ICEJ MARKS TEN YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH

YAD VASHEM

CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN

FOR ISRAEL
Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Israel is again facing a new wave of hatred around the world, which is beyond any logical comprehension. The call to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel (BDS) is taking aim at the Jewish state and people in unprecedented strength. Under pressure from the BDS campaigners, the French telecom giant Orange considered ending its many years of operation in Israel. At the same time, a large investment fund in Norway is removing any Israeli investments from its portfolio which have any connection to the settlements in Judea and Samaria. Meanwhile, the European Union is planning to label products from Israel to discourage their sale if the company selling them has any ties to the settlements.

This not only reminds us of what happened in Nazi Germany some 70 years ago when German citizens were told not to buy from Jews, but it also demonstrates the unacceptable double standards against Israel as the proponents of BDS close their eyes to the real human rights abuses in the rest of the world.

Within the organs of the United Nations it cannot even be called a double standard anymore. The UN’s Human Rights Council presently has countries like Algeria, China, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela as members, even though their long records of human rights abuses are well known. They rubber stamp their own countries’ failures yet unite to condemn Israel. And, even UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, just unfairly singled out Israel for criticism for mistreating children in conflict.

The Word of God declares, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness!” (Isaiah 5:20). It is therefore even more important for us to shine our lights like stars on a dark sky (Daniel 12:3).

As Christians, we are called to be a light and comfort for Israel. The former Chief Rabbi of England, Jonathan Sacks, declared last week in a meeting I attended: “The only friends Israel can count on these days are evangelical Christians around the world.” Israel today knows more than ever that Christians are their best friends in times of need, and no doubt you are one of them. So, let us stand together with Israel and the Jewish people as never before.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Word From Jerusalem.

Thank you for standing with us!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

Cover Photo:
The ICEJ hosts global leadership gathering.

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Every single church that was established by Paul was taught and commanded to regularly bless Jerusalem and the Jews. However, it would seem that it is one of the most ignored early traditions in the church today.
For 35 years now, the International Christian Embassy has been holding meetings all around the world. A common practice in churches worldwide is that at the end of the meeting a special offering is usually collected to bless Israel. I am always grateful when this happens. But reading Paul’s epistle to the Corinthians made me wonder if the Apostle Paul would have wholeheartedly endorsed this practice.

To the church in Corinth, Paul gives these precise instructions:

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem” (1 Corinthians 16:1–3).

So we see that Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, instructs the churches that every single week part of the regular offering should be set apart in order to be prepared for Paul when he was to arrive at the church. This would assure a generous gift that could be delivered to the saints in Jerusalem. This regular practice of “setting something aside for Jerusalem” is today probably one of the most ignored customs that we find in the New Testament. The main question is, of course, was this just a very confined command to the church in Corinth or did it also apply to other churches; and does it apply to us today?

A Command to the Wider Church
This “order” which Paul delivered to the church in Corinth was not just for the Corinthians but he explicitly states that he also has “given orders to the churches in Galatia.” And it was not just the Corinthians or Galatians, but we know from the Scriptures that regular giving for Jerusalem was part of the “systematic theology” which Paul introduced to every single church he established. The churches in Macedonia (in northern Greece) must have been taught this principle as well, since Paul commends them several times in particular for their exemplary generosity regarding their giving to the saints in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:1-5; Romans 15:25-28).

This means the churches in Galatia (that is, Asia Minor), Macedonia (Greece), and even the Romans were taught in person or in writing about this principle of regularly supporting Jerusalem. Thus every single church that was established by Paul was taught and commanded to regularly bless Jerusalem and the Jews. However, it would seem that it is one of the most ignored early traditions in the church today.

The Apostolic Roots
The reason why Paul did this is manifold. First, it dates back to the historic gathering of the Apostles in Jerusalem as reported in Acts 15. There, we learn that the church recognized and fully endorsed the work of God among non-Jews. They commissioned Paul to the work for which God had called him to among the Gentiles. But we learn from Paul’s letter to the Galatians that to raise support for Jerusalem was an important part of the Apostolic decree for the Gentiles. “They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do” (Galatians 2:10).

The majority of commentators agree that both Paul and the Apostles in Jerusalem were referring to the poor in Jerusalem. So Paul diligently worked for the support of Jerusalem at the express command of James, Cephas (Peter), and John, who were all considered pillars in the early church (Galatians 2:9).

Another reason for Paul’s eagerness to bless Jerusalem dated back even further. The regular support of Jerusalem seemed to have been a part of the DNA of his mother church in Antioch from where Paul first started his mission work. There in Antioch, the church responded to a prophetic call about a “famine coming to the whole world” (Acts 11:27-30). The only place the Antioch church decided to assist was the region of Judea. The emissaries whom the elders sent to deliver the gifts to Jerusalem were Barnabas and a young convert called Paul. This means his habit to support Jerusalem and Judea dates back to his very first home congregation in Antioch.

