ICEJ LAUNCHES INTO RADIO

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The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ)

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

Today, the Christian Embassy stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide who share a love and concern for Israel and an understanding of the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of Jews to the land of their forefathers.

From our headquarters in Jerusalem and through our branches and representatives in over 80 nations, we seek to challenge the Church to take up its scriptural responsibilities towards the Jewish people, to remind Israel of the wonderful promises made to her in the Bible, and to be a source of practical assistance to all the people of the Land of Israel.

The ICEJ is a non-denominational faith ministry, supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends worldwide. We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide.

If you wish to make a donation to the general work of the ICEJ or to a specific project described in this magazine, please use the attached response envelope, use the address below or visit our Web site at www.icej.org/get-involved to send your gift. All donations are tax deductible according to the law of your country.
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Dear Friends,

As I write, we are looking at another dramatic change in the Israeli political landscape due to the recent national elections, and at a human level we wonder, “What will happen now?” Uncertainty is always ‘the constant’ when it comes to Israel and the Middle East for that matter.

However, when we look up towards heaven and focus upon God and His character, we see another picture. That is, we see certainty, control, sovereignty and purpose. All of this is coupled to love and perfection. The message then is clear; the God of the Bible is in control of everything in Israel and nothing, absolutely nothing, is outside of His sovereignty. Though the events on the ground may look bewildering, in heaven they are part of a perfect plan that is fulfilling God’s purpose. Job found out that nothing can frustrate this purpose (Job 42:1-2).

For us this is comforting and encouraging. Comforting because we know that a loving God is in control and encouraging because we can then trust Him, work with Him and offer informed prayer according to His word.

This, in fact, is not new. Isaiah lived at a time when there were similar political uncertainties in Israel and the wider region. Uzziah the king had died and now, he wondered, what would happen.

Thankfully he did the right thing! That is, he resorted to prayer. It was then that he saw the Lord and the splendour of His throne. In that awe inspiring and humbling moment, he recognised that heaven rules. This renewed vision of God’s sovereignty and power sent Isaiah out into the world to pursue His agenda (Isaiah 6).

We must be the same. Nothing has changed. The God of Israel is in control. He has brought His people home and will in the end bring them to their safe haven.

Let us then be encouraged and let us go forth as never before to defend Zion.

Yours in Jesus,

Malcolm Hedding
In recent months, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has assumed production of the premier Christian radio broadcast out of Israel, Front Page Jerusalem – which is heard on hundreds of stations in the U.S. and worldwide and is now available on the respected Salem Radio Network.

A Washington insider for 20 years, Earl Cox launched Front Page Jerusalem in 2002 and quickly found favour with some of Israel’s most senior leaders. Then Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert became a regular guest and affectionately described the show as “the voice of Israel to America and the world.”

It has since grown “beyond belief” into the most listened to Christian radio talk show emanating from Israel. The weekly one-hour news magazine focuses on current affairs in Israel and the Middle East, with exclusive interviews of top Israeli leaders and panel discussions with regional experts, among other regular features. It is broadcast on hundreds of Christian radio stations coast-to-coast in the U.S. and around the world through short wave and Internet web-casts (www.frontpagejerusalem.com).

Salem, the leading Christian radio network in North America with over 1500 member stations, introduced the fast-paced, cutting-edge program into its line-up in December 2005, giving the ICEJ the unprecedented opportunity to reach millions of new Christians with our positive biblical message on Israel.

“At present, it is difficult to keep track of all the new stations picking up the program”, says FPJ executive producer and ICEJ media director David Par-
sons. “We know we have a one-of-a-kind product that is resonating well with our widening Christian audience, which is so eager to learn all they can about events in Israel and the Middle East.”

“We bring our listeners a first-rate program dedicated to uplifting the nation of Israel and giving its leaders an uncensored channel to speak to the rest of the world about their struggles and aspirations”, adds Cox.

Joining Cox and Parsons in the *Front Page* line-up is the warm familiar voice of Ben Kinchlow, the popular former co-host of *The 700 Club*, as well as new production manager Michael Mott, a nine-year veteran of Jerusalem.

Rev. Malcolm Hedding, the ICEJ’s Executive Director, also weighs in with a weekly Bible teaching from Zion. With his distinctive style, Malcolm brings valuable devotional and prophetic truths seldom heard on today’s crowded airwaves.

**Other regular features include:**

- Media Moments – Israel in the press, presented by ICEJ News editor Michael Hines;
- Israel in Our Day – special insights into Israel’s land and people, with Beverley Dwyer;
- This Week in Israel’s History – timely looks back at Israel’s past, by James Cheatham;

The ICEJ recently hosted a group of ten Christian broadcasters representing over 30 radio stations for a special tour of Israel, co-sponsored by the Israel Ministry of Tourism.

At a reception for the group at the Embassy’s headquarters, radio talk show host Paul Anderson of Amarillo, Texas, noted how the special tour itinerary had allowed him to take in “so much more than what I had experienced before on my previous visit to Israel. I finally got more history and a flavour of what is happening in Israel. Everywhere we went I realised it was safe to come to Israel and a wonderful place to visit.”

