviewed another group of families from Sderot, closer to Gaza, who were enjoying a respite in the Upper Galilee. One mother said it was just “marvelous” to be free of the stressful rocket alarms for a few days.

For years, residents of the Sderot area have suffered from the incessant rocket strikes and the frightening alarms. But now there is the new threat of terror tunnels. Children are having nightmares about terrorists digging tunnels under their homes and suddenly coming up under their beds.

"It is as if you live in a battlefield," said one worried mother. "You cannot live in this high tension constantly without a break."

Meanwhile, on the waterfront in Tiberias, we interviewed families from Ashkelon with disabled children enjoying a respite courtesy of the ICEJ. Madeleine, whose son Netanel has developed severe behavioral problems, said it was good to see him finally talking and laughing again.

"For years we have not had a chance to get out with him. He sits frozen whenever he hears the siren and gets angry about having to leave the house to find shelter. In his mind, it is his only safe place," she explained. "Therefore, I am so glad he is enjoying our vacation here in Tiberias. He is so happy to go for a walk and see people."

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR AID PROJECTS IN ISRAEL BY GIVING TO ICEJ AID. DONATE TODAY AT www.icejusa.org/aid
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM
INVITES PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS
TO JOIN MINISTERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE FOR

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Come to Jerusalem and receive fresh vision for your
lives and ministries at the start of the new year.

Enjoy the teachings and ministry of ICEJ Directors,
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Learn about the enduring relationship between the
Church and Israel in God’s redemptive plan, and how
they interplay in our world today.

VIP visits to Yad Vashem, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
and the Knesset.

http://envision.icej.org
Call John Small at 888.772.7732 x738 or email churches@icejusa.org
“The Envision conference exceeded my expectations,” assured Juan Estrada, an assistant pastor and businessman from Huntsville, Alabama. “The information we received through the Knesset meetings, and the insights we were given at the meeting with the Chief Rabbi of Israel, it was a whole new perspective for me.” “I enjoyed seeing Bible prophecies being fulfilled in this land,” he continued. “The reality of it is astounding. And hearing both Jewish and Arab speakers who follow Jesus was like a little glimpse into the Millennial Kingdom.”

“The name ‘Envision’ spoke to me, as I wanted a fresh vision,” said Roswitha Vidal-Nutz, leader of a women’s intercessory ministry in the Black Forest area of Germany. “The presence of God was incredible, and I appreciate the connections I could make at this event. I also love the work of ICEJ. The puzzle is coming together for me, as I see the Church and Israel brought together in Scripture. This is something I want to bring back to Germany with me.”

“Israel is very special to me,” noted Thierry Murenzi, whose ministry has a special outreach to orphans in Rwanda. “I pray a lot for this land and these people. We need a new revival and I know it will be connected with Israel. We experience tremendous blessing in our work, I believe, because we bless Israel.”

“I’ve always been interested in Israel and I was looking to learn more from the spiritual perspective on Israel and the truth about the nation,” shared Dagfinn Joar Lundsrud, a Bible teacher in Pentecostal churches across Norway. “The facts presented here were exactly what I wanted out of this, and I’m deeply touched hearing the diverse speakers at this conference.”

Another first time visitor to Israel was Pastor N. Jhansi from Hyderabad, India, who ministers with her husband among the untouchables. She found out about the conference from the ICEJ website and decided to make her first trip to the Land of the Bible. “I really enjoyed the spiritual content of the messages a lot,” she said. “It really touched my heart and I’m excited to teach our people in India about God’s plans for Israel today.”

John Howard, Chairman of the Board of a large church in Atlanta, GA attended with his wife, Sally, who has taught “through-the-Bible” classes for 30 years. Sally said, “Arriving discouraged over the deteriorating spiritual condition of Christianity in the USA, we were quickly revived by this fantastic ICEJ seminar, fellowshipping with like-minded Christians from around the world and hearing that God is indeed on the move in many places, even the darkest and most difficult ones. After the inspiring praise and worship and excellent messages from ICEJ staff and Christian ministers from various places in Israel and around the globe, we returned home excited. We were eager to share this good news among discouraged Christians that even in the darkest of times, the LORD God never forsakes us and is at work redeeming His world in unique, surprising, transforming ways – just as He said! Thank you, ICEJ ENVISION 2014! We will be back in 2015!”

envision.icej.org • call John Small at 888.772.7732 x738 or email churches@icejusa.org
The Privilege of Partnering with God

God in His sovereignty has chosen to partner with man in the execution of His will. What a humbling and convicting thought that is! He is certainly not limited by man, and can execute His will on His own, yet, He has elected to work through and in partnership with us.

