And those the Lord has rescued will return.

Isaiah 35:10
Dear Friends,

Ukraine today faces great challenges and is on the verge of being separated into two countries. Most evangelical churches in the Eastern part of the country, which is in the hands of Pro-Russian separatists, can only meet underground. Evangelicals are considered as pro-western allies and face severe oppression. The only accepted church is the Russian Orthodox Church and all other Christians are persecuted. They either meet in the forest, or hold small house meetings where singing is not possible. A close friend who has been working in Ukraine for more than 40 years told me that the situation is worse now than in Soviet times.

At the same time, the situation for the Jews in that area is becoming more and more difficult. Not only is anti-Semitism at a very high level, but the war is also taking an unprecedented toll so many have decided to flee. Some try to flee to their families in Western Ukraine but others recognize that the State of Israel is the only future for them. The ICEJ is working closely with Israeli institutions and with local Christian workers and organizations in Ukraine to ensure that as many Jews as possible are able to come to Israel. Just over the past weeks we went on two fact-finding missions to Ukraine in order to see how we can work more effectively in this crisis-stricken region.

There are many areas in which help is needed. The most difficult part has been evacuating Jews from East Ukraine to either Russia or to West Ukraine. Since the area is still under regular fire, only a few drivers are willing to take the risk to drive vehicles through the border areas. Once the immigrants are in their new location, temporary housing needs to be established until they can board a flight to Israel. The final hurdle is the absorption process into Israel, which means Hebrew needs to be learned, a work place and schools have to be found, and their lives must adjust to the culture of their new home land.

The ICEJ is involved in every step and we are committed to increase our involvement in the coming months. Please prayerfully read this issue as it is indeed a window of opportunity which is open today. It is a prophetic action in which we have the privilege to participate. The prophet Isaiah spoke of it: “He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11:12). This banner can be seen today over Ukraine and it speaks to all of us to rise up and to stand with God’s purposes in our time.

Please stand with us this summer to help in this great work of the return of the Jewish people to their homeland.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

COVER PHOTO:
A group photo at the United Nations building in Vienna
Photo: Joe Klamar/AFP

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visit www.icejusa.org/wfj
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A majority of Americans believe that Iran cannot be trusted to abide by a nuclear agreement. There is very good reason for this as Iran has a long history of breaking its international commitments, is the world’s foremost sponsor of terrorism, and has consistently lied about the scope and intent of its nuclear program.

In fact, in the final days of the negotiations that concluded on July 14th with the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iranian leaders gave every indication that they were as committed as ever to the destruction of Israel and of the United States—their negotiating partners. Thousands of Iranians gathered in Tehran that Friday for al-Quds Day chanting “Down with America” and “Death to Israel.” Protestors burned Israeli and American flags, as well as posters depicting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and American President Barack Obama.

Regime leaders also joined in the festivities, including President Hasan Rouhani and former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei made a statement indicating that the struggle against the U.S. will continue even if a nuclear
The deal is signed. Ayatollah Ali Jannati told the Fars news agency: “We march not only against Israel…. We also march against the arrogant powers,” code words for Europe and the U.S.

An Iranian tech company used the occasion to launch a game for use on smart phone devices called “Missile Strike,” which awards points to players for firing missiles at Israeli cities and military bases. Just a couple of days earlier Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) put out a statement that the destruction of Israel is the Islamic world’s top priority.

**Trustig Iran**

Yet, President Obama persisted and signed an agreement with Iran, admitting to the Atlantic’s reporter Jeffrey Goldberg, “Look, 20 years from now…. If Iran has a nuclear weapon, it’s my name on this.” President Obama trusted the Iranian regime enough to not only sign an agreement with them, but to place his reputation on the line for decades to come.

It is truly baffling to think Obama has that much faith in an agreement that is as weak as this one, and that is signed by a notoriously deceptive regime. When the negotiations began the goal was to persuade Iran’s rulers to dismantle their nuclear program. Iran’s skilled negotiators turned the tables and walked away with $100 billion in sanctions relief, the ability to hide much of their nuclear activities, permission to continue research and development on advanced centrifuges, no sites shut down, no centrifuges destroyed, and billions of Iran’s blocked revenues in foreign banks unfrozen. Iran is claiming it achieved all it wanted.

The Iranian negotiators, seen elated and gleeful in
Venice, surely laughed all the way back to Tehran. Their success was acknowledged by Iranian President Rouhani when he said that “the deal is a legal, technical and political victory for Iran.”