Another broadcaster said he “was so impressed at how the people of Israel really want peace. They are a peaceful people, as opposed to how the mainstream news media tries to tag them as an aggressor.”

By the end of the tour, those station owners or managers who were already carrying *Front Page Jerusalem* re-affirmed their commitment to continue airing the program, while the ICEJ picked up another dozen new stations through the remaining broadcasters on the tour. ICEJ staff hosting Christian broadcasters at the Embassy.
producing a weekly radio program of such high quality and impact will require new sources of funding, but there is such tremendous potential for expanding the reach of our ministry through the medium of radio. the icej urges our friends and supporters to get behind this exciting new venture with your prayers and finances. to give, go to the donation page on the icej web site at https://www.icej.org/get-involved/involved_financial_give.html. be sure to mark the box for fpj radio.

to learn more about our weekly program or to hear the latest one-hour show, please log on to www.frontpagejerusalem.com/.

the story of front page jerusalem begins on a jogging path on an exclusive island resort in south carolina in the year 2000.

"i was out on a morning run when my life was transformed in a few moments’ time", recalls earl cox. "i was laying the groundwork for a possible ambassadorship in latin america, but the lord had other plans. he asked me to stand with israel and the jewish people."

a polished communicator and veteran washington insider, cox had held senior level positions in the administrations of four u.s. presidents over a two-decade span, years of public service that he hoped would translate into a well-earned ambassadorship position.

but his life took a major detour that day six years ago. "my husband went out on his morning jog as one man and came back completely changed", his wife kathleen confirms.

cox’s about-face first propelled him to proclaim christian support for the jewish people in an unusual way - buying billboard space in tel aviv and time on israel tv channel 2 to declare that, “evangelicals stand with israel”.

then on one of his early trips to israel, cox was deeply impacted when he visited netanya shortly after the passover seder suicide bombing and decided to tell the world the truth about israel’s suffering via a new radio show – front page jerusalem.
“I decided to fight anti-Semitism with a radio show that arms listeners with an educated viewpoint concerning the Jewish people and State”, says Cox.

Today, that message is being delivered to countless homes in America and worldwide through the radio program founded by Cox just three short years ago and now produced by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

In January 2005, Cox brought on Ben Kinchlow, the long-time co-host of the 700 Club with Pat Robertson, as his stateside co-anchor. Later last year, Cox decided after much prayer to turn over production of Front Page Jerusalem in Israel to the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, in order to return to the States to continue co-hosting the radio show with Kinchlow while also launching several other pro-Israel initiatives.

Love at first step

Front Page Jerusalem co-host Ben Kinchlow admits he really had no desire to visit Israel when he was first asked to help lead a tour group back in his days with the Christian Broadcasting Network. He had already learned from the Bible all he wanted to know about this desert land. Nevertheless, he decided to make the best of it when boarding that first flight to the ‘Holy Land’.

“As we landed at Ben-Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, spontaneous applause erupted. I was not among those applauding”, he recalls. “But once the door opened and my feet touched the ground, something happened. There are not words to explain the sudden transformation.”

“As I planted my foot in Israel, suddenly an inner voice said, ‘I’m home!’ Home? Yes, there was no denying it. I felt like I had, indeed, come home.”

“It was ‘love at first step’. From that moment, I had a new and different connection to the land, the people, and the Bible.”

Ben Kinchlow
The ICEJ News Service is the best way to stay updated on news and events in Israel and the Middle East. Sent out from Jerusalem five days a week, the ICEJ News Service is available for free to anyone with an E-mail address. We provide timely, balanced updates on the latest developments in the region.

No need to spend time searching for the latest news, when we can monitor developments for you and send you a concise digest daily. Take advantage of this simple way to remain alert to every shift and turn of this rapidly changing region.

Sign up today at http://www.icej.org/mlm/
For the first time in its 26-year history, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was invited by Christians in Italy to conduct a speaking tour through their country in April. The tour was hosted by the group Evangelicals for Israel-Italy (EDIPJ), which grew out of a local prayer network for Israel. During their respective visits, ICEJ Aliyah Director Michael Utterback and International Director Jürgen Bühler were welcomed by churches from Turin and Milan in northern Italy, then south towards Florence, and ending with an Israel conference in Naples. For most of these congregations, it marked the first time they had hosted a speaker from Israel and in all the meetings the ICEJ team was warmly received.

Italy has special relationship to Israel and the Jewish people like no other nation. Many passages in the Bible deal with Rome and the powerful empire that emerged from that ancient city. Interestingly, no other book in the New Testament speaks as much about the relationship between the Church and Israel as does Paul’s letter to the Gentile believers in Rome.

But there are other noteworthy links. The Bible reports that the two peoples represented at the foot of the Cross were the Jews and the Romans. It was the Romans who cruelly expelled the Jews from Israel between 70 and 135 AD and left the country in utter ruin, including Jerusalem and the Holy Temple. According to the Jewish historian Josephus Flavius, hundreds of thousand of Jews were killed and crucified by the Roman legions occupying the land in those days.