The Gentiles Owe the Jews
But there was a final, deeper theological reason why Paul felt it was absolutely necessary for Gentile churches to support the Jews of Jerusalem. Paul writes about it to the church in Rome:
“For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things” (Romans 15:26–27, NKJV).

Here Paul makes a bold statement: the churches in Macedonia recognized that they were debtors to the Jews. They owed something to Jerusalem. But Paul was not referring to some financial loan the mother church in Jerusalem might have given the church planters in Macedonia for their own building projects. No, Paul refers to a spiritual debt. The Macedonians realized themselves that they were spiritual debtors to Jerusalem. They acknowledged that they received the Word of God, the Messiah, the Covenants, and much more from the Jewish people (Romans 3:1; 9:4-5). Therefore, it was more than appropriate to return this spiritual blessing with material gifts.

This was likely the main engine behind Paul’s eagerness to raise support for Jerusalem wherever he went. The Gentiles were debtors to the Jews. Therefore, since they had received so many spiritual riches from them it was the right thing to do to return that blessing to Jerusalem.

So we see that there were many good reasons for Paul to motivate all the churches he planted among the Gentiles to bless Israel in return.

Some Practical Advice
Paul was very hands-on in his approach to these Gentile churches. He gave practical advice to the elders of Corinth, suggesting a continuous but incremental approach: “Lay something aside,” and “do it every week” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Paul naturally had no interest in overburdening the church with such a task. He preferred small steps over a long distance rather than a short breath of exaggerated enthusiasm. He also knew that small amounts over a long period might accomplish more than one single offering when he came. But it also accomplished something else: no matter what the emphasis of the year, month or week, and no matter what the current church activities were, it made them constantly mindful and thankful to the Jews. While it was not the main focus, it was always there.

The principle of “laying something aside” might also apply to other areas. Wouldn’t it be appropriate to lay something aside from everything we do in God. In our weekly prayer meetings, lay a certain amount of prayer aside for Israel. I was touched by the great Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke when he told me some time ago: “Every week in our staff devotion we pray for Israel!” Israel, for sure, is not his main focus but still he lays a few moments aside to pray for the Jewish nation every week.

In your teaching series as a pastor, lay a period aside when you teach on Israel or mention it in your sermons. That is what the noted preacher Charles Spurgeon did. In dozens of his sermons, he started with or inserted a brief comment on the future restoration of the Jews.

And, of course, in your financial giving consider “laying something aside” for Jerusalem. Make it a part of your annual budget. Do it regularly. Every year, Pastor Robert Morris of Gateway Church in Dallas, Texas sets aside 1% of his budget to bless Israel. The early church did the same!

A Source of Blessing
Finally, let me close with a testimony from a good friend of mine. Apostle Alberto Magno de Sales pastored a small church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia some 12 years ago. I well remember meeting him the first time at our Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. He wanted to see me in order to make an offering for our ministry in Israel. Knowing that Bolivia is the poorest country in Latin America, I hesitated to accept the generous gift of several thousand dollars from him. But I will never forget how he almost got angry, insisting that I receive the gift.

“I will not allow you to rob that blessing from my church,” he said.

The next year and every year following, he would return, and each year the gift increased as the church grew. A few years ago I asked him: “Alberto, how do
you do this in your poor community?”
His reply astonished me: “Very simple” he said. “Every week as Paul says we give our Friday offering to Israel, while we keep the Sunday offering for the church.”

His was the first church I saw practically applying Paul’s teaching. But what was even more astonishing was the story of his community. Since he started doing this, his church has grown dramatically. “Today,” he told me recently, “out of our church comes some of the leading lawyers, professors, and judges of our country. God is visibly blessing our church and its youth,” he continued.

Just a few weeks ago, the pastor from one of the largest churches in Taiwan visited me. They support many of our projects. Hearing how God is blessing his church, I asked him about the secret of his growth. His answer came out without much thought, “It’s because we bless Israel!” he insisted.

At a leaders gathering with Pastor Robert Morris in Jerusalem one year ago, he was asked about the main key to the growth and impact of Gateway Church. He responded that it was the Lord who showed him. “I am blessing you because you chose to bless my people,” the Lord told him.

I do believe that Paul understood another principle which caused him to be so strong on the need for churches to support Israel. He knew that as these churches would bless Israel, God would bless them in return. For Paul, supporting Israel was an integral part of being a healthy church. To understand where your roots are and where you come from was in Paul’s mind an important part of staying alive.

So let us make a commitment to “lay something aside for Jerusalem” in every aspect that the Lord shows us. Include Israel in your Bible study, your finances, your prayers, and even your travels. The Lord will surely bless you for it! 🙏
As we gathered to share the vision for the future of the ICEJ, we also looked back on the current growth trends within our ministry and gave glory to God for His faithfulness over the decades.