Why would the world’s superpower with vastly greater economic and military power than Iran, in partnership with five other strong countries, make this type of one-sided agreement? The Obama administration not only made concession after concession, but proved themselves dishonest by attempting to mislead the American people with a Framework Agreement factsheet that was later proven inaccurate.

**Forcing the Agreement on the American People**

President Obama is now insisting that he will veto any legislation that blocks the Iran deal. This means Congress will need a veto-proof majority vote, which looks impossible in the House and very difficult in the Senate.

Reports now indicate that the Administration has plans to force the JCPOA on the American people by going through the UN Security Council. The US Ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, has already circulated a draft resolution to the 15-member UN Security Council that if adopted would be legally binding on Congress and on the next president.

The draft resolution is said to contain provisions that go beyond the actual JCPOA signed with Iran. For example, it lifts an embargo on conventional weaponry in five years and eases restrictions on the development and import of ballistic missile technology in eight years.

While the Obama Administration is touting the JCPOA as historic and momentous, it is actually disastrous. They claim it will prevent war, but the reality is it will inevitably lead to military, possibly nuclear, conflict.
OUTCOME ONE: AN EMBOLDENED IRANIAN REGIME
Between the $100-150 billion income from sanctions relief, and the hundreds of billions of dollars of frozen Iranian assets that will be released, the Iranian regime will be strengthened, the ayatollah’s rule will be consolidated, and no opposition will be able to topple them. So, we can forget any hope of a change in Iranian leadership, and a more peaceful government before the JCPOA expires.

OUTCOME TWO: AN EXPANDED IRANIAN MILITARY
In this year’s budget, President Rouhani’s administration had already increased Iran’s defense budget by 32.5%. With the additional cash flow they will now be able to meet that budget and expand their military strength, exerting a much greater influence in the region.

OUTCOME THREE: INCREASED FUNDING OF TERRORIST GROUPS
After a four month halt in Iranian funding to Hamas and Islamic Jihad because of budgetary concerns, the money is once again flowing freely to these terrorist groups now that the successful negotiations have been concluded. Hamas has declared that Iranian assistance is the key to the destruction of Israel.

OUTCOME FOUR: NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Sunni Arab leaders are complaining that they have been betrayed by this agreement with Iran. They fear growing Iranian Shi’ite influence throughout the Middle East and are committed to pursuing their own nuclear weapons, which will severely destabilize the region and increase the likelihood of nuclear conflict.

OUTCOME FIVE: A NUCLEAR IRAN
Iran will produce nuclear weapons, either legally after the expiration of the agreement, or illegally in secret defiance of it. The second option is likely as the JCPOA does not include a strong mechanism of verification, such as “anytime,” “anywhere” short-notice inspections, to ensure that they are not in fact producing nuclear weapons.

OUTCOME SIX: NUCLEAR TERRORISM
Imagine for one moment a world in which Iranian-sponsored terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas possess nuclear weapons. They could detonate a few dirty bombs in major cities and bring the world to its knees. Terror and absolute chaos would rule the day as never seen before.

The negotiations that were intended to dismantle a nuclear program the Iranians denied they had, have in fact legitimized their program and allowed for their acceptance as a nuclear power in ten years.

To believe that this is a good deal, you must trust Iran. The American people do not. Over the next 60 days Congress will be reviewing the JCPOA and it is critical that they hear from you to reject this bad deal. Sign the petition calling for a deal that fully dismantles Iran’s nuclear program.

The US Branch of the ICEJ has already delivered this petition with 50,000 signatures to the White House and Congressional leaders. We will make a final delivery prior to a Congressional vote, so please help us get as many signatures as possible. Speak now, not only for yourself, but for your children, and future generations. Let Congress know that the American people do not trust this agreement with Iran.

Susan M. Michael is the US Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem www.icejusa.org
Over recent months, more than 80,000 Christians from dozens of countries worldwide have signed onto an urgent plea by the ICEJ, that the Western powers engaged in the current negotiations should hold firm in demanding the complete dismantling of the Iranian nuclear facilities until any sanctions relief is given to Tehran.

The results of the ICEJ’s global petition, which was signed by over 30,000 Christians from several dozen Western democracies, were delivered at the beginning of July to UK Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond; French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius; and German Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier; as well as to EU Foreign Policy Chief, Federica Mogherini; and UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon.

At the end of June, the ICEJ-USA branch handed over the results of its recent USA petition, which was signed by over 50,000 American Christians and also endorses the right of Congressional review of any Iran deal.