Shortly after that, as Rome assumed a greater role within the expanding church, it bears a high degree of responsibility for much of the Christian anti-Semitism that emerged and plagued Europe for centuries.

So Italy harbors a dark past in its relationship to the Jews. However, times have changed. As The Jerusalem Post put it recently, “The country which exiled us from our land is today in Europe our strongest ally.” Certain Italian leaders did indeed support Israel in recent years like no other European nation.

Both Michael and Jürgen felt that there was great anticipation in the small but growing evangelical church in Italy to hear about God’s purposes for Israel today. Italy has arrived at a Kairos time – a uniquely appointed moment in God - in regards to its dealing with Israel. This is a nation that can still be a special blessing to God’s chosen people.
That special Finnish treatment

ICEJ-Finland sponsors 14th flight of Russian Jews

By Lena Kachinski

It is a once-in-a-lifetime journey that can drain the hardiest of travellers. Months of paperwork and phone calls. Sleepless nights. Last-minute farewells. Minds race and hearts skip. But for forty-one Russian Jews, the long and arduous voyage recently ended with a short six-hour flight to the land of Israel.

Thanks to the diligent efforts put in by ICEJ-Finland and the affiliated Finnish Exodus Committee, the journey was made a lot easier for this latest flight of Russia olim.

Working for years in cooperation with the Jewish Agency, the leadership and volunteer network from our Finnish branch have been scouring the vast expanse of the former Soviet Union for Jewish families and communities that are interested in making the move to Israel. Finnish Christians then open their homes to Russian Jews in transit from St. Petersburg to Israel via Helsinki. It is a route traversed by some 16,000 Jewish immigrants so far under the sponsorship of ICEJ-Finland.

This most recent flight in late March was the 14th chartered planeload of Jews sponsored by ICEJ-Finland – yet the first departing out of Helsinki itself. Altogether, the ICEJ and its national branches have financed a total of 53 aliyah flights since the mass Soviet Jewish exodus began in 1989.

Over the years, Jewish families have expressed extra gratitude for the special treatment they receive during their brief stay inside Finland, where local Christians warmly open up their homes for 3 or 4 days of respite for the weary travellers. While some families enjoy local food and go sightseeing, others relax in spas or try new winter sports.

This latest group hailed from all over Russia and included couples in their eighties down to months-old infants. Many of the Jewish guests were overwhelmed by the love and care showed by the Finnish Christians and cherished the restful atmosphere they provided.

Tania, from Archangelsk, said that the hospitality was desperately needed. “The immigration process is both physically and psychologically stressful. The reception we received from Christians in Finland was so important and appreciated by us”, she said.

Valerie, from St Petersburg, was thrilled by the tranquil country house his family stayed in, astonished that his hosts did not even lock their doors at night.
Many of the elderly in the group already have relatives in Israel, including grandchildren they have yet to meet, motivating them to leave behind their old lives. Andrei, the father of a young family, said his burden to go to Israel came from above.

“I don’t expect a better standard of living in Israel; in fact, it might get worse before we can learn Hebrew and find our place in a new society. But I believe God is leading us there, and we are excited to go.”

The stay in Finland was brief but meaningful. New friendships were quickly forged, leading to tearful hugs and farewells, and promises to stay in touch and meet again one day in the Promised Land.

Once on Israeli soil, a mother climbed down from the plane, took a deep breath and set her foot down in her new home. In her arms was a newborn that will soon take his first steps in the land of Israel.

With reporting from Helsinki by Dr. Ulla Järviilehto, chairperson of ICEJ-Finland and the Finnish Exodus Committee.

The Frank Rollins Challenge
A matching offer to double your gift to Israel

To ensure maximum benefit from the generous gift of the Frank Rollins Estate, the ICEJ needs to raise the equivalent of NZ$900,000 ($US550,000) in matching funds to guarantee the release of estate allocations in subsequent years. NZ$100,000 is needed by the end of 2006. Projects where your donation can literally be doubled:

The Covenant 2006 Tour: US, Europe, Israel
Immediate need: US$80,000

The ICEJ has the unprecedented opportunity to take this dramatic portrayal of God’s faithfulness to the Jewish people down through the ages to audiences in Israel and around the world. Over 50,000 Israelis have already seen The Covenant in their native Hebrew while thousands more will be introduced to the groundbreaking biblical drama for the first time during 2006. Now The Covenant is reaching out with the message of Israel to the nations. We need urgent funding to underwrite staging 6 shows at the Azusa Centennial Celebrations in Los Angeles this April, before embarking on a demanding 23-city European Summer Tour. We are also in urgent need of raising subsidies to enable Israeli schoolchildren and soldiers to see the story of their people for free during the 2006 tour of Israel this fall.

Social Assistance Program
Sports Pool Roof for the Disabled
Cost: US$80,000

One of the finest therapeutic facilities for the disabled in Israel, the Ilan Sports Center in Tel Aviv is undergoing a major renovation and expansion of its facilities. The ICEJ has been involved with Ilan for a number of years and has sponsored the training of Yitzhak Mamistalov, the wheelchair-bound Israeli Paralympic 100m freestyle champion (pictured). The heart of the center’s activity is their Olympic size Swimming Pool, where Yitzhak trains and which is in the process of being expanded. Donations have been found for the entire project except for the last part of the state-of-the-art canopy that will enable year-round use. The ICEJ would like to tell Ilan that Christians will pay for it.

