In addition, women comprise a third front against these forces of domination. Many women in the Islamic world suffer regular physical abuse that is condoned in the Koran, honor killings by male family members, brutal female circumcision and discriminatory inheritance laws.

We must stand for Israel and the Jewish people. We must also stand and pray for our persecuted brethren and for the millions of women without a voice in the Islamic world. They all share the same enemy. And this ruthless Islamist quest for world domination is quickly encroaching upon us here in Europe and the United States.

The Apostle Paul warned Timothy that in the last days “fierce times will come” (2 Tim. 3:1). So we should not be surprised or caught unaware. These are the times in which we live.

Let us be like the sons of Issachar who discerned the times and knew what they needed to do...”

But there is another ominous historic shift happening in the world today and that is the confrontation between Islam and the Judeo-Christian world. Israel is also at the center of this historic event and daily lives on the front lines against an Islamic agenda of world domination.

Western nations must wake up and realize that Israel is not the obstacle to world peace. The problem that is plaguing all of us is the Islamist quest to rule the world, and their tactical use of anti-Israelism as a unifier, and terrorism as a military strategy.

Not only is Israel on the front lines of this battle, but Christians are on the front lines throughout the Muslim world where many are persecuted for their faith and others are martyred.

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By Susan Michael
Director, ICEJ USA

You and I are making history! For the first time in almost 2000 years of Christian history the Church is learning to relate to the Jewish people with love, honoring them for their role in our faith and respecting them – even though we have theological differences. In addition, the Church is now learning how to relate not only theologially but also politically to a Jewish nation–state: Israel.

We have to acknowledge the Hand of God in bringing all of this about. At the time God was gathering His people back to the land, and birthing and establishing the nation of Israel, He was also birthing a revival of Bible-based Christianity which would stand with Israel through the opposition and ridicule she would endure.

This has to be one of the most exciting times in history and we are privileged to be a part of it! You and I are a part of the miracle God has done in our generation.
Dear Friends,

Israel’s 60th Anniversary celebrations were joyous and wonderful. All around the country flags were adorning buildings, monuments, government institutions and highways.

Truly, Israel is a miracle of God and all week the joy across the nation was tangible. The same can be said of the annual conference of our National Directors from all over the world, who gathered in Israel in early May to be part of the festivities.

The resounding message in all of this is that God is faithful to His everlasting Word and promise given to Abraham some 4000 years ago. He is a promise keeper!

Just days before Yom Hatzmaout, Israel’s Independence Day, I attended an event at Yad Vashem that recalled the ultimate sacrifice that Jews, who had escaped the Holocaust, made in 1948 in defence of their new homeland. In the death camps of Nazi-occupied Europe and beyond, they died in humiliation but in Israel, this same generation died in dignity. They were defending their right to live and that by the promise of God. We remember them!

All this serves to remind us that the struggle is not yet over. Dangers abound and the same demonic spirit that drove the Nazis now drives radical Islam here in the Middle East region. We must be vigilant in prayer and strong in our defence of Israel’s right to live in peace and security!

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has a proud record in this regard and its National Directors emerged from their recent gathering in Zion determined to be a real blessing to Israel. We thank God for them and for you.

Yours in Jesus,

Rev. Malcolm Hedding
ICEJ Executive Director
The Tension of Jesus

By Malcolm Hedding

For too long Jews and Christians have been engaging with each other by ‘dancing’ around the real issues. I have been involved in this field since 1975 and therefore can speak from experience.

Even though Christianity is an offshoot of the Jewish faith, the gulf between the two belief systems is great, and there is no reason for us to pretend otherwise. Judaism and Christianity have a lot in common, to be sure, but the stumbling point is most certainly Jesus and His mission to the world, including the Jewish world.

One of these ‘real issues’ confronting us is his command to His followers to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to “every creature” (Mark 16:15), even the Jewish people. This is a major tenet of biblical Christian faith, but it is totally rejected by the Jewish world for many reasons, chiefly historical but theological as well. Sadly, the historical Christian obedience to this command was to persecute, harass and even kill Jews. One cannot therefore act surprised at the Jewish position on missionizing.

Dancing around this issue does not, however, prevent there being dialogue between these two distinctive systems. But such an approach is threatening to derail one of the greatest movements in history in terms of healing Jewish-Christian relationships.

Some Evangelical Christians say there can be no compromise and are publicly calling for aggressive missionary activity to be directed at Israel and the Jewish world. Others are so moved to engage with Israel that they feel a need to completely remove the ‘tension’ of Jesus from between us through Dual Covenant and other erroneous teachings.

Meantime, a small band of Jewish anti-missionary activists are trying to spoil the burgeoning relationship between Christians and Jews by attacking the Christian belief system and even calling for benevolence organizations like the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem to be branded as missionary and thereby banned from Israel.

Now if I said to my Jewish friends that in order to have a meaningful relationship with me, they must stop celebrating Shabbat, they would be horrified and reject such a position out of hand. But this is what some Jews are doing to Christians! They assert that no relationship between Jews and Christians can take place unless the Christians disavow missionary activity.