The petition notes that Iran’s renegade nuclear program poses an intolerable threat to the Middle East and the entire world. It also stresses that Iran is the world’s foremost sponsor of global terrorism, repeatedly threatens to annihilate Israel, and is engaged in military aggressions that are undermining the stability and independence of countries throughout the region.

The petitioners demanded that any international agreement concerning Iran’s nuclear program must:

1) Require that Iran completely dismantle its nuclear program.

2) Leave sanctions in place until Iran also relinquishes its destructive goals of spreading terrorism, destroying Israel, and achieving regional hegemony.

The petition states: “While we appreciate the ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear crisis, we fear the agreement now under consideration will not prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons. It contains too many concessions given the enormity of this threat and the untrustworthy nature of the Iranian regime. We feel we must speak up before it is too late, for the safety of ourselves and our children.”

On the 14th of July, the P5+1 nations and Iran announced the settlement of the negotiations about Teheran’s nuclear program. The US-Congress now has 60 days to review the agreement. Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, declined the deal as a “stunning historic mistake,” and Arab Gulf states reacted cautiously.

WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG
The greatest threat facing both Israel and America today is Iran’s radical regime that repeatedly and publicly vows to “wipe Israel off the map” and then attack America. Now, this terrorist state is only a few short steps away from achieving its dream of possessing nuclear weapons.

Time is short and we must tell President Obama and Congress “Not One Bomb for Iran.” We have only a few short weeks to prevent our government from making a disastrous mistake. Join us as we take a stand for the safety of America and Israel.

SIGN OUR PETITION TODAY to send a clear message that a bad deal on Iran’s nuclear program would gravely endanger America and Israel. The following petition, addressed to President Obama, will also be sent to the Congressional leaders of both parties:

SIGN THIS PETITION:

Dear President Obama:

We, the people of the United States of America, are deeply concerned about the impending threat a nuclear capable Iran poses for both Israel and the United States. We believe that America and its allies must demand that Iran fully dismantle its nuclear program. We do not believe Iran can be trusted to simply keep its word. Consequently, we believe any agreement between the United States and Iran must conform to the following two standards:

1. Any agreement the Administration signs with Iran must completely dismantle the regime’s ability to build a nuclear bomb.

2. Congress must ratify any agreement proposed by the Administration with regard to Iran’s nuclear program.

As the people of the United States we must settle for nothing less.

Sincerely,

To Sign This Petition please go online to www.notonebombforiran.net. If you do not have internet please sign this page and return in the enclosed envelope or mail to: ICEJ USA, PO Box 332974, Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2974
Fear and Hope
The conflict in Eastern Ukraine has become by far the heaviest trial in the history of the country, which gained independence in 1991. The magnitude of the current struggle was very evident to us visitors. Although Ukraine has prospered tremendously since the fall of communism, the economy now finds itself in a free fall; the currency has lost half of its worth in one year alone, and the inflation rate stands at almost 60 percent.

Hopelessness and anxiety about the future are very present, but by looking to Israel, the Jews of Ukraine make every effort to remain hopeful. For many of them leaving everything behind and starting a new life in the Jewish homeland may be the only prospect for a safe future.

Today there are more than 200,000 Jews officially living in Ukraine, and the number could actually be doubled if it included those hiding or unaware of their identity. In Eastern Europe many still hide their Jewish identity; however the current perils in the country are changing that. As a consequence, the number of Jews immigrating to Israel in 2014 has almost tripled from 2013, with 5,840 registered cases. It is estimated that 10,000 Jews will make Aliyah from Ukraine in 2015 alone.

Demitry and Marina
Among the thousands of immigrants that have arrived in Israel this year are Demitry and Marina Britan. The Britan family comes from Dnepropetrovsk, the third biggest city in Ukraine. Located in the southeast of the country, it is only about 200 kilometers away from the current conflict zone. Even so, many people still seek shelter in “Dnepro” city, as the locals call it.

Demitry’s wife of three years, Marina, comes from Donetzk, a city which is currently in the middle of a warzone. Marina fled her hometown...
with her mother, while some of their family members stayed behind and they fear for their lives.

Now they live in a very basic apartment on the outskirts of Dnepro. The poverty we saw there was shocking. They are incredibly hospitable and welcomed us warmly.

Demitry is a medical doctor, however he is not working in his profession. The healthcare system in Ukraine is very unstable and doctors are grossly underpaid. Many professionals prefer to load shelves in supermarkets where they can get better compensation for their work.

