Dear Friends,

One of the most dangerous places to live today as a Christian is in Syria. Just a few hundred kilometers away from where we sit in Jerusalem, the ancient Christian community there is under immense threat from both forces loyal to the Assad regime and militant Islamic rebels. It is hard to say yet how many of the over 115,000 causalities of this conflict are Christians. But a pastor from Lebanon recently confided in me: “It is worse than everything you see on television from the region.”

Today, Syria and its beleaguered Christian community need more prayer than ever before. But also we need to come to their practical aid like never before. I was blessed when, during the Feast, a special offering was taken for the Syrian church and we were able to collect over US$ 50,000. Please prayerfully consider what you too can do to stand with these struggling believers.

As you will read in this issue of the Word From Jerusalem, we just had a very blessed Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. In spite of the Syrian crisis and the threat of imminent war in the region, thousands of pilgrims arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate Sukkot. God touched many people in many ways. One daughter of a 90 year-old Holocaust survivor told us: “Coming to the Israeli Guest Night was such an emotional experience. I never knew that there are Christians who love us.”

This is the reason why the ICEJ exists. Israel needs to know that she is not alone.

Enjoy the magazine!

And may the Lord bless you richly out of Zion!

Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

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**LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**

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**WORD FROM JERUSALEM**

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**COVER PHOTO:**

Highlights from this years 2013 Feast of Tabernacles celebrated in Jerusalem, Israel.

For Magazine Archives
visit www.icejusa.org/wfj
CONTENTS

A TIME OF ‘FEASTING’ IN JERUSALEM
BY DAVID PARSONS & AARON HECHT

GIVING HOPE TO SYRIA’S EMBATTLED CHRISTIANS

THE PROPHETIC RETURN OF THE BNEI MENASHE

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT ISRAEL?

COMING UP IN DECEMBER’S WORD FROM JERUSALEM

Year in Review
We will have a full report on the work of the ICEJ from 2013. From our AID projects to our Aliyah initiatives, you will be encouraged to read about our end of the year report.

To learn more about the upcoming 2014 Feast of Tabernacles visit: http://feast.icej.org/
FOR CHRISTIANS attending the ICEJ’s Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem in late September, there was so much to truly ‘feast’ upon in terms of spiritual nourishment and blessing.

There was the rich presence of the Lord in the dynamic worship experience. The truth of God’s word was proclaimed with power by seasoned ministers of the Gospel. Special times were set aside for effectual prayer and healing ministry. And those who came to stand in solidarity with Israel were able to have a real impact on the Jewish people, while not forgetting about the beleaguered populations in the surrounding Arab nations.

Feast 2013 was convened under the biblical theme of ‘Harvest’, with a number of notable ministers and evangelists giving strong emphasis to world missions and the times we live in today. Many laid stress on the correlation between revival among the nations and the promised redemption of Israel. Among this year’s Feast speakers were Angus Buchan, Billy Wilson, Daniel Kolenda, Suzette Hattingh and Paul Enenche, who ministered alongside leading ICEJ figures like Jürgen Bühler, Juha Ketola, Mosy Madugba and Malcolm Hedding.

The Feast kicked off with the festive desert meal and celebration at the scenic Ein Gedi oasis along the shores of the Dead Sea. Listening to pilgrims from some 80 countries waiting in the entry line, it was clear they had a great passion for Zion and a huge burden for their churches back home to connect with God’s purposes for Israel today.

“We came to support, embrace and love the people of Israel”, said Raymond from the Gold Coast of Australia. “Support for Israel is getting more and more accepted in our
area, as churches look at the Bible from a Jewish point of view.”

Edward from Botswana was attending the Feast to be spiritually enriched and to assure the Israeli people, “You are not alone!”

Making his 53rd trip to Israel, Chris Tong from Hong Kong was adamant, “We love the Jewish people. We wish that in Israel there will be peace forever.”

“We love Israel! We don’t care what the media says”, insisted Pastor Huberto, a leader of 93 pilgrims from Bolivia. “We know that our Messiah is from here and we know that Israel is a blessed country, so we come here to bless Israel.”

The message of solidarity with Israel was also brought by 25 Christian members of parliaments from 17 nations who are affiliated with the International Israel Allies Foundation. These Christian lawmakers came to Jerusalem to attend the Feast and to participate in the annual “Chairmen’s Conference” of pro-Israel caucuses in legislatures worldwide, co-sponsored by the ICEJ and the World Jewish Congress.

Amb. Ron Lauder, the president of World Jewish Congress, was also on hand to deliver what has to be considered a landmark in Jewish-Christian relations. Lauder is the most prominent Jewish Diaspora leader today, and decided to come to the Feast to express his gratitude for decades of Evangelical support of Israel. His open embrace of pro-Israel Christians at the premier global gathering of Christian Zionists was certainly an historic moment (See his speech on pages 8-9).

As the conference progressed, there were many exciting reports of how God was moving in our midst. In line with our Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Campaign, a greater emphasis on corporate prayer was built into the Feast this year, with special times set aside for morning and evening prayers, and many Feast speakers spent much of their sessions praying and ministering to the people.