The Jewish world must know that the call to be obedient to world missions, including the Jewish world, is not a small matter that can be compromised. No, this call is a major tenet of our biblical faith (Romans 1:16; Matthew 28:18-20). It cannot be done away with easily, just as keeping Shabbat cannot be done away with easily. If pro-Israel Evangelicals reject this call they would be totally discredited in the wider Christian world.

So the question is: How do Christians obey their own Scriptures to preach the Good News everywhere and at the same time engage Israel in a non-offensive way?

First, by affirming who we are and not by trying to play at being Jewish. Though our ministry does not engage in traditional missionary activity in Israel, neither do we hide who we are as devout Christians, and we make clear all that we do is compelled by the love of Jesus in us. Thus our conduct itself is a “witness” to the transformation Jesus has done in our lives, and if someone then wants to ask me about it, I will tell them.

As the Apostle Peter instructed: “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” (1 Peter 3:15) In other words if Jews do not want to know, they simply should not ask!

For nearly three decades now, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has embraced this position with integrity and been able to engage with Israel without compromising on our obedience to own faith. We have been sincere and honest and many Israelis know they can trust us because there is no hidden agenda. This is who we are as both committed Christians and genuine friends of Israel, and we have the track record to prove it.

This article was first published in The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition www.jpost.com/ce
Israel marked its 60th anniversary this May with an emphasis on the way the country rose out of the ashes of the Holocaust in the spring of 1948. Today there are around 250,000 Holocaust survivors residing in Israel, and while many have managed to lead successful lives, about a third of them live in dire poverty.

This aging group deserves to be cared for and live out their days with dignity, but sadly this is not always the case. Some survivors are alone, neglected, and destitute.

ICEJ AID has partnered with the Israeli charity L’Chaim (To Life) to care for a large group of survivors in the Galilee region, covering their medications, food, house repairs, and other needs. This arrangement now allows Christians the opportunity to “adopt” a Holocaust survivor. The elderly survivors are offered assisted-living and daily in-home visits by young Israeli volunteers from a local pre-military academy.

For a commitment of $200 per month for a minimum of 6 months, you can ensure they receive essential care and attention, while helping them with food staples, maintenance and utility bills, medicine and other needs. One-time gifts are also much appreciated.

Each Holocaust survivor on the adoption list has an incredible story to tell. Hadassah was buried alive in a cemetery at night and survived on scraps in order to avoid capture by the Nazis. Today she has suffered a series of medical problems and is often forced to choose between medicine and food. The ICEJ AID’s adoption program has stepped in to provide her basic needs, and sponsor companionship through the young volunteers.

Rachel fled Germany for Russia at the beginning of World War II. She joined a partisan unit and later worked in labour camps in Siberia, where her parents died of starvation. She made aliyah to the new State of Israel in 1949. Now 83 years old, Rachel is a widow who maintains contact with only one of her three sons. She is deaf and needs a hearing aid, but cannot afford it. She is also half blind. All of this makes her life very lonely and she is barely able to buy food or medication.

Sofia suffered greatly during the Holocaust, including the loss of most of her family. She was chased by the Nazis, and subjected to physical abuse and prolonged hunger. Thanks to a Christian family her life was spared. At 70 years old, she moved from the Ukraine to Nahariya in northern Israel. Today at 78, she is a widow and suffers from serious liver and kidney disorders.

There are many more such survivors who desperately need our love, comfort and financial support. Time is running out for these precious souls.

Thanks to a Christian family Sofia’s life was spared... Today, at 78, she needs our help again!

Adopt a Survivor in Israel
www.icejusa.org/adopt
The Enemy of My Enemy
Lessons from the Holocaust Part 3
By Susan Michael

We have heard the saying “the enemy of my enemy is my friend.” Hatred makes strange bedfellows and indeed, the oddest of partnerships have been formed around a common enemy. One of those partnerships was between the Nazi regime, which believed in Aryan supremacy, and the Muslim world which seeks to assert Arab/Muslim supremacy.

The two worlds would have collided over much of their respective ideologies but found a common bond that overshadowed all points of disagreement. That common bond was their hatred for the Jew.

The same paranoid worldview and irrational anti-Semitism that drove the Nazis, now drives Islamist terrorism today. While it is true that Islamist ideology has theological foundations found in the Koran, the modern militant and delusional obsession with anti-Semitism was transferred to the Islamic world during the Nazi period.

The conduit for this transfer of ideology was in the person of Haj Amin El-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. The German leaders were enamored with the Mufti and when he urged them to kill the Jews rather than send them to Palestine they did as he asked. They also provided a steady stream of German funds and arms to the Mufti’s followers in Palestine.

After the fall of the Nazi regime, El-Husseini found asylum in Egypt where he served in the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood who adapted Nazi ideology into an Islamic one calling for Jihad and martyrdom against the Jews.