**Better Life**
As a medical doctor, Demitry will have many more work opportunities in Israel. There are special programs to help doctors from abroad adapt to their professional field in Israel, and Demitry has already been accepted into one. His face glowed as he spoke of it, and he is once again filled with hope.

Now Demitry and Marina are busy studying Hebrew. This will be the most important factor in their process of adapting in their new homeland, they are told. Demitry’s family is already connected with the Jewish Agency for Israel, with whom the ICEJ is partnering. They get help with paperwork, Hebrew lessons, and receive the emotional support which is so needed on this journey.

**In Mayak**
The uncertainties and fears are very real for Ukrainian Jews. Particularly in a center for refugees from eastern Ukraine. In Mayak, east of Dnepro, people traumatized by the ongoing war can find shelter. This, however, does not mean their lives get any easier. Some of the refugees have already been at the center for months, struggling with bureaucracy in order to obtain travel documents. Max, the director of the center, admits that the biggest current problem at the shelter is their financial standing. Accommodation is costly, and the challenges only grow with the passing of time.

All of the residents in Mayak are Ukrainian Jews, and all of them want to immigrate to Israel. They all admit that it is not easy to leave their home country, but Israel is now their only hope. Many of the almost 100 refugees are highly educated, some of them even professors, and yet very few of them can afford the immigration process. They all need financial assistance, and thanks to the support of the ICEJ, they finally feel their dream can come true.

**Prophecies being Fulfilled**
Shmulik Fried, the Israeli escort for our tour, was touched to see Christians coming to Ukraine in order to help the Jewish population in the country. We came from five different nations, to which Shmulik said: “Now I understand the words of the Prophet Isaiah, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms, and carry your daughters on their hips’ (Isaiah 49:22). This prophecy is being fulfilled before my very own eyes!”

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Your donations to ICEJ
Aliyah will be used specifically to bring the Ukrainian Jews to the Promised Land.
We want to walk with them as they prepare and get ready. Be a part of this prophetic purpose, and join with the ICEJ.

Make your on-line donation at: www.icejusa.org/Ukraine
In April of 2014 the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem began supporting the Aliyah (immigration to Israel) of Ukrainian Jews threatened by the civil war, which began in February of 2014, when hostilities broke out between Ukrainian forces, and rebels backed by Russia in the eastern part of Ukraine. Despite a peace agreement signed in February 2015 in Minsk, Belorussia the fighting continues today.

Worsening Situation
In July the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) reported growing numbers of killed and wounded civilians in the Ukrainian conflict area. The OSCE warned that the situation has become worse and has hardened since the end of April. Many of the 200,000 Ukrainian Jews are affected by the humanitarian crisis in the country involving the destruction of homes and infrastructure through shelling, and also scarce food supplies and unpaid wages. They are also suffering from an increase in anti-Semitic incidents. Jews have even been slandered publicly and even blamed for the current crisis.

Thousands of Jews Flee
Thousands of Jews have fled the cities of Lugansk, Donetsk, and Mariupol, once home to vibrant Jewish communities. Because of the war, the economic instability, and anti-Semitism in Ukraine large numbers of the country’s Jews have decided to move to Israel where they can live in safety. A total of 5,917 immigrants came from Ukraine in 2014, an increase of 196% over the previous year. So far this year 2,990 Ukrainian Jews have moved to Israel. It might be 10,000 by the end of the year.

ICEJ Support
As of July 2015, the Christian Embassy has been able to support the Aliyah and integration of 835 Jews from Ukraine - 200 of them came this year. We support the Aliyah preparation of Jewish families as well as their urgent absorption needs when they arrive in Israel. For months many families were forced to hide in basements often without electricity, water, or a telephone; and with only scarce food supplies. Eventually they were able to take a few belongings and flee from the violence in Eastern Ukraine. They arrived safely in Israel and are now learning Hebrew– the most important requirement to find a good job.

In hard times like these the Christian Embassy will continue its relentless efforts to stand by the Jewish people living in Ukraine and to assist in bringing them home to safety in Israel, the land God promised to their forefathers. A gift of $750 will cover preflight expenses and immediate and urgent absorption needs for one person.

DONATE TODAY! To support these and many other social aid projects all across Israel,
The ICEJ Aid team was recently in Sderot, the small Israeli community on the border of the Hamas-occupied Gaza Strip, which has been targeted by thousands of rockets and mortars since Israel’s disengagement in 2005.

