I WAS HUNGRY
AND YOU FED ME

HOPE in the
LAND OF GIANTS

ICEJ TOURS TO ISRAEL
Dear Friends,

We are so grateful to the Lord for the amazing opportunities he has brought our way to further Christian support for Israel. We now have branches in over 80 countries and there is a list of others that are in the process of forming in the next few years. Truly the global impact of this ministry is growing and many people are being reached with our message of the biblical significance of Israel.

Our impact is also growing in Israel where we have a number of strategic partnerships with Israeli institutions that are producing ground-breaking programs in Israel. One such initiative is the new Israel Buyer’s Guide published in partnership with the Manufacturer’s Association of Israel. Another is the expansion of our Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors which is already the largest home for survivors in Israel.

We want to invite you to a greater level of involvement in 2015. Come to Israel with us to study, or to visit some of our AID projects, or to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. We have something to offer everyone, including young adults.

In addition, make a commitment of monthly financial support this year. This magazine contains a description of our monthly partnership program and I ask you to pray about making a faith commitment for 2015. We know that Israel will continue to face difficult situations, but with your increased partnership we will be able to meet every one of those challenging situations.

Rich blessings from Jerusalem,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

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HOPE IN THE LAND OF GIANTS!

BY SUSAN MICHAEL
ICEJ US DIRECTOR

“There is hope in your future,” says the Lord, “That your children shall come back to their own border” (Jeremiah 31:17).

The story of the Jewish people is unlike any other history of a people group known on the earth. First, their very birth was a miracle, because both Abraham and Sarah were well past child-bearing years when the promised son, Isaac, was conceived.

Their survival through 4,000 years of enslavement, wanderings, exiles, and attempts at annihilation is also miraculous. None of the other small people groups from the Genesis story exist today because one exile alone is enough to wipe out a people group.

The Jewish people not only survived, but have now returned to their ancient homeland after 2,000 years of exile. “Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? … shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children” (Isaiah 66:8).

Only God could have written this story! He promised all of this thousands of years ago, and today He is fulfilling His promises to the smallest detail. The outcasts have returned to their homeland, the desert is blooming, and children are once again playing in the streets and speaking the ancient tongue of the prophets—Hebrew.

Miracles Don’t Come Easy
Israel’s return to her land, of course, has not been easy. It was literally out of the ashes of the Holocaust and the sand of the desert that the Jewish State was formed. Victims of the Holocaust arriving in Israel were sent straight to the frontlines of war with five Arab armies. They were completely outnumbered and under-armed. Most of them could not
even speak Hebrew. Only God could have brought about the victory of Israel in the 1948 Independence War.

Israel has now survived an average of one war for every decade of statehood. Despite the drain this has put on the economy, Israel is now leading the world in innovation, technology, medicine, science, and agriculture!

While we love hearing these stories, and being reminded of the miraculous, the truth of the matter is Israelis are getting very tired of the ongoing saga of war that they and their children have to live. The summer of 2014 was a particularly sobering one.

**Sobering Summer**

Israelis just want to be left alone and to live in peace. For this reason, many of them had become proponents of withdrawing from the West Bank and establishing a Palestinian state there. The pressure had been so strong in that direction that even the right-wing Prime Minister, Netanyahu, had to voice support for the Two State Solution due to its popularity with the American Administration as with the Israeli public.

But Operation Protective Edge, Israel’s incursion into Gaza this past summer, has changed all of that. The Israeli left has realized that Israel must maintain security control over the West Bank for the foreseeable future. The previous withdrawal from Gaza did not result in peace but rather, a state governed by a terrorist organization, ongoing threats of missile attacks, and the occasional need for Israeli incursions into Gaza to destroy missile launchers and foil plans for major terrorist attacks inside Israel.

They now admit that a withdrawal from the West Bank would not only be more of the same, but a situation that is far worse than containing the little Gaza Strip.