Over the past year we saw a significant expansion of our international work, as our International Director Juha Ketola did an outstanding job in connecting ICEJ to new countries, many of them Muslim. In many of these nations the key denominational leaders are standing with us, joining their whole movements to the hundreds of thousands of churches around the world who support Israel.

The ICEJ also expanded its work in Israel in support of the Jewish people, which included an increase in Aliyah, as well as developing many new social projects that we have never done before. Along with these efforts, we experienced a strong advance in our prayer ministry. Today, we have hundreds of churches and prayer groups around the world praying with us on a regular basis, for our ministry in Jerusalem, but also for the needs in Israel and the region.

The ICEJ is again at a crossroads, after having gone through various stages over the last 35 years. The first two decades, from 1980 to 2000, established the Christian Embassy as a pioneer ministry to bless Israel. This foundational stage developed under the leadership of Johann Luckhoff and others. In the following years, from 2000 to 2011, we went through a season of theological transformation under the leadership of Malcolm Hedding. In those years a very firm and biblical foundation was built for our ministry.

We feel that today God is bringing us into a new season of even greater growth and expansion. We see many signs of this around us, and so together with our international leadership we anticipate great things from God. It is a season of harvest, a season when we see God mobilizing churches around the world like never before to bless the Jewish people.

We do recognize the instrumental groups of people that make up our ministry. One such invaluable group is the dedicated and professional staff in Jerusalem of close to 50 people from almost 20 nations. Another is the devoted international community of leaders in 80 national branch offices, who are working tirelessly to defend and support Israel in their countries. In addition, there are tens of thousands of supporters of Israel around the world who stand with us in prayer, financially, and in solidarity today, to make sure Israel understands that they are not alone.

I do believe the best times for our ministry are still ahead of us. Several leaders of our fastest-growing branches reported on the activities and efforts that are meeting with success in their nations.

We all left the conference inspired and full of faith that God would bless our ministry in the future in an even greater way.
# ICEJ Board of Trustees

The ICEJ is overseen by a Board of Trustees that reflects our ministry’s global reach. In May, the ICEJ’s governing Association approved the following Board members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Bio</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ingolf Ellssel</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Rev. Ingolf Ellssel hails from southern Germany and has pastored the Christus Centrum fellowship in Tostedt since 1979. He has served as superintendent of the Pentecostal Movement in Germany (BFP) and chairman of the European Pentecostal Fellowship, overseeing thousands of churches all across Europe. He is married with five children.</td>
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<td>Jürgen Bühler</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Dr. Jürgen Bühler is an ordained minister and trained physicist who has served as ICEJ Executive Director since 2011. He holds a degree in physics from Ulm University and a doctorate in chemistry from the Weizmann Institute. He joined the Christian Embassy in 1999, serving as National Director of ICEJ-Germany for ten years and as International Director for five years. He is a licensed minister with the German Pentecostal Federation (BFP), Jürgen and his wife, Vesna, live in Jerusalem with their four children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mojmir Kallus</td>
<td>Secretary &amp; Treasurer</td>
<td>Mojmir Kallus was raised in a secular family in communist Czechoslovakia. He found faith while earning a mathematics degree at university in Prague and joined the staff of an evangelical church. He has been a Bible teacher for over 25 years, and founded the ICEJ-Czech branch in 1995. Mojmir lives in Prague with his wife Lucie and their daughter.</td>
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<td>Juha Ketola</td>
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<td>Rev. Juha Ketola has been in ministry since 1985, serving as an evangelist and pastor both in his native Finland and internationally. He has been involved with the ICEJ since 1996 and now serves as International Director. Juha is a graduate of the International Bible Institute of London Kensington Temple and is ordained with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and Finland. Juha and his wife Kati reside in Jerusalem. They have three children and two grandchildren.</td>
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<td>Mosy U. Madugba</td>
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<td>Rev. Mosy U. Madugba is an apostolic and prophetic leader based out of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. He serves as ICEJ-Nigeria National Director as well as the Embassy’s coordinator for all Africa. Mosy provides pastoral cover for over 10,000 pastors, has received leadership awards from five universities, and chairs charitable works across Africa. Mosy and his wife, Gloria, are both accomplished authors and speakers.</td>
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<td>Malcolm Hedding</td>
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<td>Rev. Malcolm Hedding is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God of Southern Africa and a former ICEJ Executive Director. He holds a degree in Theology and served as a church planter in his native South Africa. Today, Malcolm is an international speaker for the Christian Embassy, and has authored several books on Israel-related themes. Malcolm and his wife Cheryl now live in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he is an associate minister of World Outreach Church. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.</td>
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<td>Susan Michael</td>
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<td>Susan Michael has been active with the Christian Embassy since our inception in 1980, when she was studying at Jerusalem University College. She has been especially instrumental in developing our US branch, and currently serves as ICEJ-USA National Director. Susan holds a degree in theology from Oral Roberts University and a Masters in Judeo-Christian Studies. She lives with her husband George, an Egyptian Christian, in south Florida.</td>
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<td>Dag Øyvind Juliussten</td>
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<td>Rev. Dag Øyvind Juliussten has been in ministry for over 20 years and has worked full-time with ICEJ-Norway since 2006. Last year, he took over as National Director of our Norwegian branch. He has been passionately defending Israel in churches, on TV and radio, and in the secular media. Dag and his wife Ingunn have three children.</td>
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The special tour was hosted by Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Directorate of Yad Vashem, and included several ceremonies to mark a decade of close collaboration between our two institutions.