During one meeting with Gadi Yarkoni, leader of Eshkol Regional Council, the ICEJ was able to present two new bomb shelters funded by donations from the ICEJ USA branch and in cooperation with Operation Lifeshield, an ICEJ partner organization. Residents and officials told the ICEJ Aid team that the recent one year anniversary of last summer’s Operation Protective Edge was marked by a barrage of projectiles launched into Israel by terrorist organizations in the Strip. Although the barrage did not cause any injuries or damage, the red-alert sirens and attendant scramble for shelter, brought back terrible memories and new anxieties. A recent study found that nearly 40% of children in southern Israeli communities suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other psychological/emotional issues from the rocket attacks.

The shelters ICEJ Aid is able to place in southern communities protect flesh and blood but they also provide badly needed peace of mind for children and their parents. Additionally, the shelters are a tangible reminder that they are not alone and the world has not forgotten them.

Yarkoni lost two close friends and even his own legs in a rocket attack in the closing minutes of last summer’s war. He told the ICEJ Aid team that his vision is to give hope to the people, and to help them feel safe. He added his thanks to the ICEJ for donating the shelters which will help bring that vision to reality.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Jeremy Maissal, the leader of Kibbutz Alumim, which is 4 km from the Gaza border and has also been targeted by many rocket and mortar attacks. The bomb shelter ICEJ Aid was able to provide this community was placed near a small zoo which is a favorite destination for children. During last summer’s war, the children were afraid to go to the zoo because there was no shelter there to run to in case of a rocket attack. Thanks to donors like you, children are once again flocking to this lovely oasis.

STUDY SHOWS HIGH RATES OF PTSD IN SDEROT CHILDREN

A recent study conducted by researchers at the Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, at Herzog Memorial Hospital in Jerusalem, indicates that 40% of children in the Gaza border community of Sderot, which has been targeted by thousands of rockets and mortars from Gaza-based terror militias in the last decade, suffer from high rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other psychological issues. Prof. Ruth Pat-Horenczyk, who led the study, said that it is normal for between 7-10% of Israeli children to suffer from PTSD, anxiety, and fear during war time but “The ongoing situation in Sderot causes PTSD at a rate three or four times greater than that of the rest of the country.”
Close to 30 Holocaust Survivors Mark Bar/Bat Mitzvahs in Jerusalem

A busload of Holocaust survivors from the Haifa Home, other local survivors who enjoy the friendship and services of the Home, and the Home’s dedicated staff came to Jerusalem for a very special event.

Some 30 survivors whose Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah fell during World War II marked this Jewish rite of passage to adulthood at the Western Wall. There was much excitement when a special police escort guided them from the entrance of Jerusalem to the Western Wall. At the Plaza the 80 and 90 plus year old people got out of the bus holding Israeli flags and started to sing and dance with the crowd that awaited them. The Holocaust generation, who had missed this important celebration in their youth, and who, in their childhood, had only heard the words at the end of the Pesach Seder “Next year in Jerusalem,” had arrived at the Western Wall the symbol of their spiritual heritage.

The group made their way past a line of IDF soldiers who saluted them with honor and respect. Chief Rabbi David Lau, together with MK Yair Lapid, greeted the Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah participants and the male participants received phylacteries and prayer shawls.

Close to the Western Wall the male participants donned their phylacteries and read from the Torah, while onlookers tossed candy at them as is customary for boys and girls in Israel. Tears of joy and grief rolled over their faces as many had survived the Holocaust but were left orphaned without parents or extended family. “I experienced such a joy being in Jerusalem and celebrating my belated Bar Mitzvah,” said Yaakov W., “It felt like a stone fell from my heart.”

As Yaakov is religious and goes to synagogue every week, he was called upon to say the blessing at the end of the ceremony and also “kaddish,” the mourner’s prayer, which exemplifies the greatness of God.

“I felt like a boy of 13 and for a while I forgot all the difficult things in my life and so treasured the moment and the fact that I am still alive to come to this day,” said Yossi C., who was unable to sleep the night before the ceremony. Shoshanna K., 95, touched the Western Wall with intensity and poured out her heart to God in Yiddish. Her face was lit up with delight and joy.

After all the emotions of the celebration at the Wall, the Chief Rabbi blessed the male and female participants before they boarded the bus again to go to their next destination, the Knesset, Israel’s parliament. This was the next emotional highlight of the day. For many of the survivors this was the first time they visited the Knesset and after a guided tour they were officially welcomed by Knesset Speaker, Yuli Edelstein. “There is no one more worthy than you to come to the Knesset and be met with blessings and appreciation,” Edelstein told the group. “Your youth was stolen from you and you nonetheless chose to live. You came to Israel and established the next generations.”