Aliyah and Absorption
Helping bring the Jews back home
Need: US$80,000

For nearly two decades the ICEJ has been active in bringing the Jewish people back to Israel from the four corners of the earth. Today our efforts continue to help Jews from the former Soviet Union, America, Germany, France, and other nations return home. With the rising climate of anti-Semitism in Europe and across the world, the need to assist aliyah has never been more urgent.

For new immigrants, arriving in Israel is only the first step. The ICEJ has an active Aliyah office in St Petersburg, Russia, and a team of Hebrew speaking workers in Israel dedicated to help absorb some of the financial and social shocks that face new citizens long after they come. Your gift is desperately needed to help fund this vital ongoing work.

Please consider this excellent way to double your giving to Israel. To give on line, contact our web site at www.icej.org and press donate. To mail a donation, send your check made payable to ICEJ, PO Box 1192, Jerusalem, Israel. (marked for the appropriate designation)
Walking into Irena Lantsov’s homeless shelter in Rishon L’Tzion, you cannot help but notice the dozens of framed pictures and support letters from charities that line the walls of her front hallway. For anyone who walks through the door, the photos display the constant smile Irena offers to one and all – and an early taste of the warm atmosphere waiting inside for Israel’s forgotten homeless.

Thirteen years after her own immigration to Israel, Irena finds herself the proud ‘mother’ of a highly unusual family. Countless men – immigrants from Russia and native Israelis alike – have found their way into Irena’s heart, building new lives for themselves with her help.

Irena knows about falling on hard times. She spent significant stretches in-and-out of hospital around the time of her husband’s death in 2001. It was then that she learned firsthand about how those making aliyah from Russia and others stricken by poverty were left uncared for by the government.

After arriving in Israel, immigrants frequently find themselves abandoned after being initially welcomed with open arms. Left with little money, no jobs and no housing, they often have no choice but to take to the streets.

Irena’s goal is to help homeless men restore their lives and build a foundation for future stability. Many of the men that have come through Irena’s shelter were previously hospitalised for sickness or injury and put back on the street after their healthcare was complete. Irena has a special place in

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**ICEJ reaches out to Israel’s forgotten**

**By Lena Kachinski**
her heart for these cases, understanding that their suffering has happened on multiple levels.

Several years ago, Irena was able to assist an elderly gentleman who suffered from amnesia, unable to remember his name or anything about his past. Victor, a staff member at the shelter, worked with the Ministry of Tourism and, using pieces of the man’s memory that began to resurface, reunited him with his family in Bat Yam.

Avraham, an immigrant from Uzbekistan and another resident at the shelter, is currently working with Irena to finish medical treatment for damage done to his legs from a chemical spill at his former job, while also looking for new work.

Irena’s shelter, while ambitious and successful, can only confront a small part of a much larger problem. In June of 2003, former prime minister Ariel Sharon said that in Israel, “there is poverty, but there is not hunger”. But an official Knesset report at the time disagreed. The study found that the gross income per family in the top 10 percent of society is more than 12 times higher than the bottom 10 percent. Among developed countries, this discrepancy is second only to the United States.

Over the past 14 years, the number of poor families went up by almost 30 percent, while the number of poor and hungry children rose to 50 percent. Today, one in six families live in poverty. In 2003, unemployment hit a ten-year high of 10.8 percent.

Asher Levi, from the social welfare department in Holon, says that the amount of homelessness and poverty in Israel is staggering, even though social welfare spending has almost doubled over the past 20 years.

“Most, though not all, of our homeless are immigrants from Russia. Many fall into personal crisis when they arrive in Israel, and resort to drinking and drugs”, says Levi. “The only solution is to provide food, clothing, shelter, and rehabilitation programs to get them back on their feet.”

Over the years, the ICEJ’s Social Assistance Program has provided funds to assist social welfare endeavours like Irena’s homeless shelter, through the generous donations of Christians around the world. Thanks to you, we were recently able to purchase a new freezer and washing machine for her shelter, thereby making our way onto Irena’s humble ‘wall of fame’.
Pitching in at Passover

E
each year at Passover, the ICEJ’s social assistance team looks forward to working with the Social Welfare Department of Holon and its volunteers, primarily soldiers from the IDF, to paint the homes of families on welfare. The army has helped SAP over the past three years, showing the poor that they stand with them both on and off the battlefield. Together, they have painted some 50 homes.

This year, however, the IDF was suddenly unable to participate, and the paint and other home products purchased by SAP looked like they might go unused.

Before long, however, a manager from a center for boys-at-risk heard about the lack of volunteers for the project and was excited to let his charges get involved with their community. He gathered them together and headed for the home of an Ethiopian immigrant family whose apartment was in need of a fresh coat of paint.

The family being assisted by SAP consisted of a single mother and her three children. The mother moved to Israel from Ethiopia 15 years ago and is still struggling. Her oldest daughter is a high school dropout.