The exclusive tour featured the unveiling of a plaque marking ten years of faithful giving by the ICEJ, a formal wreath-laying ceremony in the Hall of Remembrance, a special ceremony in the campus synagogue, and a group photo with Yad Vashem’s senior leadership in Warsaw Ghetto Square.

Shalev first welcomed the ICEJ national directors and representatives from over 35 nations and then stressed the need for Christians to help fill the void of support being left by the passing of the last remaining Holocaust survivors.

"The generation that lived through the Holocaust is dwindling," Shalev noted. "The presence of witnesses - the remnant who survived - provided a certain moral strength. Their imminent absence can be expected to create a moral, cultural, and educational vacuum. What will be the fate of Holocaust commemoration among members of the fourth generation? Will remembrance, by both Jews and non-Jews, remain meaningful in the context of contemporary events? How should we prepare ourselves for this historic juncture?"

"Confronting these challenges are as critical as, and go hand-in-hand with, Holocaust remembrance; we encourage educators, students, and our visitors to draw Jewish and universal insights from the annals of the Shoah.

"The partnership between Yad Vashem and the ICEJ is one of the vital resources that Yad Vashem has at its disposal to reach a wider audience and I would like to thank [ICEJ Executive Director] Dr. Jürgen Bühler for his valuable support," Shalev concluded.

Shaya Ben-Yehuda, Director of the International Relations Division at Yad Vashem, joined with former ICEJ Executive Director, Malcolm Hedding, in recalling how the partnership first began to take shape simply by their developing a friendship and building trust. Only later did Malcolm pitch the idea of an official partnership to help Yad Vashem take its message to the wider Christian world.

"After 2000 years of hatred, which was the most tragic during the Holocaust, and is documented at Yad Vashem, we are building the future together by sharing a common vision. This gives us hope for the future," said Shaya Ben-Yehuda. "I would like to thank you for the years of partnership, first with Rev. Malcolm Hedding, now with Dr. Jürgen Bühler. On a personal level, this partnership has given me deep encouragement to look at the world in a more optimistic way."
Please support the vital work by becoming a member of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem. Make your donation today at: http://www.icejusa.org/yadvashem

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate (left) and Dr. Jürgen Bühler, ICEJ Executive Director (right) unveiling the ICEJ’s new plaque at the Yad Vashem Benefactors Wall as Dorit Novak, Director General of Yad Vashem (left) and Rev. Malcolm Hedding, Shaya Ben-Yehuda and Dr. Susanna Kokkonen look on.

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, greeting the ICEJ delegation.

Vesna Bühler singing in the synagogue on the Yad Vashem campus.

Joseph Chou and Albert Cakau, ICEJ National Directors for Taiwan and Fiji, re-kindling the eternal flame at the Hall of Remembrance.

Gottfried Bühler, National Director of ICEJ-Germany, and Dag Juliussen, National Director of ICEJ-Norway, laying a wreath at the Hall of Remembrance.

Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, greeting the ICEJ delegation.
ICEJ TAKES PART IN HUGE PENTECOST GATHERING IN JERUSALEM

In May, the ICEJ’s annual Global Leadership Conference concluded just in time for our national directors and representatives from around the world to take part in the Empowered21 movement’s Global Council gathering in Jerusalem.

The event was held at the Jerusalem Arena, also home to the ICEJ’s Feast of Tabernacles, and drew a crowd of some 4,000 Christians from 70 nations to celebrate Pentecost Sunday in the very city where the Church was born.

The ICEJ staff in Jerusalem had already been working behind the scenes for months to help the Empowered21’s advance team prepare for hosting such a large event in Israel. The Christian Embassy’s decades of experience in this field proved very helpful and our assistance was much appreciated by the Empowered21 leadership.

ICEJ Executive Director, Dr. Jürgen Bühler, was one of the main plenary speakers in a session dedicated to the unique relationship between the Church and Israel. He and Rev. Juha Ketola also spoke in a special seminar track on Israel.

Juha Ketola, International Director of the ICEJ, was encouraged by the conference: “This conference demonstrated the historic growth of the evangelical, spirit empowered movement around the world. In spite of all the chaos in the world the Kingdom of God is expanding.”

Empowered21 today represents denominations and leaders who oversee together more than 300 million believers around the world. The ICEJ is represented through Jürgen Bühler as a member of the global board of Empowered21.

©
The newest resident at our unique assisted-living facility has a touching story of not only suffering under Nazi cruelty but also of being battered and bruised even late in life.