**Shocking Levels of Anti-Semitism**

This summer also brought about another sobering awakening. The Israeli people were shocked at just how strong anti-Semitism is in many places. During the Gaza war one of the most popular Twitter hashtags was #HitlerWasRight.

Anti-Israel demonstrations were marked by racist and genocidal rhetoric, some of it indistinguishable from Nazi slogans. Synagogues were attacked and individual Jews were threatened and physically assaulted.

Israelis felt fear, anger, and despair. The only glimmer of hope came from the messages of support by Christians from around the world. For this reason, the ICEJ organized and participated in rallies in a number of countries to be a voice of hope and encouragement to the Jewish people.

**Strategy for Facing Giants**

As Joshua and the Israelites prepared to take possession of the land of Canaan, God spoke to Joshua and told him to do two things. One was to meditate on the Law and to observe it, because then his way would be prosperous and he would have success.

Secondly, He reminded Joshua: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

The God of Israel knew it would not be easy then, and He knows it is not easy now. He knew that Joshua needed encouragement then, just as the people of Israel need it now. This is why He has raised up the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem to be that voice of hope and encouragement they so desperately need.

**The Giants in 2015**

The people of Israel are facing numerous serious threats in 2015. An Israeli NGO recently released an independent report on poverty in Israel that shows a growing number of Israeli households are under threat from food insecurity and other poverty related issues. Approximately 31.6% of Israel’s population, including almost one million children, is poor. Many of these children do not get sufficient food to eat and sometimes go without receiving proper medical treatment.

Another serious threat facing Israel is the loss of its close cooperation with the United States. At one of her most critical moments in history, Israel cannot count on America to “have her back” and coordinate international pressure to stop the Iranian nuclear program. It is looking more and more like Israel will stand alone against a nuclear Iran.

Meanwhile, Iran is also accelerating the arming of Hezbollah and Hamas with rockets and missiles, in an attempt to circle Israel from the north, south, and east. In addition, the Islamic State (ISIS) has gained a presence near the border with Israel on the Golan Heights and has declared that their flag will fly over Jerusalem as well as Mecca and Medina.

**Giving Hope and Strength to Israel**

When we look at this situation we feel much like Joshua did as he undoubtedly thought about the giants in the land God had told him to enter. The people of Israel need their friends to stand up and be counted. Now is not the time to shrink back in fear but to realize that we, like Israel, need to be obedient, strong, and courageous.

This is the hour when the ministry and voice of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is needed. Israel’s Christian friends can help confront the giants of poverty, anti-Semitism, and western apathy. It will require donations, activism, and informing others. Most importantly, it will take persistent prayer that never gives up, and gives Him no rest until His work is done and He has established Jerusalem as a praise in all the earth (Isaiah 62:6-7). ☺

5 | WORD FROM JERUSALEM
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

BY DAVID PARSONS
ICEJ MEDIA DIRECTOR

When thousands of Christians showed up in Jerusalem in October for the Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, it was an encouraging sign that not only is tourism on the rebound after this summer's conflict in Gaza, but also that Israel truly has committed Christian friends around the globe.

The annual Sukkot gathering hosted by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem drew more than 5,000 Christians from almost 80 nations, the best turnout in seven years - which is quite remarkable given that rockets were still falling all around Israel just a few short weeks beforehand.

There was a wonderful excitement as these Christians gathered in the Jerusalem Pais Arena to lift the name of Jesus in this brand new facility and to hear powerful messages from such notable Christian ministers as Samuel Rodriguez, Angus Buchan, Billy Wilson, Prince Gumeratam, Jobst Bittner, John Francis, Malcolm Hedding, Ingolf Ellsel, Mosy Madugba, Taas Saada and Robert Stearns. Former ICEJ chairman Leif Wellerop also was honored with the annual Nehemiah Award for his lifetime endeavours on behalf of Israel.

The Feast pilgrims also enjoyed their interaction with Israelis during the holiday week. At the grassroots level, the throngs of Feast pilgrims were warmly welcomed by local residents in the traditional Jerusalem March and that evening the Christian Embassy hosted some 1,200 Israeli guests, including 300 IDF soldiers, at the Jerusalem Pais Arena for a gala Sukkot celebration.