The Muslim Brotherhood was founded in 1928 in Egypt and by the end of the Nazi regime in 1945 they had 500,000 sympathizers. Their founding manifesto is “Allah is our goal, the prophet our model, the Koran our constitution, the Jihad our path and death for the sake of Allah the loftiest of our wishes.” They are credited with birthing the jihadist culture of death and the various groups committed to it including Hamas, Khomeini’s revolution in Iran, and Al-Qaeda.

This history explains the Hitler-like rhetoric of the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He espouses the same delusions and paranoid worldview, the same dehumanizing of Jews, and the same calls for their annihilation that Hitler did.

It should be no surprise to learn that the idea of using suicide pilots to obliterate the skyscrapers of New York originated not in Arabia but in Germany. Hitler had a plan for Kamikaze pilots to fly explosives-loaded aircraft lacking landing gear into the skyscrapers of Manhattan and was said to become delirious as he gleefully described how the skyscrapers would turn into huge burning torches and fall down.

Hatred makes strange bedfellows indeed! The modern movement of Islamism and Islamic terrorism would not have happened without the influence and support of the Nazi regime and philosophy. Therefore, it behooves the world to take notice, and recognize Islamism, and its tactics of terrorism and anti-Israel propaganda for what it is. It is a modern day ideology of hatred and death that must be stopped before millions more die.

Susan Michael serves as Director of the US Branch of the ICEJ.
The portable bomb shelters provided through Operation Lifeshield proved their worth recently when the “Code Red” siren sounded once again in the embattled Israeli border town of Sderot.

It was the last Shabbat of Passover and locals were taking strolls as children played in the streets when an incoming rocket broke the quiet. Several frightened residents took cover in one of Lifeshield’s bomb shelters and just seconds afterwards a Kassam struck only two meters away. The rocket left a large crater and burst a water main, but the shelter completely protected those inside from any harm, and the grateful residents contacted Lifeshield to express their appreciation.

“To know that we are actually saving lives is a special feeling”, said Josh Adler, co-founder of Operation Lifeshield. The International Christian Embassy has donated four reinforced bus stop shelters in the Sderot area so far, and with your help we would like to provide more.

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Nuclear Brinkmanship
Israel destroys a secret Syrian nuclear plant, is Iran far behind?

By David Parsons

While world attention has been focused on Iran’s renegade nuclear program, Israel recently managed to pull off a major intelligence coup and equally impressive military operation in exposing and destroying a secret Syrian nuclear reactor. The successful hit on the clandestine facility, however, has heightened concerns that Iran may also be further along in its atomic quest than previously thought.

In late April, the CIA presented the US Congress with “extremely compelling” video and photographic evidence revealing that Syria was close to completing a secret nuclear reactor with North Korean assistance before Israeli warplanes destroyed the hidden facility last September – just weeks before it was to go on line. It emerged from the closed briefing that what Israel had accomplished was legendary, penetrating the heart of Syria’s clandestine nuclear program and taking it out in a single surgical air raid.

The dramatic images taken from both inside and outside the nuclear plant showed it was exactly like a North Korean plant that was the only one of its kind built in the last 35 years. Nuclear technicians with Korean faces were seen working at the nearly finished facility, which could have produced enough plutonium to develop one or two bombs within 12 months, CIA Director Michael Hayden later clarified.

Based on the Israeli evidence, the CIA had concluded the Syrian plant was not designed for generating electricity and was ill-suited for atomic research, meaning it was not built for peaceful purposes but to provide plutonium for nuclear warheads. In high-level discussions, Israeli and American officials debated how to deal with the disturbing news, and Jerusalem left with the understanding that it would be up to the Israeli Air Force to neutralize the threat.

Recent reports indicate Israeli intelligence may have critical new evidence as well on Iran’s nuclear weapons program, said to be on a par with the illuminating imagery from Syria. In May, Israeli officials presented their proof to the US as well as Britain’s MI6 intelligence agency. The data is expected to prompt a reassessment that Iran is closer to the nuclear threshold than outlined in last fall’s National Intelligence Estimate. It must be assumed that if North Korea had helped Damascus nearly cross the nuclear threshold under everyone’s noses, the same sort of assistance must be flowing to Iran’s openly defiant program.

As a result, Israel has moved up its own projected date for Iran going nuclear by almost a full year - to the middle of 2009. In addition, Israel is also concerned Tehran is developing a low-flying cruise missile that can evade IDF radar and thus interception by the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system.

Combined with the hostile rhetoric emanating from Iran – President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has just referred to Israel as a “stinking corpse” – Israeli leaders are starting to see an ominous nuclear confrontation on the near horizon. Until now, they have treated the Iranian nuclear threat as a world problem. But veteran Israeli cabinet minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer finally took the gloves off recently, insisting that “Iran will be wiped off the face of the earth if it dares to fire any missile at us... I am sick of receiving threats to Israel’s existence on a daily basis.”

David Parsons serves as ICEJ Media Director in Jerusalem and contributing Christian editor of The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition.
Discerning the TIMES

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