Fanny Flaibe was born in Ukraine, and at the age of 11 was herded by the Nazis into a Jewish ghetto with her family. They tried to remain strong, but when her mother was shot dead right before her father’s eyes, they fled into the forests. They found shelter for a short time with a non-Jewish family, but then Fanny and her five siblings were on their own again. Finally, she joined the partisans in late 1942 and managed to survive through the last years of the Second World War.

Fanny decided to move to Israel only in the late 1980s. Still very energetic and independent at that point, she built a new life in Israel among her own people and finally felt like she belonged. She lived alone in Haifa, relieved that she no longer had to fear for her life.

Sadly, an incident happened this past May which awoke the horrors of her past. A couple of men broke into her little apartment to steal her belongings. Fanny was home alone at the time and felt helpless, but she tried to chase off the intruders. In response, the two thieves beat her severely and made off with her valuables and money (around US$3,500). She was left with serious injuries and no savings.

While Fanny was being treated in the hospital, her caretakers felt she should not move back into her home alone and were desperate to find a place for her to live under constant care. Most retirement homes have a long process for admittance and demand as much payment as possible. But when they contacted Shimon Sabag, manager of the Haifa Home, he responded that if Fanny had no money then she actually qualified to live there. He knew this special lady could not be left without assistance. So a room was quickly renovated and prepared for Fanny as she left the hospital.

“I finally feel safe and secure, and there are people taking care of me,” Fanny shared with great relief. “Now I can sleep again without being afraid. Here, I receive love and care from everyone.”

The Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors is now home to many deserving Holocaust survivors like Fanny in their time of need. Yet to maintain this assisted-living home requires continued financial support in order to cover monthly operating expenses, improve the level of services, employ professional workers, and expand the facilities to accommodate more residents. Your donations are critical to keeping this special elderly home open and going strong.

Please give on-line today at:
http://www.icejusa.org/haifa-home-current-needs
RESTORING WORSHIP AT A CHURCH IN EASTERN JERUSALEM

The Arab Christian community in eastern Jerusalem is a small minority within a minority, as it consists of only 5% of the Arab population in the city. Yet the churches there try to remain strong amid the many challenges, and they depend heavily on Christian support from abroad. The ICEJ has been partnering with a number of congregations over the years in an effort to strengthen the local body of believers. Recently, the Christian Embassy has provided musical equipment for a growing church in eastern Jerusalem, after its worship instruments were stolen from their chapel. The equipment, estimated to be worth around US$10,000, was an important part of their weekly services, so the church leaders were desperate to see them replaced. Thanks to our Christian donors worldwide, the ICEJ was able to step in and ensure that the worship services in this Arabic church would continue to lift the name of the Lord Jesus in Jerusalem.

DONATE TODAY! To support these and many other social aid projects all across Israel,
DONATE TODAY! To support these and many other social aid projects all across Israel, please give your best gift today to ICEJ AID at: http://www.icejusa.org/aid

DENTAL CLINIC IN JERUSALEM

The ICEJ is also sponsoring the equipment needed for a new dental clinic to open in Jerusalem. It will serve children from poor families. The dental clinic is part of a larger medical center which was developed by a local couple who wanted to start a business that would also bless people in need. The clinic will be open to all, with the option of getting the costs subsidized if a person meets specific criteria. Ideally, half of the patients will be able to pay the price in full, allowing the other half to receive an appropriate discount. It is a very practical example of helping a neighbor in need. Thanks to the support of the Christian Embassy, the dental clinic is now ready to start its operations.

DENTAL CLINIC IN BEIT SHEAN

The city of Beit Shean, located at the junction of the Jordan and Jezreel valleys, was once a city of great grandeur in Rome's eastern empire. But much of its splendor and charm were buried in its ruins. Today, the impressive archaeological ruins of this ancient city are surrounded by a modern Israeli "development town," where unemployment is high and many Jewish immigrant families from Arab lands still struggle to break away from poverty.

About 30% of the residents depend on welfare, and many lack quality health care. In 2005, a communal dental clinic was established to provide dental care to children referred by the social welfare department, free of charge, because their parents could not afford the treatments.

The dental clinic was mainly able to operate thanks to donations that funded the equipment, supplies, and staff salaries. Yet in early 2014, the clinic had to close down because of a sudden drop in donations and the lack of funds for further operation. However, funding provided by the ICEJ is now making it possible for this dental clinic to reopen full time.
The "big lie" is an expression coined by Adolf Hitler to describe his propaganda technique of telling a lie so colossal that no one would believe someone "could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously." He first described this concept in Mein Kampf (German for "My Struggle"), the autobiographical manifesto outlining his plans for ruling Germany.

Hitler proposed that the big lie is credible because the broad masses are less likely to fall for a small lie. This is due to the fact that they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods.

It would never come into their minds to fabricate colossal untruths, so they would not believe others had either. In other words, Hitler understood that the masses saw the world through rose-colored glasses tinted by their own basic honesty and their assumption of that same trait in others.