In addition, we ended this year’s Sukkot gathering with a four-hour Prayer Vigil in which the Lord moved mightily by His Spirit. Respected ministers from around the world led us in prayer for Israel, the

RABBI BENNY ELON introduces Christian parliamentarians at the Feast

Arab world, and all the nations of the earth. Many pilgrims said the concluding Prayer Vigil was the highlight of the Feast for them.

Feast pilgrims used all these prayer sessions to draw closer to Jesus and be refreshed in Him. We also offered up prevailing prayers for Israel and the region, which had come so close to war in recent weeks.

By the leading of the Holy Spirit, there was a real emphasis this year on praying for the youth. It began at the Ein Gedi celebration when Suzette Hattingh ended her time of ministry by calling up all the young people for prayer. This burden of prayer for the youth continued throughout the Feast.

For the first time, we also held a special youth program for teenagers at the Feast and the impact on these young lives was dramatic. Parents of these teens were amazed at the way their children were suddenly showing them respect like never before. Many younger Feast pilgrims testified that God spoke sovereignty into their lives with words of direction and encouragement.

We also experienced many healings at the Feast, as we prayed for the sick and those in need. One woman was healed of cancer. Another woman had a broken shoulder that instantly was mended. And at the Prayer Vigil on the final day, several pilgrims with hearing difficulties were touched by the Lord – some hearing clearly for the first time in 40 or 50 years.

Finally, we were challenged by the Holy Spirit to believe for increased harvest in our nations. This will require more prayer in the days ahead, as we submit ourselves to be effective laborers in the harvest.

The Feast was broadcast live this year to millions of homes around the globe by GOD TV and the Norwegian Christian channel Visjon Norge, as well as via live streaming over the Internet. Many wrote in to tell us they were inspired by the anointed worship and preaching. We are trusting that many of these Christians blessed by the Feast will now make a decision to come taste the real thing in Jerusalem at Feast 2014.

The Feast also impacted many Israelis who came to Israeli Guest Night or watched our national delegations in the Jerusalem March. One prominent columnist for a leading religious Zionist weekly journal came on Opening Night and wrote this in response:

“...[T]he greatest cynic would find it hard to remain unmoved by the spectacle: thousands of people from dozens of countries around the globe, full of love for the Jews and for the State of Israel... As a kippa-wearing Jew, I was showered with attention... Even so, let no one be deceived: that man’s name [Jesus] was raised high and was the main theme of the evening. Verses from John and Matthew rolled around the air, but also many verses from the familiar Old Testament... It was difficult for me to hear the New Testament being read out loud, but maybe this is also one of the mental switches we must make — the Evangelical faction in Christianity loves us, and it doesn’t really care that we haven’t decided yet whether to respond to it or not.” ☺
Opening Night at The Feast of Tabernacles at the Ein Gedi Spa with a festive meal and evening celebration under the stars and palm trees along the shores of the Dead Sea.

ICEJ Executive Director
Dr. Jürgen Bühler teaching about Harvest

Angus Buchan encourages Feast pilgrims to put Jesus first in their lives.

Israel Minister of Tourism
Uzi Landau greeting Feast pilgrims

The Parade of Nations gather on stage during a joyful procession.

We can change the world.
The Feast worship team leading the people in songs of celebration

Suzette Hattingh leading a morning prayer session

Billy Wilson speaks about Reaping of the Harvest

The Garden Tomb
Communion Service was held again this year in the beautiful and quiet setting of the Garden Tomb, located just north of Jerusalem’s Damascus Gate

Donating an ambulance to Magen David Adom

Peter Tsukahira
The Landmark Lauder Speech

BY DAVID PARSONS

Ron Lauder, the most prominent Jewish Diaspora leader in our day, chose the Feast gathering to come thank Christians for supporting Israel.
As president of the World Jewish Congress, the one organization that represents all of the Jewish communities around the world, I cannot think of a more important place to be right now than in this room with you. A very smart rabbi once told me that Jews are very good at many things but unfortunately, we are not always good about saying ‘thank you’. So, let me begin tonight with a very direct and heartfelt: Thank you!

Thank you for your steadfast support of Israel and the Jewish people. Thank you for your commitment to decency and the values we all cherish. Thank you for understanding right from wrong. Thank you for standing on the right side of history. Thank you for standing with God. Thank you for standing with us. And lastly, thank you for standing here today in Jerusalem, the eternal and undivided capital of the State of Israel!

Twenty years ago, I stood at the walls of this city in front of 450,000 people, the largest gathering ever held in this country. Some of you were there. I remember seeing David Parsons [of the ICEJ]. He was there with his signs. It meant a great deal to me. And as I said, I am just one Jew who declares this holy city, Jerusalem, as the one, true capital of the Jewish people. Today I stand here as the President of the World Jewish Congress. I am still only one Jew, but that one Jew - on behalf of all of us - says, Thank you!

You have come here in the middle of the Jewish high holy days and specifically on Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, when the Bible mandates us to return to Jerusalem. This is a very important time to be here...