On more formal levels, the modern-day saga of strong Israeli-Christian relations hit a milestone moment when the Christian Embassy hosted some 1,200 Israeli guests, including 300 IDF soldiers, at the Jerusalem Pais Arena for a gala Sukkot celebration.

During the Feast, the ICEJ leadership joined with President Lauder of the World Jewish Congress and Dr. Billy Wilson of the Empowered21 global Evangelical movement in demanding that world leaders urgently act to halt the persecution of Middle East Christians.

"I am now convinced more than ever that we must join forces," Lauder insisted. "A Jewish-Christian coalition makes complete sense. Together, Christians and Jews must speak as one and tell the world, no more discrimination, no more terror, no more death and no more silence!"

Lauder also warned of growing anti-Semitism in the world, saying "The same people who go after us are also going after you. That is why Christians and Jews must join forces and act together."

"Thank you, my Christian brothers and sisters, for standing with Israel through this very difficult year," added Lauder. "Israel has no better friends in the world than you. We know that you have watched out for us, and we will always watch out for you."

While enjoying a joyous festival in Jerusalem, the Feast pilgrims also were keenly aware that not so far away an unspeakable evil has been stalking many Christians in the region. Canon Andrew White, the Anglican 'Vicar of Baghdad,' moved the Feast audience deeply with his first-hand accounts of Christian churches and villages being decimated by radical Islamists.

"Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your consistent trust and support," President Rivlin told the Christian visitors. "We appreciate you, lovers of Israel and Jerusalem, for taking part in the joy of this holiday."

In his remarks, Lauder stressed that Jewish-Christian friendship is also becoming something of a necessity in the light of the common threat we face from radical Islam - a peril that is especially acute at present for Middle East Christians.

"I am now convinced more than ever that we must join forces," Lauder insisted. "A Jewish-Christian coalition makes complete sense. Together, Christians and Jews must speak as one and tell the world, no more discrimination, no more terror, no more death and no more silence!"

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These are a few of the highlights of the Feast in 2014. Enjoy the photos on the next few pages and plan to join us in Jerusalem for the 2015 Feast! ☺️
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

Invites You to the

Feast of Tabernacles

Tour to

ISRAEL

September 25 - October 6, 2015

For more information please contact us at 888.772.7732 x 735 or http://us.icej.org/tours
Over 4,000 Christians gathered at the Ein Gedi oasis along the shores of the Dead Sea to kick off the ICEJ’s 35th annual celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

With drone cameras swirling overhead to capture the colorful crowd for a live viewing audience worldwide, thousands of Christians from all continents enjoyed an outdoor meal in the desert then gathered under stately lighted palm trees for an energetic worship concert and a powerful message from Nigerian minister, Dr. Paul Enenche. The Lord performed a number of healings that evening, including many who had their hearing restored and one woman who no longer needed her walking cane.

These Feast Review articles were written by Aaron Hecht, Birte Scholz and Estera Wieja of the ICEJ Media team.
Communion at Garden Tomb

On the second day of Feast 2014, thousands of Christians shared Communion together in the peaceful setting of the Garden Tomb, just outside the Old City of Jerusalem.

In his sermon during the morning service, Pastor Wayne Hilsden of the King of Kings Community fellowship in Jerusalem encouraged the pilgrims in our great hope of eternal life in Jesus. Local pastors Avi Mizrachi, a Messianic Jew from Tel Aviv, and Stephen Khoury, an Arab Christian from Bethlehem, blessed the bread and wine. Each pilgrim received a small Communion cup made of olive wood as a souvenir. In the afternoon, another Communion service was held for 1,000 Portuguese and Spanish-speaking Feast pilgrims from Bolivia, Portugal, and Angola led by Apostle Rene Terra Nova.

Entering the new Jerusalem Arena

This year, the Feast of Tabernacles held its gala opening in Jerusalem in the brand new Pais Arena.