Brandishing paintbrushes and positive attitudes, the boys rolled up their sleeves and went about their task. Not only was the family blessed, but the young men were also given an opportunity to take over a responsibility from their role models in the IDF.

The ICEJ Social Assistance Program helps meet social needs throughout the land, showing Christian care to the people of Israel in every sector of society. Please see the enclosed donation form if you would like to partner with us financially. To contact the social assistance team directly, email: sapdept@icej.org
With four Americanised children and a reluctant wife, Rabbi Michael Borokhov would hardly seem a poster boy for the latest promising trend in North American Jews making aliyah. But he is. And for good reason, it turns out.

Rabbi Borokhov is a Bukharan Jew, a little-known group with its own Farsi-based language. In the United States, they number up to 50,000 people living mostly in New York City. For 25 years, Bukharan Jews have been emigrating from the former Soviet Union and settling in the well-kept apartments and brick homes along either side of a stretch of 108th Street known locally as the Bukharan Broadway. As was the case in former Soviet Central Asia, Bukharan Jews live here compactly, preserving the intricate clan structure that helped them survive in the predominantly Muslim region of the former Soviet Union that is now Uzbekistan. Historically, they are less mobile than the Ashkenazi but also less likely to abandon tradition and assimilate.

“Bukharan people like to live in one area, together”, says Borokhov during a recent interview in his small, cluttered office at the Beth Gavriel Bukharan Congregation in Rego Park. “Here in America, those who left New York are not doing so well. They are assimilating.”

It is Borokhov’s aim to take what he considers the next necessary step: Moving his people to Israel. If all goes well, some 20 Bukharan families from New York - up to 100 people - will make the journey to Israel. Borokhov’s reasoning is simple: “Every Jew belongs in that place. That’s what it says in the Torah.”

Officials at the Jewish Agency are ecstatic at what they are calling “community aliyah”.

“This is my most important project for the year”, says Michael Landsberg, the New York-based head of the Jewish Agency’s North American operation. “If this community goes, then it is a big message for North American Jewry as a whole.”

Borokhov concurs: “Look at our roots. Look at the Bukharan people who moved to Israel 120 years ago. They were among the first. They were a great example to the whole world.”

One measure of the Jewish Agency’s strong desire to see Rabbi Borokhov’s group successfully move to Israel is the attractive package put together for Bukharan olim [newcomers]. Each immigrant will receive $3,300 upon landing in Israel, as well as free Hebrew language lessons, 200 more hours in classroom time in Israel than other olim and a full-time coordinator for at least a year to help the Bukharians with social, family and religious needs.

“They need specific attention and additional time to get help in living in the modern Western state that is Israel: Bukharan Jewish families are often managed according to codes that are 200 years old”, says Ronnie Vinnikov, the Jewish Agency’s first representative in North America tasked specifically with serving the Russian-speaking population.

Borokhov is especially proud that the Bukharan New Yorkers will be settling in one community in Israel, thus maintaining family ties that have been carefully preserved since their initial move from the Soviet Union. The Jewish Agency is settling the group in Beit Shemesh, a city of 65,000 located near Jerusalem that takes its name from the Canaanite sun goddess Shemesh. The city has a large immigrant population, many of them with American roots.
Aside from the Jewish Agency, private groups are also taking a keen interest in Borokhov’s project. Nefesh B’Nefesh is one offering financial and logistical help to North American olim. Another is the United States branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, which offers substantial aid as part of a program for immigrants from the former Soviet Union who came to the United States no earlier than the Six-Day War of 1967. Founded in 1980, the ICEJ was active in urging the release of Soviet-era refuseniks. In Tashkent, capital of present-day Uzbekistan, the ICEJ has long maintained a program that helps olim negotiate the local immigration bureaucracy and transports them to the airport.

“This work is especially interesting to the Finnish branch of the ICEJ and is one more reason that everyone is excited about this community of Uzbeki Jews in Queens”, says Howard Flower, the national director of the Russian branch of the ICEJ that works closely with the Finnish branch. The Finnish Branch has been leading the Aliyah work in Uzbekistan for many years.

Outside of the two bastions of Russian-speaking Jewry - Ukraine and Russia - Uzbekistan’s predominantly Bukharan Jews have the largest aliya numbers from the former Soviet Union. Between 1989 and 2005, 83,000 Jews left impoverished Uzbekistan for Israel, with the numbers slowing in recent years to less than 1,000 annually. Some Bukharan Jews who initially spurned Israel are now having second thoughts as they slowly realise the prosperity and material comfort of the United States are not enough.

Still, according to Rabbi Refael Ribacoff, executive director of the Sha’arei Zion Ohel Bracha school for Bukharan children, “Some people are nervous. They are scared. After all, they watch the news.”

Borokhov empathises with those reluctant to make the wrenching move but also has high praise for those with the gumption to join him. “I’ll tell you. Many people don’t want to leave. It is too painful for them. But there are a lot who are just waiting to see us go and see how it goes”, he says in a soft tone, adding later that even his spouse, a matchmaker in the Bukharan community, has her doubts. “It’s very hard for my wife to move to Israel. She’s a little bit afraid but she’s sticking with her husband.”