During the days of Sukkot, we leave the secure confines of our permanent homes and we dwell in a sukkah, a thatched hut... We have the chance to reflect on the blessings that God gives each of us... The lesson of the sukkah is that everything we have is a gift from God. We must be grateful, we must never fear, and we must never take anything for granted. So you see, it is a festival that teaches and reminds us to say thank you!

We also convene here tonight at a very special time. Our world has gone through strange upheavals in the past when people lost their way, when children ignored the teachings of their parents, when the lessons of the Torah, our shared Bible, were forgotten. How can you possibly explain all the anger and hate heaped on Israel throughout the world? How can you explain the hundreds of resolutions passed in the U.N. against Israel and not a word about anybody else? How can you explain the long silence about the world looks the other way. We will not be silent because this is our home, this is your home. And nothing will ever change that fact. We will walk down this path together. We will share in each other’s joys. And we will share each other’s trials. We will support each other and we will protect each other. Why? Because we all come from the same family; we all believe in the same Book. We all believe in God and the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule. We all cherish our children and we want to live in peace with our neighbors.

You know, it has always struck me as ironic – when the Jews rose up out of the horror of the Holocaust and returned to this land after 2,000 years, the only people who were not surprised by this miracle were all of you. That’s because instead of just believing in the Bible, you actually read it! And you know that these miracles were foretold...

You want to see miracles? They are all around you! It is here that you walk in the footsteps of our patriarchs and your Lord. Look at this country that was created out of nothing but hard work and sacrifice, prayer and the belief in God. These are the tenets we all share... This is what binds us and brings us together...

After 2000 years, the Jews have come home and now we stand here tonight in our ancient homeland, in our eternal and undivided capital, together with our Christian brothers and sisters. Together we hope and pray for a better tomorrow. Let us continue to work together to achieve what is great for mankind. The World Jewish Congress will always stand with the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem... Not only will we stand with you, we are proud to stand with you... May we go forward from here together, arm-in-arm, one family under God, and continue our work with strength and determination. You have my solemn commitment to work with all the Jewish communities around the world to help you, to support you as you supported us, and to always be by your side. God bless each and every one of you. Hag Sameach!
### Testimonies from the Feast

**I'M TOTALLY AMAZED!** This Feast has been awesome. I’m blessing the Jewish people, I’m blessing Israel. This is amazing. I like the excellence. You give excellence in all, in the way you treat people, in the music, the preaching, everything. It’s amazing and I’m so proud to be a part of it.

**Paul, from Norway**

---

**IT WAS SO MOVING** to see every nation serving one God, one Jesus, one voice. You get attached to the Feast family, it doesn’t go away. You’re excited to see them. You’re excited to meet new people.

**Tim, from the Philippines**

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**IT WAS MY FIRST TIME IN ISRAEL.** It’s beautiful. My life will never be the same again. I’ve seen so many different places. And the messages that I’ve heard, I feel so encouraged to go on. After the message tonight, I feel like I can go and evangelize the whole world.

**Martinia, from Zimbabwe**

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**THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES** was a life transforming experience for us. Each day of the conference was very significant in how it brought such a good balance of biblical explanations about the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles, and the beautiful picture of Who God is, as God of the covenant. While the Feast focused on the main topic of Harvest, there was also room for the leaders to minister to participants on a very personal level, helping to discover purpose in life, personal calling, restoring relationships, praying for the sick, and proclaiming supernatural health and vitality... It is our prayer that in coming years more and more people from the nations will come to “catch the wave”, to be in this powerful move of God and be connected with Israel! We have returned to our country of Poland refreshed and renewed, with the fire in our hearts to share new ideas on how our nation can bless Israel, stand with Israel and support the Jewish people at such a time as this.

**Henryk and Alina, from Poland**

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**THE CONSCIOUSNESS of the harvest has become more urgent to me than ever before!** This year’s Feast has added fire into my life for evangelism!

**Rey, from Nigeria**

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**I HAVE GAINED A BETTER APPRECIATION FOR THE SITUATION OF ISRAEL.** It was reaffirmed to me that I need the Holy Spirit in all I do.

**Ching, from New Zealand**

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**IT FEEL I'M HOME HERE.** To be in Israel is a big opportunity to learn about the Lord, to learn about family, to learn about God’s rules. It's the most beautiful experience of my life.

**Rafaela, from Brazil**
Feast blood drive sets record; MDA ambulance dedicated

During Feast 2013, the Christian Embassy welcomed a new level of participation by Israel’s national emergency service Magen David Adom. This included a record number of donors in the annual Feast blood drive, the dedication of a new ambulance, and presentation of the new initiative Christian Friends of Magen David Adom.

This year, pilgrims responded as never before in the annual Feast blood drive, with 89 people donating a total of 267 units of blood. This was an all-time high for the Feast and almost three times more than last year.