Coming to the Knesset, the symbol of Israel’s sovereignty as a State, was indeed a highlight. “They gave us honor and appreciation, which was wonderful,” said one of the survivors.

DONATE TODAY! To support these and many other social aid projects all across Israel, please...
After the Knesset visit the excited group was ready for a festive lunch and made their way back to Haifa. Exhausted physically but excited and emotionally charged they all arrived safely home again.

The next evening there was a festive celebration in one of the wedding halls in Haifa in honor of those who did their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs at the Western Wall. Besides the residents of the Home and other survivors, children and grandchildren of the survivors came to the beautifully decorated hall to celebrate. Everyone came with excitement and dressed for a party.

After the blessing from the Home’s Rabbi, music filled the hall, and many made their way to the dance floor. Survivors in their 80’s and 90’s were moving to the rhythm of Israeli songs and joy was visible on their faces. Children and grandchildren joined in the celebration and the hall with filled with such a wonderful peace and excitement.

Through it all there was a feeling of victory. They had survived the Holocaust, and had fought in many of Israel’s wars. Today, surrounded with their loved ones they were rejoicing in their own country where they feel safe and are living in a Home where they feel cared for and not alone.

The ICEJ was proud to be an integral part of this wonderful family celebration. During the Knesset visit, Yad Ezer L’haver and Haifa Home Director, Shimon Sabag, told everyone that without the ICEJ there would not be a Home and he constantly mentioned us as a vital part of all they are able to do.

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The Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors is able to operate only thanks to the generosity of Christian donors like you!

Every month, we trust the Lord with great faith that through your support this critical work will be sustained here in Israel. Please consider partnering with us, and be a blessing to these aging survivors while there is still time to touch their lives!

Here are some of the most pressing needs at the Haifa Home which we need to cover:

1. The Home’s normal operating costs amount to $65,000 per month. One way to help is to join our ‘Adopt a Survivor’ program.

2. A recreation coordinator is needed at a salary of $1,800 per month.

3. Funds in the amount of $20,000 are also needed to renovate and furnish a ground-level apartment which will be turned into three new residential suites.

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The need

Today there are still close to 200,000 Holocaust survivors alive in Israel. 70 years after the Holocaust many of them are still traumatized from the horror they experienced. In addition many face social challenges. A recent study in Israel revealed that one-third of the survivors are living below the poverty line. One of the greatest challenges of survivors today is loneliness.

Since 2010 the ICEJ started a historic initiative to help survivors in need. A unique home for Holocaust survivors has been established in Haifa hosting more than 70 survivors. They established a unique community, occupying nine different buildings finding the attention of Israel’s media.

This home helps the survivors to escape their loneliness and allows them to be a part of a unique and vibrant community of people who survived the most horrendous chapter of human history.

Give your best gift today to ICEJ AID at: www.icejusa.org/haida-home-current-needs
On the 4th of December 2014, the State of Israel held special ceremonies to mark the reburial of British officer Lt. Col. John Henry Patterson in the Land of Israel, thus honoring a key Christian Zionist figure who is considered the ‘godfather’ of today’s Israeli army. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was represented at the official ceremonies by Media Director, David Parsons, who presented Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a special replica medallion of the insignia worn by members of the Zion Mule Corps during World War I. Commanded by Patterson, this was the first organized Jewish military force since the Bar Kokhba revolt in 132 AD.

Patterson’s remains were re-interred alongside his wife, Francis’s, in Moshav Avihayil, in a cemetery where many of the Jewish soldiers who served under his command are buried. It had been a long two-year process to bring Patterson’s ashes from California, where he had died in 1947 – just one year prior to the founding of the State of Israel.

After a most adventurous life and military career, Patterson’s dying wish had been to be buried near his Jewish troops in the soil of Israel. That wish had finally been granted, thanks to the efforts of his grandson, Alan Patterson, and to Jerry Klinger, President of Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation. The ceremonies also had great meaning for Prime Minister Netanyahu, due to his father’s very personal connection to Patterson.

Indeed, in a very moving speech, Netanyahu stated that Patterson was “the commander of the first Jewish fighting force in nearly two millennia... [Thus]
it's an obligation of our people, our state, and of mine personally, to fulfill his testament”.

Netanyahu praised how Patterson offered “the wandering Jew, the wind tossed leaves,” an independent means of self-defense. Patterson's radical vision for a Jewish army was a major step towards fulfilling the vision of Zionist leader Theodor Herzl of a secure nation-state for the Jews.