ICEJ branches in the USA, Finland and elsewhere are currently raising funds to assist with this very special aliya project. The ICEJ also helps with aliya and absorption through the Jerusalem Support Center, a joint project with Ministry to Israel.

If you would like to know how you could be a part of JSC by giving a love gift, supporting your own immigrant family or adopting a Lone Soldier, you can contact Gina Utterback at the ICEJ or email: gina.utterback@icej.org

Please help us meet this exciting challenge.
2006

Feast of Tabernacles
7th-13th October

The Great Hosanna!

_Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous..._ Psalm 118:15

For many centuries, countless pilgrims have streamed up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, culminating in the prayers of THE GREAT HOSANNA, recited at the Western Wall. Psalm 118 is our theme of this year’s celebration, the largest annual Christian event in Israel. We join the people of Israel in this joyous festival, lifting our hearts and voices with them to pray:

_Hosanna!

_O Lord, save us! O Lord, grant us success!_ Psalm 118: 25

Special Guests

Speakers include Malcolm Hedding, David Pawson, Lance Lambert, Allan Jackson, Jürgen Bühler, Michael Utterback and Mosy Medugba.

Ron Kenoly

Joining the worship team will be special guest artist Ron Kenoly.

For more detailed information and to register online visit our website: www.icej.org

Schedule

SATURDAY OCT. 7TH
► Ein Gedi opening ceremonies at sunset

SUNDAY OCT. 8TH
► Evening celebration

MONDAY OCT. 9TH
► Morning seminars
► Evening celebration

TUESDAY OCT. 10TH
► Morning seminars
► Jerusalem march
► Evening celebration

WEDNESDAY OCT. 11TH
► Morning seminars
► Evening celebration

THURSDAY OCT. 12TH
► Morning seminars
► Israeli Night & Closing ceremonies (watch our website for more details)

FRIDAY OCT. 13TH
► Morning Seminars
► Evening Alternatives:
  ► Succah Celebration at Ramat Rachel
  ► Classical Concert at Christ Church
  ► Evening of Ministry at The Pavilion
  ► Healing Service at the YMCA

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For more detailed information and to register online visit our website: www.icej.org

Schedule

SATURDAY OCT. 7TH
► Ein Gedi opening ceremonies at sunset

SUNDAY OCT. 8TH
► Evening celebration

MONDAY OCT. 9TH
► Morning seminars
► Evening celebration

TUESDAY OCT. 10TH
► Morning seminars
► Jerusalem march
► Evening celebration

WEDNESDAY OCT. 11TH
► Morning seminars
► Evening celebration

THURSDAY OCT. 12TH
► Morning seminars
► Israeli Night & Closing ceremonies (watch our website for more details)

FRIDAY OCT. 13TH
► Morning Seminars
► Evening Alternatives:
  ► Succah Celebration at Ramat Rachel
  ► Classical Concert at Christ Church
  ► Evening of Ministry at The Pavilion
  ► Healing Service at the YMCA

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_Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous..._ Psalm 118:15

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_Hosanna!

_O Lord, save us! O Lord, grant us success!_ Psalm 118: 25

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Ron Kenoly

Joining the worship team will be special guest artist Ron Kenoly.

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Standing with Israel today

By Malcolm Hedding

No issue arouses such heated debate in the Church as the one relating to Christians standing with Israel. Much of this discussion is, in fact, provoked by theological considerations. There are those who believe that, because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross, Israel no longer enjoys a national destiny before God. This is all done away with and especially so because Israel rejected Jesus’ Messianic credentials.

The ‘People of God’ are now exclusively the Church and any biblical references to Israel’s future in the Land of Canaan, particularly in the Hebrew Scriptures, are to be taken in a spiritual sense as referring to the Church. This is called Replacement Theology. Even though this theology is built upon a very shaky foundation, many ‘streams’ within the Church cling to it tenaciously.

A FIRM PROMISE

In all honesty, Replacement theology is nowhere to be found in the Bible. Those who hold to it do so merely on the basis of a presupposition and nothing more! However, its destructive impact is all too clear. It has been used by anti-Semites to legitimise their hatred of Jews. The Holocaust and episodes like it have been adopted in such a way as to dehumanise people. One example was the apartheid system that prevailed in South Africa for near-on fifty years.

In addition, much of the anti-Israelism that exists in the wider church today springs from this root and in many ways is the ‘new brand’ of anti-Semitism. The fruit of Replacement theology, simply put, is bad!

From a theological perspective, the Replacement doctrine can only exist if one can prove that the Abrahamic Covenant has been abolished.

In addition, the book of Hebrews encourages those of us under the New Covenant that we can keep trusting God because He is faithful and never breaks a promise. In this case, the promise referred to is the Abrahamic Covenant, which not only declares God’s promise to ‘bless’ the world, but also His pledge by solemn “oath” to give to the Jewish people the Land of Canaan as an “everlasting possession”. (Hebrews 6:13-20; Genesis 17:7-8)

A NEW THEORY

To prove then that the Abrahamic Covenant has been abolished is thus well nigh impossible. Given this reality, some Replacement theologians then assert that it has not been abolished, but reconstructed! That is, the part of the Covenant that promises an eternal homeland to the Jews has been removed. We need to note five things about this:

- It is pure presupposition. The Bible nowhere teaches or endorses this point of view.