The ICEJ’s Feast gathering was the first major international event in the ultra-modern sports and cultural complex, the largest of its kind in the Middle East. After 33 years of hosting the Feast at the Jerusalem Convention Center, the ICEJ was encouraged by Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, to move over to the just-opened Arena, which has a much larger seating capacity of 11,600 seats. The opening night turnout of 4,000 Christians clearly showed that the larger facility was needed to handle the growing stream of Feast pilgrims expected in the years to come. As the show opened, the audience was delighted to see the traditional ‘Roll Call of the Nations’ parading across the beautiful new stage setting.
Feast Youth Day

This year the ICEJ hosted a special youth day where over 200 youth from congregations across Israel joined the international youth delegates for an exciting day of fun and inspiration.

Israeli youths came from as far away as Eilat and the Galilee for an all-day series of events arranged by Doron Schneider, the ICEJ liaison to local churches, with assistance from ICEJ Arise and from Messianic youth leaders all around Israel.

The Feast Youth Day kicked off in the Jerusalem Arena with a special time of ministry by Angus Buchan from South Africa. In a powerful message, Angus encouraged the young believers to make a clear decision for Jesus, without any compromises with the world. He urged them to study God’s word, instead of wasting time on iPhones and iPads.

Following an afternoon packed with fun activities sponsored by Finnish Christians, they returned to join for the inspiring evening celebration with Canon Andrew White and Prince Guneratnam.

Many parents and local congregations were quick to join the youths in thanking the ICEJ for the special investment made in the next generation of Israeli believers. Yoni (from Jerusalem) said, “It was a life changing day which really strengthened my faith and made me hungry to experience more of God.”
Jerusalem March

The highlight of the Feast for many pilgrims is the annual Jerusalem March through the streets of the capital city, when they are able to express their love and support directly to the Israeli people.

The ICEJ delegation was again the largest and most colorful group in the popular Sukkot march, as thousands of Christians from nearly 80 nations paraded through the streets with flags and many dressed in national costumes. The group from Fiji drew much interest as 33 pilgrims from the Pacific island nation were joined by the 45 soldiers of the Fiji Battalion serving as UN observers on the Golan who were recently held hostage and then released by the al-Nusra Front rebel militia in Syria. At the ICEJ’s invitation, the Fijian troops made the trip down to Jerusalem to join the March and attend Israeli Guest Night. Mikaele Mudreilagi, leader of the Fiji delegation, said: “All of Fiji was praying so hard for our soldiers to be freed, and we came here to shower them with the warmth and rejoicing of our people.”

Among the special Israeli guests were Brig. Gen. Rami Tsur and 300 soldiers from the IDF Paratroopers who recently saw combat in Gaza. They were honoured on stage along with fellow IDF soldiers from the Druze and Arab Christian communities, as well as Father Gabriel Naddaf. All the soldiers received a set of ‘Beats’ headphones as a gift from the Christian Embassy.

Other special Israeli invitees included residents of the Gaza border area assisted this summer by the ICEJ; new Ukrainian Jewish and Bnei Menashe immigrants who arrived in Israel this year with ICEJ help; and residents of the ICEJ’s Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa.

The responses from Israeli guests that evening were glowing.

“Thank you so much for my first exciting evening at your Sukkot gathering. I will never forget your warm and friendly pilgrims. Please make sure to send me tickets for next year’s event,” said Aharon from Rehovot.

“This evening was invaluable for us! After the long summer of conflict with Gaza and so much hatred for Jews that we saw in the media, we were very touched to see people from all around the world who love Israel... Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,” said Zvia from Jerusalem.

“In these days, to see that there are friends that Israel can count on, it’s a great encouragement,” added Inon from Ma’ale Adumim.

Israeli Guest Night

Every year an evening is set aside for Israelis to enjoy a taste of the Feast. With expanded seating at the Jerusalem Arena, the ICEJ welcomed over 1,200 Israeli guests and friends into our midst for an evening of outstanding musical performances as well as presentations on recent ICEJ aid projects.