Convincing the People
Propaganda was the tool Hitler would use to convey the big lie and get the support of the masses. Successful propaganda would speak to their emotions more than to their intellect, be limited to a very few points, and would harp on slogans. He said that the repetition of simple slogans was necessary because the receptivity of the masses is very limited while their power of forgetfulness is enormous.

Hitler's words ring with a chilling truth. In spite of how evil his plan was, he knew how to get it past the people.

When he became the Head of State in Germany, Hitler implemented his strategy precisely. He fabricated the "big lie" of the evil Jew causing Germany's troubles, and he used propaganda to prepare the way for their final extermination. It worked.

Timeless Strategy
Hitler's strategy is still working today, just not in Germany. It is the Arab masses that are now being sold the big lie and worked up into a propaganda-fed frenzy. Mein Kampf was translated into Arabic back in the 1930s and has been one of the all-time best sellers throughout the Muslim world since.

It is no coincidence that Muslim leaders, such as Iran's Supreme Leader, have adopted Hitler's strategy. They are propagating the "big lie" of the evil Jews
(particularly Israelis), using emotionally charged slogans and anti-Semitic cartoons to get the support of the people, and preparing the way for the final annihilation of Israel.

Anti-Semitism is now at epic proportions throughout the Muslim world where conspiracy theories run rampant and all types of lies are believed about Israel and the Jewish people. There is no better example of this than in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Palestinian leaders can be heard rejecting any historical connection of the Jewish people to the land of Israel (as chronicled in the Bible and backed up by archeology), denying there was ever a Jewish Temple on the Temple Mount, and claiming Moses and Abraham were Muslims while Jesus was a Palestinian.

The Apartheid Fabrication
One of the most effective campaigns based on complete fabrication is that Israel is an Apartheid State. The accusation is a serious one, claiming that the world’s one and only Jewish state is racist, with institutional discrimination and military occupation of non-Jews. The proponents call for the international community to impose boycotts and divestment in order to pressure the evil Israelis.

The inspiration for this campaign comes from the dismantling of South Africa’s Apartheid regime in 1994 after several years of protests and the imposition of international sanctions. So the goal of the campaign against Israel is the same: that one day she too will be dismantled.

The only problem is that in this case the accusation is just not true. Admittedly, the Arab minority in Israel has special challenges over and above the usual minority difficulties due to the security situation. However, Israeli Arabs study in universities with Jewish students, shop in the same malls, take the same buses, run their own political parties with members in the Israeli Knesset, have become famous athletes, have won Miss Israel competitions, and even served as a Supreme Court Judges.

Israeli Arab, Salim Joubran, served on the Supreme Court panel that upheld the rape conviction for President Moshe Katzav. He also served as Chairman of the Central Election Committee, overseeing the hotly contested 2015 national elections that resulted in Netanyahu’s Likud party victory.

Clearly, this is not an apartheid state. Nevertheless, many university students around the world are being taught this slogan as though it were fact.

The problem is that after the “big lie,” catchy slogans and anti-Semitic cartoons will be attempts at extermination—whether on a small scale or mass one, such as Iran threatens to do to Israel. This is why the lies must stop.

There is only one way to stop a lie and that is with the truth. Arm yourself with it at www.israelanswers.com.

Susan Michael is US Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem www.icejusa.org
USA BRANCH HOSTS SUMMER CONFERENCE

The ICEJ-USA branch hosted its annual national leadership meetings in early June, followed by a weekend conference open to the public, entitled “Israel: Hope in Crisis.” The meetings were held close to Nashville, Tennessee, which is known as the hub of the country music scene and also as the heart of the Bible Belt in the American South.

The leadership meetings were attended by some 90 people, including USA board members, advisory board members, staff, donors, Isaiah 62 prayer group leaders, and other special guests. Dr. Jürgen Bühler, the ICEJ’s Executive Director, came from Jerusalem to deliver an opening report on the global ministry and vision of the ICEJ. ICEJ-USA National Director, Susan Michael, followed with a report of major Embassy projects in Israel that the American branch is currently supporting, as well as the specific strategy for being a more powerful voice and influence for Israel in the United States.

The participants came with great excitement and anticipation, which seemed to only increase as the meetings progressed. They greatly appreciated the many practical ideas presented for local involvement in the ICEJ as well as the announcements of new ICEJ programs to take pastors and young adults on tours to Israel for life-transforming experiences. They were also encouraged to hear that the USA branch is experiencing unprecedented growth in terms of numbers and influence.

On Friday evening the summer conference began under the theme “Israel: Hope in Crisis” with some two hundred attendees. Dr. Bühler shared that in the midst of crisis throughout the Middle East region, there are signs of hope as a growing move of God can be seen in many Arab and Muslim countries. One in particular is the nation of Iran, where the underground church is said to number some four million believers.