- It attacks the character of God. In Genesis 17:7-8 God says that the Land of Canaan is given to the Jewish people as an “everlasting possession”. If Replacement theology were true, then this makes the God of the Bible a liar! Even the perverse prophet Balaam knew that, “God is not a man that he should lie”. (Numbers 23:19)

- It contradicts scripture everywhere. Even Jesus spoke of a latter-day re-gathering of the Jews to the Land of Canaan and to Jerusalem in particular and in this He affirmed that the Kingdom would be restored to Israel in Zion, but at a time that only His Father knew (Luke 21:24; Acts 1:6-7).

- Jeremiah affirms that Israel would be re-gathered after correction and exile and exist as a nation forever before God (Jeremiah 31:10-12; 31:35-37). Actually, all the Hebrew prophets speak very plainly about a future day of restoration to the land and glory for Israel (Joel 3:18-21).
It is disproved by historical events. The restoration of Israel in our time enjoys remarkable biblical validation. To ignore this is to put everything down to remarkable coincidence! I have met many theologians quite prepared to do this. One even wrote, “Modern day Israel is indeed a remarkable miracle with biblical credentials that appear to be amazing. However, in all honesty this miracle is an immoral one!”

Such is the blindness of Replacement adherents. Their minds are made up and we should not confuse them with facts! Facts like the return of the Jews from all over the world, the recovery of Jerusalem, the recovery of the land’s agricultural potential, the return of the Jews from Russia, the global dispute over Jerusalem and the worldwide phenomenon of Christians who love Israel and pray for her. All these facts are in the Bible!

**A CLOSER LOOK**

To prove their position, many in the Replacement camp appeal to a passage in Galatians 3:15-16 which states that God’s promise to Abraham was not to His seed – as in plural – but to His seed – as in singular – meaning Jesus. Thus, it is asserted that since Jesus has come, the Jews have now forfeited their right to Canaan as a promised inheritance.

Again, all this is mere speculation. However, it must be addressed. What Paul is saying is that the fruit of the ‘Tree of Israel’ is Jesus. This was always the purpose of God. Without the tree there can of course be no fruit. This is why the Gospels give a detailed list of Jesus’ family tree! Yet it has absolutely nothing to do with Replacement theology.

For Christians, Jesus is the means by which God’s blessings of eternal life are given to the nations. We all agree on this. However, to ‘jump’ from there and state that it proves the Replacement position is ridiculous. If anything, Galatians 3 strongly supports the Abrahamic covenant in its original form by stating that it cannot be and has never been annulled (Galatians 3:17-18) and that through Jesus, God has fulfilled the promise He gave to bless all nations (Galatians 3:13-14, 29). There is nothing new in all this and certainly no hint of Replacement theology. In fact the ‘Tree of Israel’ is healthy (Romans 11:16), has borne great fruit (Romans 11:24-26), and will yet blossom and bear fruit as never before.

**THE INCOMPETENT MESSIAH**

According to the Hebrew prophet Zechariah, a future time will come when all nations will seek to come against Israel so as to disinvest her of Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:1-3). At that time, the Messiah will come to destroy those nations and to defend the city restored to Jewish hands (Zechariah 12:7-9). The question we have to ask is: Why would the Messiah come to defend what for Replacement theologians is an historical accident without biblical foundations? Is He incompetent or is the modern-day restoration of Israel evidence of God’s hand and purpose? I think the latter is true.

**COLLIDING THOUGHTS**

Israel’s journey – which includes her modern restoration to her ancient homeland – will always be a contested one. Such is her history. This journey, according to her prophets, will conclude with Israel meeting her Messiah. This will usher in the “Age of Redemption”, as the Jewish Sages called it (Zechariah 14).

Those who subscribe to Replacement theology cannot connect with the Purpose of God in this respect and, in many cases, find themselves working against it. This refusal to stand with Israel is even more serious because they end up standing with her enemies and this can mean supporting Islamic terrorism! A church in this position is far from the heart of God and has forgotten the warning of the Abrahamic Covenant, “I will bless those who bless you and curse him who curses you!” (Genesis 12:3)

To be sure, the vast majority of Christians who love Israel are from the Evangelical world, the only ‘world’ that has repeatedly experienced revival through the centuries. They are therefore not dual covenant in their thinking but recognise the unique work of God in the restoration of Zion. They have been touched by God to bless this restoration and engage it with unconditional love.

*The question we have to ask is: Why would the Messiah come to defend what for Replacement theologians is an historical accident without biblical foundations? Is He incompetent or is the modern-day restoration of Israel evidence of God’s hand and purpose?*

The writer is Executive Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

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Was it bread or borders?