In addition, the ICEJ hosted a special ceremony outside the Jerusalem Convention Center at which a group of Jewish and Christian donors from the Vancouver area of Canada donated an ambulance to Magen David Adom in the name of Merv and Merla Watson. Some 100 people attended the dedication ceremony, including the Watsons, a gifted Canadian couple who were among the original founders of the Christian Embassy in September 1980. MDA International Director Yoni Yagodovsky made the ambulance presentation, while Anne Ayalon, President of Christian Friends of Magen David Adom and wife of former Israeli deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, also spoke of the organization’s new outreach to Christians.

Communion held at Garden

For the second year in a row, the traditional Communion service at the Feast of Tabernacles was held in the beautiful, tranquil setting of the Garden Tomb. The morning service in English drew more than one thousand Christians from dozens of countries and was conducted by Rev. Peter Watt, Overseer of the Assemblies of God of Southern Africa. He reminded the audience that God came down to earth because He cares about humanity.

The Lord’s Table was served by a pair of local Arab and Messianic Jewish pastors, Steven Khoury and Oded Shoshani. The afternoon service was attended by over 800 Portuguese and Spanish-speaking pilgrims, presided over by ICEJ-Brazil national director Apostle Rene Terra Nova. In both services, each participant received an olive wood communion cup to keep as a memento of the occasion.

FEAST BY THE NUMBERS...

- **$15,000,000.00** Feast impact on Israeli economy
- **71,533** Visitors to ICEJ website during Feast week
- **24,263** Views of Feast videos on-line
- **15,500** Kilometers travelled to Feast by Fiji pilgrims
- **860** Pilgrims from Brazil
- **159** Rehearsal hours for Feast worship/dance team
- **5000** Number of pita breads consumed at Ein Gedi meal
- **1600** Pounds of fruit consumed at Ein Gedi meal
- **900** Pounds of turkey meat consumed at Ein Gedi meal
- **5288** Liters of bottled water for Feast volunteers
EVERY EVENING at this year’s Feast of Tabernacles, a special opportunity was given to support the work of the Christian Embassy in Israel through free-will offerings. But one such collection was set aside for a growing burden we have sensed lately for the persecuted Christians in Syria. Feast pilgrims responded with generosity and compassion, as we were able to raise over $50,000 for this beleaguered community.

The funds will be used by an Evangelical Arab mission partner with oversight of churches in Syria and Lebanon to help meet urgent needs among the thousands of Christian refugees fleeing the violence and mayhem of the Syrian civil war.

The church in Syria is one of the oldest in the world, even dating back to the Book of Acts. In fact, Syria was predominantly Christian until the Islamic conquest of the 7th century. They continued to survive as an oppressed minority over the ensuing centuries, clinging to their homeland and their beliefs. Some Syrian Christians even still speak Aramaic - the language of Jesus.

Yet the turmoil of the Arab Spring has brought great peril and persecution on the ancient Syrian Christian community, just as with other Christian minorities throughout the Middle East. They are caught in the crossfire between a military-backed dictator and radical Islamist forces.

Some 10% of Syrians are Christian, most of them of Assyrian Coptic and Eastern Orthodox tradition. They lived in relative peace under the Assad dynasty, due to the ruling Alawite sect’s own minority status. Yet forces loyal to President Bashar Assad have turned on the Christians because not enough of them have taken up arms to defend the regime.

Meanwhile, the rebel forces in Syria resent the Christians for their historic alignment with Assad, and the jihadist militias in particular are taking their rage out on the vulnerable Christians, attempting to subjugate them and even drive them out. Priests have been kidnapped and tortured. Nuns have been paraded in the streets as spoils of war. Churches and even entire Christian villages have been looted and destroyed.

As a result, many Syrian believers have been killed, others are fleeing the country into Lebanon and elsewhere, and those who remain are under constant threat.

As early as October 2012, the last Christian in the city of Homs – which once had a Christian population of some 80,000 before the fighting erupted – was murdered.

The UN estimates that over 115,000 people have been killed in the Syrian civil war while six million have been uprooted from their homes. So the whole country is suffering, but the Christian minority has been especially targeted.

Hearts should break over the human toll the Syrian conflict has taken and the worst may be yet to come. We hope you share our burden to pray for Syria and the region, and particularly the beleaguered Christians. Once the second largest Christian community in the Middle East, the Syrian Christians are struggling to hang on and desperately need our assistance. So we are extending to all our friends and supporters the chance to come to the aid of our fellow believers in war-torn Syria.

Give today to our Operation Hope fund, which helps Middle East Christians facing Muslim persecution. Donate on-line at: http://www.icejusa.org/operation-hope
THE PROPHETIC RETURN OF THE BNEI MENASHE

By ICEJ Staff Writers

During the Feast of Tabernacles in September, the annual Israeli Guest Night featured several presentations aimed at letting our Jewish friends know more about the work and ministry of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. In one segment, ICEJ Media Director David Parsons gave a brief review of our aliyah efforts and introduced our latest partner in helping Jews come home to Israel, Michael Freund of Shavei Israel.