Other plenary speakers at the conference were Rev. Malcolm Hedding, ICEJ International Spokesman, and Amb. Ido Aharoni, Israel Consul General in New York. Workshop presenters included, Dr. John Swails from Oral Roberts University, Dr. Tricia Miller from CAMERA; and panel participants Arlene Samuels of AIPAC, E. J. Kimball of Israel Allies Foundation, and Rev. Daniel Williams, the IAF’s “Jerusalem Call” Director.

ENGAGING CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN FOR ISRAEL

In March, the ICEJ-USA branch partnered with the CEO Forum and Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer to host a forum of top American Christian business executives at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, DC. Senior executives from leading companies, including Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen, Tysons, organicgirl, MiTek and others, heard presentations about doing business with Israel followed by dinner with the Ambassador. This new ICEJ initiative seeks to build a network of Christian business leaders and connect them to Israeli companies, products, and innovation. Many participants said they left the meeting with more understanding of Israel, and a greater desire to engage with Israel in their business activities.
ICEJ CONGRATULATES RECORD-SETTING NATIONAL DIRECTOR

The ICEJ family congratulates ICEJ-Slovenia National Director, Marcos Tavares, for his recent accomplishments not only in the pulpit but also on the soccer pitch (field). Besides pastoring a church and overseeing the Embassy’s work in Slovenia, Marcos is a talented striker for the club NK Maribor; which just won the national league title, the SuperCup, and competed in the prestigious European-wide Champions League tournament. Marcos was crowned the Slovenian league’s highest-scoring player for the 2014/2015 season with 17 goals. He also has made club history by scoring an impressive 121 total goals - the most ever by a Maribor player. Mazel tov, Marcos! 🎉

STANDING WITH ISRAEL IN IRELAND

In June, ICEJ-Ireland National Director, Brian Silvester, hosted the branch’s annual pro-Israel rally in Stormont Castle, the stately parliament building for Northern Ireland. Speakers included the deputy mayor of Belfast, an Israeli Embassy official, the chief rabbi of Northern Ireland, and MP Ian Paisley II, who sits in the House of Commons in London. Paisley, son of a famous Ulster preacher and politician, said the highlight of his own career so far was his recent role as chairman of a committee tasked with studying the resurgence of anti-Semitism across Europe and its presentation to the UK and EU parliaments. ICEJ Media Director, David Parsons, was also on hand to give an update and analysis on current affairs. He then spent several days speaking in Irish churches, where the people are hungry for God’s word and eager to stand with Israel. 🙏

UK CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON REACHING NEXT GENERATION

The ICEJ-UK branch organized their annual Southern Conference in the beginning of June in Southampton. The conference focused on how to reach the next generation meaningfully and truthfully through Reformation. Relevant inputs to this challenge were given by Clive Urquhart (Senior Pastor of Kingdom Faith Church), Jani Salokangas (ICEJ’s Young Adults Director), and ICEJ UK National Director, Dr. David Elms. The conference was filled with attentive eyes and notebooks were running out of pages due to the high interest in the challenging messages. People left the conference challenged and blessed. The ICEJ UK branch continues working actively in the key challenge of transferring the message of Israel to the next generation. 🙏
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is approaching 35 years since our founding in September 1980, during the first Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. Since then, there have been hundreds of volunteers arriving in Jerusalem to serve on our staff - some for short term and others for many years. This year, the ICEJ is honoring our three longest serving staff members, all from Holland, who took a huge leap of faith in leaving their home country and moving to Israel not knowing what lay ahead.

Yudit Setz - 30 Years
When Yudit arrived in Israel for her first Feast in 1984, she already had some tremendous experiences in ministry; having served in Spain, Switzerland, and Lebanon. Originally from the Netherlands, Yudit’s heart was moved by the people of the Middle East. And though at first she did not know God would call her to Israel, when she finally arrived in Jerusalem things started falling into place.

Yudit joined the ICEJ staff in 1985 as a single lady and that year at the Feast she met her husband-to-be, Will Setz. It just so happened that Will and Yudit both came from the same region of Friesland in northern Holland. The two soon married and together they got involved in the ICEJ’s social assistance program. “It’s an incredible privilege to be the hands and feet of Christians from around the world here in Israel, to show and express their love for Israel, while they cannot be here in person,” Yudit explains.

Looking back at her 30 years on staff, life has not always been easy for Yudit and her family, especially after their two sons Avi and Yaron were born. They have lived through several wars and intifadas in the land, and stood with the people of Israel while trying to protect their own children. Yet Yudit is quick to reaffirm: “I truly believe in the work that we do.”

Today, both her sons are grown and have served in the IDF. Yudit is very focused
on her work with the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors, which she faithfully visits every week. The survivors love her and speak of her as an “angel” - her blue eyes and blonde hair only encourage such compliments. Over the years she has become fluent in Hebrew, and thus often represents the ICEJ in the Israeli media and at official ceremonies.