The musical talent on Israeli Guest Night included Israeli composer Kobi Oshrat, whose popular songs include the 1979 Eurovision winner “Alleluia”; the Neve Galim children’s choir; Feast favorites the Popov family; a black gospel choir from London led by recording artist John Francis; and noted worship leader Robert Stearns.

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Feast Bus Tours

During Feast 2014, the ICEJ offered pilgrims a selection of bus tours to sites not normally included in tour packages to Israel.

On one such excursion, the ICEJ AID department took pilgrims to the Yealim Absorption Center in Beersheva, where new Jewish immigrants from countries like Yemen, Cuba, and Ukraine stay upon arriving in the Land. Another popular tour featured a visit to the hills of Shomron, north of Jerusalem, where they learned about the rich biblical history of the area as well as its strategic importance to Israel today. In Har Bracha, the pilgrims met local Jewish farmers and joined other Christian volunteers to pick grapes from vineyards at harvest time, as prophesied in Jeremiah 31:5.

Prayer at the Feast

From the start, this year’s Feast was marked by concerted times of prayer and ended with a special prayer vigil in the Pavilion auditorium in downtown Jerusalem.

Even the traditional ‘Roll Call of the Nations’ on Opening Night in Jerusalem featured regional leaders praying for their continents as the many nations in attendance were introduced. At least one thousand pilgrims came early each morning for times of worship and prayer to start every day. An intercessory team led by Jerry and Judy Ball also were surrounding the Feast events with prayer. And, at the finale prayer vigil, ICEJ leaders Dr. Jürgen Bühler and Rev. Juha Ketola were joined by such prominent ministers as Rev. Samuel Rodriguez in leading the pilgrims into prayer for their families, churches, and nations, as well as for Israel and the Middle East. The gathering was packed to capacity and was blessed with a strong sense of God’s presence. Dr. Bühler dismissed the pilgrims with the words: “See you next year in Jerusalem!”
The international Christian Embassy Jerusalem has launched a new initiative to assist Israeli businesses in reaching the vast Christian market.

The booklet is available in print and on-line to serve as a practical resource in helping people locate and identify Israeli products and services available in their own countries. The publication was compiled in cooperation with the Manufacturer’s Association of Israel and also aims to help counter the BDS campaign and other efforts to isolate Israel economically.

Copies of the new booklet were distributed to thousands of Christians attending the ICEJ’s annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem. The initiative received positive coverage in the Israeli media.

“In spite of all the challenges facing Israel, it is making immense contributions to the world in the fields of medicine, science, and technology, and serving as a major engine of the digital age,” said ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler. “You will find Israeli innovations in your desktop computer, your laptop, tablet, flash drive, and smart phone. They are in your doctor’s office, your bank’s on-line security systems, and your local parking garage. Israel is impacting our lives for the better every day!”

Israel is a very modern, democratic country, with a thriving economy based on creativity and equality in the workplace. Yet the BDS movement is a determined attempt to strangle Israel economically through calls for boycotts, divestment and sanctions.

So Israel’s Christian friends need to stand against these efforts to delegitimize Israel and undermine her economy.

The ICEJ encourages all Christians to obtain copies of the Israel Buyer’s Guide and use them to learn more about quality Israeli foods, fashion, cosmetics, consumer goods, hi-tech devices, and information apps. The companies and products presented are a selective sampling of what is available in foreign markets, and more will be added in coming editions.

The Israel Buyer’s Guide is now viewable on-line at: http://us.icej.org/store/israel-buyers-guide

You and your church can order bulk copies of the booklet from the US Branch. Let us know what you are doing to help support Israeli businesses.

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By calling: (615) 895-9830
In July, a group of 40 young Christians showed great courage and character in 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 back home, 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 in 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 the 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 rumors 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.

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 insisted.

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.

THE TEN-DAY TOUR OFFERED A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE, AS THEY JOURNEYED THROUGHOUT THE HOLY LAND

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."
PARTNER WITH ICEJ

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:

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

- Everything in the Covenant 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.