Patterson first led the Zion Mule Corps at the Battle of Gallipoli in 1915, a tragic loss for the British during the First World War. The following year, this logistical unit was reconstituted as a trained fighting force known as the Jewish Legion and took part in the campaign to drive the Turks out of Palestine.

Legendary Jewish figures Ze'ev Jabotinsky and Joseph Trumpeldor both served as officers under Patterson's command. Later the leader of the Revisionist movement, Jabotinsky said of Patterson: “in all of Jewish history we have never had a Christian friend as understanding and devoted.”

Born in 1867 in Ireland to a Protestant father and a Catholic mother, Patterson was eager to join the British army and feigned his age at 17 to join the Third Dragoon Guards in 1885. In 1888 he shot tigers in India, and the next year was sent to Kenya to deal with a pair of massive lions that had killed dozens of workers constructing a railway bridge across the Tsavo River. His book about this experience, entitled The Man-Eaters of Tsavo, became a best seller and eventually spawned two Hollywood movies.

He would later aid the expansion of the British Empire as a colonial officer in East Africa, but by the time World War II broke out, he was considered a little too old for a battlefront command in the trenches of Western Europe. So he accepted an offer to command the Zion Mule Corps being recruited in Cairo at the prodding of Jabotinsky and Trumpeldor.

By the time the war ended, Patterson had trained and led into battle such notable Jewish figures as David Ben-Gurion (Israel's first prime minister), Levi Eshkol (Israel's second prime minister), Gershon Agron (mayor of Jerusalem), Yaakov Dori (Haganah leader and first IDF Chief of Staff), and Eliyahu Golomb (founding member of the Haganah).

He had also become a fervent supporter of the Zionist cause. Following the war, Patterson often travelled with Jabotinsky to America on fund-raising tours and spoke in front of Jewish and Christian audiences enamored with his exploits as a soldier and lion hunter.

When Jabotinsky later died in New York early in World War II, Netanyahu's father, Professor Ben-Zion Netanyahu, took up the baton and accompanied Patterson on trips around America to continue the effort to raise money, volunteers, and arms for a fighting force to defend the Jews of Palestine.

Out of this effort Ben-Zion Netanyahu and Patterson became close friends – so much so that Ben-Zion named his first son, Yonatan, after Patterson and asked that he serve as his godfather. In recounting this very personal story at Patterson's reburial ceremony, Benjamin Netanyahu also noted that his family still has an inscribed silver cup given by Patterson to “Yoni” – a dashing soldier himself who would later die in the famous Entebbe raid.

Netanyahu described Patterson as “the godfather of the Israeli army” and stressed that he was not only “repaying a historical debt,” but a “personal debt to a great friend of our people.”

Patterson was well-read in the Bible and Jewish history, and had prayed to help lead the Jews into the Promised Land. He often spoke of the Jews' valiant past, urging them to take up again the “sword of David.” Perhaps what endeared him to his Jewish troops the most was the way he treated them with dignity and challenged anti-Semitic attitudes within the British military culture of his day. Patterson was so proud of his Jewish legionnaires, he wrote two books about his experiences called With the Zionists at Gallipoli (1916) and With the Judeans in Palestine (1922).

So, just as Prime Minister Netanyahu respectfully closed his speech, we say: “We salute you, John Henry Patterson!”

Lucy Jennings is a Christian student from London studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and interning at the ICEJ.
God has sent the ICEJ out from Jerusalem and into the nations to proclaim His Word, which says: “Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock’” (Jeremiah 31:10). The Lord Himself has commanded us to go and declare, and to teach and remind the nations that it is God who is gathering the Jewish people back to their ancient homeland, and as their Good Shepherd shall redeem them there as a nation (Ezekiel 36:22-31; Romans 11:26-29).

Thus, with God’s Word in my mouth and in my heart, I traveled to India in June to proclaim and affirm to the people of India that it is truly God and His supernatural power that has sustained and kept alive both the ancient Israelites, and the modern-day Israelis. God has truly carried Israel with His eternal arms for thousands of years and has carried them back to their homeland in our day.

Together with ICEJ-India National Director, Meka Padma Rao, also known as “Pastor Dany,” we visited six different states across the huge and heavily-populated nation of India in one week. Starting from the city of Delhi, we then traveled to Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Ahmedabad, and finally to Mumbai to share the Word of the Lord and to enjoy the fellowship of the saints. We met with some of our ICEJ regional representatives in India, who came from many surrounding states to see us; as well as with local pastors, church leaders, and many faithful Indian believers.