Wim van der Zande - 25 Years
About five years after Yudit arrived, the ICEJ ranks were strengthened by another Dutch couple. Wim and Petra van der Zande were caretakers in Amsterdam and serving in their church when Wim sensed from the Lord that he should go to Israel. But his wife Petra was not so sure at first. “God needs to give me a love for this people,” she responded. And the Lord quickly answered her prayer!

In 1988, Wim and Petra first came to Jerusalem for an Embassy event and stayed with some Dutch translators who were on the ICEJ staff. Petra learned of the social assistance projects at ICEJ and fell in love with the work! Later on, when the van der Zandes returned to Israel for the Feast of Tabernacles, they already both knew: “This is it!”

While Petra joined Will and Yudit, in the Social Assistance department, Wim became a jack-of-all-trades. He did administrative work, made sure the offices were well equipped, and took care of all mailings. At the same time, the Lord called the van der Zandes to even bless Israel in their home by providing foster care to severely handicapped children in need of a special loving home.

Petra decided to devote herself full time to the care of the special-needs children, and later to writing, while Wim continued serving at the ICEJ. Today, he is still in charge of the Mail Department. Among his many other duties Wim also coordinates the translators and headsets at the Feast of Tabernacles. “In all of those 25 years, there was never a day when I did not want to come to work,” Wim admits.

Corrie van Maanen - 20 Years
Corrie arrived in Israel at about the same time as the van der Zandes, but only joined the Embassy staff some five years later. A trained nurse, she first studied Hebrew in Haifa and then moved to Jerusalem to work in a hospital. Corrie knew she wanted to help people when she became a nurse, but God made it clear it was not just any people – she was meant to help mend Jewish people.

The 1991 Gulf War broke out soon after Corrie arrived in Jerusalem. During this time, she was working with many terminally ill patients, including many elderly Holocaust survivors. The sirens were quite traumatic for them, and she always tried to calm them while she helped put on their gas masks and lead them to shelters.

When Corrie joined the Embassy staff, she pioneered a new Homecare Department. With initial support mainly from Finland, and countless volunteers over the years, the work of ICEJ Homecare became a vital part of our practical efforts to bless the people of Israel. Corrie’s work involves caring for the sick, assisting with the rehabilitation of the handicapped, and meeting the basic needs of elderly immigrants in Israel.

“When everybody walks out, that’s when we walk in,” Corrie explains with a smile. Though her work is extremely demanding both in terms of time and energy, she loves what she does and never complains. Currently, Corrie visits about 15 families per week, and she constantly receives requests for help from more.

Giving Honor
There is frequent staff transition at the ICEJ headquarters in Jerusalem. Volunteers come and go, many serve for only a few years. Regardless of time served, the ministry is grateful for all of those who have given so much of their time and talents on Israel’s behalf. However, there are those that God has called for longer service among His people. Through miracles and decades of faithful work, Yudit, Wim, and Corrie are all still here! And each has had a great impact on many Israeli lives.

Thank you for your sacrifice! We honor your dedication and service, and we pray that you are able to see the abundant fruit of your work here in the land of Israel!
Join the ICEJ’s
Shomer Society
(Keeper of Israel Society)

Consider the ICEJ in your Will or Estate Plans

The ICEJ has worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Israel for some 35 years. Our Shomer Society has been an integral part of continuing this work. Your gift of cash, stocks and bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, excess in retirement funds, property, or your estate are excellent ways to help the ICEJ carry on your love for Israel. With proper foresight, it is possible for you to bless Israel greatly for many years to come.

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Give a Donation!    Make a critical difference!

The Lord has placed before us a great calling to bless His chosen and beloved people and we simply cannot do it without your help. Your donation will make a measurable difference for God’s purposes here in Jerusalem and beyond. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem – USA, Inc. is classified by the I.R.S. as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Corporate and personal contributions to the ICEJ’s US Branch, to the extent allowed by law, are fully tax-deductible.
EnVision 2016
Pastors & Leaders Conference

Join us in Jerusalem for a life-changing pastors and leaders conference! Renew your vision by hearing what God is doing in Israel and among the nations! Gain unique prophetic insights from Dr. Jürgen Bühler and other ICEJ senior leaders, as well as from local Jewish and Arab ministers in the Land of Israel!

More information contact churches@icejusa.org or call 888-772-7732 ext. 738

Sundays 5:30pm
Join the ICEJ each week on GodTV for “Word From Jerusalem.” The Word From Jerusalem television show is a weekly 30-minute program produced by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem featuring biblical teaching and insights from the land of Israel.

*Airtimes may vary by region, check your local listings for actual airtime in your area.

For more information about our various television programs visit www.icejusa.org

Watch ICEJ TV
Our TV and on-line reports are your window into Israel and the work of the ICEJ. Be sure to watch the “ICEJ Report” every Sunday, as part of “Israel Now News” on Daystar TV.
REFORMATION
FEAST of TABERNACLES 2015
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