Since 1990, the Christian Embassy has assisted more than 115,000 Jews in making the journey home to Israel. Most have come from the former Soviet Union, but we have also helped with the return of Ethiopian Jewry, the 'quiet aliyah' from nations like Cuba, Yemen and Iran, as well as new waves of Jewish immigration from the West. The newest aliyah operation may be the most unique of all - the return of the Bnei Menashe from northeast India after 2,700 years of exile.

Freund shared with the Feast audience about his determined efforts in recent years to re-open the door to Israel for the Bnei Menashe. This allowed 274 members of the community, who trace their ancestry back to the Israelite tribe of Manasseh, to come home last January. They arrived on flights sponsored by the Christian Embassy.

The Feast audience was then introduced to Hanoch and Miriam Haokip, a Bnei Menashe couple who arrived in January. They have now completed their Hebrew language classes and moved into an apartment in Akko, in northern Israel. Hanoch is a computer instructor and although young at only 27 years of age, he has shown real leadership skills and was appointed ‘mayor’ of the Bnei Menashe families in Akko.

““It is my first Sukkot in Israel and I never dreamed I would be here on this stage with so many Christians and Jews at this holiday”, Hanoch told the Feast crowd. “Thank you for all you have done for us.”

When asked how their two small children are adjusting to the new surroundings, Miriam assured, “they have settled in very fast. They make friends easy.”

“'The kids are better at it than us grownups”, added Hanoch with a smile.

There are now 2,000 Bnei Menashe living in Israel, and they are known for their close family bonds, strong work ethic and deep loyalty to the Jewish nation.

The challenge is to help bring home the remaining 7,000 members of the Bnei Menashe tribe still living in India and patiently waiting to end 27 centuries of exile. Several hundred Bnei Menashe are expected to arrive by December and the ICEJ has committed to funding their flights.

Please partner with us in making this prophetic return happen! The Lord promised through the prophet Isaiah that, “I will bring your descendants from the east...” (Isaiah 43:5).

You can sponsor the flight for one Bnei Menashe for US$1200. With your help, their dreams of being reunited with the Jewish people in the Land of Israel will come true!

Donate on-line today at: http://www.icejusa.org/donate/bnei-menashe
During the ICEJ’s recent Feast of Tabernacles celebration, a group of residents from our Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa were specially invited to attend our traditional Israeli Guest Night. They were warmly welcomed by the mixed Jewish and Christian audience and Haifa Home director Shimon Sabag came on stage to greet the crowd and speak of our unique partnership to provide a caring place for destitute Holocaust survivors.

He was soon joined by Shoshana Kolmer, a Haifa Home resident and survivor of Auschwitz who recently won the second annual Miss Holocaust Survivor beauty contest. It was Shoshana’s 94th birthday that evening and she naturally stole the show with her charm and beaming smile. The auditorium could not help but regale her with a rousing rendition of ‘Happy Birthday’.

The assisted-living home for Holocaust survivors in Haifa is one of the most important projects the Christian Embassy has ever undertaken. This special place of love and care is growing rapidly as more elderly Holocaust Survivors seek our help. Among the newest arrivals is Moshe, who was born into a prominent Jewish family in Romania. When World War II broke out, Moshe’s father was deported to a forced labor camp and Moshe and his family fled from place to place until the war ended. In 1948, they immigrated to Israel.

Moshe is now old and in need of housing and assistance, which he found at the Haifa Home. We are so glad to be able to help struggling survivors like him through our special home in Haifa. Recently, we were able to expand the community dining hall and install a new kitchen at the Haifa Home, which was sorely needed due to the growing number of residents.

Now, more expansion plans are underway. We are acquiring and renovating more apartments in the neighborhood to take in additional Holocaust survivors, so they can live out their remaining years surrounded with kindness. Current plans call for two floors in one of the main buildings of the facility to be turned into new living units. Thanks to a generous donation from Canada we were able to purchase one of the floors. Apartments are also coming available in other nearby buildings. So we need your urgent help to cover the remaining costs of this latest phase of expansion and renovations.

You can bring great joy and comfort to precious Holocaust survivors like Moshe and Shoshana. Donate on-line today by visiting www.icejusa.org/expanding-haifa-home
Winner of the recent "Miss Holocaust Survivor" beauty contest, Shoshana Kolmer is a new resident of the Christian Embassy’s assisted-living home for Holocaust survivors in Haifa. At 94, she has a captivating charm and a compelling story of courage and survival.

Shoshana was born in 1919 in Czechoslovakia. When war broke out in 1939, she was taken to a concentration camp and later to the Auschwitz death camp. She still has the number 80277 tattooed on her arm, together with a triangle to mark her as Jewish.

"I was 23 years old when I came to Auschwitz", Shoshana said. "I had to work in an ammunition factory. Eichmann and Mengele were there when we arrived... They took everything away. I had to wear a nightgown."

"Mengele did the selection when we arrived. He sent the people to the right or the left, to death or hard work, and also selected some of the girls for the soldiers. I was sick with typhus and pneumonia, but I still worked because I was afraid to go to the doctor. I knew that he would send me to the crematorium."

"I suffered so much in the camp", added Shoshana. "Because I sang a song to a German officer that I had written myself, I got more food. Because of that, I survived."