The ministry trip met our goals by first gathering the spiritual leaders of the cities, who represent thousands of believers, and second by bringing together ordinary members of the church body - with up to over 1,000 in a single service - to hear our message. The Lord also confirmed His Word with healings, which took place while ministering from the Word.

As a result of the hard and effective work of Pastor Dany, together with the “sent ones” from our Jerusalem head office over recent years, we now have local ICEJ representatives in all but four out of the 29 states of India!

Please keep praying for our ministry in India, that we would achieve everything the Lord has planned for us to do and to fulfill in this nation of over one billion people.
Pray for the churches and pastors of India to experience a mighty revival and to be a great blessing to Israel in the years ahead. And pray that we would be able to act effectively as a bridge between the Indian churches and Israel.

Today, the relationship between India and Israel on a national level is also flourishing like never before. Trade and economic ties between the two countries are strong, especially in the area of hi-tech innovation and manufacturing. And the new Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, is in close contact with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and will pay a visit to the Jewish state later this year - the first ever by a sitting Indian leader. Indeed, India currently considers Israel to be one of its top three or four most important friendly nations in the world. Please pray that the relations between Israel and India would continue to grow and prosper.

The crowded streets of Delhi.

On stage in Vijayawada are Pastor Dany, local ICEJ representative Rev. David Branham, Rev. Juha Ketola, and famous Bollywood actor/preacher Raja Abel.

**NEW DIRECTOR IN DENMARK**

**BY REV. JUHA KETO LA**

After many years of faithful service to the ministry, Joern and Solveig Leenders recently stepped down as ICEJ representatives in Denmark, making way for their successor, Rev. Christina Leinum, to take over as the National Director of ICEJ-Denmark.

The Leenders have a long and admirable record of service with the Danish branch, enlisting many supporters for the ICEJ and for Israel. Even into their retirement years, they have invested much time and energy into organizing and hosting numerous church meetings and speaking tours, and to raising funds for social aid projects in Israel. There have been many people in need who were fed, clothed, helped, and assisted in Israel thanks to this dear couple.

The very next week, the adventurous newlyweds were living and working on a kibbutz in Israel. After time on the mission field in Tanzania, Christina studied theology and went into full-time ministry with a burden for souls in her native Denmark. In recent years, she has felt an increasing passion for Israel and agreed late last year to take over the Christian Embassy’s work among the Danish people.

Rev. Christina Leinum (right) and her family.
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Rev. Edward Thompson was one of the early pioneers of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem in the United States. It all began in the early 80s, while he was in the office of the Prime Minister of Israel, Menachem Begin, that he was referred to the ICEJ. Leaving the Prime Minister’s office he immediately went to meet the leadership of the new Christian organization in Jerusalem, and he a committed pioneer of their work in the United States.

The question is how did this former union leader and electrical engineer at the Kennedy Space Center: Cape Canaveral, turned Assembly of God minister, end up in the Prime Minister’s office to start with? As he liked to tell the story, Pastor Thompson had one day knelt on the white sands of the Florida beach near the Cape, and promised the Lord that he would do whatever He wanted him to do. In just a few short years he was not only Senior Pastor of Melbourne First Assembly of God, but was on his first trip to Israel.

He returned from that trip with a passion to tell of God’s faithfulness to the people of Israel. He started taking his congregants on tours to Israel and over the years he took hundreds – many of them to the annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration. Many of his congregants volunteered for the ICEJ, and some are still involved like Jerusalem Creative & Music Director, Ray Ramirez, and Pastor John Small who works in Pastoral Relations for the US Branch.

Pastor Thompson became a bridge builder with the local Jewish Community in Brevard County, Florida, not only teaching Hebrew, but his church singers and dancers would perform regularly at Jewish community events. He also led a group of Christians to Washington, DC to join the Solidarity March on behalf of Soviet Jewry in 1987.

Every Friday night Pastor Thompson hosted a Bible study, called Builders of Zion, that discussed issues concerning Israel and prayed for the peace of Jerusalem. He used the same title for his television and radio program on prophecy and Christian support for Israel. He also traveled across the United States as a representative of the ICEJ, teaching on the time to favor Zion.

Like each grain of sand on the beach he knelt on so many years ago, Pastor Edward Thompson was a unique man answering God’s call. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem celebrates the life of this dedicated Builder of Zion, and while we mourn his passing from this world, we rejoice that he has now received his heavenly reward.

Donations in memory of Pastor Ed Thompson can be made at www.icejusa.org
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www.icejusa.org
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

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.

To Book a Speaker call 615-895-9830
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