What Israelis voted for in the recent elections

By David Parsons

Two months after assuming leadership of the new Kadima party, Ehud Olmert lost the commanding lead in the polls he inherited from Ariel Sharon, leaving no clear-cut winner in the Knesset elections held in late March. Olmert is now trying to form a stable government that will support his ambitious plan to draw Israel’s final borders within two years while also meeting steep demands from potential coalition partners for substantial social handouts.

Reading the electorate

The ‘message’ sent by Israeli voters in the recent election is proving difficult to read. Roughly one-third cast their ballots on either side of the traditional left/right divide over peace-and-security. Another one-third voted their pocketbooks, giving priority to the country’s worsening socio-economic conditions. The final third simply stayed home – producing the lowest voter turnout in the nation’s history. Many of the no-shows were clearly turned off by corruption in party politics while others exhibited voter fatigue after being forced back to the polls again and again in recent decades.

Kadima did capture 29 Knesset seats, making it the largest party in the next parliament, but also the first ruling faction in Israel’s history to tally less than 30 mandates. Kadima dropped from 44 to under 30 seats in the last three weeks of the campaign, a plummet that many analysts blamed on Olmert’s decision to speak with greater specificity about his so-called ‘convergence’ plan.

Better translated a ‘consolidation’ plan, it basically envisions a unilateral transfer of some 70 isolated Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria back behind the security barrier, while also unilaterally annexing everything on the Israeli side of the fence. Up to 90,000 Jews would need to be re-settled – ten times the number uprooted from Gaza last year. If the violence-plagued evacuation of the tiny Amona outpost in February is any indication, that will be a very gruelling task.

The challenge for Olmert is to identify the right configuration of coalition partners that will give him a stable (61-plus seat) majority on both the diplomatic and socio-economic fronts. This has toppled many past governments, and may prove elusive for the new prime minister as well.

Naming their price

Olmert’s main coalition partner looks to be the socialist Labour party, headed by trade unionist leader Amir Peretz, who campaigned hard for a hike in the minimum wage. With 19 seats, Peretz controls a crucial voting bloc for Olmert’s convergence plan, but he will seek to reverse the free market economic reforms of the last government.

The surprise Gil pensioner’s party will likely lend its 7 votes to Olmert’s unilateral pullout, but wants a bigger slice of the already stretched state budget to ensure benefits for the elderly. The ultra-dovish Meretz, with 5 votes, will back both convergence and a return to socialism.

Meanwhile on the right, the 12-man ultra-Orthodox Shas faction is anxious to get back into government, especially to reverse cuts in child allowances for large families. Their hawkish constituency, however, is unlikely to condone them staying in a government while it hands over Jewish settlements to a Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

United Torah Judaism’s six seats could provide Olmert a working margin in close Knesset votes, but the big enigma is Yisrael Beiteinu, which shot up to 11 seats under Russian immigrant leader Avigdor Lieberman, who ran on an anti-crime platform and is perceived as racist against the Arabs. Lieberman seems intent on joining the coalition, but is cool to the idea of unilateral pullouts, just as Labour is averse to the thought of sitting with him at the cabinet table.

The other right-of-center parties, Likud and the National Union/National Religious Party joint list, tallied 12 and 9 seats respectively, demonstrating that when it mattered most, the settler movement no longer has enough support to maintain the status quo.
If anything can be gleaned from this election, there does seem to be broad support for carrying out a unilateral ‘separation’ from the Palestinians while holding on to the ‘consensus’ settlement blocs – including Ma’ale Adumim and other Jerusalem suburbs, Ariel, Gush Etzion and the northern Jordan Valley. Olmert must figure out how to realise those two aims without ripping the nation apart.

Proceeding with due caution, Olmert decided to drop his convergence plan from the coalition guidelines when opening talks about forming a government. Nonetheless, he publicly vowed to complete his historic mission of setting Israel’s final borders by 2008 – two years sooner than his campaign pledge.

Meantime, facing the incoming Israeli government is a Hamas-led Palestinian Authority more bent than ever on erasing Israel’s borders altogether.

**NO HONEYMOON FOR HAMAS**

The Hamas cabinet was sworn into office in early April and immediately set out to find Arab and Islamic backers to provide millions of dollars to meet the payroll for the PA’s 140,000 employees. The massive funding is sorely needed to make up for the cut-off of nearly $1 billion in annual aid from the United States, European Union and other donor nations that are no longer willing to prop up a terrorist regime.

Israel has also declared the PA a “hostile” government and is implementing a series of measures aimed at preventing Hamas from consolidating its hold on power.

Elements in Fatah are also trying to keep Hamas from establishing itself at the helm of the PA. Fatah leaders are especially reluctant to hand over control of the PA security services, since it would put tens of thousands of party loyalists out of work and give Hamas control of the police force. Fatah hopes that Hamas will not be able to deliver on its promises to bring law and order to the Palestinian street, leading to the regime’s rapid collapse.

Hamas, however, is sticking to its blanket rejection of Israel and refuses to give up its “right of resistance”. “I dream of a map that does not show Israel on it”, Hamas foreign minister Mahmoud al-Zahar said recently.

Thus a humanitarian crisis appears to be brewing on the Palestinian side of the fence, while in Israel a new government must answer the people’s demands for more government welfare and less interaction with the Palestinians.
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