Near the end of the war, the prisoners were sent on a death march to another concentration camp. German soldiers kept a strict watch on 100,000 people leaving Auschwitz in early 1945. It was a freezing -19 degree Celsius. For four days, Shoshana had to walk without food, eating only snow. The road was covered with dead bodies.

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"I had no coat, just a blanket wrapped around my shoulders", Shoshana recalled. "The death march was horrible. I never saw so many dead people in my life."

Shoshana and one sister survived the Holocaust. Together, they immigrated to Israel in 1946. Shoshana has two children and three grandchildren.

During the Second Lebanon War in 2006, rockets struck her home and completely destroyed it. She was standing outside in the stairwell reading Psalms and came out unharmed, surviving yet another ordeal.

"Everything was from heaven. It was written there that I should live", Shoshana insists. She laughs a lot and is happy, despite her traumas in life.

"At the age of 94, I am in a wonderful place. I want to thank the Christian Embassy for all their donations to help Holocaust Survivors to live well and with dignity."

Though in her nineties, Shoshanna was still taking care of her 65-year son, who is mute and mentally disabled. Realising she could no longer care for them both, she tried to find an elderly home that would take in the pair together, but they were repeatedly turned down. That is until they found out about the Haifa Home, where they were warmly welcomed.

"I am so glad. It is because of your help", she said. "I will never forget that!"
ICEJ-Finland hosted a summer speaking tour at the end of July with Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler and International Director Rev. Juha Ketola coming from our headquarters in Jerusalem to greet the churches and minister the Word of God.

This time the whole Bühler family also was able to join the visit to this Nordic country and serve at the meetings. The young adults of the family looked after the book table while their parents ministered to the people. Vesna Bühler’s delightful singing gave a refreshing flavor to the gatherings and Jürgen's message on Romans 3 concerning God’s plans and purposes for Israel opened the minds and the hearts of many believers.

The tour ended at the annual ‘Israel Celebration’ in central Finland with the Israeli ambassador to Finland, Dan Ashbel, and his wife attending. During this all-day event, the new national director for ICEJ-Finland, Kari Niemi, was blessed and set apart for his duties.

ICEJ-Thailand

IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler, together with staff member Emanuel Mfoukou, visited Thailand and Malaysia for a series of meetings on Israel and the Church. The speaking tour was organized by Pastor Krisada Chusakulthanachai, national director of the ICEJ branch in Thailand. He arranged a special conference on the “One New Man” concept in Bangkok and various church meetings in and around Bangkok. The tour in Thailand left a deep impression on the visitors from Jerusalem.

“The intense worship and the dedication to prayer really showed that Thailand is ready for revival”, said Jürgen. “We are tremendously blessed by a highly efficient branch in this wonderful country, as they have strong ties to the Israeli Embassy and to local church leaders, and are active in spreading their message in every segment of society.”

After Thailand, the ICEJ team continued on to Malaysia to participate in the World Pentecostal Conference in Kuala Lumpur, where Jürgen was invited to speak on the topic, “The Holy Spirit in the Middle East”.

In October, the Thailand branch also organised a special visit and reception for Ronen Plot, the Director General of the Israeli Knesset (center photo above). Several heads of denominations and key leaders from across Thailand participated in this historic meeting in Bangkok. Mr. Plot was deeply moved to encounter such enthusiastic support for Israel and was visibly touched by the unexpected friendship he found in that part of the world.
IMPA CT IN IN DIA

IN INDIA, the work of the Christian Embassy has moved forward actively since national director Meka Padma Rao, also warmly known as "Pastor Danny", was appointed to his position about two years ago. Today, there are ICEJ representatives in place in 10 different states of India and new doors are opening constantly in this large and populous country.

ICEJ International Director Rev. Juha Ketola paid a visit to India in August and had a series of meetings both in the local churches and separately with pastors and ministry leaders only. The speaking tour started in New Delhi and ended in Vijayawada and its surroundings. Other cities included in this tour were Alahabad, Goa and Cochi.

One of the special and very refreshing encounters with God took place in Alahabad, at the Sam Higginbottom University (SHIATS), which has more than 10,000 students. This Christian university opened its doors to the ministry of ICEJ and Juha not only shared the Word of God with students on campus, but also took part in the faculty’s regular morning devotions. The session included lively discussions on biblical truths with the school’s leadership, professors and teachers.

To experience a strong presence of God in the fellowship of serious academics and scientists, who are all first men of God and then specialists in their own fields of expertise, is very encouraging and uplifting! These servants of the Lord are truly preparing the future generations for their callings and missions in the Kingdom of God! The ICEJ will gladly return to the campus, as was the wish of the leadership!