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!

Send in your commitment for 2015 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.
Heritage Center

PRAYER & STUDY TOUR

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THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL
May 28, 2015 - June 6, 2015

With Dr. Susanna Kokkonen

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children... (Isaiah 66:8)

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For more information please contact Dr. Susanna Kokkonen at: susanna.kokkonen@yadvashem.org.il

Keshet: The Center for Educational Tourism  www.keshetisrael.co.il

* Pricing based on minimum # of participants. Registration deadline: February 1, 2015.
‘When Saturday is gone, one will find Sunday,’ is an old, Christian Arab proverb that expresses their fear of sharing the terrible fate that has befallen the Jews. In other words, “when the Jews are persecuted, it is as inevitable that the Christians’ turn will come next, as it is that Sunday will follow Saturday.”

This proverb has also been used to threaten both Jews and Christians, such as on the eve of the 1967 Six Day War with Israel when Muslims chanted “First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people.”

A PROPHECY FULFILLED
There is no longer a need for this proverb. It has become a prophecy fulfilled. Just as the Jews were driven out of Muslim lands in 1948, Christians are now suffering the same fate.

The only difference is that the Jewish refugees had a place to go: the newborn state of Israel. Iraqi and Syrian Christians are the second largest Christian population in the Middle East after Egyptian Copts. They are now fleeing the barbaric forces of various Islamist factions and have nowhere to go.

WHEN THE SATURDAY PEOPLE FLED
The Jewish population in the Middle East (outside Israel) and North Africa has declined from some one million in 1945 to less than five thousand today. While not all of them fled their homes as refugees, there were plenty of them who did. The situation was so bad that the front page headline of the New York Times on May 16, 1948 read: “Jews in Grave Danger in all Moslem Lands.”

Many of these Jewish communities had existed for some 2,600 years since the exile of the Israelites by Assyria in 722 BC. Over the centuries they moved throughout the region with the largest communities existing in Iraq, Iran, Egypt, and Libya. In the 1920s, 40% of Baghdad was Jewish.

Even so, Jews in the Middle East were often treated as second class citizens under Islamic laws of dhimmitude—the physical, economic, and societal submission of Jews and Christians to Islam. This submission of minorities permeated Muslim culture, so when the Nazi movement swept the area in the 1940s it was a deadly combination resulting in brutal pogroms and massacres in 1945.

It all came to a climax when the sovereign Jewish state of Israel was created in 1948, on land that had previously been under Islamic rule. Jews were seen as traitors, many had to flee, and others
were expelled. Houses, businesses, and valuables were left behind and plundered. But, at least they now had a place to flee.

Some 680,000 Jews fled Arab lands and lived in tents and huts in Israel. Israel had little money and infrastructure to care for the immigrants, but after a few years they were not only able to build a new life, but they helped develop the Israeli Defense Forces to defend themselves and generations to follow.

SATURDAY IS GONE
It is now Sunday in Iraq and Syria where many churches lie empty and destroyed. Thousands of Christians have been massacred; hundreds of thousands have fled. The ancient remains of the tombs of Daniel and Jonah have been destroyed by the jihadist group ISIS that is carrying out a barbaric campaign of ethnic and religious cleansing.

The Book of Acts tells us that there were Christians living in Damascus before the Apostle Paul had converted to Christianity. The Apostles Thomas and Thaddaeus brought Christianity to Iraq, making these Christian communities among the oldest in the world. Many Iraqi Christians are ethnic Assyrians who still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus.

However, for the first time in 2,000 years, the city of Mosul—encompassing the site of the ancient Assyrian capital of Nineveh where the Prophet Jonah preached—now has no Christians. It is safe to estimate that at least two thirds of Iraqi and Syrian Christians are now displaced and in need of urgent assistance.

First, 2,600 years of Middle Eastern Jewish civilization was destroyed. Now, 2,000 years of Christian history in Iraq and Syria is being erased, with very little hope of a future.