C.S. Lewis once wrote concerning this partnership with God: “For He seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures. He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what He could do perfectly and in the twinkling of an eye.”

This helps to explain why God formed and chose the nation of Israel to partner with Him in His plan of world redemption. The Church was then birthed and commissioned to go to all the peoples of the world to deliver, in the power of His Spirit, the good news of this great redemption that had been bought on their behalf. What a privilege to be part of this magnificent plan.

But, Christians are also invited to partner with the Jewish people and help them. As the Hebrew prophets foretold, God has regathered His people back to their ancient homeland. As a result, they have found themselves on the front lines of a physical battle to destroy them, and of a spiritual battle that the Church needs to wage on their behalf.

Partnering in Prayer

Isaiah 62 is clear that this battle is the Lord’s and He will surely complete what He has begun. Nevertheless, He has placed watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem to intercede continually before Him. Nowhere in scripture does one find a better example of partnering with God in prayer than Isaiah’s description of watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem.

“I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth” (Isaiah 62:6-7). God will complete His work but we are given the responsibility of praying it through!

Comforting whom He is Comforting

God is also seeking those He can use to comfort His people, Israel. Only when one learns that for centuries Christians despised and persecuted the Jewish people, does one understand the importance of the ministry of Christian comfort to them.

In Isaiah 66:13 the Lord says He will comfort Jerusalem, “As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you.” In chapter 40 He calls others to partner with Him: “‘Comfort, yes, comfort My people!’ Says your God. ‘Speak comfort to Jerusalem’” (Isaiah 40:1-2). The Bible tells of other ways Christians can partner with the Lord on behalf of His people.

Blessing whom He is Blessing

A familiar passage to many is Genesis 12, in which God promises Abraham that He will bless him, and will bless anyone else who blesses him. Likewise, those who curse Abraham would be cursed. Unfortunately, this verse is often quoted so glibly it sounds as though the emphasis is on the return blessing for the one who blesses.

Instead, the point is that God Himself was blessing Abraham, therefore, a person’s participation in this blessing demonstrated they were siding with God’s choice of Abraham and His plan of world redemption. To oppose, or curse, Abraham was to oppose God Himself. All mankind is invited to partner with God by blessing the descendants of Abraham and God’s plan to use them to “bless all the families of the earth” (verse 3).

Providing Practical Assistance

God is also inviting Christians to provide practical assistance to the people of Israel. The scriptures indicate that gentiles will help in the regathering of His people to their homeland (Isaiah 49:22), will join in building up Zion (Isaiah 60:10), and will bring the wealth of the nations to His people (Isaiah 60:11).

The scriptures could not be clearer: God is seeking a people who will partner with Him in prayer, interceding that His purposes in Israel and the earth be fulfilled. He is also beckoning those who will comfort His people Israel, bless them, and practically assist them. What a privilege to be partnering with God.

Susan Michael is US Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

HOW YOU AND YOUR CHURCH CAN BLESS ISRAEL THROUGH THE
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

- Join the Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Movement and receive monthly prayer points from Jerusalem!
  www.icejusa.org/Isaiah62_pledge

- Utilize the ICEJ’s educational resources such as our small group study curriculum or hosting an ICEJ speaker or seminar.

- Financially bless Israel by supporting ICEJ projects such as:
  • Humanitarian AID
  • Aliyah (return of the Jewish people to their homeland)
  • Assistance for Holocaust Survivors

- Bring your church tour group to the annual Feast of Tabernacles Celebration or visit the ICEJ headquarters in Jerusalem.

For more information on any of the above please go to www.icejusa.org or email icejusa@icejusa.org. The US Branch of the ICEJ is here to help you at (615) 895-9830.
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