THE ICEJ BRANCH IN HOLLAND, headed by Dutch national director Dr. Jacob Keegstra, recently hosted its third annual Israel conference. More than 350 people attended the weekend gathering, which centered around the theme “It’s all about Jerusalem” and featured anointed Bible teachings and lively worship. The speakers focused on the calling and destiny of Jerusalem from the times of Abraham to David, Jesus and modern Israel and on towards the New Jerusalem. The musical program was led by Merv and Merla Watson, a gifted couple who were among the Christian Embassy’s co-founders some 33 years ago. Several workshops were also given on banners, shofars and Israeli dance, which were all incorporated into the finale during the closing Saturday evening service. With proclamations of God’s promises over Israel and with a powerful blast on the shofar, the event inspired many to keep on praying for the peace of Jerusalem. Meantime, offerings collected during the meetings provided generous contributions to our work with Holocaust survivors and our Israeli emergency relief fund.

ICEJ-NETHERLANDS HOSTS ANNUAL ISRAEL CONFERENCE
Rachel Our Mother (Rachel Imeinu) is the biblical name of the street in Jerusalem on which the ICEJ is located. I wanted to find out about the people and projects the ICEJ helps in Israel, so on a very hot Friday morning in July I walked down Rachel Our Mother to meet Nicole Yoder, the director of ICEJ Aid.

Nicole’s office was peaceful, quiet and neatly arranged. It was hot (no air conditioning), but there was a small fan near her desk window working valiantly to circulate the hot Jerusalem air. I was seated on an elegant couch, which was just past its prime, and noticed many Israeli-style binders, labeled and arranged in categories on shelves. There were certificates and art work, in English and Hebrew, displayed on the walls. And in front of me at her desk was Nicole. I had come to hear what she could tell me about ICEJ Aid, but the Lord seemed to be saying to me, “Take notice of her.”

So I did. I noticed that Nicole is bright, articulate and even regal. She is tall—which becomes her—wise, confident and loving. Her bearing is calm, which belies what her daily work is like, dealing with enormous need, unrelenting requests, weighty responsibility and the urgency of all that pommel her (my word, not hers) by office phone, cell phone, text message, e-mail, fax, word-of-mouth and person-to-person contact. Almost all of her communication is done not in her native tongue, but in either Hebrew or Arabic.

This is Nicole, dealing with hundreds of requests from people and agencies all over Israel that have legitimate, pressing needs. But Nicole Yoder, our ICEJ Director of Aid, bears up under the pressure. How? I think it is because her eyes are fixed on Him. She radiates His light. She is His and she has served Him in the aid work with our Embassy for some 13 years.

When we send our gifts to ICEJ Aid, Nicole and her team prayerfully consider what to do with each one. I don’t know if she uses ledgers or spreadsheets (most likely), but I do know that she knows where the gifts are going, who the gifts are helping and that they get there on time. She follows up on everything. She is in there, with the people—the poor, the overwhelmed, prostitutes, persecuted, Holocaust survivors, children and at-risk youth.

If you were to choose scriptures that characterize Nicole and her work, you’d no doubt consider Proverbs 31:20 and Isaiah 40:1; for those who help ICEJ Aid, it is Nicole who, on behalf of us, opens her arms to the poor, extends her hands to the needy and comforts the people God loves. For me, Rachel Our Mother is a better name for the Director of ICEJ Aid, than for the street on which our Embassy sits.

Every gift we send her way is stretched to good use for our beloved Israel. I didn’t realize how deeply personal it gets for each recipient; after all, ICEJ is a global organization with 70 branches all over the world. But the work is personal, and after meeting Nicole, I will send my gifts to ICEJ for Aid, so that Nicole can maximize my sacrifice for people who need it.

Please support the ICEJ’s Aid projects at www.icejusa.org/aid
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
Become a Covenant Partner with the ICEJ when you support our work in Israel at a giving level of at least $30 a month. In return, you will receive from our ministry the following resources:

- A copy of our Word from Jerusalem magazine
- Online access to the digital publication of our 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

AMBASSADORIAL PARTNER
Become an Ambassadorial Partner with the ICEJ when you support our work in Israel at a giving level of at least $100 a month. In return, you will receive from our ministry the following resources:

- A copy of our Word from Jerusalem magazine
- Online access to the digital publication of our Word from Jerusalem magazine
- Online access to free teaching from the ICEJ’s annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem
- Exclusive access to the ICEJ’s quarterly Mid-East Update conference call from Jerusalem
- An invitation to attend our annual ICEJ-USA Leadership Briefing
- A special year-end gift

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- Meet and receive briefings from some of the key leaders of Israel
- Visits in the Prime Minister’s Office, the Israeli Knesset, participation at a special ceremony at Yad Vashem, the Jerusalem Prayer Tower and more!
- An optional tour extension of Jerusalem and the Galilee is available. (additional fees apply)

TO LEARN MORE VISIT http://envision.icej.org/ (888) 772-7732
Support for Israel runs deep in America for a number of reasons. According to recent polls as many as 80 percent of American Christians feel a moral obligation to support Israel. A large part of this is due to the influence of the Bible but there is also an appreciation for Israel's democratic values as well as empathy with Israel since the same terrorist organizations that want to destroy the Jewish state have also attacked America. 

Another value that runs deep in American society is truthfulness, and dishonesty is frowned upon. For this reason many Americans are quite gullible and simply believe what they are told because of the assumption that they are being told the truth. 