REFUGEE TENT FOR JESUS
A recent picture of a refugee camp in northern Iraq showed one tent with Arabic writing on the top of it. The translation reads: “Jesus is the Light of the world.”

Canon Andrew White, the Vicar of Baghdad, has another picture of a refugee camp in northern Iraq where some of the members of his congregation are now camped. Knowing it is the Christmas season, his congregants have erected a refugee tent for Jesus.

Refugees are near to Jesus’ heart; He and His parents were refugees in Egypt when He was a baby. But, these refugees are especially dear to Him because they are suffering persecution for their faith in Him.

While Jesus is busy comforting and encouraging the refugees, where is the western Christian world? It seems to be fat and happy, in a very deep winter’s sleep.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
At the very least, families and churches can make donations towards food and blankets for the refugees. The ICEJ is collecting donations for reputable ministries working on the ground. The ICEJ also issued a letter to over 90 heads of state around the world urging them to speak up and to take action to help the persecuted Christians of the Middle East.

That letter as well as this article can be circulated to all elected officials representing you in Washington, DC. Few of them know what you now know. The ICEJ is happy to speak with anyone to brief them on the situation.

Put yourselves in the refugees’ place. You would also be praying for food, a blanket, and a place to go. Be an answer to someone’s prayer today.

HELPFUL LINKS

Donations for Christian refugees can be made at
www.icejusa.org/aid/mideast-christians

Link to letter to heads of state:

Link to this article:
http://us.icej.org/news/commentary/it-now-sunday-middle-east
I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME

What do the numbers 10%, 19% and 13% mean to the people of Israel?

According to recent study by Israel’s National Insurance Institute:

- 10% of the families in Israel regularly suffer from hunger.
- 19% of the respondents feel uncertain they will have enough food.
- 13% of the Israeli people rely on friends and family to meet their food needs.

Haaretz, Israel’s leading daily newspaper, reports 1.7 million people live in poverty in the Promised Land. The giant of hunger roams the land God gave to Abraham and his descendants.

But it can be defeated by Christians who are heeding what Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (NIV).

Tel Aviv Food Van
The ICEJ is present every day in the Rishon L’Tsion area, sponsoring a food van with this message of comfort emblazoned on the sides in Hebrew: “Israel, you are not alone!” The van distributes food to over 4,000 impoverished families in central Israel every year. Many Israelis stop the van drivers to inquire about the Christians who show such concern. Indeed, because of people like you, the poor are not alone.

Basket of Basics
Throughout the year, volunteers from the ICEJ help assemble food baskets filled with pantry basics for distribution to those living below the poverty line. The overflowing baskets include flour, sugar, bread, and many other necessities. At holidays, the baskets include special foods for the celebrations.

Vouchers for New Citizens
Hunger can be especially frightening for Jews who make Aliyah and return home to Israel. Because of the generosity of people like you the ICEJ provides food vouchers and other practical assistance for new immigrants to ease the financial burden of relocation.

Other Outreaches
The ICEJ has food programs in other areas including one in Ma’aleh Adumim that feeds Ethiopian immigrant families and an outreach in the Carmiel area.

What Can You Do?
- PRAY for the impoverished that are living in the Promised Land.
- JOIN the fight to slay the giant of hunger and show God’s chosen ones they are not alone in their struggle.
- GIVE to help feed the people that God calls the apple of His eye. Your generous contributions to the ICEJ make this ongoing ministry possible.

Make your contribution today at: http://us.icej.org/relief-work
ICEJ-AID Tour to Israel

May 25 - June 3, 2015

$2,989.00

INCLUDES:

• Round-trip airfare on Air Canada from Toronto.