This may have been the case in years gone by but today the world is quickly changing. While America has been known for Christian values such as honesty and morality these qualities are coming under vicious attack. The change is happening so rapidly that it has caught many off guard.

ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

This can be seen especially in regards to the Israel issue. The global propaganda campaign to delegitimize and demonize Israel that is prevalent in the Muslim world and in post-Christian Europe is now finding its way here and can be found on American college campuses, in social media and in liberal institutions.

A young Israeli man, Hen Mazzig, came to the Pacific Northwest for four months this year to speak on college campuses, high schools and churches. He spoke about the history of modern Israel, his experience growing up there and his service as an officer in the IDF COGAT unit that assists and promotes Palestinian civil society.

After speaking to over 16,000 people at many institutions he wrote an article describing his shock at the “gut-wrenching, anti-Israel, anti-Semitic hostility expressed by many students, professors, church members and even high school students.” He concluded “I never expected to encounter such hatred and lies. I never believed that such anti-Semitism still existed, especially in the U.S.”

When you find a trustworthy source of information spread the word around!

The danger is not just that America’s support for Israel will be eroded due to this campaign but that our belief in the Bible – the foundation of Israel’s significance and America’s greatness—will also be diminished. For this reason it is very important that young people know where to find the facts and information necessary to arrive at the truth and to give an answer in defense of the truth.

IS ISRAEL AN APARTHEID STATE?

Take for example the accusation that Israel is an apartheid state. There is actually no truth to this accusation but it is a brilliant use of an emotive concept that carries with it a call to action. This is because the only other time in history the term was employed was in regards to the South African apartheid regime that was a racist government brought down in 1996 through international protests and sanctions.

Israel’s enemies have concluded that if Israel can be branded an apartheid state then she too could be brought down through international protests and a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions. Yet, Arabs occupy senior positions in all sectors of Israeli society. Salim Jubran, Supreme Court Justice; Nawaf Massalha, former Deputy Foreign Minister; and Angelina Fares, the former Ms. Israel are all Israeli Arabs.

They enjoy full equal civil rights. In fact, the freest Arab population in the Middle East lives in Israel. It is also the only country in the region where the Christian population is growing. Kenneth Meshoe, South African Member of Parliament, is very outspoken that Israel is not an apartheid state and to accuse her of being so insults the millions of Black South Africans who suffered under true apartheid.

FINDING ANSWERS

The US Branch of the ICEJ has just launched a unique website to help the American Christian community find the information needed to defend Israel and to defend their own support of Israel. The IsraelAnswers.com website is an easy-to-use site in a question and answer format with straight forward answers.

When you find a trustworthy source of information spread the word around!

Make sure your family, church and friends know about:


Susan Michael is the US Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and creator of IsraelAnswers.com website.
WE JUST RECEIVED EXCITING NEWS that the Israeli Cabinet has decided to allow the next wave of Bnei Menashe to make aliyah to Israel. A group of 200 will be arriving in late November and 700 more were approved to come within the next year or so. This ancient community in remote northeast India traces its ancestry back to the Israelite tribe of Manasseh, exiled from the land by the Assyrian Empire more than 2,700 years ago. At long last, they are finally returning home. The Christian Embassy has again committed to sponsor their flights to Israel, just as we did with a group of Bnei Menashe last January. But we need your urgent help to cover the flights coming up in just a few weeks. You can be part of this exciting effort in fulfilment of biblical prophecy. Donate on-line today at:

http://www.icejusa.org/donate/bnei-menashe
Thursday, November 14 at 7 pm
Cornerstone Community Church
2233 East Hwy 199 • Springtown, TX 76082 • 817-221-5433
Speaker: Juha Ketola

Thursday, November 14 & Friday, November 15
Israel Allies Caucus Foundation Conference
JW Marriott • Washington, DC • www.israelallies.org
Speaker: Susan Michael

Friday, November 15 & Saturday, November 16
For Such a Time as This Women’s Conference
First Baptist Church • www.womenimpactingthenation.org
700 Good Homes Road • Orlando, FL 32818 • 800-671-1776
Speaker: Susan Michael

Sunday, November 17 at 9 am & 11 am
Church on the Way (East Campus)
14300 Sherman Way • Van Nuys, CA 91405 • 818-779-8000
Speaker: Juergen Buehler

Sunday, November 17 at 11:30 am
Arbol de Vida/Tree of Life
9950 Freemont Avenue • Montclair, CA 91763
Speaker: Juha Ketola

Sunday, November 17 at 6 pm
The Rock Forum
201 E Broadway • Anaheim, CA 92821 • 714.526.8233
Speaker: Juergen Buehler

Saturday, November 23 & Sunday, November 24
Richfield Community Church
5320 Richfield Road • Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714-524-1744
Speaker: Malcolm Hedding

Sunday, November 24 at 6:30 pm
Christian-Jewish Summit for Israel
Temple Beth El • RSVP 561-242-6671
2815 N. Flagler Drive • West Palm Beach, FL 33407
Speaker: Susan Michael