• Accommodation based on 3-4 star hotels, with breakfast and dinner daily

• Comprehensive full sightseeing program with licensed English speaking guide

• All entrance fees & transfers

• Visit to ICEJ-AID projects

ITINERARY: (subject to change)

Day 1 • Arrival
Day 2 • Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors
Day 3 • Acre, Tzfat, Tiberias
Day 4 • Sea of Galilee
Day 5 • Tiberias to Jerusalem, Beit Singer Children’s Home
Day 6 • Jerusalem Old City
Day 7 • Jerusalem, ICEJ immigrant projects, and Fountain of Tears
Day 8 • Jerusalem to the South
Day 9 • Qumran, Dead Sea
Day 10 • Departure

For more information:

http://ca.icej.org/canadian-tours

or call 888.772.7732 x735
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU
Barry Denison, General Manager

“Launch Out Into the Deep” (Luke 5:4)

Aspirations deepen when one encounters the living Word. Barry Denison grew up watching Jacques Cousteau on TV, eager to become a fluent French-speaking oceanographer so that he could work aboard the Calypso. As a teen, he had joined the youth group at church because he knew that’s where the pretty girls could be found. Then one day a visitor preached at his church and Barry heard the gospel, went forward with twelve other youth, and Christ began to transform Barry’s focus from pretty girls and sea creatures to the deep things of God.

He later attended Oral Roberts University (ORU) and while working on a Master’s in business, he rose to the top to become head of the ORU missions department and married Debbie, who is now a clinical nurse educator in ICU trauma. A series of short-term mission trips propelled the young couple and newborn baby to Brazil and they became fluent in Portuguese (not French). For twelve years they planted churches and were privileged to play an instrumental role in the Brazilian revival that is still transforming that nation. Israel was not on their radar. Not yet.

Then it happened again. “My mentor, the pastor who had opened my ears as a youth,” said Barry, “dropped a nuclear bomb in theology on me.” The concepts concerning Israel in Romans, chapter 11, startled Barry so much that he wrestled with the chapter, reading it three to five times a day. Layers of Replacement Theology were pulled back, one by one. After about a year and a half of extensive study, he composed a letter to 80 of his colleagues, professors, Christian leaders, and friends with his new-found questions and understandings of Israel. “From all those letters,” said Barry, “I received just nine responses—half called me a heretic, half said I was clueless, and one offered answers and resources.”

It was that “one letter” that eventually led the Denisons to leave their post in Brazil to labor for God in Israel where he served Bridges for Peace for seven years as COO and CFO. After returning to the United States, Barry pastored a church in Colorado, and also served as an economist with a business consulting group. The Denisons are now back in Jerusalem serving on staff with the ICEJ.

As ICEJ General Manager, Barry supervises over 40 staff members from twenty nations as well as all volunteers from their nations. His responsibilities also include negotiating contracts with Israeli companies for the Feast of Tabernacles as well as for general supplies, cell phones, apartments, and vehicles.

For Barry, one of the most rewarding aspects of serving with the ICEJ is the biblical message of Israel that the Embassy provides to the church. Working with people and helping them be successful is also richly satisfying for him.

The living Word propels people out of the shallows and into the deep—it transformed and has guided Barry Denison’s course to three continents where he, with Debbie at his side, is blessing the ICEJ, the nations, and Israel. ☺
ICEJ Summer Conference

June 4-7, 2014

You won’t want to miss this exciting weekend!

Join leaders from the ICEJ, Israeli officials, and guest speakers for a weekend packed with informative and inspiring sessions. Enjoy briefings on current events in Israel, teachings from the Word of God about issues facing Israel, and meet with others involved in various aspects of the ICEJ’s unique ministry in Israel and in the USA. Evening praise and worship with Feast Music Director, Ray Ramirez.

Special invitations will be issued to ICEJ US Advisory Board members, Partners and Local Leaders for private sessions with ICEJ leaders.

Embassy Suites Hotel
Murfreesboro, TN
Let 2015 be Your Year to Visit Israel

May 25 - June 3    ICEJ-AID Tour to Israel
May 28 - June 6    Yad Vashem's Prayer and Study Tour
July 21-31        Arise Young Adult Tour
Sept 25 - Oct 7    Feast of Tabernacles Tour

Opportunities for You to Chose

For more information please contact:
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